



TALES OF THE TOR

Quarterly Newsletter

July 2020 Anno Societatis A. S. LV

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The official Newsletter of the Canton of Dragonsfire Tor

Message from the Lord and Lady of Dragonsfire Tor

Greetings unto the populace of Dragonsfire Tor!

We hope this finds you all happy and well. We know that a horrible plague sweeps the known world and our glorious Kingdom suffers for it! We cannot attend events or revel together and we know each one of us misses that. Believe us when we say, we look forward to the day that we can once again sit by a fire, listen to a bard, enjoy a feast and spend time with you, our friends.

Dragonsfire Tor has been doing a wonderful job of staying active and in touch via online methods. Your willingness to host virtual meetings has made it all the easier for those who cannot risk an in-person meeting, and you should be commended for your willingness to readily adapt. It has not been easy to transition our hobby to online means, but you have embraced it and succeeded.

Vivat!

The Tor officers have been doing such a wonderful job and it saddens us to mention that Honorable Lord Franklin Whitenhale has opened his position as Seneschal of the Tor. We cannot express how impressed we have been the past years with his dedication and commitment to leading the Canton in success after success.

Continued on next page



While we will miss the job that he has done as Seneschal, we know that he deserves a MUCH earned rest. Franklin, we cannot say enough how much we appreciate all of the blood, sweat, and tears you put into this job. We cannot thank you enough. We look forward to seeing what your next path is.

While we are talking about hard work...and paths taken. We will make the same request of the Tor that we made of Elfsea in the Tidings. If you are working on a craft, finishing or starting a project, researching something new...share it with us. Post it on Facebook, send a picture for the newsletter (with a release form), and let us all see what you are doing to live the Dream while at home. We look forward to seeing all the Covid crafts you are working on.

Please stay active, stay in touch, and stay healthy. We would hate to lose any of you to this plague we are all dealing with.

We look forward to seeing you all when it is safe to do so...hopefully before Dragonsfire Tor's Yule Revel but definitely there!

In Service to the Dream,

Baron Kazimierz and Baroness Katheryn
Lord and Lady of Dragonsfire Tor
Baron and Baroness of Elfsea
Kingdom of Ansteorra



Message from the Seneschal

Greetings,

COVID 19 – That was the month of June. Not much else to report

BUT - We have been conducting all of our populace and business meetings on ZOOM that were hosted by Baroness Kat. We are moving forward with plans of Yule and getting ready for when we can once again hold Practices. We have already started looking at having Demos in some of the nearby towns, like Hamilton.

In May, we were able to pass a new Financial Policy. Most of the changes were in the wording. We did make two major changes. We added the Baron and Baroness of Elfsea to our Financial Committee. They will have only one vote between them. We also added that all Ansteorra's Landed Nobility will be comp to all of our events.

I am very pleased to announce that Christopher Wernert is now Dragonsfire Tor's Knight's Marshal. With Chris's help Dragonsfire Tor will be better able to defend Elfsea's western border and boost the might of Ansteorra.

Yes, COVID 19 has put a damper on things but we have been moving forward and working around it the best we can.

Be safe and healthy.

In your Service,

H.L. Franklin Whitenhale of Cheshire
Seneschal of Dragonsfire Tor



Activities of the Tor

PRACTICE TIMES & LOCATIONS

**ALL PRACTICES
ARE CANCELED
AT THIS TIME**

Announcements concerning resuming regular meetings and practices will be announced via Canton of Dragonsfire Tor Facebook group page and email list.

Archery, Thrown Weapons, Heavy Fighter, & Rapier Practices

Meetings

Propulace Meeting— 2nd Sunday of each Month

July 12th — online 5:30 PM

August 9th — online

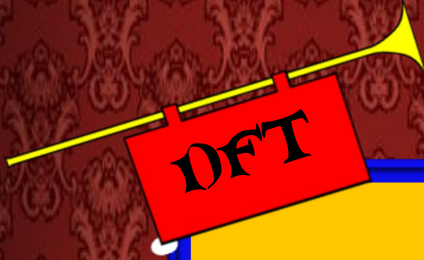
September 13th — to be determined

At this time Populace meetings will be held online using Zoom -

More information will be posted through Dragonsfire Tor's group Facebook page & email list.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dragonsfire.tor/>

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!



DFT has a new Knights Marshall!

Chris Wernert is our new Knights Marshall. We would like to welcome Chris and his family to the Canton. All are looking forward to the end of this Plague, so that practices can start up again.

Coming Events

Dragonsfire Tor Yule Revel - December 5, 2020

The event steward will be Baroness Janie. Yule Revel will be held at Oakdale Park in Glen Rose, TX. Yule will have a Norse theme this year.

There will be an A&S Competition to select the Tor's next Artisan. More information about this competition, as well as other contests and activities, will be posted as that information comes available.

AROUND THE CENTRAL REGION -

July

- 25th - Steppes Artisan in Cedar Hill, TX - Virtual Event

August

- 1st - King's Round Table Virtual Event
- 29th - Glaslyn Artisan of the Flame

September

- 4th - 7th - Braggart's War - Sid Richardson Scout Camp
- 25th - 27th - Three Centurions - Shire of Rosen

More information on these and other events in Ansteorra can be found on the Ansteorra Event Calendar at <https://ansteorra.org/events/>

when in rome....

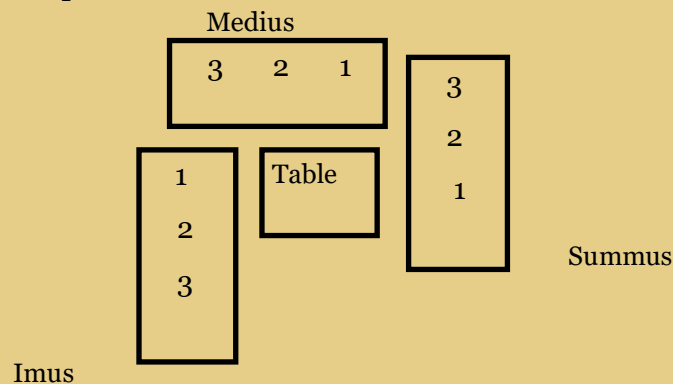
roman Banquet

By HL Aaliz du Lac

A Roman banquet was called a convivium. The Roman upper class would hold banquets to not only enjoy fine food but also to impress their guest with their wealth. It was about networking as much as it was about enjoying an evening of food with friends. A Roman banquet might begin around 5:00pm and go well into the night. The best number of guests to have at a dinner party was nine in honor of the nine muses*. However, public feast and Emperor's banquets might have many more in attendance. The more important the guests the more lavish the banquet. Everything was planned out to the smallest detail. The host would use three components to impress his guest: the setting, food, and entertainment.

The Setting:

Just as much attention was given to the setting of the banquet as the food. The dining rooms were decorated with wall paintings, artwork, fine furnishings, and mosaics on the floor. Most dining rooms had a single table with three couches arranged around it. The guest would recline on couches and eat with their fingers. The couches were padded with cushions and draped with fine cloth. The seating plan was also important as well. Honored guest would set at medius 3 and the host would set at imus 1. Some sources said that the most important person at the banquet would set at medius 2.



Roman Banquet page 2

Servants would bring in each dish and set them before the guest. The servants would be groomed and dressed as to be visually appealing to the dinner guests. They would put out their finest tableware for the evening. The lavish tableware would include silver, gold, bronze, and glass vessels. Sometimes spoons were provided for dishes like soup or snails. Since the Romans were fond of sauces, napkins would be supplied for guest. The napkins were not only used to clean their hands, but also to wrap up food to take home at the end of the evening. The guest might take home the napkin supplied by the host or may have brought their own napkin with them. Yes, an early form of the doggie bag.

The Food:

The convivium, would consist of three courses with the the host would serving dishes as expensive and lavish as he could afford. One of the more extravagant dishes was served by Apicius to the Emperor Tiberius' sons. He served baked nightingales stuffed with a prune and smeared with honey. The nightingales were in a sauce of concentrated grape juice with herbs and garnished with rose petals.

1st Course: They would start with the first course or the Gustatio. This would be similar to our modern appetizer. This could include an egg dish, raw or cooked vegetables, salad, fish, cheese, or shellfish. Sometimes fattened dormice would be served.

2nd Course: The second course would be main course called the prima mensa. This course would consist of the meat and cooked vegetables. Meats would include beef, pork, poultry, and fish. Some exotic as well as sometimes outlawed dishes might be served to guest. Dishes such as peacock tongue, roast parrot, milk-fed snails, and sow's udders showed up at the most elite banquets.

3rd Course: The final course was called the secunda mensa and was the dessert portion of the meal. Fruit- fresh or dried fruits (figs, dates, plums, apples, grapes), nuts, pastries, and puddings.

Wines mixed with water would be served with the meal and finer wines would be served after dinner.

roman Banquet menu

Gustatio

Salad
Boiled eggs in a pine nut sauce
Green & black olives
Cheese
Roast dormice in honey & poppy seeds

Mensae Primae

Fallow deer roasted with onion, rue, Jericho dates, raisins, oil, and honey
Ham boiled with figs and bay leaves, rubbed with honey, baked in pastry crust
Baked fish in Vine leaves
Cooked vegetables like Asparagus
Small rolls (bread to sop up the sauce)

Mensae secundae

Pears from Syria
Dulcia (sweet pasties with nuts & honey)
Nuts, figs, dates, plums, apples, grapes

The Entertainment:

If banquet is going to be star studded spectacle then there must be entertainment. In between the courses the guest would be entertained by musician, singers, acrobats, dancing girls, and the recitation of poetry. Some banquets might have gladiators fighting or trained lions. The more money a host had the more extravagant the entertainment could be.

Whether the banquet was on a budget of moderate means or an extravagant budget the goal was the same to impress their guest with a spectacle.

*The Nine muses were the Goddesses of the arts and sciences.

Roman Banquet page 4

Sources:

Anderson, Marge; Menu for a Roman Banquet; <https://bigsofhistory.com/menu-for-a-roman-banquet/> May 19 2008.

Around the Roman Table: Food and Feasting in Ancient Rome by Patrick Faas pp83-87.

Banqueting in Ancient Rome Facts and Details; <http://factsanddetails.com/world/cat56/sub369/entry-6312.html> October 2018.

Brown, Shelly; Greco-Roman Feast: Menu with Recipes; https://www.archaeological.org/pdfs/education/feasts/Feast_menu.pdf

Martyris, Nina; The Lavish Roman Banquet: a Calculated Display of Debauchery and Power; <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/05/20/712772285/the-lavish-roman-banquet-a-calculated-display-of-debauchery-and-power> May 20, 2019.

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Raimer, Carla; Ancient Roman Recipes; <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/roman-recipes/> October 31, 2000.

Turney, Alexandra; Roman Banquets in Ancient Rome: Myth, Archeological Evidences and History; <https://www.througheternity.com/en/blog/things-to-do/banquets-ancient-rome.html#> Dec. 2016.

<http://www.dl.ket.org/latin3/mores/food/seating.htm>

<http://www.carroll.edu/msmillie/foodilap/introRommeal.htm>

roman women's clothing

By HL Aaliz du Lac

The summer heat in Ansteorra makes Roman Garb very appealing. This article will only give a brief discussion of the different types of garments. Roman women dressed in layers, sometimes lots of layers. We will be looking at three layers for now. The material commonly used in Roman clothing were wool and linen. Depending how wealthy a person was, they might also use silk or cotton.

We are going to start with the under dress. It was much like a basic tunic. There were two types of tunic or tunica: the Peplos and the Chiton. Both tunics were basically two rectangles of fabric. The Peplos is a sleeveless tunic where the top is folded over to form a drape, then sewed or pinned at the shoulders. The Chiton is fastened at the shoulders and along the arm. The top of the Chiton could be sewn or attached with anywhere from 4 to 8 buttons or pins (fibulas). Several of my sources listed below have good drawings demonstrating the Chiton. Some of the sources I read said that the Chiton was the most common underdress. The Chiton could also be worn without an overdress.

Next, there was the overdress or Stola. The Stola was worn by married women. It had straps at the shoulder and was sleeveless. Later during the Roman Empire period, the Stola became less fashionable.

Finally, there is the palla. It was a long rectangular cloak that would go over the left shoulder, come around under the right arm, and then either over the left arm or again thrown over the left shoulder. The back of the palla could also be brought up over the head like a hood.

Currently, I do not have my own pictures or diagrams of Roman garb. However, here is a list of resources that I have found extremely helpful.

Classes –

My absolute favorite class is Lady Dearbhail inghen Muirdoch mic Alasdair's Unleash Your Inner Roman Goddess. I highly recommend her class.

Online resources – some of the sources also discuss hair, makeup, and jewelry.

Anna Dokeianina Syrkousina (SCA name); Clothing: Ancient Mediterranean – Anna's New Rome; <https://annasrome.com/roman-garb-basics/>

Roman & Greek information plus it has 2 how to video's

Roman Garb page 2

Greek and Roman Garb; <https://www.eg.bucknell.edu/~lwittie/sca/garb/GreekRoman.html> - mostly gives definitions and brief descriptions.

McGowan, C.; Women's Fashion in Imperial Rome; <https://womeninantity.wordpress.com/2018/04/15/imperial-roman-womens-fashion/>; April 15, 2018.

McManus, Barbara F.; Roman Clothing part II - Roman Clothing: Women; <http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/clothing2.html>; August 2003.

Saturnina, Tullia (SCA name); <https://romanasum.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/intro-to-roman-clothing4.pdf>; 1/8/2015.

Sheldon, Natasha; Roman Women's Clothing; <https://www.ancienthistoryarchaeology.com/roman-women-s-clothing>; 2010.

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Gabriel of Maccuswell

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Accepting applications

contact Seneschal

WEB MINISTER:

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Elana MacEwan



Chronicler

Greetings,

The Plague (Covid - 19) breached our borders and has swept across our kingdom. In so doing it has put a halt to some of the SCA events and activities we enjoy. But, it has not stopped everything. Through virtual classes and meetings we are determined to still stay in touch with each other. I know many have been researching and working on garb and crafts in their time at home. If you would like to submit an article or pictures about some SCA related things you have been learning about and doing please email them to chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org by September 25th. Please remember to include the appropriate release forms.

Please take care & stay safe,

HL Aaliz du Lac, Chronicler

Submission deadline:

By **September 25th** for the 2020 4th Quarter newsletter in October.

See page 12 for location of release forms.

Open Offices

Dragonsfire Tor is needing officers for the following offices:

Minister of Arts & Science

How to apply to become a Canton Officer

First, download and complete an “Application for Office” from the Kingdom website -

<http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicaitonJan08.pdf>

Also include a copy of your SCA membership card.

Then send your application to the following people.

Kingdom Officer - see website addresses below for the Kingdom officer of the office you are applying.

Elfsea’s Baron & Baroness at

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org

baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

Dragonsfire Tor’s Seneschal at seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Kingdom Officer email addresses

Arts & Science Minister: send to central@moas.ansteorra.org - open till filled

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Fill these forms out on your system, save and email with your submission to:

chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

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Page 2 Picture by Melanie Gallon

Page 4 Dragon Shield by Anthony Sava at classic-castle.com

Page 6 Herald's Trumpet by Gerald G. at 1001freedownloads.com