

# Scorpion Tales



## Happy Halloween!

### October Shire Meeting

The next Shire meeting is Wednesday, 6:30 P.M., October 21 at the home of Magdalene and Davi, 13410 Ivanpah Road, Apple Valley. There is no A&S activity for October. (Hint: The Shire is seeking a new A&S officer.)

### Events

**al-Sahid Fighter Practices** are held on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 PM and will end no later than 9:30 PM at the residence of Sir Killian's. Contact the Seneschal at [Seneschal@al-sahid.org](mailto:Seneschal@al-sahid.org) for address/directions.

**Dreiburgen Fighter Practices** are held on the first Tuesday of the month. 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM, YMCA of the East Valley, 7793 Central Ave, Highland, CA.

### September Officer's Reports

**Seneschal – Davi d'Orleans:** The Shire office of Arts & Science is still available. Please email me if you would like to be considered for the office.

Per Seneschal's meeting held at crown tournament:

Each Barony and Shire must bid for



one second tier and one second tier Kingdom event.

Shire level officer warrants are to be prepared by the local Seneschal and sent to the appropriate kingdom officer; The Kingdom Officer obtains crown signatures and the approved warrant is returned to the local Seneschal, a copy made and the original returned to the local officer.

**Chatelaine – Jane de Sealynn:** Talked to new people at Highland War.

**Web Wright – Valdis:** Not present. Report per email: "I made updates to the Highland War website (Merchant page, Master Schedule). I need verification of the address for Schmidt Park. I have 13576

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Mustang Road but someone brought to my attention that it was found on one of the map websites as a street instead of a road. I need information for:

- Hesperia Days (or whatever alternative demo we're doing this year).
- Updating the Shire's Order of Precedence.
- Upcoming Shire dates for Business and A&S and any Fighting/Thrown Weapons/Rapier/Archery practices that should be included on the website.
- If anyone has information for the events we're hosting in 2010 (or anything else coming up in 2009), I can start on the sites as soon as you give me the information.
- Let me know of anything that needs to be added, removed, etc from the website.”

**Constable – Khadashka Foma:** Complete report on Highland War sent via email. Reported at meeting: A loud encampment camped in sleepy hollow. They were unaware that they were in sleepy hollow. They partied elsewhere the rest of the war. The pirate encampment had activities going on that should be not be seen by other campers (nude members gathered around the campfire). The group agreed to bring walls at the next war.

**Marshal – Christian de Guerre:** Received comments from fighters that all had a good time. Had 12 new fighter authorizations. 16 total authorizations over the war.

**Lists – Christmas Caryl:** There wasn't an announcement for tournaments. Will send names of tournament winners to Web Wright.

**Chirurgeon – Teka Turmanov:** several incidents at the war, all are included in war report prepared by Blase (Kingdom Chirurgeon).

**Herald - Magdalyn Tinker:** expressed thanks to Kadira for her help at the war. Has ordered a bell to help her in doing news crying.

**Chronicler – Caitlin Christiana Wintour:** Not present. Reported “Please submit articles for Scorpion Tales” per email.

**Children's Minister – Marina Flores de Luna:** few children attended activities. Only 4 on Saturday.

**Exchequer – Wystan Albright:** Submitted account balance. \$7039.64. Preliminary accounting for war yields \$7,581.29 gross income, \$4,809.17 net income.

**Youth Combat – Fritz der Gefolgsman:** At Highland war 19 kids attended activities on Saturday and 9 on Sunday

**Arts & Science – open:** Shire tables have been completed and were brought to the war. There will not be an October A&S due to busy schedule that month.

**Presentations – Magdalene Murray:** home baked bread presentations of was given to Robyn, Ishmael, and Collins for their help at the war, and to the royals. Presentations will be needed at Dun Or Anniversary and Frost Dragon.

**Autocrat Highland War – Teka:** submitted Highland War event report and Autocrat files for war.

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### Old Business

- Shire Demo – Blasé will check on a demo at Jess Ranch for the senior citizens. Christian will check on a demo at Barnes & Nobles. Ryan will check on a demo at George Elementary School. Davi will check on a demo at the City of Victorville parade.
- The Shire 2010 Anniversary is scheduled for April 03.
- Excess water supplies from Highland War will be used at Shire fighter practices.
- 2010 Fall Coronation and Queens Champion Tournament – everyone is encouraged to search for suitable sites for the events and report at the next meeting(s). We may consider having the Coronation at one site and the feast at another.

### New Business

- Proposed project – to create Shire officer device banners painted on the canvas that was to be used for kingdom walls. This could be an A&S project or a Shire project. The old wooden office signs can be discarded as they are not being used.

## *Pink Ribbon Journey*

### *Greetings to the Known World from Duchess Chamayn of Castile*

Submitted here for your review is the event posting in which I am a Co- Event Steward along with Mistress Bridget Lucia MacKenzie ....

On October 25, medieval and modern worlds will meet as we fight for the greatest prize of all - a cure for breast cancer. The SCA's Kingdom of Caid, Ladies of the Rose, and the Barony of the Angels plan a day of medieval fighting, arts displays, games, and revelry to raise funds for the fight against breast cancer.

The Pink Ribbon Tournament will be held on October 25, 2009 at Recreation Park, 620 South Shamrock Avenue in Monrovia, California., 91016.

We are seeking donations including money, hand crafted items, products, goods, services, and gift certificates. Donated items may be written off as charitable donations, and we will list your business on our web site or gate book as a thank-you for your generosity.

Please review our web site which will be updated often!

<http://rose.sca-caid.org/pinkribbon/index.php>

## Seneschal's Corner

Dear Shire,

Our Highland War Autocrat has expressed her sincere appreciation for all the help she received with the war. As for myself, I am awed by the ability of such a small group to be able to make such a large event come together successfully. There are so many things that can go wrong with bringing 400-500 ~~Anarchists~~ Anachronists to a war, but our "Little Shire" pulled it off as well as any "Big Baronies" could. The war feedback at our September meeting from all of you will be invaluable in improving next year's Highland War. One Shire member has already expressed interest to begin planning on Highland War 2010 (now that is a true anachronist). I am greatly grateful for everyone's hard work in hosting a war in—which everyone left with a smile.

Great Western was a real treat after working hard on our own war. Most of us were able to enjoy a great event without work and worry. I salute those dedicated to service that found the energy to continue giving volunteer time to this kingdom event.

Congratulations to our shires' own Caitlin Christiana Wintour for her elevation into the Companions of the Order of the Laurel of Caid. Among a long list of qualities, Mistress of the Laurel Caitlin is a true inspiration in grace, authenticity in dress (her period encampment was amazing), courteous and

noble behavior.

Now that war is behind us, now is a time for peace and rebuilding. Let's look forward to Thanksgiving and a Yule where we can reflect on our blessings and gather together to love one another. Each of us has something valuable to offer to this dream we call SCA. I hope that we can recognize and appreciate each other differences and contributions.

LONG LIVE THE DREAM OF AL-SAHID

Your Old Servant,

**Davi**



# The Lonely Traveler

By Caitlin Christiana Wintour

The Cheviot cloud-trails  
ring round the fog-shrouded valleys, and  
lonely lanes weave round dark fells.  
Criminals can be found here,  
bringing blood and sorrow  
to the unwary far from field and farm.

Yet worse things there are  
then wild men in the howling hills.  
From the granite ground grow the dark dwarves,  
black of hair and heart,  
earth-children with no love for men.

The God-praisers know the prayers  
to drive the earth-dwellers down,  
to exile them deep into the earth  
and so their numbers dwindle.  
But their hostile hearts are strong  
and some still live and learn  
to cast the unwary to their deaths,  
to weave wickedness in the wild places.

Thus men will not willingly walk  
the lonely paths of the high hills.  
Fearless or foolish is he  
Who does, walking wary the high ways.  
Danger rises with the raising of the mists,  
Deep-shrouded darkness  
makes the lone traveler fiend-ship's prey.

One night a young man, made unwise by wine,  
made his lonely walk along the hill way.  
The doom-mist deepened and  
spectral light shone,  
but no moon-lamp lit the shifting path.  
Then young Selwyn saw a fire  
burning bright through the fog  
and grateful and glad, made his way to it.

Another man sat there in stillness.  
He was shorter than Selwyn by a head  
but stouter by many more.  
The stranger's raven hair gleamed with gems  
and his black beard was twisted with wealth-ward,  
and the fog forged strange shapes all about him.  
Selwyn knew a dark dwarf and he near despaired.  
Shocked from his drink, doomed was he  
unless he remained silent and still  
in the dwarf's demesne,  
unmoving and mute until the sun arose.

Food the earth-man offered  
but his victim sat voiceless  
and stared silently at man's ancient enemy.  
Riddles the dwarf riddled  
and their keys the traveler kenned  
but Selwyn steeled himself against the game  
and would only watch.  
Finally the dwarf in reddened rage  
pointed to the pathway  
and commanded the man to quit his fire.  
And the traveler was tempted mightily  
for it seemed that sure was his release.  
Then Selwyn remembered the rays of the sun  
had not yet pierced the vicious veil  
and strong was the scourge of the dwarf's tempta-  
tions.  
So he did not move and mute he sat.

At last the watery rays of dawn  
pierced the pall of mist and the dwarf vanished,  
the mage-light of his magicked fire slowly dying.  
Selwyn stirred and cautiously crept  
in the direction the dwarf had bade him take.  
He quickly stopped, for the solid-seeming road of  
night  
showed itself a sharp cliff-fall by day.  
Under his boot the granite grumbled  
and he stepped back onto solid mountain bones.  
Turning, he praised the Protector of Travelers  
and hurried home under the sun.



## A Lapidary, Pt. 1

*Translated into the Language of the People of Calontir in the Reign of Their Royal Majesties Eringlin & Alethea. Revised for the Calon Scrolls in the reign of Luther and Lenore.*

*This work is presented that all might know the uses and virtues of stones and gems as told by the Ancients.*

Freely translated and arranged by  
Agnes de Lanvallei of Mag Mor in northern Calontir

*From the Chronicler: This article is excerpted from Stefan's Florilegium and reprinted with permission of the author and THL Stefan. It fits nicely in a Halloween issue given its fascinating period mysticism. I have broken the longer article into 2 parts and will print the 2nd part in the November issue of Scorpion Tales.*

This book of stones was dedicated for King Eringlin and Queen Alethea of Calontir, may Heaven ever protect Them, and is rededicated to King Luther and Queen Lenore, may Their reign be joyous. From this work all may know the virtues of the stones of the earth: how the learned would chose a stone, the virtues thereof & how it should be worn.

Herein are but writ anew, now in the modern tongue, the wisdom of the Ancients, for they knew well the virtues of stones. And should any doubt that there is virtue and power in stones, that person be surely a fool.

### These are the stones

**Aetites, the eagle-stone.** - This stone eagles fetch from far lands and bring to their nests to defend & keep their bodies safe. It is round and found in the Great Sea. The stone has another stone within it. It is good for a woman with child that she not lose the child. The people who bear it on their left are kept healthy in age,

in good means and rich estate. It makes one well-beloved; & causes a good wit. It eases the gnawings of gout.

**Amethyst** - is purple in color & shining. It is most often found in India. It comforts body and soul. If a wild beast comes into the place, whoever wears the amethyst shall not fear. It comforts sorrows and holds one strong in faith. It comforts shipmen. It helps those that are drunken. It is to be set in gold and silver.

**Agate** - is found in the East in the River Agate. It is many things. One is black, girded with white lines. It tempers thirst, comforts the aged, & he that holds it close in his fist shall be invisible. Another agate smells like myrrh. Another is of the color of wax. All these agates are good against venom & the bites of adders. They warn of harm & give good council. Agates make one speak well & be beloved by God and man.

**Allectories** - grow inside the chicken until it is 6 or 7 years old. Then the stone is strong, but no bigger than a bean, and it is like troubled crystal or clear as crystal & water. If held in the mouth it staunches thirst. Those who bear allectories shall have victory from their enemies. Many kings have won their battles by the help of this stone. It makes enemies friends. It makes one well spoken & well loved. It is of much worth to a woman who would conceive and bear a child. It helps a woman that would be loved of her lord; and a man who would be loved of his wife. He that would prove this stone's virtue must put it in his mouth.

**Ambra, or cymbria,** - is a stone that comes of a fish in the sea; this stone is white and dry as chalk. Whoever bears this stone shall be merry and laxative & shall never take great cold in water or on land. Whoever bears this stone in his mouth, no storm in water or land shall do him harm.

**Balas Ruby known as baleyes,** - comes from an island between the seas called Counche. It is like the ruby in color. It cools the heat of lechery. Whoever bears balas, it shall put from them idle thoughts &

sorrow. He who shows it to his enemy, shall soon be accord with him; & who bears it amongst his enemies shall go safe from them. If a man touches the four corners of his chamber or of his hall or of his garden with this stone, no worm or storm shall do harm. This stone is to be set in gold.

**Beryl** - is somewhat like crystal & it comes from India. It is round and casts a fair color against the sun. It nourishes love between a man and woman. The water that the stone is washed in is good for sore eyes, & being drunk, it does away with heaviness of heart. It helps all manner of evils of the liver, & is good for fevers. Whoever bears it shall be much worshipped. The great books say that beryl should not be shaped, but rather plain & polished. When the sun shines on it, it takes fervent heat, which signifies the first preachers of the holy church that preached the words of Ihesu Christus.

**Carnelian** - is like unto a lump of flesh. It soon reduces a man's wrath. It strengthens the limbs of those who bleed. It comforts men or woman despite their sickness and disease & helps them to recover soon. Therefore we ought to love it; it procures love and is pleasing to all.

**Chalcedony** - is in the womb and maw of a sparrow. It is not full & fair but has much beauty in itself. It has two manners and two colors, the one blue, the other red. It is good for men if they be lunatics, & for men and women languishing and diseased. Whoever bears it will be full wise in speech and well beloved. It must be borne in a linen cloth upon the left side. It helps to complete the work that was begun. It helps greatly against menacing and threatening people, against the wrath of the king, lords and ladies. This stone washed in water, the water will help the eyes & ease a fever. It strengthens and opens the humors in a man's body. It should be wound in a linen cloth that is dyed green. He who shows it to his adversaries will win them to his cause. If a man be surrounded by wrong, it keeps him to the right. Whoever bears sardonyx, onyx and chalcedony shall be well provided with goods and good qualities, but if they are lost, it is a

great sin to bear.

**Chrysoberyl - is called also belloculyis,** which is "beautiful eye". This is like a beryl that has within is a pirell of clearness and about that is a shining circle like yellow gold. Whoever that carries this shall never be dead in battle.

**Chyrsophase** - comes from India & has a color like a fruit of a green apple, & from it, as it were, shine green stars. The man who bears it on him shall be full of grace and right well beloved of all that know him, be they man or woman. Whoever bears it, men shall be glad and joyful of their coming. The Book of the Apocalypse says this stone & its color signify the Lord lying in travail.

**Citrine** - is a kind of hyacinth and has the same virtues.

**Coral** - grows in the sea as a grass & when it is out of the sea it is red and like a branch. It is no longer or greater than half a foot. Old masters and authors do write that it defends and keeps one safe from lightning, thunder and from the fury of the storm. It is good to put it in a vineyard or garden, for it will protect it from tempests. It makes the fruit increase. It protects one from faintness. It gives the traveler a good beginning and good ending to the journey on which he takes it.

**Crisolite** - is like the water of the sea & has in it, of its own kind, sparkles like unto gold. Whoever bears it on him shall do no sin or evil, nor be accused in any land, but shall be beloved of all people. If it has a hole through it, put a thread of silk through it, & wear it & it shall drive away all evils and fiends both early and late, for the stone comes from Ethiopia. It should be set in gold and borne on the left side.

**Crystal** - is clear and white & keeps away thirst. Make a powder of crystal and give it to a woman to drink to greatly multiply her milk. Touch the crystal unto a stone that has lost virtue through

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the sin of him who bears it, & so it will amend the sin: it shall return his strength through the virtue of the crystal.

**Diamond, - also called Adamant,** comes from India and from Arabia; that from India is male, from Arabia, female. The male is brown upon light shining on it, the female white & beautiful of color like crystal. If a man wears diamond, it strenghtens him & keeps him from dreaming in his sleep, from faintness and from poison, from wrath and chiding. It sends & helps acquire great wealth. It defends a man from his enemies and keeps him in good estate. There is no stone so good for charms as this. If a man will prove that his wife or lover is true and loves him, lay this stone under her head and if she be true she shall turn toward him, if not she shall stir as a beast and make as though she fell, & cry as if she feared an ungodly sight. Though one falls from a cart or wagon or horse or other beast, he shall not break any bones if the diamond be on him. It does away with the all the fears that come in the night. It destroys hatred and wrath and lechery. Aid a witless man by having him look upon a diamond. It is good for dropsy. It defends against enemies, if the one who bears it loves God. It gives grace to man and woman and gives good council, & it helps a man to great power and strength. And if it is put in wine & afterward puts it in the mouth it helps soothe heartburn forever. And it keeps seed of a man's body within a woman's body, so that the limbs of the children shall not be crooked. It must be set in steel and worn on the left side.

**Emerald** - is green and comes from the Stream of Paradise, and from Syria. Those of Syria are the best. This stone multiplies a man's goods. Whoever bears it on him & keeps it clean, it makes wise of word and fortune. Emerald is good for the gnawing gout. Emerald heals the

sight when looked upon and calms great storms. It voids lechery, for God gave it such virtue. Whoever keeps it, his body and members should be ever clean and without evil. & St. John says that griffons keep emerald in Paradise. It must be set in the best gold and borne on the right side.

**Heliotrope** - surpasses many stones for virtue, for God gave it such strength. It comes from Ethiopia and Africa. It is of color like an emerald and has drops of blood. If it be put in a vessel of water against the sun, it seems that the water is all red. Whoever bears it shall be a great purchaser and happy to get goods. It keeps the body in health, virtue and power. It staunches blood and it is good against venomous wounds.

**Hyacinth** - is red and gentle and of great virtue. It makes a man glad and honest and true to himself. Put in the mouth, it will kill thirst. A man may go far into countries without fear of beasts and other things if he carries hyacinth, & that which he goes for shall soon be found and will not hidden from him that carries hyacinth. And he shall have no dread or doubt of his host, wheresoever he may be, by land and water. Hyacinth is to be set in fine gold.

**Yellow Jacinth, - called ligure,** helps jaundice. It is good against many types of gouts, and cleans away all sorrows of the stomach. Ligure pleases a man who is angry and gladdens him. It staunches bleeding wounds and the blood of women. The book tells us that this stone is full good for ladies, for the more they shall be pleasing and loving. This stone cools great heat if put in the mouth & whoever touches it to the eyes will dry away grievance and blood of the eyes.

*Part 2 will continue in the November issue of Scorpion Tales.*



## Quote of the Month

“Although there are strange features in the Byland tales... their basic assumptions about the nature and purpose of ghosts are based on a more optimistic theology than [William of Newburgh’s]. Most of the Byland stories have the following pattern: a living man encounters an alarming ghost; he urges it to say why it has appeared; it replies that it is suffering because of an unforgiven sin, which requires posthumous absolution and/or some requiem Masses; the living man informs a priest, who fulfils the request; the ghost can rest.

However frightening they look at first, they are not demonic, and they do not seriously injure people or spread plague; on the contrary, they long for forgiveness and peace, but being unable to take any initiative themselves must wait for a living man to ask what the trouble is, and offer help; they can then confess, be absolved, and find rest through Masses and prayers offered on their behalf.

Correspondingly, whereas William takes destruction of the corpse as the norm and mentions only one posthumous absolution, at Byland the proportions are reversed; one revenant is disinterred and thrown in a lake, but the rest seek and receive forgiveness.”

-- Jacqueline Simpson, *“Repentant Soul or Walking Corpse? Debatable Apparitions in Medieval England*

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