



January, A.S. XXXVIII

Being the Newsletter
of the
Canton of Whyt Why,
the Manhattan Chapter
of
The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.
Number 0401

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By the Whey . . .

Seen and heard around the Canton –

We don't mind saying so ourselves – the St. Nick event on Dec. 6 was a resounding success. A journey through the blizzard well worth the effort. Vivat to the excellent team from Whyt Whey (and surrounding areas) who made it all possible. We had so much fun, we're going to do it again next year! Read **Sancha's** report on the event, beginning on page 5.

Alexandre is hosting what he hopes will be the first of monthly meetings in the Canton to do with food – the Wed. night Whyt Whey Cook's Corner (the first to be held Jan. 14). But we're not sure Cook's Corner is the best name. Any ideas?

Say! Did anyone catch **Ervald** on TV last month? Didya tape it?

Speaking of Ervald, he's spearheading the effort to get a lot of Whyt Whey folks out to the Brooklyn Children's Museum in Feb. for a series of demos. Let's all do our best to come out and support the program at the museum – a good way to get the SCA's name out there.

Also, our Mistress of Arts and Sciences, **Tamara**, is busy making arrangements for a sewing circle in Staten Island while **Medb** is recovering. Thanks, Tamara!

Please send your items for By The Whey to ltrue@panix.com.

Thanks!


Call for Submissions

Please submit your articles, artwork, event and meeting notices, etc., to the Whyt Whey Chronicler, Eularia Trewe (Lorree True) at ltrue@panix.com.

January Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Josie Wood's	6	7 Nutley Practice	8 Whyt Whey Commons Queens Practice	9	10
11	12 Josie Wood's	13	14 Whyt Whey Cook's Corner Nutley Practice	15 Queens Practice	16 Østgarðr Commons	17
18	19 Josie Wood's	20	21 Nutley Practice	22 Queens Practice	23	24
25	26 Josie Wood's	27	28 Nutley Practice	29 Queens Practice	30	31

February Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 Queens Practice	6	7
8	9 Josie Wood's	10	11 Nutley Practice	12 Whyt Whey Commons Queens Practice	13	14 
15	16 Josie Wood's	17	18 Nutley Practice	19 Queens Practice	20 Østgarðr Commons	21
22	23 Josie Wood's	24	25 Nutley Practice	26 Queens Practice	27	28
29						

Events at a Glance

East Kingdom Twelfth Night, <i>Barony Beyond the Mountain</i>	Jan. 3
Exchequer, Newcomer & Embroidery Collegium, <i>Shire of Iron Bog</i>	Jan. 17
Blades and Blarney VII, <i>Shire of Glenn Linn</i>	Jan. 17
EK Squire Tournament & Grand Regional Melee Practice, <i>Barony Beyond the Mountain</i>	Jan. 17
Cooking Collegium, <i>Barony of Settmour Swamp</i>	Jan. 24
A Market Day at Birka, <i>Barony of Stonemarche</i>	Jan. 31
Love, Lucretia Borgia Style, <i>Barony of An Dubhaigeainn</i>	Feb. 14
Black Gryphon Inn, <i>Canton of Gryphonwald</i>	Feb. 21
The Northpass Arms Presents, <i>Canton of Northpass</i>	Mar. 6 & 7
K&Q Bardic Champions, <i>Shire of Iron Bog</i>	Mar. 6
Mudthaw XXIV, <i>Barony of Settmour Swamp</i>	Mar. 20

(please visit <http://www.eastkingdom.org/event-list.html> for further information)

Directions

Whyt Why Commons : 7:30pm – until further notice – 552 Riverside Dr., basement community room, New York City (take the 1 train to 125th St. and proceed up Tiemann Pl. to Riverside Dr. 552 is the second building down the hill to the right)

Whyt Why Cook's Corner : 7:00pm – 552 Riverside Dr., #2G, New York City (take the 1 train to 125th St. and proceed up Tiemann Pl. to Riverside Dr. 552 is the second building down the hill to the right)

Østgarðr Commons : 7:30pm – various – please see <http://www.ostgardr.org>

Josie Wood's Pub : 6:00pm – 11 Waverly Pl. (at Mercer St. in Greenwich Village), New York City (take the N or R train to 8th St.)

Queens Practice : 7:30pm – St. George's Church, Queens – for more information, contact the Whyt Why Knight Marshal, Jibril at idefendu2@optonline.net

Staten Island Practice : 2:00pm – please see <http://silverhorde.viahistoria.com/SIPpractice.html> or contact Puppy at puppy@viahistoria.com or at (718) 984-2777

Brewing Workshop : for more information, contact Uji at (516) 351-2713 or virtualspud@yahoo.com

Nutley Practice : 6:30pm – Reform Church of Nutley, Nutley, NJ – for more information, contact Sir Tanaka at Tanaka@aol.com or (973) 265-8727

Feast Day of Saint Nicholas

by Sançha de Flores



Thanks to everyone who braved the wintry elements in order to come out and help make our Feast of St. Nicholas event such a great success! We had spirited performances with excellent audiences, and a very festive celebration in general. As per tradition, I will attempt to give a recap:

MUM DANCE – We started the festivities with an impromptu mummer dance in order to break the ice (ha ha). This was quite like the masked mum and musical improvised storytelling we did at the Cloisters demo. John and Rufina provided a musical backdrop while Judith, Ervald, Ana, I and others improvised a story in a wordless, dance-like fashion. Judith wore the hawk, and I, the devil, and Ana, Ervald and Llewyllen were without masks. The story involved an egg (Ervald said it was the soul), soul stealing and/or selling, highly stylized battles with the devil, the slaying of the devil, and the heroes' triumph. The audience loved it!

BLINDMAN'S BLUFF – The we also played a game of Blindman's Bluff, which was also a great success. Just about everyone at the event played or was involved in the game in some respect. And everyone was in such good spirits! The highlight of the game was Ervald's "Zen moment" when he miraculously tagged Thomas (mka James) with a sudden, quick move. Thanks to John and Rufina for the blindman's hood and for the musical accompaniment for the game.

PUPPET PLAY – Medb and I performed the puppet play of St. Nicholas and the Three Students. That was a lot of fun, and it was very misruly. We were very lucky to have Ervald's portable curtain-rod-holder-poles with John and Rufina's tablecloth to use as the puppet stage. The audience was great! We would definitely like to perform the puppet play again and to further continue work with medieval hand puppet shows.

LORD OF MISRULE – We selected a Lord of Misrule at random. One of the site tokens was specially marked. The person with the special token: Eularia, Alexandre's wife. She made a great Lady of Misrule! We gave her the LoM medallion to wear, and a new golden yellow festive LoM half-mask. She commanded Patrick to reenact the story of the puppet show for everyone, which he did quite nicely. Hooray, the story of the puppet play came across and thus stuck in people's minds!

I just want to mention that the hall provided a very nice intimate setting, and we were able to have our festivities without any outside disturbances. The tall windows provided an excellent view of the snow outside, and the snow was good for bouncing light into the hall. We set up a bunch of nice decorations (Eppu was kind enough to arrange them in the hall): greenery, gilded mini apples, sun faces, lots of gold and brass, white candles. For most of the day, the hall was lit by the many, many white candles, except that we turned on some lights for the music-drama because we were concerned about putting candles in the playing space.

FILIUS GETRONIS – We chose to start the play a little earlier than planned so that we would have more time to set up tables and do handwashing before feast. We had a wonderful and simple set dressing that created the world of the play: a white backdrop on Ervald's portable-curtain-holder-poles, a fancy chair and setup for the pagan king on stage right, and a well-dressed altar on stage left to represent the church in Excoranda. Props were supplied by and created by various members of the company.

We also had a well-dressed cast. Thanks to John and Rufina for the excellent work on the costumes. Rufina, I got a lot of very good comments about the St. Nicholas chasuble; people found it very convincing.

(continued on next page)

Saint Nicholas . . . (cont.)

Our Players (in order of appearance):

St. Nicholas / St. Nick statue – Sancha	Euphrosina – Rufina
Pagan King Marmorinus – Ervald	Son of Getron – Ana
King’s henchmen – Sean, Llewyllen	Consolers – Judith, Brithwen
Getron – John	Paupers – Medb, Laurie H.
Musician & additional henchman voice – Ze’ev ben Arye (Marnen)	

And as promised, the play was entirely sung in Latin. The audience received it well, and I think the musical merit and the visuals helped them deal with the language barrier. I heard, though, when the play had finished, one audience member say to another “there’s a synopsis in the program.” I think that showed they were interested in the story and wanted to know more about what was going on. Well done, everyone, with a difficult piece! And Ana, great improvising. Very entertaining, and she made it rhyme, folks!

FEAST – Our official handwashing lady couldn’t make it down from Northpass because of the weather, so we used plain, unscented warm water poured from Østgarðr’s clear pitchers for the handwashing. But we were able to do that handwashing with much success, both before and after feast. I think a lot of the newcomers (and there were a lot of newcomers!) will go away thinking that this standard medieval practice of handwashing might also be a standard practice at SCA feasts.

This is a good thing. Thanks to Sean and his two friends, and Judith and Ervald for the help with the handwashing.

And yes, we were able to set the tables in the U shape, even though we had very few tables and needed to sit people on the inside legs of the U. The arrangement looked very pleasing to the eye, and the candles were very nice.

And Alexandre’s feast. Oh my, that was excellent work. It was not too much, it was not too little; the amount was just right. And everything was so nicely prepared. And he provided a little booklet of documentation and recipes, which I believe corresponds to the information on the web, listed under “Whyt Whey’s Yule Event” – <http://www.panix.com/~nexus/cooking/>.

Sean, his two friends, Anne, Llewellyn and I served the individual dishes to the tables. It was quite nice that we were all wearing red and black (very Coribantian), with the exception of Sean’s friend Joey, who was in green (dissenter!). It was nice to see the servers in the fairly uniform colour scheme, even though we weren’t wearing identical uniforms.

DANCING – Feast was followed by a lively dance session. So many people participated in the dancing, and they were in such good spirits. It was really great to see. Southern Østgarðr’s “house dance band” (dual recorders, drum, bells, tambourine) played for this lively bunch of dancers.

And then the clean up, and the load out, and everyone hit the road for the respective destinations. And we left the site in amazing conditions, even after all that. Yes, it was quite a nice event on this snowy day in Østgarðr’s little canton of Whyt Whey.

– Sancha

Useful URLs

Whyt Whey : <http://www.in-nyc.com/sca>
Østgarðr : <http://www.ostgardr.org>
East Kingdom : <http://www.eastkingdom.org>
Society for Creative Anachronism : <http://www.sca.org>

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This is the monthly newsletter for the Canton of Whyt Whey, the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The newsletter is available from the Chronicler, Lady Eularia Trewe (Lorree True). Yearly subscription rate is \$5. This is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate S.C.A. policy.

The cover illustration is by Lord Johan Gregor Wanderer (Jonathan Zanger).