



∴ Summer Issue ∴ a.s. xliii ∴

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"An Equestrian Duel  
Between a Creditor and a Debtor"

## ~~ On the Cover:

~ An Illumination from the book known as "Feudal Customs of Aragon"  
Spanish, about 1290 – 1310

Unknown illuminator; Michael Lupi de Çandiu, scribe; probably Michael Lupi de Çandiu, translator.  
Tempera colors, gold leaf, and ink on parchment bound between wood boards covered with green morocco.

14 3/8 x 9 7/16 in.  
MS. LUDWIG XIV 6

~ About the Book:

In 1247, with the reconquest of Spain from the Moslems virtually complete, King James I of Aragon and Catalonia, Spain, decided to establish a new systematic code of law for his kingdom. He entrusted the task to Vidal de Canellas, bishop of Huesca. The Getty Museum's manuscript, the only known copy of the law code still in existence, is a translation of Vidal de Canellas's Latin text into the vernacular Navarro-Aragonese language (in that language, the book is called Vidal Mayor in reference to the author). The manuscript's scribe was Michael Lupi de Çandiu, who identifies himself in an inscription and who also may have translated the text.

Not only is the text an important historical document but it is luxuriously illuminated with hundreds of historiated and decorated initials. Although written and illuminated between 1290 and 1310 in one of the major urban centers in northeastern Spain, the elegant style of the painting reveals an intimate link with contemporary French illumination. This stylistic connection demonstrates the increased movement of both artists and manuscripts from one European court to another.

~ About the Illumination:

On the right side of the page, a large historiated initial E frames two scenes representing a problem of credit explained in the chapter. On the upper level of a castlelike structure, the enthroned king listens to a dispute between a creditor and debtor. Below, the same figures engage in combat on horseback, watched by the king and a companion. The cross on one combatant's shield, clothing, and horse blanket identifies him as a Christian, while the crescent shape on the other's tunic suggests he is Muslim or at the very least a foreigner. The repetition of the figure of the king on both levels suggests that the battle relates to the argument above. The battle may demonstrate what would happen if there were no legal system, implying that implementation of a legal system prevents bloodshed.



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(<http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/artObjectDetails?artobj=1688>)

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Children romp at Altavia's Anniversary! More Pics on pages 5-7



## ~~ A Note from the Chronicler

Greetings unto the Barony!

It is with pleasure that I step up to serve this great Barony as it's Chronicler. I have fond memories of the Fret Knot through the years; and I hope to match my predecessors in ability and enthusiasm.

That said, let me tell you some of the new ideas I hope to implement. First, the Fret Knot has gone paperless! This will save the Barony postage, paper, and printing costs, as well as time and energy trying to maintain a current mailing list. Also, using a standardized format (.PDF) will ensure that everyone sees the newsletter properly formatted, and without having to worry about fonts and the like. It also allows us to post the PDF file to the Altavia Yahoo!Group, thus reaching a larger audience. A paperless Fret Knot can be longer than a printed and mailed version. (For future issues, we *might* implement mailing hard copies to those who lack internet access... we shall see)

My second idea is to try to stick to a regular Quarterly schedule! I plan to publish four issues a year, on the observed solstices and equinoxes.

So the future issues should be published:

Fall	September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2008
Winter	December 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2008
Spring	March 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2009
Summer	June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2009

We'll see if I can actually stick to my own deadlines!!

What with all the changes in our Barony recently, this issue is a little thin on submissions. I should have that part better figured out by next issue, so there will be lots more content from your Baronial officers. Of course, I will consider publishing almost anything from almost anybody that wants to submit. Got a great idea for a funny article on the Battle of Hastings? How about a recurring column on Sheep Husbandry? A crossword puzzle of Famous Battles? Contact me at [chronicler@sca-altavia.org](mailto:chronicler@sca-altavia.org).

Have a great Summer!

Yours in Service to the Dream,



Lord Secca of Cantia

(Note – All my poems in this issue are included at Their Excellencies command)

This is the June, 2008, issue of the **Fret Knot**, a publication of the Barony of Altavia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The **Fret Knot** is available from Brett A. Lawrence, 4050 Fairway Ave, Apt. E, Studio City, CA 91604 ([chronicler@sca-altavia.org](mailto:chronicler@sca-altavia.org)). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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Submission Guidelines: Just do it! ([chronicler@sca-altavia.org](mailto:chronicler@sca-altavia.org).)

## ~ Astavia's Silver Anniversary and Baronial Investiture ~



The Populace at Court



Their Excellencies Altavia, Bridget and Laertes



Altavia's Five Landed Barons...



and Four of her Baronesses!!



Lord Uilliam and Lady Fara receive  
their AoAs from Edric V and Faizeh II



Their Highness Edward Senestre  
And Mora de Buchanan



## ~~ Altavia's Silver Anniversary



House Porthos escort the B&B



A Pair of Pelicans



Kristin and Robear



Amadea and Michael



Ælffwyn and Duryn



The Fifth Baron and Baroness of Altavia, Thorin and Courtney...  
... and their Minister of Cuteness, Cora Elfbairn



# ~~ Astavia's Silver Anniversary



DEATH BY PEEPS!!!



DEATH BY CHOCOLATE!!!



Lorissa's Pelican Ceremony



Thorin and Courtney step up



Baird is asked to join the Chivalry

## ~~ Altavia's Champions

Archery	Robin Greenwood	10/21/07
Arts & Sciences	Mistress Bridget Lucia MacKenzie	5/10/08
Bardic	Secca of Cantia	5/10/08
Chess	Bjorn Zenthffeer	5/10/08
Equestrian	Tamara of Many Horses	4/20/08
Heavy Weapons	Sir Phillippe de Tourney	5/10/08
Rapier	Don Laertes Blackavar McBride	5/10/08
Youth Combat 13 & 15 years	Ian the Red	5/10/08
Youth Combat 10 & 12 years	Marissa	5/10/08
Youth Combat 8 to 10 years	Kristophe McKrimon	5/10/08

## ~~ Awards given at the Event

Fara of Altavia	Award of Arms
Liam of Altavia	Award of Arms
Thorey Solvaarsdottir	Award of Arms
Laertes McBride	Court Baron
Bridget Lucia Mackenzie	Court Baroness
Murchadn Monadh Craoibhe	Crescent Sword
Robin FitzOsbourne	Harp Argent (Weaving)
Ryan of Rickford	Harp Argent (Thrown Weapons)
Lorissa du Griffen	Pelican



## ~~ *Un Peu d'Argent*

presented at Altavia Anniversary, AS XLIII  
by Secca of Cantia, Bard of Altavia

*Child of mine... what do you?*

~~ *Pardon Father? O this? I need it not.*

*What be that, which you deem useless?*

~~ *Tys just an old worn farthing...*

*And you cast it away?*

~~ *Of what use? Tys not Gold!*

*What use... is a bit of silver?? A touch of Argent?*

What was it then that Arthur Rex,  
Sterling Knight of chivalry,  
Used to slice through Saxon necks?  
~ Just a Touch of Silver.

For what did Judas sell his soul,  
Turning traitor in the night,  
What then claimed he as his toll?  
~ Just a Touch of Silver.

A Prince just born, not yet a man,  
Carries he his fathers arms,  
There in chief doth Label stand.  
~ Just a Touch of Silver.

The Alchemist works at his bench;  
Adds he to his tun of wine,  
Keeping off the musky stench,  
~ Just a Touch of Silver.

The Lycanthrope  
stalks through the brake;  
Glinting arrow slices as,  
Fatal shot the archer takes,  
~ Just a Touch of Silver.

A song is played in concert hall,  
Music softens to a purr,  
Dainty flute holds them in thrall,  
~ Just a Touch of Silver.

A glow is seen behind the clouds,  
Ghostly light on velvet black,  
Dancing moon wears lacy shrouds,  
~ Just a Touch of Silver.

I feel I've lectured you enow,  
Child, I'm not a learned man...  
How hath wisdom graced my brow?  
~ With just a Touch of Silver.

Mayhaps you'll reach an hoary date,  
Like this Altavian event,  
Twenty-five years to celebrate,  
~ With Just A Touch of Silver!



*Uh oh... Secca spoke French!*

## ~~ Interviews with Ouregan:

*Featured: THL Thorin O'Seaghda and THL Courtney of the White Meadows  
Baron and Baroness of Altavia*

*by Lady Ouregan filia Flaviani*



**A**s improbable as it now seems, our delightful Baron was once such a shy boy that it would take him three days to pump up the courage to call and ask a girl for a date.

"All my life I was painfully shy of women, afraid to talk to them." Thorin finally became resigned to the reality that most women he asked out would say "no!"

All that changed, when he met Courtney.

It was the second Lake Isabella War, in 1985. Thorin was then living in Atenveldt and Courtney in Darach.

"Myself and couple of friends decided to drive out to a little war in CAID," Thorin recalled. "It was at closing court, Saturday night, and I was there standing guard for Lady Emerald [the Reeves of Angels], and I felt this presence jumping up and down behind me like a rabbit."

"I was trying to look over his shoulder," Courtney remembered.

"I'm probably a good 6-8 inches taller than her," Thorin said, and being the chivalrous gentleman we all know him to be, "I let her stand in front of me. We made some silly comments about one of the guys I knew who had lost a favor; she made some comment about the guy who found it. We sort of hit it off."

"He asked if he could escort me back to my camp," Courtney said. "I said sure."

"Her camp was only a short distance away," Thorin said. "It didn't take very long to get there."



"I really didn't want him to leave," Courtney confessed, "and he didn't really want to leave, so I said, let's go walk around."

"We basically walked and talked all night," Thorin said. "We sat by the lake and talked until 4 in the morning."

As he said goodnight to her, Thorin gave her a "very respectful kiss", Courtney recalls.

"The people that I was at camp with read me the riot act," Courtney said. "They said, 'How could you stay up all night with somebody you don't even know!'"

But Courtney knew what her heart said about Thorin. As she was preparing to leave, he came by to ask for her phone number.

"I thought I'd never see him, he lived in Phoenix, I lived in Oxnard," she said. "But he called on Tuesday."

And thus began a very expensive long-distance courtship, by mail, phone and monthly visits.

"I ended up with a \$300 phone bill and Thorin had a \$1000 phone bill," Courtney said.

One of those visits, the one where he met Courtney's mom, turned out to be the most embarrassing moment of Thorin's life. Courtney was spending the weekend at her mom's place in Lake Arrowhead.

"I was driving all night from Arizona, trying to find the place. I had no idea where anything was," Thorin recalled. "Finally I found the place and we all went out to dinner."

He was trying very hard to make a good impression on Courtney's mom. But instead Thorin "proceeded within the first 15 minutes to launch catsup all over her mom. I was just mortified. I'd just met this lady and here I am hosing her with catsup. That pretty much set the tone for years."

Thorin was then working for the sheriffs' department in Phoenix. "We were talking every night for three or four hours on the phone."

"This is ridiculous, I said to myself. The lady I love lives in Southern California, I hate my job, I should move!"

And move he did. About six months after they first met, Thorin relocated, to the place where he could do the work he enjoyed – making models for movies—and spend more time with Courtney. Courtney was 19 at the time; Thorin was 24. "I was smitten with her," he says, "She was bubbly and had permed curly hair. She was poof! all curls."

Thorin had been living in Southern California for about a year and a half when he did something that completely caught Courtney by surprise.

"We were at Magic Mountain, standing in line waiting for cash at the ATM line there, when Thorin asked me to marry him," Courtney recalled. "I thought he was joking, I said, 'ask me later'. Later that afternoon, he asked me again. At that point I realized he was serious. I said, 'I'm going to have to think about that.' Nobody had asked me to

marry them before and it wasn't something I was going to take lightly."

Thorin says he was terribly disappointed by her response. "Well come on! That's not how it's supposed to work."

Courtney talked with friends, thought carefully about it for three months. Then she pulled a shocker of her own.

"We were at fighter practice at Elrick's house. I was talking to somebody, I don't even remember who it was," she said.

Thorin was in the garage, standing at a little bench, talking to somebody about armour.

Suddenly Courtney yelled, "Yes."

Thorin responded, "Yes, what?"

Courtney yelled, "Thorin, YES!" He knew what she meant, this time.

"He picked me up and held me off the ground for probably five minutes."

Five months later, They exchanged vows at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum, after some last minute, unexpected drama which involved having to repaint an ugly set left on the stage the day before the wedding.

Because Courtney was working on a movie, at the time, they had to wait until December to enjoy a honeymoon of skiing.

Now, nigh on to 20 years later, when asked if the SCA has played a positive role in their relationship,

Courtney responds affirmatively. "We've found it a good environment for Cora."

Cora's first event as a 3-month-old was winter weekend. "It was great," Thorin said, "That's where we met John and B Jo."

The SCA and boffers has "given Cora a really good outlet," Thorin noted. "The fighting gives her an outlet for aggression that's not always available to kids. So many people look out for her, love her."

Thorin sums up the SCA experience, "The more I put in, the more I get out. I now have men at arms, and I'm finding that I'm pushing the service part of it even more than the training, because I don't want them to be like I was for so many years: a taker. When you become a giver, you are rewarded in so many different ways."

Their secret lies in Courtney and Thorin's approach to conflict resolution. "We have heated discussions, but we don't get into big huge fights," Courtney said.

Differences of opinion about Cora's homework have provided opportunities for these "heated discussions," Thorin noted.

How do they resolve disagreements? "We tend to talk about problems," and work through them, Courtney said.

As noble on the field as at the kitchen table at home, our Baron and Baroness are shining exemplars of gentility for us all. ❖



# ~~ Baronial Progress 2008

Date	Event	Host	T-Thorin C-Courtney P-Pavilion
June 1	Caid Archery Open	Caid	TC
June 7	Coronation	Wintermist	TC
June 8	Queen's Champion	Wintermist	TCP
June 14	Gyldenholt Anniversary	Gyldenholt	T
June 22	Queen's Champion Equestrian	Dreiburgen	T
June 28	CP Prize Tourney	Angels	TCP
July 12	Festival of the Rose	Dreiburgen	TC(P?)
July 19	Lyondemere Anniversary	Lyondemere	TCP
August 2	Pirate Tourney	Darach	TCP
August 16	St. Corrigan's	Gallavally	TCP
August 23	Crown Tourney	Lyondemere	TCP
August 24	Privey Council Meeting	Lyondemere	TC
August 30	Highland War	Al-Sahid	TC
September 6	Caidan Rapier Open	Caid (in Altavia)	TC(P?)
September 13	Angel's Anniversary	Angels	TCP
September 20	Collegium	Lyondemere	TC
September 21	Collegium	Lyondemere	TC
October 9-13	Great Western War	Caid (in Wintermist)	TCP
October 25	Dreiburgen Anniversary	Dreiburgen	TCP
<b><u>October 26</u></b>	<b><u>Altavia Archery/Agincourt</u></b>	<b><u>Altavia</u></b>	<b><u>TCP</u></b>
November 1	Naevehjem Anniversary	Naevehjem	TCP
November 8	Coronation	Starkhafn	TC
November 9	Queen's Champion	Starkhafn	TCP
November 15	Calafia Anniversary	Calafia	TCP
November 16	QC Equestrian	Dreiburgen	TC(P?)
November 23	QC Archery	Lyondemere	TC(P?)
November 29	Medieval Marketplace	Heatherywyne	TCP
<b><u>December 6</u></b>	<b><u>Altavia Yule</u></b>	<b><u>Altavia</u></b>	<b><u>TC</u></b>

Events **bold and underlined** are Altavian-Hosted Events!



~~ This piece is a song. It was commissioned and performed by the very talented Lady Ysoude de Rochester in honor of Bridget's stepping down (and faux 'death'). Ysoude has a lovely voice, which complemented well the haunting melody of the tune.

The melody can be heard here: <http://carolink.tripod.com/bykells.html>

Oh my darling, my Bridget, o-oh where can you be?  
 You have left me so alone now, you've gone to the sea,  
 As I sto-od there a-watching, from Kell's-waterside,  
 M-y love flowed down river, and was lost on the tide.

Oh my love is like sunshine, th-at's lost in the night,  
 Oh my lo-ve now is sadness, I'm stripped of delight,  
 Oh my lo-ve is like smoke, blown away on the wind,  
 M-y darling, my Bridget, I'll ne'er see you again.

I-I stand here in sorrow, b-y Kell's-waterside,  
 And remember all the laughter, I thought would abide,  
 Oh my da-ar-ling, my Bridget, why did you leave me?  
 M-y tears join the river, follow you to the sea.

We first met in the springtime, thr-ee long years ago,  
 And How much I'd grow to love you, I soon came to know,  
 And I longed to see you smiling, to hear your bright song,  
 And I knew then I'd love you, you were where I belonged.

Thr-ough all our bright summers, we-e laughed and we played,  
 And our joy was of the finest, that e-er was made,  
 Oh our lo-ve was like stardust, we shone in the night,  
 Oh our love was like music, sh-ot through with delight.

Th-en came this sad winter, whe-en you went away,  
 Now dark sto-rm clouds have rolled in, the whole worlds gone grey,  
 Oh my da-ar-ling, my Bridget, you're gone from my side,  
 M-y love's flown down river, I-I'm lost on the tide.





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# ~~ Kids Corner !!

by Lady Fara of Altavia

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## ~ Word Search ~

A	H	E	G	B	R	T	U	T
O	T	S	C	A	T	I	Y	G
T	G	U	A	R	D	F	R	D
K	R	Q	B	O	A	G	H	S
I	G	I	U	N	U	F	J	B
N	H	L	O	E	Y	H	T	F
G	P	R	R	S	E	D	K	S
G	A	O	R	S	G	N	L	T
B	Q	V	T	B	T	S	P	K

Queen

King

Baron

Baroness

SCA

Craft

Guard

Answer Key Page 18

## ~~ The Law of Lorissa

by Secca of Cantia

***A Rule there is in fair CAID,  
One which one would do well to heed,  
For failure to follow, all are agreed,  
Can create a crisis, 'tis guaranteed.***

**Never distress the Viscountess.**

***Do not, oh do not, yes do not I say,  
Ever, no never, forever ix-nay,  
The thought should be fought that one ought not obey,  
-- Aye, crossing Lorissa will lead to dismay.***

**Do not distress your Viscountess.**

***If you love your limbs and value your life,  
Are fond of your children and treasure your wife,  
Stay clear of stirring up troublous strife,  
Or be beset with calamities rife!***

**Best not to distress the Viscountess.**

***For Lorissa is competent, resourceful and fun,  
Incomparable, exceptional, seldom out-done,  
She is capable, unique, and second-to none;  
But cross her? -- Better know how to run!***

***I wish to stress,  
and on you impress,  
aye, clearly express,  
(Not to obsess);  
Please do not distress the Viscountess!***





# ~~ Baronial Officers

<b>Baron</b> is THL Thorin O'Seaghda	(Baron@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Baroness</b> is THL Courtney of the White Meadow	(Baron@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Chief Lady-in-Waiting</b> is Chalice	(court@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Captain of the Guard</b> is Don Colwyn Stagghorn	(guard@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Seneschal</b> is Viscountess Lorissa du Griffin	(seneschal@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Deputy Seneschal</b> is Sergeant Reymund of Salisbury	
<b>Captain of Archers office is vacant.</b>	
<b>Arts and Sciences Officer</b> is THL Mouren Muir	(arts@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Chateline</b> is Mistress Bridget Lucia Mackenzie	(chatelaine@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Children's Minister</b> is Lady Fara Of Altavia	(children@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Chiurgeon office is vacant.</b>	
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<b>Deputy Chronicler</b> is Lady Ouregon filia Flavian	
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<b>Deputy Constable</b> is Master Timotheus Zacharia von Zwilling Schloss	
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<b>Herald (Sable Fret Cornet)</b> is Lord Damien von Baden	(herald@sca-altavia.org)
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<b>Lists Officer</b> is Mistress Therese of the White Griffin	(lists@sca-altavia.org)
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<b>Deputy Marshal - Heavy Weapons</b> is Lord Lord Sigvald Hauksen	(marshal@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Deputy Marshal - Rapier</b> is Don Colwyn Stagghorn	(rapier@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Deputy Marshal - Youth Combat</b> is Lady Iseabail nee Bhatar	(youthcombat@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Youth Combat Marshal's Deputy</b> is Lord Uilliam of Altavia	
<b>Scribe</b> is Ysabel d'Outremer	(scribe@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Webwright</b> is Dame Lynnette de Sandoval del Valle de los Unicornios	(webwright@sca-altavia.org)
<b>Deputy Webwright</b> is Lord Secca	

## Word Search

### ANSWER KEY

A	H	E	G	B	R	T	U	T
O	T	S	C	A	T	I	Y	G
T	G	U	A	R	D	F	R	D
K	R	Q	B	O	A	G	H	S
I	G	I	U	N	U	F	J	B
N	H	L	O	E	Y	H	T	F
G	P	R	R	S	E	D	K	S
G	A	O	R	S	G	N	L	T
B	Q	V	T	B	T	S	P	K

QUEEN	SCA
KING	CRAFT
BARON	GUARD
BARONESS	

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