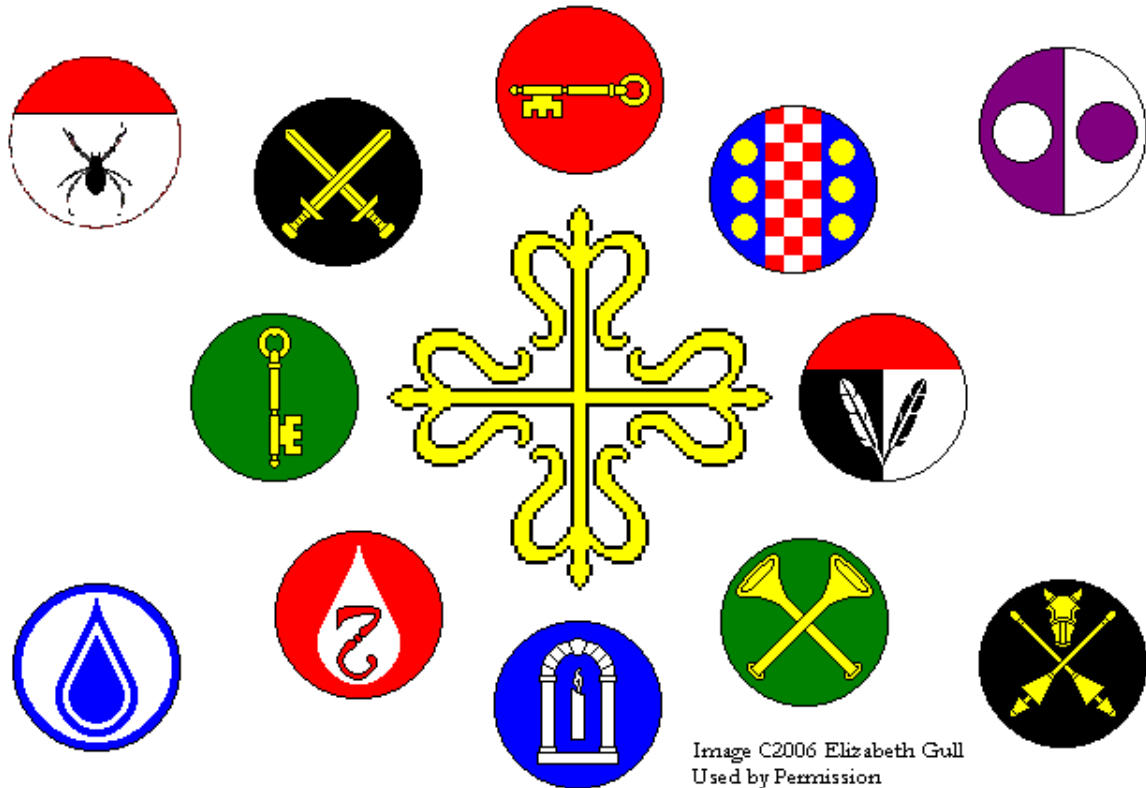


The Copse



Unto the populace of the Canton of Axed Root come greetings from Edward and Tatiana, Protectors of the Northlands of Calontir!

First and foremost we must congratulate the Canton on once again throwing a successful and entertaining event. We had fun through the whole day and even had time to take a little nap to be ready for the evenings post revel. Once again, well done!

On the 2nd of December the Barony will be once again holding it's Baronial Yule court and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. The Barony will be holding its Baronial Champions tournament that day as well as other entertainments. Please remember that the only requirements to fight in the tournament are the combatant has to donate something to the "Champion's Box", the victor must attend the majority of courts in the Barony and the victor must be willing to swear fealty. The items donated can be and have been anything from a roll of strapping tape to an embroidered tunic. A flyer will be passed out ASAP.

Applications for the office of seneschal have been taken by Olai and we will be doing interviews at Yule Court.

Since it is currently unknown as to when exactly they will be leaving, we wish to publicly express our thanks and well wishes to Olai and Dubhessa. We wish them god speed and want them to know that no matter how far they travel or where their paths take them, they have a place at our table and a drink waiting for them.

In Service to Crown and Kingdom,

Edward
Baron

Tatiana
Baroness

* * * From the Seneschal * * *

Greetings all,

The past months have been good to the Canton. The new school year brought new faces to the group, who are already finding their way in the Society. It also brought us some folks who, though new to the Canton, have been in the Society for some time.

This season also saw our third Feast of Fools on October 21. Despite the inclement weather, many of our friends came and enjoyed themselves. Thanks to all of you who helped make this event a success.

The next few months will be busy. I encourage you all to look at the calendar of upcoming events, either here in the Copse or on the Axed Root website. There are many events which are well worth attending. Newcomers, if you would like to attend an event but you need a ride, ask around! Carpooling is a way of life in the SCA.

On a personal note to those who are curious: No, Dubheasa and I still do not know when we will be leaving you. Believe me, as soon as we know for sure we'll be shouting it from the rooftops.

As always, if you have ideas for things you want to see happen in the Canton, let me know. The only way that we can thrive as a group is if we continue to find new ways to interest people. If you think of unexplored ways to reach people, we would love to hear them.

In Service to the Dream,

Olai

* * * From the Minister of Arts and Sciences * * *

Greetings to the populace.

At Feast of Fools we had six A&S classes, all of which were at least lightly attended. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maggie, Oriel, William, and Pipa for stepping up at nearly the last moment to teach those classes; and for doing excellent jobs.

I realize that we haven't had many A&S activities lately. Hopefully that will be changing now that Feast of Fools is behind us. Please let me know if there is anything that you would like to learn or that you would like to teach.

Also, please let me know if you think you might be interested in taking over the MOAS position, since I will be leaving in the very near future.

In service
Dubheasa O'Mahoney

*** From the Chronicler ***

Greetings unto the populace of Axed Root from your Chronicler!

You may or may not have noticed, but the *Copse* is printed with a period font called Garamond. Claude Garamond of France invented this font in the 1500s. This font is far more period than Times New Roman, which was created by Monotype Corporation in 1931 for the London *Times* newspaper (Wikipedia). Garamond would be an ideal font to use for your SCA documentation and handouts.

We have a two terrific book reviews this quarter! These fascinating books should provide plenty of diversion for the coming winter. Thank you to all who contributed to our newsletter!!

Feel free to submit your contributions to the newsletter at any time! The next deadline for submissions is January 17th. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Photos | ❖ Officer letters | ❖ _____ of the SCA/ | ❖ Reviews of |
| ❖ Cartoons | ❖ Period _____ | /Calontir/Coeur | websites/movies/ |
| ❖ Drawings/Doodles | ❖ How to _____ | d'Ennui/Axed Root | /books |
| ❖ Persona letters | ❖ History of _____ | ❖ Reviews of events | ❖ Legends/stories |
| | | ❖ Previews of events | ❖ Poems |

For legal reasons, please only give me content that YOU created, or else provide some sort of proof that it is open source. When possible, I will try to correct misspellings and minor grammatical errors for you.

Happy writing!

Lady Pipa Sparkes
Axed Root Chronicler

*** From the Herald ***

Greetings to Axed Root!

At last, we have some heraldic results to share! Laurel Sovereign-at-Arms (the Society officer in charge of all heralds in the SCA) has sent us the results below. Please ask Pipa, Shandra, or me if you have any questions.

Results from the May Letter:

Æthelræd æt Blæcmore. Name registered.
Éadaoin inghean Chionaodha. Name and device registered.
Johann of Axed Root. Name and device registered.
Oriël Gibberish. Name and device registered.
Pipa Sparkes. Device registered.
Talbot of Galtris. Name and device registered.
William Graver. Name and device registered.
Meadhbh inghean uí Suibne. Name and device returned.

Results from the July Letter:

Alexandra Vazquez de Granada. Name registered.
Ar dovino Dragonetti. Name registered, device returned.
Maelgwn Pen. Name registered.
Nathaniel Lennox. Name registered, device returned.

In Service,

William Graver

Agincourt: Henry V and the Battle that Made England, by Juliet Barker

Reviewed by Æþelræd æt Blæcmore

You've seen the movie. You've sung the stirring *Non Nobis* at court or around a bardic campfire. Maybe you've even read Shakespeare's play! Now you can read the latest analysis and form your own opinions regarding the many conflicting first hand accounts of events leading up to and including the Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

The first third of Ms Marker's account of the Battle of Agincourt covers the politics and events in France and England leading up to Henry's invasion of France. She provides a very detailed account of life in medieval England and Europe, but her primary focus through out the book is on Henry V. Much of the book focuses on the English, but this is largely because much more period documentation is preserved in England than is available for France.

Anyone looking for in depth background on life in medieval Europe for both noble and common will find this book a "must have" reference. Although the theme of this book revolves around a military battle, much of the focus of Ms Barker's narrative is a study of chivalry, politics of the period, and living conditions while on campaign.

Henry V was knighted at age 13, October 1399 on the eve of his father's (Henry IV) coronation. The ceremony took place in the Tower of London, where he took a symbolic bath to wash away his sins, was dressed in white robes to signify purity, and a red cloak to represent his willingness to shed his blood. At his knighting, his double-edged sword representing justice and loyalty was placed around his waist. For the final part of the ceremony, he received from the new king the *collée*, a light tap with the hand or sword. This blow was to be the last blow he was ever to receive without returning it.

English archers of course play an important role in this story. Ms Barker provides plenty of background. As she does throughout the book, numerous references to period records provide insight and are interpreted for the modern reader. She notes one fletcher, a Stephen Seler, was paid £37 10s (37 pounds 10 shillings or just under \$25,000 at current value) for supplying 12,000 arrows in 1413. She further notes this was but one of many commissions over the next 2 years. Long bows ranged in price from less than 1s to just over 2s, at a time when an ordinary archer earned a half shilling a day on campaign. She describes the collection process for acquiring bow staves, and notes that English yew, because of the climate, was not well suited for bow staves. The best staves were imported from Spain, Italy or Scandinavia.

Each archer was normally armed with between sixty and seventy-two arrows, with boys employed as runners to retrieve additional sheaves of arrows as needed. An archer who could not fire 10 aimed arrows per minute was not considered fit for military service.

The life of blacksmith's and armourers is also covered. Ms Barker notes that despite modern misconceptions, women were expected to work alongside their husband. The Ordinance of Founders of 1390, for instance, stipulated that each master smith could employ only one apprentice. Special dispensation was allowed if the smith had no wife, in which case he could have two apprentices. Although she was paid for her efforts, she normally received only a twelfth of his wage, receiving 1d (penny) for his every 1s.

Much is written about the recruiting of Henry's army. This was still a time when the chief nobles of England were expected to supply a fighting force for the King, but it is also true that many of those supplied were hired (indentured) soldiers. Knights and nobles were mostly expected to cover their own costs but shared in the loot and spoils of war. The common soldier, especially on campaign wages, was often better paid than as a civilian.

Not only soldiers, but also horses had to be provided. The number permitted (or required) varied by rank. The dukes were allowed fifty each, earls twenty-four, each baron sixteen, each knight six, each esquire four, and each archer one. A knight could spend between £5 and £100 on their warhorse, with £25 being an average sum. The king was responsible for the cost of transporting men, horses, baggage, etc.

The trouble with being a noble on campaign is that you also had to look the part. Described in detail is young John Mowbray, for whom this was his first official outing in his military capacity as earl marshal. Records reveal that he spent more than £2000 (almost \$1.6 million today) as his contribution to the war effort (his wages for himself and his men were £1450). The young earl marshal, determined to look the part, spent more than £70 (\$48,300 today) on armour alone. Included was a pair of plates from a London armourer which encased his trunk, another supplied him with two basinets, and a third supply plate defenses for his arms and legs. Yet another supplied him plate gauntlets and sabatons. Another £40 went to a London embroiderer for making a silk and gold surcoat with his blazonry to make him recognizable in the field.

His pavilion he equipped with every facility, including a new bed, mattress and bolster, a new seat for his latrine, and an old pavilion pressed into service as his wardrobe. His cook purchased cauldrons, cooking vessels and bottles.

Then he had to arrange wagons and carts to carry it all. As with many others, including the King, he soon found himself in debt and was forced to arrange loans to see him properly off to war.

This was nothing compared to King Henry's personal preparations for war. Henry secured cannons and catapult weapons such as trebuchets and mangonels, as well as siege towers. To keep everything in order he retained 124 carpenters, twenty-five cordwainers (leather workers), six wheelwrights, and 120 simple laborers.

Henry's personal company was simply an expanded version of his household. With him went the master of the King's horse, sixty grooms, a surveyor and clerk of the stable. Also a clerk and twelve yeoman purveyors of oats for the horses, twelve smiths, nine saddlers and a couple of men whose sole responsibility seems to have been to be the King's Guides by night. Henry started out with 233 royal horses (reduced to 98 by the end of the campaign).

The king's kitchens were supervised by a clerk and two under-clerks, and boasted three yeoman and a clerk of the king's poultry, eight yeoman and a clerk of his bake house, three clerks of his spicery, a clerk of his table-linen and another for the hall, and fifteen assorted laborers for the scullery, plus 156 yeoman and servants not assigned to any particular department. Also traveling with him were 15 chaplains, 14 monks, and two almoners (responsible for administering the king's almsgiving). And no self-respecting monarch ever went far without his band of minstrels. Eighteen minstrels went with him to France, earning the same daily wage as a man-at-arms. Of these, at least three were trumpeters, three pipers and one a fiddler. This troop probably included a clarion or wind instruments and at least one "nakerer" or drummer. Probably not all played instruments, as at this time the term minstrel simply meant entertainer.

Without giving away the ending, the bulk of this work focuses on the actual campaign in France. The siege of Harfleur, including the dysentery and disease that killed more Englishmen than the actual battles, the march to Agincourt, and the final battle are described in detail.

Although the book contains many examples and explanations regarding the concepts of chivalry in place at the time, one brief passage illustrated for me how difficult it is for a modern person to truly understand this period. After nearly 3 hours of fighting at Agincourt, the fighting was winding down and the English were looking for survivors of rank to seize for ransom. The French rearguard, seeing the disaster before them, exited the field. Henry, thinking the French were rallying for another attack, ordered all prisoners except those of note should be killed. He could not spare men to guard them, and could not afford to be attacked by the released prisoners with the new threat to his front. How the prisoners were executed is not clear, but at least one hut containing wounded was simply put to the torch, and many were apparently cut down where they stood, helmet less. Neither the French nor the English blamed Henry for this act. The French blamed to captains of the rearguard for causing the confusion that forced Henry to act.

Some things you might think you know if you have only seen the movie you may find wrong. You will learn William Shakespeare took certain liberties with the story. Neither the King nor the Dauphin (heir to the throne of France) were present with the French army. The Dauphin, a bit of a dandy with no interest in fighting, and the ailing King were kept behind city walls away from the battle to keep them safe. No clear leader of the French forces was identified (this should have been the Dauphin's role) which greatly contributed to the French defeat at Agincourt. The fact that some many French nobles demanded the right to be in the front ranks when the small, sickly English army was to be attacked resulted in the French archers being sent to the rear where they were ineffective. There simply was no room on the battlefield for them. And when at last the fighting was finished, Henry knew full well the English had won, giving all credit to God. He summoned the Heralds (both English and French) who jointly acted as independent observers of the battle, and formally requested the French acknowledgment of defeat.

This short report cannot do justice to the 450+ pages describing the Agincourt campaign. Juliet Barker has done a superb job, mixing documentation from period sources with an engaging story telling style. This book contains much for anyone interested in the daily life in Europe at this time as well as the military historian. Ms Barker's detailed background on chivalric and religious practices of the time provides great insight to this pivotal time in English and French history.

I found my copy at Border's in Ames (in stock in the store). A copy can also be found in The Park's Library general collection, Iowa State University.

Book Review:
Anne Boleyn: A New Life of England's Tragic Queen
Reviewed by Deborah the Librarian

Anne Boleyn was born in Norfolk, but the exact year is not known. It is only through later inheritance claims that it was clearly established that she was the middle surviving child of Thomas Boleyn and Elizabeth Howard. Her impact on history began in 1513 when her father secured her a position in the court of Margaret of Austria in the Burgundy court. It was not uncommon for young girls to be "placed out" into other households or countries to be given a final polish before being put in the marriage market. This polish would be quite expensive (wardrobe, living expenses, tutoring, etc.), but the return on this investment would be a much higher marriage prospect. It was with this position at the Burgundy court that Anne began the social climb that led to her execution in 1536. Anne was sent as a maid of honor. Her quick mind, charming personality, and eagerness to please made the young Anne a standout at court. One of her letters to her father survives from this time (1514) in which the young Anne dutifully promises to study her French, polish her court manners, and improve her spelling. The letter has her own corrections neatly inserted above the widely spaced text.

Anne was known to be the more intelligent than her older sister Mary who was given a position in the entourage of Mary Tudor upon her marriage to Louis XII of France. Mary Boleyn was sent over to France with Mary Tudor and Anne was sent to France from the Burgundy court later upon her father's wishes.

Mary Tudor's marriage lasted only 82 days, but it changed the lives of Mary and Anne Boleyn forever. Mary Boleyn was of a much more flirtatious nature than her younger more serious sister. Mary Boleyn later was to claim to have been raped by King Francis before agreeing to be his mistress. When Francis tired of her, Mary was passed along to others in his retinue. When Thomas Boleyn heard of this, he recalled Mary to England where she eventually became mistress of Henry VIII and even bore him one possibly two children. Anne remained in France six years after Mary left in the court of Queen Claude and lived a much different life there. Queen Claude ran a strict, chaste court. She was known to have become expert in French and even acquired enough Latin to read many evangelical works.

Anne returned to England to join the English court of Queen Katherine where she came to the attention of Henry VIII. Denny looks at primary source material from this time and shows that far from being the temptress that her sister was, Anne Boleyn probably attracted Henry VIII because she spurned him. Henry VIII had his choice of ladies at court since no woman or her family could resist the royal flirtation/affair and the increase in fortune and rank it could bring. Anne deliberately left court when Henry's attentions began to draw public comment and invoked her own father's anger. The more Anne spurned Henry, the more he persisted.

Denny holds that many of Henry VIII's letters and actions, taken in the light of their period meaning, showed that today he would be considered a sexual stalker who threaten and had the power carry out the threats he made. Anne was betrothed of James Butler. This did nothing to dissuade Henry VIII. Henry Percy, son of the Earl of Northumberland also courted Anne. His pursuit was stopped by Wolsey on Henry VIII's orders. Percy was told that the lady was promised to someone else and arrangements were already far advance. Percy then had his father sent to him to rebuke him for his rash behavior in pursuit of Anne and was sent abroad as punishment. Percy eventually married, but never seemed to recover from his love for Anne. There is a tradition that the affection was mutual.

Eventually Anne allowed herself to be courted by Henry, but she always had her sister's example foremost in her mind when dealing with Henry. As Henry began to actively consider divorcing Queen Catherine, marriage to Anne became his objective since she made it clear he would have her no other way. Anne had seen and beginnings of the Reformation in her time overseas. Many of the books the Pope banned were in her possession and she debated the contents with friends. Anne felt it was her duty to bring Protestantism to England and loaned many of the banned books to Henry. There is evidence that they discussed the subject with mutual friends frequently.

During the years he dithered about his break from the Catholic Church, Henry changed as completely as he could for Anne. He gave up many of his sporting activities when he was with her to share their combined love of music and song. There are 17 love letters still in existence that Henry wrote to Anne all in his own hand, which is noteworthy since Henry loathed writing. Once Anne formally committed to allowing Henry to pay court to her,

she was never alone with him. She kept herself surrounded by friends and her ladies to maintain her virtuous charter and reputation. He paid for her upkeep and provided for her family. Foreign diplomats hated Anne since they were unable to influence her. She remained loyal to her belief that she was meant to be Queen of England and bring Protestantism to England and loyal to her family's advancement. Henry elevated Anne's father to peerage to raise her rank enough to be a suitable wife for himself. By the time Henry took Anne along on the 1532 trip to France, she was treated as Queen within the English ranks. Due to inclement weather, the English royal party was delayed at Calais. It was here that Henry and Anne are believed to have secretly wedded on Nov. 14 or 15. By mid-January, Anne knew she was pregnant and Henry wanted no hint of any illegitimacy for this child.

It appears that from the beginning Anne walked a fine line between overshadowing Henry with her intelligence or pushing him too far. He was King with a capital K and held the power of life and death. As long as Henry was pursuing her, Anne's independent character and clever mind were attractive. Once he had won her and realized she was not going to be a quiet background brood mare for sons, her attraction began to pale. Henry's pursuit of other women was not overlooked by Anne and there are many recorded rows over it. As Henry began to discover that Anne wanted a marriage between equals and a hand in the running of the government and setting of policy. Henry had allowed Anne to advise him and even followed her advice to woo her, but was dismayed that Anne would not fade quietly into the tapestries once she became queen. Anne felt she was due an active role in governing England and Henry was not at all willing to allow a woman to govern him or his divine kingship. When Anne miscarried a second son, Henry used this as his excuse to begin looking for a woman who would be more pliable and produce sons.


Henry's attraction to Anne had waned from the moment she became his. Now he was in pursuit of a new flame, Jane Seymour. Jane was considered much less intelligent than Anne and her brothers took immediate action to remove her from court once Anne became aware of Henry's interest in her. This was not done to placate Anne as much to inflame Henry's desire, as Anne's own leave from court had done before. Henry had become bored with Anne and her desire to be an equal on the throne. The sons he had hoped she would produce were not there and her downfall was coming. The enemies she had made on her rise to power had bided their time. Mary Boleyn's reputation was used to sully Anne's. Those whom Anne had favored for political gain were singled out and under torture confessed to whatever charges were put to them to end their torture. All of the confessions obtained about the immoral behavior of Anne were gained under duress and all eventually recanted before their deaths.

Henry simply made the decision on the trials outcome and walked away from the problem, allowing it to be handled by others. This lack of moral fiber on his part was quite horrific to some of the same foreign courts who had no love for Anne themselves. Henry's reputation fell greatly because of this. Anne was kept in the Tower for less than 2 months. There is one oddity of Anne's imprisonment that is quite notable. It was standard procedure for any woman condemned to death to be examined by midwives to ascertain if she was pregnant. If found pregnant, the woman's sentence was commuted until she had given birth so the innocent life of her child was not taken. There is no evidence that Anne was ever examined while she was in the Tower. There is a suggestion that her hurried execution was to make certain that she was not found pregnant with what might have been Henry's heir in light of the trumped up charges against her.




Even in the Tower, Henry continued his casual torment of Anne. Anne was notified three times of changes to the date of her execution. She was told that Henry had allowed her not to be burned or beheaded with an ax. He was allowing her to have a swordsman from France to behead her. In actuality, Henry used this time to make sure Cramer had secured Henry's annulment for his marriage to Anne. This made Elizabeth a bastard before her mother was even dead.

Anne comes off a much better queen than Henry does a king in this book. It is hard to imagine that the propaganda blackened image of Anne as temptress witch is what had commonly come down to us when the records show a moral, chaste, intelligent, and strong willed woman who had the misfortune to be pursued by a king who proved petty and vindictive in the extreme. There is a good index and listing of source materials. A very thought-provoking read. This book is by Joanna Denny. Da Capo Press, Cambridge, MA. c 2006 ISBN - 0-306-81474-9, and is owned by the Des Moines Public Library.

*** Canton Calendar ***


Event	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Business Meeting 	1 st Wed., 6:30-7pm	Summer: Brookside Park, Ames School: ISU, Kildee Hall Livestock Pavilion	Seneschal
Fighter Practice/Social Gathering	Each Wed., 7-9pm	Same as business meeting	Seneschal, Marshal, Chatelaine
Archery Practice	Each Sun., 3-6pm	ISU, Forker Hall, rm. 202W	Seneschal
<i>Copse</i> Deadline	1/17	N/A	Chronicler

*** Baronial Calendar ***

Event (Cost)	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Baronial Court and Business Meeting 	3 rd Mon., 7pm	Community of Christ Church, 4504 Ashworth Rd., West Des Moines	Baron/Baroness, Seneschal
Yule Court: A 12 th Cent. English Christmas 	12/2, 9:30am -?	Willowbrook Bible Camp 4375 NE 38th Street, Des Moines, IA	Baron/Baroness
Fighter Practice	Each Tues., 6:30pm	Summer: Pearson Park, West Des Moines Winter: Miller Armory, Camp Dodge, Urbandale	Marshal
Arts and Sciences 	1 st Mon., 7pm	Same as Baronial Court/Meetings	Min. of Arts & Sciences
Archery Practice (\$4)	Each Thurs., 7:30pm	Barefoot Traditions, in Chuck's Alley north of Euclid Ave. on 6 th St., Des Moines	Marshal
Instrumental Music Practice	Each Wed., 7pm	Varies	James 224-1444

*** Upcoming Events ***

Event	Date	Group (Kingdom)	Location
Crown Tournament 	11/4	Vatavia	Wichita, KS
Caravans 	11/11	Ivory Keep	Hannibal, MO
Romans Vs. Pictish 	11/11	Dun Ard	Leavenworth, KS
Toys for Tots 	11/18	Wyvern Cliffe	Jefferson City, MO
Crystal Ball XXIII 	11/18	Shattered Crystal (Midrealm)	Dupo, IL
Knowne World Costuming Symposium 	11/25	Jararvellir (Northshield)	Madison, WI
Gathering at Oakheart 	12/2	Oakheart	Springfield, MO
Kris Kinder Market 	12/9	Forgotten Sea	Kansas City, MO
Twelfth Night 	1/6	Lonely Tower	Omaha, NE

 Please wear garb or contact the Chatelaine for loaner garb.

Canton of Axed Root website: <http://AxedRoot.org>

Axed Root Yahoo! Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/axedroot>

Barony of Coeur d'Ennui website: <http://www.barony-cde.org>

Kingdom of Calontir website: <http://Calontir.SCA.org>

Kingdom Calendar of Events: <http://Calontir.SCA.org/calendar.html>

*** Disclaimers ***

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