

FRET KNOT



Third Quarter ♦ July – October A.S. LIV 2020

SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION



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Herewith follows the legal stuff:

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From the Chronicler



Contessa Battista De Kie Del Goya Da Lagos

Greetings,

This is probably going to be my last note from the Chronicler as I found a replacement. It won't be official until the next meeting and possibly some paperwork, so I won't post any names here yet.

That being said, I have enjoyed my time as the Chronicler and have enjoyed trying to provide a bit of entertainment separate from the Webpage and Facebook. I personally feel the publication is on its way out or at least should be at this point. It seems an exercise in redundancy since most of the information is readily available online. I understand the reason for hold out but even my mother who is 80 can go on facebook and the web at this point so..... 😊

As we continue to face uneasy times and are unsure what the future of the SCA will look like I want to continue to encourage everyone to stay safe, be nice to each other and to reach out to those around you and make sure that everyone is taken care of both physically and mentally. The SCA is an extended family and just like your real family you need to nurture your relationships and keep communication open and upbeat if possible.

Long Live Altavia and the Kingdom of Caid

In Service

Battista



From Their Excellencies



THL Nikolaos Phaistos & THL Briana MacCabe

Virtual Reality

Life has thrown us some serious challenges in the last three months, though many of us seem to be virtually fine. Virtually is a strange word. The dictionary definition is "most or nearly as described, but not completely or according to strict definition." I have to disagree. We have turned virtually into a reality, with most of the same feelings and experiences of life. Circumstances have manifested and our populace has responded. We have adapted, improvised and overcome. We have used our imagination, creativity and innovation. We have turned circumstances on their heads and made them conform to us. Through the course of the last few months, Altavians have proven over and over again that we cannot be beaten. I am proud to call myself a member of the Kingdom of Caid and an Altavian.

Masters Laertes McBride and Beorn of the Northern Seas designed, produced and starred in the Kingdom's first talk show, "Live from Caid". It has brought interesting and talented figures from around the Knowne World and shared them with us all. We have been kept up to date on our current state of affairs by people we know and respect. We have learned of new rules coming down from the Board, and new offices being created. We have heard music, songs and stories from our dear, close friends and from people thousands of miles away. We were even given the opportunity of being guided on tour of a SCA castle, which has been a lifetime in the making. It has entertained and informed us every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m., since the beginning of the our current situation.

We were challenged by having event after event being cancelled. Then it was our Anniversary that faced cancellation. Instead of sitting in despair, we decided not to call off our most precious of events, Altavia Anniversary. We met online and discussed it. We had help from Dun Or (THL Philippe) and others who had tried this new way of celebrating in our Society, the virtual event. It became our Altavia Alt-aversary!

What we came up with was nothing short of amazing. Our wonderful populace thought up an extravaganza. We had a challenging and fun scavenger hunt made by Contessa Battista. We had collectable site token and champion frames by Lord Ariocho Van Darkholm. We had competitions thought up by Lord Griffith, Mistress Cecila, and Master Colwyn. Our Arts and Sciences competition was set up and run by Lady Allessandra. Our opening and closing courts were handled on Zoom by the spectacular Mistress Meliora and Master Laertes. We had bards from all over the Knowne World share their talents with us. Our innovations have become a blueprint for the rest of the Kingdom and Society.

What we made was truly something new and amazing. It was a work of art. It was fun and engaging. It allowed our friends to be a part of our lives again and, it was REAL! Thank you Altavia for renewing our faith in humanity once again.

Baron Niko Phaistos and Baroness Briana McCabe

(Chroniclers Note: the above notes are as received nothing has been edited other than spelling and corrected names.)



A Note from the Seneschal



Mistress Meliora Deverel

Mistress Meliora was unable to provide comments for this edition due to work and other commitments. She will be back next issue! I didn't want to have to renumber all the pages, so I kept her page here in anticipation! 😊

Almond “Butter/Cheese”
By THL Courtney of the White Meadow / Sherry Acton-Snowden
wowimamom@gmail.com

As a person with a dairy allergy, I strive to find period alternatives for cheese and butter. Luckily, Catholics in Europe abstained from eating meat on fast days and had such alternatives!

Starting with the recipe from *Forme of Cury*, a book written by The Master Cooks of King Richard II in the 14th century.

CREME OF ALMAUNDES. XX.III. V.

Take Almaundes blaunched, grynde hem and drawe hem up thykke, set hem ouer the fyre & boile hem. set hem adoun and spryng [1] hem wicii Vyneger, cast hem abroad uppon a cloth and cast uppon hem sugur. whan it is colde gadre it togydre and leshe it in dysshes.

[1] *spryng. sprinkle.*

<https://oakden.co.uk/the-forme-of-cury/4/>

This is my interpretation of the recipe:

Crème of Almonds

Take Almonds blanched, grind them and add water until they are thick. Set them over heat until it boils. Set them aside and add vinegar, put into a cloth to let it drain. When it is cool, sprinkle it with sugar and put it on a dish.

Almond Milk

2 cups - blanched almond

4 cups – hot water

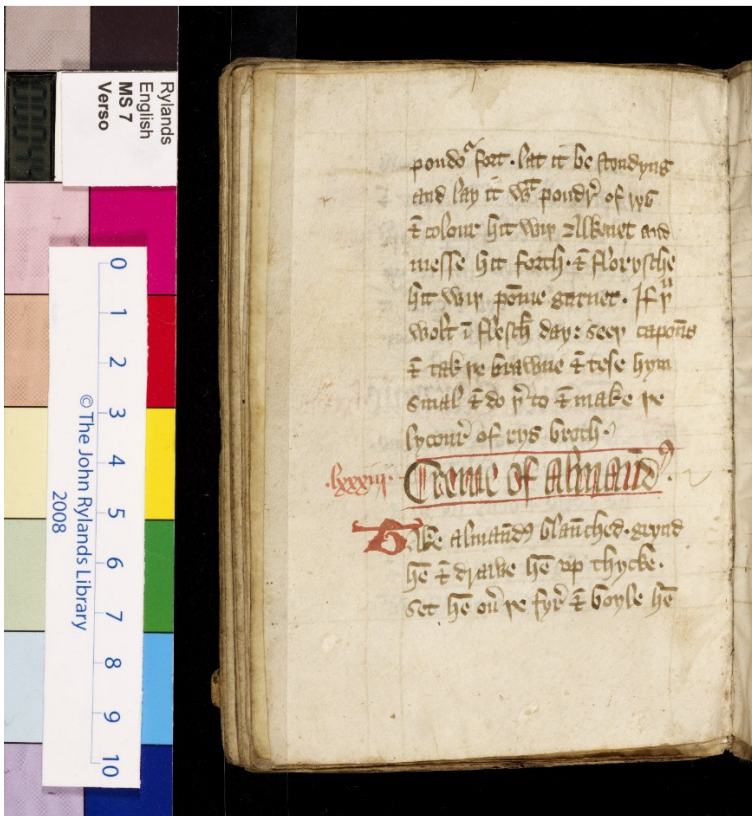
- Soak at least 2 hours
- Liquefy in blender
- Place a cloth over a large bowl and slowly pour the almond milk mixture into the cloth. Gather the edges of the cloth together. Gently squeeze to release the milk. This process can take a few minutes, so be patient!
- Makes approximately 2.75 cups of milk.
- If it's not used immediately, refrigerate.

Almond “Butter”

2.75 cups – almond milk

1 tsp – white vinegar

- Boil the milk, stirring constantly.
- When it reaches full boil, boil for 1 minute then remove from the heat.
- Add 1 tsp white vinegar, stir.
- Let it sit for 5 minutes.
- Place a cloth over a large bowl and slowly pour the mixture into the cloth. Gather the edges of the cloth together. Hang it until it is cool. Then gently squeeze to release the “whey” until it is a soft cheese consistency.
- Manuscript says to sprinkle with sugar. This gives the “butter” a sweet flavor which would pair well with fruit.
- Sprinkle it with salt and herbs for a lovely soft “cheese”.



<http://luna.manchester.ac.uk/MediaManager/srvr?mediafile=/Size4/Manchester4-4-NA/1014/jrl0905181dc.jpg>



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- ❖ Deputy Webwright: Vasilisa
 - webwright@sca-altavia.org



Meetings & Practices in the Barony



Meetings and Practices are currently Postponed Until Further Notice

Meetings: Virtual for Now

- *Council Meeting*
 - 2nd Tuesday of the month 7:00pm
 - Location: Proto-Cathedral of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 5329 Sepulveda Blvd., Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91411
 - This meeting involves officer reports, Baronial discussions, event reports, and announcements, everyone is welcome (and encouraged) to come.
 - <http://www.sca-altavia.org/meetings/>
- *Newcomers Meeting*
 - As needed 7:00pm
 - Location: Verdugo Park, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank, Ca 91505, right hand side of the park at the stone tables near the tennis courts.
 - Everyone is welcome and given an overview of the SCA.
 - Contact the Chatelaine for details.

Combat Practices: Cancelled for Now

- *Archery* - archery@sca-altavia.org
 - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month 11:30am-3:00pm
 - Location: Woodley park archery range (woodleyparkarchers.org/direction)
 - Additional times most Tuesday and Friday nights. Contact the Captain of Archers to verify dates and times. Contact ahead for loaner gear.
- *Equestrian* - equestrian@sca-altavia.org
 - Various days of every month 6:30pm-8:30pm
 - Location: Conejo Creek Equestrian Park, 1350 Avenida de las Flores, Thousand Oaks, Ca 91360
 - Open to all regardless of Baronial affiliation
 - Riders must bring own mounts. Authorizations available, jousting, mounted combat, crest combat, mounted games, marshalette and general riding.
 - Minors must have a parent or guardian present at all times.
 - www.sca-altavia.org/meetings/equestrian/index.html
- *Armored & Rapier Combat* - rapier@sca-altavia.org / heavy@sca-altavia.org
 - Every Monday 7:30pm-9:30pm
 - Location: Verdugo Park, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank, Ca 91505, right hand side of the park near the tennis courts.

- *Unarmored Combat*
 - 2nd & 4th Monday 7:30pm–9:30pm
 - Location: Verdugo Park, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank, Ca 91505, right hand side of the park near the tennis courts.
- *Youth Combat*
 - 2nd & 4th Monday 7:30pm–9:30pm
 - Location: Verdugo Park, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank, Ca 91505, right hand side of the park near the tennis courts.
- *Thrown Weapons* - tw@sca-altavia.org
 - 1st & 3rd Sunday 11:00am–2:30pm
 - Location: Woodley park archery range (woodleyparkarchers.org/direction)

Arts & Sciences: Virtual for Now- arts@sca-altavia.org

- *Arts & Science Workshops (aka Craft Nights)*
 - 4th Tuesday of the Month 7:00pm–9:00pm
 - Location: Proto-Cathedral of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 5329 Sepulveda Blvd., Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91411
 - Take part in the advertised class or bring sewing or craft projects.
 - Meeting themes are published on facebook and the Altavia Website
- *Bardic Circle* - bardic@sca-altavia.org
 - Host Baron Sir Charles of Dublin at the home of Baron Sir Robear du Bois.
 - Contact A&S Officer for directions & dates all can perform or watch
- *Children's Activities* - children@sca-altavia.org
 - Children's events are held at every event that Altavia sponsors
- *Culinary Guild*
 - Special interest group for all things delicious to eat and drink.
 - All are welcome in discussions, recipes & historical research.
 - Meetings once a month www.facebook.com/groups/242868192471271
- *Dance Practice*
 - Every Monday 7:30 (***CURRENTLY ON HIATUS***)
 - Location: Verdugo Park, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank, Ca 91505, right hand side of the park near the tennis courts.

Scheduled Arts and Science Classes

- See Arts@sca-altavia.org for a current Schedule of Classes



Altavia Current Champions



- ❖ **Archery:** Baron Bjorn Zenthffeer as of 10/29/18
- ❖ **Armored Combat:** Duke Sven Orfhendur as of 5/11/19
- ❖ **Arts & Sciences:** Rycharde the Bowemon as of 5/11/19
- ❖ **Special Baroness Bardic Prize:** Dame Gorandookht Mamigonian as of 5/11/19
- ❖ **Bardic:** Mistress Cecilia Medicias of 12/14/19
- ❖ **Chess:** Baroness Illuminada Eugenia de Guadalupe y Godoy as of 12/16/18
- ❖ **Equestrian:** Milady Inara of Darach as of 05/20/18
- ❖ **Fretted Fork Non Period:** Mistress Cecilia Medici as of 10/29/18
- ❖ **Fretted Fork Period:** Lucrezia of Isles as of 10/29/18
- ❖ **Games Champion:** Baroness Tezar of Aeolis 12/14/19
- ❖ **Rapier Combat:** Master Eógan Ua Confraích as of 5/11/19
- ❖ **Thrown Weapons:** Paganus Grimlove as of 10/29/18
- ❖ **Unarmored Combat:** THL Tierrynna Caer Narvon as of 5/12/18
- ❖ **Youth Archery:** Loki of the Dell as of 10/23/16
- ❖ **Youth Arts and Sciences:** Natallya of Altavia as of 5/13/17
- ❖ **Youth Combat:** Zakarja Von Bremen as of 5/11/19



The Field of Cloth of Gold

Contributed by
THL Johnnae llyn Lewis, CE

As the current world struggles with quarantines and lock downs due to the raging Coronavirus pandemic and with our Society events cancelled or postponed indefinitely across the entire Known World, one could write or reflect about past times of mortality, plagues, sicknesses, illnesses and the literature of remedies and cures, deaths and burials, or one could look back instead to the year 1520 when something quite extraordinary happened. In a year when the Pennsic War and all its assorted activities will not happen, it's rather interesting to reflect upon the past of five hundred years ago to see what a meeting between kings entailed in the early sixteenth century.

In a field between the English held town of Guînes and the French territory of Ardres in France, King Henry VIII of England and King Francis I of France met in person in 1520 at the occasion which has come to be called the Field of Cloth of Gold or the Field of *the* Cloth of Gold. Why was it titled as such? The traditional view is that it was named 'Cloth of Gold' because of the rich fabrics and accoutrements, but historian Joycelyne Russell notes the field or valley where the encounters took place had been called *the golden vale, val de oro, val dore* or *vallis aurea* previous to the 1520 meeting. The event was the result of elaborate staging and diplomacy and was two years in the planning. Each country established its own magnificent camps. Between these two camps in the middle of the valley, the two sides came together for the official pageants, festivities, and activities like the jousting. The Field of Cloth of Gold was months in the actual construction and making. Just like our modern Pennsic Wars, thousands of people traveled great distances to attend. It all lasted roughly two weeks or in this case officially from June 7th until June 24th, 1520.

In reading through the actual accounts, one finds many instances of common activities to both our Pennsic and other Wars and the 1520 Field of Cloth of Gold. Here are some passages of these various activities:

Tents, Pavilions, and Constructions

“FRAUNCES the Frenche kyng was with all his nobles of the realme of Fraunce, come to the toune of Arde, whiche was prepared for his commynge, many tentes, hailes and pavilions, were set and pight in the felde.” [Hall]

“Persons who have been to Calais tell wonders of the English pomp, and of the King's tent measuring some 6,000 yards (*auric*) of cloth of gold, and exceeding that of his Majesty here, which cost about 150,000 ducats or more.” [Calendar of State Papers; hereafter CSP]

“The tent of the King our lord is a magnificent affair (*una grandisavnM cosa.*). From the ground to its summit, on which is a gigantic St. Michael, it measures 60 paces (*sessanta passi*); the poles which support it are tall masts lashed together to increase their length, which is such tliat it would certainly suffice for a ship of 400 butts. The diameter of this tent in its centre (*in fondo*) is sixteen paces, and all round it is a corridor, eight paces broad and some 20 paces in length.” [CSP]

For Henry the VIII, a palace rivaling Whitehall:

“...on the playne grene was buylded a fountayne of enbowed worke, gylte with fine golde, and bice, ingrayled with anticke workes, the olde God of wyne called Baccus birlyng the wyne, whiche by the conduyctes in therth ranne to al people plenteously with red, white, and claret wyne, over whose hedde was writen in letters of Romain in gold, *faicte bonne chere quy vouldra.*” [Hall]

“Could I describe the fortress-house raised at Guisnes by the King of England for his banquet (*festino*), you would be surprised to hear of its architecture, but you would be more delighted to behold such a structure, built to last a day, and no longer. It appears to be that which it is not, and it is that which it does not appear to be.” [CSP]

“The house of the King of England covered four square acres. Outside the gates were two columns, one on each side ; on one the God of Love, on the other " *G'arihl*" [Hospitality ?], most admirably wrought, with a Bacchus on a fountain, which on the day of the banquet spouted wine.”[CSP]

“Throughout the building, at a distance of two feet below the windows, is a handsome gilt cornice whereon to hang the tapestries, which are all most magnificent.” [CSP]

“I have seen a temporary house built by him, said to have cost 100,000 francs, the handsomest ever beheld ; never did I see so beautiful or so costly a palace. The [French] King's tent is a stupendous sight.” [CSP]

“On either side there are stages on which the ladies and ever}'body will be placed to see the entertainments, which will commence on Monday the 11th instant, and will last some eight or ten days. The jousts on both sides, some 220 men-at-arms in all, are in excellent condition.” [CSP]

Delays

It is said that this palace will be completed on Thursday, or thereabouts...[CSP]

“where are also a great number of other tents, the English also having pitched their tents outside Guisnes, but ours [the French] are the handsomer. Altogether they will amount to some 2,000 ; and they are still in the act of putting them up.” [CSP]

Fanciest of dress

Regarding HRM Francis: “The King wore a cap of black velvet with feathers of the same colour, and some large jewels in it very well set, which the King estimates at 2,000 ducats. His doublet was embroidered with gold knots, the shirt protruding from the slashes, the tags of which were most beautiful jewels. His breast was bare, and he had sleeves (*maneggi*). Over the doublet was a cloak of cloth of gold embroidered ; at the back of the cloak a certain bit of cloth of gold slashed, looking like a half cape, or well nigh a half mantle, fastened over the left shoulder, which half cape or mantle was costly and ornamented with large jewels. On his legs, he wore white boots (*burza- chini bianchi*). [CSP]

“The King of England wore a very handsome and costly doublet of cloth of silver, with a girdle and apron (*traversd*) or " *sbarra*" from the cincture to the shoulder, of cloth of gold studded with very beautiful jewels, and a black velvet cap with jewels and black feathers; and he rode a very handsome bay courser with a " trapper "t embroidered in gold.” [CSP]

“To tel you the apparel of the ladies, their rych attyres, their sumptuous Juelles, their diversities of beauties, and the goodly behavyor from day to day syth the first meting, I assure you ten mennes wyttes can scarce declare it.” [Hall]

Music

“Then up blew the Trumpettes, Sagbuttes, Clarions, and all other Minstrelles on bothe sides,” [Hall]

Jousting

“The jousts will commence on Monday or Tuesday, and will last about 10 days.” [CSP]

On the morrow, the 11th, the jousts commenced, and were attended by both the Queens, with a very great number of most noble ladies, all vieing with each other in beauty and ornamented apparel, and for love of them each of the jousts endeavoured to display his valour and prowess, in order to find more favour with his sweetheart. And thus did they assemble daily to witness sword-fighting on horseback and on foot, and other tournaments and representations of war. [CSP]

“All, owing to the wind, did very ill, and an infinity of spears were lost, but they continued tilting until evening.”[CSP]

but also fighting on foot

“Fryday the xxii. daye of June in the campe was set a barrier for to fyght on foote,” [Hall]

Feasting and Dancing

“The King of France dined in the palace with the Queen of England. They were seated at the centre of the table opposite to each other under a costly canopy. ... The viands were more dainty and exquisite than can be told, and their description is therefore omitted. Constantly during dinner the most excellent vocal and instrumental music was heard ; a better performance was not possible. In the other halls a number of Lords and Princes who had accompanied the most Christian King dined, and after dinner there was a ball until night, the King himself dancing, and part of the time he made love to the ladies there. [CSP]

Note the phrase “and their description is therefore omitted” as to the foods served. As usual, Hall did not record exactly what dishes were served. Of this feast Hall writes: “he was ryght honorably served in all thinges nedefull, for Forestes, Parkes, felde, salte seas, Ryvers, Moates and Pondes, wer serened and sought through countreies for the delicacie of viandes, wel was that man rewarded that could bring any thinge of likinge or pleasure : Ryght honorably was the French kynge entertained.”

While we may not have the recipes or even the exact menus, we do have financial accounts. Professor Glenn Richardson author of a 2013 account notes, “The English contingent consumed over 29,000 items of fish, including a Dolphin, 98,000 eggs, 6,475 birds and over 1 million planks of wood were used to heat the ovens that prepared the food.” [SMP]

Exchange of Gifts

“The kynge of England gave to the Frenche kynge a colloure of Jewels of precyouse stoones ... The Frenche kynge gave to the Kynge of Englande a Bracelet of precyouse stones, riche Jewels and fayre...”[Hall]

Other Activities

“During this triumph so much people of Picardie and West Flaunders drew to Guysnes to se the kyng of England and his honor, to whom vitailles of the court were in plentie, the conduite of the gate ranne wyne alwayes, there wer vacaboundes, plowmen, laborers and of the bragery wagoners and beggers that for drunkennes lay in routes and heapes, so great resort thether came, that both knightes and ladies that were come to se the noblenes, were fayne to lye in hay and strawe, and helde them therof hyghly pleased.” [Hall]

Weatherwise

“Today, the 13th, it blows a terrible gale, and as the Kings were unable to joust, they went to the lists to see some Bretons and Englishmen wrestle.” [CSP]

“Today, although the wind was high, and the weather bad..” [CSP]

“Towards evening it commenced raining, and all went to disarm...”[CSP]

“The French King's tent was pitched outside the walls of Ardres, near his dwelling house. The tent and pavilions remained up four days only, on account of the wind and rain, so that it became necessary to strike them, to the very great regret of the most Christian King and of all the French nobility,-as they were the pride of France; who thus counterbalanced the English pride generated by the house above described.” [CSP]

“Monday the xviii. daye of June, there blewe such stormes of wind and wether that marvaill was to hear, for whiche hideous tempest som said it was a very pronosticacion of trouble and hatred to come betwene princes.” [Hall]

As can be seen from these passages, the Field of Cloth of Gold was perhaps the fanciest and largest of the international summit meetings or royal expos of its time or any time with pomp and pageantry to spare. While it was most flamboyant, there was a concerted attempt to preserve equality between the sides. Neither was supposed to “overshine” the other.

How did it differ from our modern event? Did it include shopping? Probably not as we know it today; much of the procuring went on for months before hand and massive quantities of materials and victuals were brought to the site. Pennsic by contrast includes families with children; children are not mentioned in the accounts of 1520. And sanitation wise, the accounts don’t talk about the latrines or chamber pots, which would have stood instead of the more familiar modern porta-potties. In the end, who can read these accounts and not smile knowingly when they encounter the passages about delays or the weather. Professor Glenn Richardson reckons it all cost in the neighborhood of fifteen million pounds in today’s money

What did it all mean? In terms of peace and diplomacy, the good feelings didn’t last. Henry soon sided with King Charles of Spain against France. Professor Glenn Richardson has written, “The making of the Field of the Cloth of Gold represented the largest example of Anglo-French co-operation enterprise until the building of the

Concorde in the 1960's and the then the Channel Tunnel." Perhaps Charles Whibley best summed it up as: "But the culmination of glory and splendour was the Field of the Cloth of Gold, whereon Henry and Francis took the sound advice of Comines, whose maxim it was that princes should not meet, except to share their pleasures." Not a bad maxim for our current Society wars either.

2020 and the Anniversary

In 2020 in honor of the five hundredth anniversary, England's Hampton Court Palace was to be the site of many activities designed to celebrate the original festivities of June 1520. Advance press accounts promised a rousing display of nine days devoted to jousting on horseback, foot combat, and wrestling alongside displays of Tudor sports and entertainments. An exhibition was to feature artworks, objects, and documents from the period, plus a pavilion based upon the original designs was to be constructed on site. Then, of course, in March 2020, everything came to a dead halt, due to the pandemic. As of this writing, a virtual summit of scholarly lectures went on in May. Those are saved for watching on YouTube. It is being reported Hampton Court Palace still intended to hold at least some of the planned activities if and when circumstances allowed, but only time will tell what can be managed.

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Hampton Court Palace features this marvelous zoomable interactive image of the English encampment. *Image: The Field of the Cloth of Gold c. 1545. © Royal Collection Trust / Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019.* <https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/field-of-cloth-of-gold-2020/#gs.799oh7> or see https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/field-of-the-cloth-of-gold-british/bAFv_RSYuCWJlg or see <https://www.rct.uk/collection/405794/the-field-of-the-cloth-of-gold>

A number of other images depicting the events and encampments can be found online. These include:

Friedrich Bouterwek's nineteenth century copy of the Hans Holbein the Elder's "Meeting at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, 7th June 1520." https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Friedrich_Bouterwek_-_Meeting_at_the_Field_of_the_Cloth_of_Gold,_7th_June_1520.JPG

Another engraved by James Basire in 1774 from an oil painting in the collection of HRM George III of England. "Field of the cloth of gold." Fragment of engraving. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Field_of_the_cloth_of_gold.jpg

"Tent design for the Field of Cloth of Gold" from the Cotton Manuscript. Augustus III. 18. British Library. Zoomable image. <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/henryviii/militmap/tentdes/index.html>

The British Library contains a notable collection of Renaissance Festival Books. French festival books featuring accounts of the Field of Cloth of Gold include:

La description et ordre du camp [et] festiem[en]t [et] ioustes des trescrestiens et tres puissa[n]s roys de France [et] Dangleterre ([Paris], [1520]) <http://special-1.bl.uk/treasures/festivalbooks/BookDetails.aspx?strFest=0006>

Lordonnance et ordre du tournoy, ioustes, [et] combat, a pied, [et] a cheual. ([Paris], 1520) can be found at: <http://special-1.bl.uk/treasures/festivalbooks/BookDetails.aspx?strFest=0007>

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