

# The Dancing Moon

## January- February, 2019



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# Love Tokens

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# Minutes of the January and February, 2019 Meetings

## Monthly Business Meeting, January, 2019

The January meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m., January 14, 2019, THL Paul Adler (Modernly, Vince Zahnle), Seneschal, Presiding.

### Officer Reports:

Seneschal – Gulf Wars Class teaching deadline is January 18, 2019.

Exchequer - Baron Jon reported that the current on-hand bank balance is \$4403.16, No expenditures. Domesday Report was sent in January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Minister of Arts and Sciences – January's shire A & S class will be Slavic Egg Decorating - Lady Marjorie will be teaching a class. The February class will Wood Relief Carving taught by HL Thomas. Queen's Prize entry window is closing at the end of January, Queen's Prize will be held on February 9, 2019.

Cut and Thrust – THL Alan needs to send in a report twice a year.

Chronicler/Webminister – Lady Dulcibella noted HL Paul was nominated for the Blackfox Award, but didn't win. Need content for the newsletter. Webminister will update calendar to reflect February and post Spring Spears event page.

Archery – THL Thomas noted there were three practices since last meeting with 2-3 participants at the practices, He needs to submit his end of year report. Future practices will depend on the weather. Chances are there will not be any practices in January or February.

Knights' Marshal – Knights Marshall not present. Needs to submit Domesday report. HL Paul marshalled at Toys for Tots Tourney.

### Old Business

•No old business

•

### New Business

Except for the Seneschal and Chronicler/Webminister, quarterly reports for all officers are due on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Seneschal must get all your reports before doing his own, which is due the 20<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to CC the Seneschal when you report, or forward your comeback copy to him via email if your automated report form does not allow you to CC additional parties ([vince.zahnle@gmail.com](mailto:vince.zahnle@gmail.com)).

Spring Spears – Theme is Byzantine Crusaders

The staff will be:

Mistress Roselyn –Event Steward	Lady Catin – Troll
HL Paul – Feast Steward	Baron Jon – Thrown Weapons
HL James - Youth Combat	Lady Margery – Privy
Sir Eric – Knights Marshall	HL Aesa – A & S competition
HL Thomas Fleischacker – Inn	HL Dulcibella – Merchantcrat

Fear will be Byzantine cuisine- a fusion between Greek and Roman. Souvlaki will be one dish and olives and pita bread will be served.

Lady Catin will make final site arrangements for the event.

At Chieftains, the shire will tithe \$500.00 plus largesse.

### **Other**

The next business meeting will be Monday, February 11th, normal time and format. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Official  
THL Paul Adler (Vince Zahnle)  
Seneschal



## Monthly Business Meeting, February, 2019

The February meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m., February 11, 2019, THL Paul Adler (Modernly, Vince Zahnle), Seneschal, Presiding.

### Officer Reports:

Seneschal – Nothing new to report .

Exchequer - Baron Jon reported that the current on-hand bank balance is \$4,403.16. The amount hasn't changed since last month, but a \$500.00 check has been written for our tithe to the kingdom. It will be presented to the Crown at Chieftains.

Minister of Arts and Sciences – HL Thomas Fleischacker will be teaching the February class, 'Wood Relief Carving.' No class in March because of Gulf Wars. Mistress Roselyn will teach 'Beginning Embroidery' in April.

Cut and Thrust – THL Alan was not present.

Chronicler/Webminister – Kingdom newsletter has been sent out. The Dancing Moon, the shire newsletter published on February 11. The Spring Spears event website has been posted. The Facebook page for Spring Spears will be posted this week.

Archery – THL Thomas noted that, because of the uncertain weather and other commitments, there will be no archery practice until after Gulf Wars.

Knights' Marshal – THL James noted we have no fighters in the shire. He's trying to recruit fighters from the local Amtgard group, but no luck so far. The upcoming Chieftains event will offer tourney fighting opportunities. The Lilies committee is looking for daily and overall fighter marshals for the war in June.

### Old Business

Spring Spears will be held at the St. Roberts Community Center. All jobs for Spring Spears have been filled. The balance owed on the site contract is \$600.00. The \$50.00 kitchen clean-up fee has been waived.

Catin will ask whether the pole barn on the site is available or included in the site fee.

Roselyn will deal with getting the required insurance, including the wording required on the insurance policy. Must file for insurance ASAP to receive the \$50.00 rate. Will use a credit card online and be reimbursed by the shire.

An official budget will need to be created for the event to satisfy the kingdom exchequer.

Alan will do Cut and Thrust at Spring Spears.

### New Business

Largesse baskets have been obtained for our tithe at Chieftains. Largesse donations can be brought to the March meeting or to the Chieftains event.

### Other

The next business meeting will be Monday, March 11th, normal time and format. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Official  
THL Paul Adler (Vince Zahnle)  
Seneschal





# Medieval Love Tokens

By HL Dulcibella de Chateaurien



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Love tokens in one form or another have been around since Roman times, although the sentiment they represent has not always been romantic. During the Roman feast of Lupercalia, a festival held in February in honor of Juno Februata, the goddess of feverish, or in Latin, febris, love, men and women drew lots to determine their romantic partners for the feast and for the entire year to come. Even though they might have met as strangers, during that one year, the partners spent as much time as possible with each other and exchanged tokens and gifts.

Under the influences of Christianity, the festival eventually evolved from one of a primarily erotic and, to the early Church, scandalous nature into a celebration of the nobler aspects of love. In time, Lupercalia's name was changed to St. Valentine's Day.

During the Middle Ages, starting somewhere around the twelfth century, a knight fighting in tournaments might have received a favor from his lady as a token of love. This token could be a ribbon, a neck chain braided from the lady's hair, a belt, a ring, a banner, a veil or the sleeve of

a dress complete with lappets at the cuff, also known as a maunch, which the combatant attached to his helm.

However, the practice of granting love tokens was frowned upon by the medieval aristocracy because it called the lady's honor and respectability into question. In "The Treasure of City Ladies" by Christine de Pisan, the author went so far as to accuse 'knights and squires and all men' of 'pleading for love tokens from women and trying to seduce them'.

Another medieval form of favor, known as largesse, was indicative of the giver's respect and esteem rather than of romantic interest. Because largesse was a token of friendship, the gender of the givers and recipients was of little or no importance. A gift of largesse was usually something practical like arms, armor, or horses which the recipient might not be able to provide for himself. Such patronage could be considered the equivalent of corporate sponsorship today.

Love tokens were not only the province of the wealthy. From about the fifteenth century, young men from the poorer classes in rustic and maritime communities like the British Isles, Scandinavia, and Switzerland combined the practical with the romantic, giving their ladies humble gifts made precious by use of their time and talent. Out of shells, whalebone, walrus ivory and hardwoods like sycamore and boxwood, they carved animals, costume figures, tableaus and other motifs into small household items such as lace bobbins, combs, carved wooden stomachers known as stay busks, feather bed smoothers, and marriage bowls. Occasionally a suitor might even create an entire piece of carved furniture.

Sailors often presented their ladies with scrimshaw tokens, carving or scratching the surfaces of pieces of ivory, seashells, bone or wood with pictures and decorative motifs such as anchors, ships, fish and rope knots. Hearts, lovebirds, and flowers were popular with both the sailors and the peasant suitors.

Dating back to at least the sixteenth century, the Welsh loving spoon was perhaps the token most collected by young ladies looking for sweethearts. A carved spoon was offered by a

potential suitor to signal his desire or intent to court, that is, to spoon; his ladylove. If a girl was popular in her village, she might have several spoons hanging on her wall.

Although loving spoons were also found in England, Scandinavia, Switzerland and other parts of Europe, they appear to have gained greatest popularity in Wales and by 1850 the Welsh were the acknowledged experts in spoon carving. Although most of the surviving early examples are carved from fruitwood, the carver probably used whatever wood was available. The handle of the spoon was intricately carved and the bowl was usually shaped like a heart to denote love.

The symbolism of the spoons derived from the way spoons nestle together, touching in every part, suggesting the embracing closeness of both physical love and mental affinity. The carvings on the spoons also had meanings. For instance, an anchor meant I desire to settle down, a ship meant a smooth passage through life, a dragon spoke of strength and protection, and a knot indicated that the couple would be together forever.

Still considered a sign of good luck today, Welsh loving spoons are regaining popularity as love tokens. At the time of their wedding, actors Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones were presented with one by the people of the bride's hometown of Swansea.

Hebrews also engraved coins as love tokens, but they were intended to denote the love and protection of God toward the bearer. They were usually etched only with a large letter HEH, the initial for God, but occasionally they were more complex with inscriptions using several names for a God, angel names and biblical passages.

Valentines are undoubtedly the most enduringly popular love tokens of all time. They date back in some form to as early as the fifteenth century when in 1415, Charles, Duke of Orleans, confined to the Tower of London after the Battle of Agincourt, sent several love poems or valentines to his wife in France.

For centuries, people made their own valentines. A valentine could be as simple as a love note or poem or it could be an elaborately decorated treasure calculated to knock your lover's socks

off. During the fifteenth century, one valentine depicted Cupid hovering over a knight and a lady, his arrow about to pierce the knight's heart. By the sixteenth century, St. Francis de Sales, , was vigorously preaching against valentines, fearing that they would lead to immorality, but every February 14<sup>th</sup>, the world proves once again that no one was listening to him.

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## SHIRE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New weekly venue for our shire meetings:  
St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church:  
367 Old Highway 66, St. Robert, MO, 65584**

**Please submit next issue's announcements to the Chronicler by January 15, 2019.**

**Officer contact information can be found on page 12 of this newsletter.**

**Holiday Party on December 17, 2018 at 7 PM at James and Aesa's house.**

**New Year's Eve Celebration at Margery and Alan's house on December 31.**

**The Dancing Moon is always published bimonthly (every other month) during the third week of each month (or as close to it as possible). Publication will be issued in January, March, May, July, September, and November. If you find an error that needs correcting in the shire newsletter or on the shire website, please inform your web minister or chronicler ASAP. It may make her grumpy, but she needs to know.**

**Visit us online at <https://www.facebook.com/ShireOfCalanaisNuadh/> or <http://www.shireofcalanaisnuadh.org/> or ask to join our closed group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShireCalanaisNuadh/>**

**Send requests for membership in the closed shire Facebook Group or the Shire Yahoo List to [lezahnle@gmail.com](mailto:lezahnle@gmail.com)**



# Passing of Days

A Petrarchan Sonnet by HL Dulcibella de Chateaurien

My rose a petal dropest day by day  
As ocean waves do wear away the sand  
And lovers' kisses bits of soul demand.  
The Lord of Time doth steal my rose away,  
And what is left grows brittle on the stem,  
Its beauty waning through the hours of strife,  
And joy and sun and rain that make a life.  
Yet brittle petals worth still have in them,  
For scarlet, faded, ghosts a vibrant shade,  
And scent recalls the joy of summers past  
When thou and I didst stroll in Venus' glade  
And didst our petals mix in rampant heat,  
Or sort them by the fire in cooler times  
To dwell upon when petals fall less sweet.



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## Shire Officers

### SENECHAL

Lady Catin of Edington. *Cathy Glueck*;  
[glueckc@yahoo.com](mailto:glueckc@yahoo.com)

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### ARCHERY MARSHAL

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Lady Margery of Penrith *Leeann Geer*.

### CHRONICLER

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[lezahnle@gmail.com](mailto:lezahnle@gmail.com) No texts please.

### CHATELAINE

Open

**Congratulations**  
to Calanais's newest members of  
the Order of the Calon Cross!

**HL Paul Adler**  
and  
**HL Dulcibella de Chateaurien**

## Shire Calendar -January, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Archery Practice 2 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO.	7 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	8	9	10	11	12
13 Archery Practice 2 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	14 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Business meeting St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	15	16	17	18	19
20 No Archery Practice	21 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	22	23	24	25	26
27 No Archery Practice	28 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Class Slavic Egg Painting –Lady Margery of Penrith St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	29	30	31		

## Shire Calendar - February, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Archery Practice 4 PM Beaver Creek Conservation Area Rolla, MO. (Tentative)	4 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	5	6	7	8	9 Queen's Prize Tourney St. Joseph, MO
10 No Archery Practice	11 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Business Meeting/Potluck St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	12	13	14	15	16
17 No Archery Practice	18 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Project Night St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	19	20	21	22	23 Chieftains Barony of Three Rivers St. Louis, MO
24 No Archery Practice	25 6:45 PM Weekly Meeting Class Wood Relief Carving HL Thomas Fleischacker St. Robert Bellarmino Catholic Church, St. Robert, MO	26	27	28	28	

**Driving Directions:**

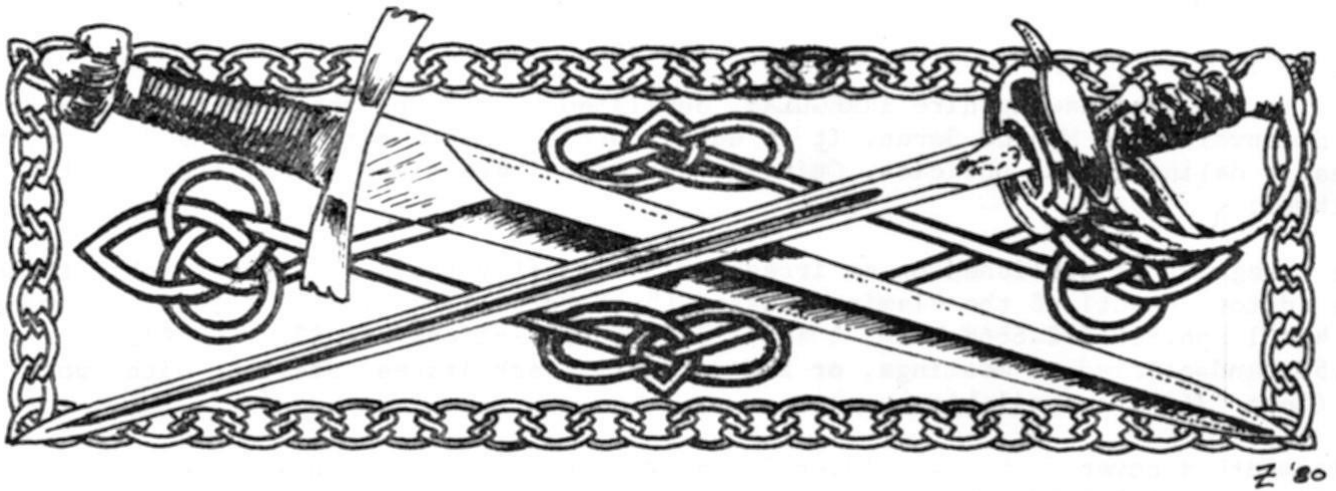
**Archery Practice - Beaver Creek Conservation Area:** No Crossbows. No Archery in freezing temperatures (32° F). From Rolla, take Highway 63 south. The range gate will be on your left, immediately across the highway from the VFW post. Drive through the gate to the top of the hill, park and take the line! Please check calendar for changes or cancellations.

**Shire Meetings - St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church:**

367 Old Highway 66,  
St. Robert, MO, 65584

Please check calendar for changes or cancellations.

**Fighter Practice:** Currently Suspended. Usually held in conjunction with archery practice unless otherwise announced via Facebook or shire Yahoo email list.



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