

# the Adrian Herald

MARCH 2003

## A Winter Hello

As winter wears itself out We look forward to the coming of spring and travel throughout the Empire. The Kingdom of Umbria is graciously hosting the next Imperial Estates Meeting, scheduling a host of great mixer activities around the business and thoughtfully providing for activities for the family members of estates holders. Look for a big thank you with a long list of names in the next issue.

**The Meeting of the Imperial Estates:** This month We travel to the Kingdom of Umbria for the Imperial Estates Meeting. The meeting is a valuable tool for the Adrian Empire and the Imperial subdivisions. Many people (especially the lawyer types) think that the sole purpose of the meeting is for voting on agenda items relating to changes in law. That is only one function of the meeting. There are several other aspects that are essential to the governance of the Empire at both the Imperial level and the subdivision level. The ability to gather together, exchange ideas, glean input, and compare situations is perhaps the most valuable aspect of the meeting. This is where discussions will lead to suggestions, which will lead to actions that shape our system and government. Your input, via your representative Crowns, is essential. Likewise to understand the emergent issues and policies of the Adrian Empire requires attending the Imperial Estates meeting. The discussions around the decisions and reports are very important. Similarly the chance for the Estates holders to share experience and ideas, a process which We've light heartedly labeled as "cross-pollination", enriches both Empire and subdivision alike.

We once again urge the Estates to send at least one person to the Imperial Estates meeting at least once a year. Travel expenses can be defrayed by establishing a subdivision travel fund. Additionally personal expenses may be deductible as Charity cash expenses for tax purposes, if they meet the IRS conditions. While the Empire increasingly conducts business on the internet and has increased accessibility to policies and documents via same, there is still no substitution for "being there".

**A Word on Proxies:** Continuing on the previous theme... there is a lot of business conducted at the Imperial Estates meeting via discussion, sometimes resulting in action items, that your proxy holders should review with you after the meeting. If they aren't then it may be time to find someone else to send your proxy with...

**Receipts, Money, and the Adrian Empire:** The Imperial government is working on a FAQ sheet pertaining to the requirements for receipts. It will include when they are required, how to properly issue and collect them, processing for reimbursement, and what to do when they are missing. Anyone who would like to contribute questions they'd like addressed please contact the Empress at [empress@adrianempire.org](mailto:empress@adrianempire.org) or send via snail mail to the Imperial Steward's post office box (see Contact List).

**And A Thank You to the Ministries:** We would like to thank the ministers throughout the Empire for their work and attendance to their Ministry's E-lists. These yahoo-lists have become extremely important tools for communication and allowing a free flow of questions and ideas to the betterment of what we do.

## Contents

A Winter Hello..... 1

### Miscellany

Imperial Info Published..... 2

Spheres of Influence ..... 2

Profile: Umbria..... 2

From the Abbey..... 3

Richard the Lionheart ..... 3

Held for Ransom ..... 3

### Regions

Aragon ..... 4

Umbria..... 4

Terre Neuve..... 5

Esperance..... 5

### Imperial News

All Those New Manuals ..... 6

Rumor Mill: Sangrael..... 6

Imperial Estates Meeting: March ..... 7

An Invitation From Umbria..... 7

### And More

Palatine Duchy, Duchy, Archduchy? 8

How the Imperial Agenda Works ..... 8

Don't Drink the Water ..... 9

Sekanjabin (Oxymel) ..... 9

Robin Hood..... 10

### Contacts

Board of Directors..... 11

Imperial ..... 11

Events ..... 12

# Miscellany

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## Spheres of Influence

*There have been many questions about the countries that Adria considers "acceptable". Sir Nigel of Huntington uses the following three spheres of influence as his guide.*

### First Sphere

The First Sphere is, obviously, Western Europe. Draw a line more-or-less along the old Iron Curtain, and include Denmark and the areas around the Øresund. The line will shift depending on which year it is. As a rule of thumb, the line will shift eastward the later in period you go (but do your research to be sure). Include Jerusalem and the Levant, depending on what year it is. The main criterion to be First Sphere is to be in direct political, social, and economic contact with the main countries of France, the HRE, and England, and at least partly bought into the Chivalric Ideal.

### Second Sphere

The Second Sphere is the area which is clearly not part of Western European culture, but had sufficient direct contact that trade items were passed easily back and forth. This includes: Outer Scandinavia (i.e. not southern Sweden or Denmark but including Iceland and Greenland), Far Eastern Europe (including Russia), North Africa, the Levant during certain periods. You can also include Ireland and Highland Scotland in the Second Sphere during some periods. Heraldry is a prime example of an import from the Second Sphere - its origins are in the Arab lands, brought back by the Crusaders after taking the Levant.

### Third Sphere

In the Third Sphere are countries who had no contact with the First Sphere, or whose contact was so limited as to be remarkable (such as the boatload of Japanese sailors who assimilated into Spain in the 16th century, or the few Amerinds brought across the Atlantic as circus freaks). The Third Sphere is all of the New World, Oceania, Asia except for Turkey and the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

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## Profile: Umbria

Out of the ashes of the Kingdom of Pembroke a new phoenix was born. Across the deserts of Arizona, the lion's roar can be heard. Reborn as the Duchy of Umbria, it started fresh with a small core of about 20 people; devoted to making the duchy a place people would enjoy once again while recreating the middle ages. Over the next few years the duchy grew. In September 1998 it was again recognized as a Kingdom.

Umbria has slowly made a name for itself with the support of a diverse, strong-willed, tenacious group of people wanting to create a better Umbria for all to enjoy. Umbria may have been called a lot of things over the years, but no one can say we are quitters. Umbria could have gone away but it hasn't, as you well know.

Umbria has shown time and time again its prowess on the field of Combat. Just say the words *Banner War* or *National Steel Tourney* and Umbria is in the forefront. Umbrian Fighters are zealous in their fighting and devoted to their discipline.

Umbrians have the privilege of being surrounded by true artistic talent. We have an exceptional group of artisans who always amaze us with their ability to do phenomenal work that range from bardics that are over 400 lines long (delivered flawlessly by pure memorization), to paintings that take your breath away. The artisans with skill in the kitchen serve the food, from fantastic desserts to a scrumptious bread pudding. Those with the knack to create a mean mead or a tongue-tantalizing cordial are Umbrian treasures.

Archery has been firmly established in Umbria with the help of a few people who are truly giving of their time and talent, helping others to become better.

We have grown from a small Duchy to a full-sized Kingdom with expanding growth, represented by our young canton in Bullhead City. We have a strong Imperial presence with Earls, Countess Royals, third-level Knights, marches and counties. Umbria has come a long way and will continue to strive to be a Kingdom that leads by example of excellence in all disciplines and Knightly duty. We are proud to be known as Umbria.

*Dame Circe-Skeye O'Malley, Royal Chronicler of Umbria*

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## Imperial Information Published:

### Imperial Estates Agenda:

Available online at <http://www.adrianempire.org/library.html>

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## From the Abbey

*Your Majesty, I have been detained. Waylaid might be another way of phrasing it. Kidnapped. I was treated well, with much dignity and consideration, and was not harmed. The brigands demanded 5 bags of good Esperance wool.*

*Due to the efforts of Sir Jamie the Red, Dame Guilianna Messina took my place and I am free to assist in gathering the ransom. All shall be well, and the good lady will be freed, either by ransom or by force.*

*I remain in service, Maedb*

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## Richard the Lionheart

Richard, King of England, attempted to liberate Jerusalem from Muslim rule in 1189. His Majesty failed to deliver Jerusalem from the Muslims led by Salah al-Din Yusuf (Saladin).

The march south to Jerusalem was very difficult and the Crusaders suffered badly from the heat and lack of fresh water.

Richard spent the winter of 1191 to 1192 in Jaffa where his army regained its strength. Richard marched on Jerusalem in June 1192. By now even the Lionheart was suffering. He had a fever and appealed to his enemy Saladin to send him fresh water and fresh fruit. Saladin did just this - sending frozen snow to the Crusaders to be used as water and fresh fruit. Why would Saladin do this? Saladin was a strict Muslim who believed he must always help those in need. (It also gave him a chance to send spies into Richard's camp.)

Richard signed a peace treaty with Saladin in 1192 and prepared for his return home to England. En route, Richard was captured and held for ransom by Leopold V of Austria. Eleanor of Aquitaine (Richard's mother) was able to raise the ransom and Richard was allowed to return home two years later.

- *Encyclopedia Britannica*  
<http://www.britannica.com/history/monarchs/mon27.html>
- *History Learning Site*  
<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/Saladin.htm>

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## Held for Ransom

The practice of holding a defeated knight for ransom, or more properly his armor and weapons, could also be considered a form of kidnapping. While the capture itself is not really kidnapping, the practice of holding people and goods for ransom is significant. It was clearly a widespread practice, and was considered acceptable among the upper classes as so probably among the lower classes as well.

There exists a court document, dated 1380, in which a young lady, Cecily Champaigne, officially absolves Geoffrey Chaucer of any liability for any part he played in her "raptus". The reference is not to a rape, but to the practice of trying to resolve a dispute between households by forcing a marriage between the younger members of the two houses. Once the marriage took place, the two houses would be forced to work out their differences because they were now allied. Whether such efforts were successful is not clearly evident from the historical record.

Obviously kidnappings were often done for political reasons and women were by no means unusual victims. Often the kidnapping had as its aim controlling the marriage of the woman kidnapped. Either she was forced to marry the man whom her captors had chosen, or she was rendered unable to marry the man she had been intended to marry. Apparently, simply holding her for ransom was unusual, as that practice was more commonly applied to male captives. (This reflects a medieval attitude in which men were valuable in themselves, but women were considered valuable primarily in their affiliations.)

Because kidnapping (or more generally holding people and their goods for ransom) was such a common practice, few of the perpetrators were ever punished in any way. In fact, little effort was put into finding them.

There were several reasons for this. Because many kidnappings were politically motivated, the "criminals" were often citizens of other nations and so outside of local law. Accepted practice also encouraged the ransom of a military captive. Part of the reason for this was that the fortunes of war may well make last year's captive this year's captor. If he was treated well, he will probably treat his captives well. Also, since the motive was seldom only money, a healthy and well-disposed captive was more likely to be a benefit and may even actively assist his captors. It is also apparent from the legal document involving Cecily Champaigne and Geoffrey Chaucer that kidnapping in itself was a minor issue. There is no suggestion in the document that the crime is worthy of imprisonment or any form of capital punishment. The issue is liability, or a possible fine.

*~Sir Jamie the Red*

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# Regions

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## Aragon

### Mirabelli Children's Event

Our March Crown Event will be a Children's Hearts and Honor Event for the City of Las Vegas Park and Rec Department. This event is extremely important for our relationship with the city and our future events at city parks. The event will be held on March 22nd, 2003 at the Mirabelli Park at US95 and Jones, southwest area of that intersection. Her Excellency Dame Elizabeth is autocrating this event which will be a celebration for children. The event will begin at 8am and will last until 4pm. As with last year's event, we will have booths for the children to experience small bits of the Renaissance time period. We need volunteers to run the booths to show the various skills and arts that were present during the time period.

Anyone wishing to share a skill or to help with another skill, please contact Dame Elizabeth at [themommadawn@yahoo.com](mailto:themommadawn@yahoo.com). We will do rope making, chainmail, calligraphy, butter making, pottery making, weaving, and anything else that anyone is willing to demonstrate. Please help us to make this a fantastic celebration, just as last year's was!

### Crown War

The Aragon Crown war will be held on March 1st and 2nd, 2003. The location for the war will be the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl and this will be an over night event with the camp ground open at noon on Friday, February 28th.

Contenders for the Crown of Aragon at this time are: Dame Ashlinn Tiernan, Sir Damon Thorne of Antioch, and Dame Caoimhe O'Raillagh. In addition, Sir Eric of Stavanger and Sir Cirus, Baron les Marchante des Ombres dû Morte and Dame Elizabeth have all declared intent to run. Sir William Baine was, by a vote of 34 to 42, declared unsuitable.

Further information will be sent as it becomes available on the final candidates.

## 2003 Coronation

Coronation for the Aragon Crown will be held on March 29th, 2003. The location is being finalized at this point in time. We anticipate that the feast will be held at the Castaways casino, in a private room there. The site fee for the coronation feast will be \$10 per adult. Cost for children 12 and under will be at an undetermined lower price. Final details on the cost of the feast will be published on the Aragon yahoo group site as soon as they are available. If anyone from among our brothers and sisters in the Empire need more information, please feel free to contact Dame Nutmeg at [seafish7@aol.com](mailto:seafish7@aol.com)

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## Umbria

Umbria held her annual Hearts and Armor Tournament on February 8. We had a grand Pas d'Arms for our shinai and Knight's renn lists. The ladies of Her Majesty's court were presented with flowers from the combatants in return for favors to be worn on the field. The gallery was most impressed by the displays of prowess, courtesy and chivalry on the field, and, after much deliberation, chose Her Majesty's Lady-in-Waiting Rose Alee Corazon as the Shinai winner and Sir Caramon as the Renn winner.

If you are hungry at an Umbrian tourney, volunteer to judge! We have had some wonderful culinary entries lately - everything from brie tarts (Dame Aislynn) to stew Lombard (Luna Marie) to some amazing cordials (Lord Carlisle)! Umbria is expecting lots of great arts in the coming months... Her Majesty has issued a challenge to her Estates to enter at least one item each month! HRM does not want to enter alone, and she has accepted a challenge to earn her Arts knighthood within the year. The Queen is looking forward to reaching that goal...and Dame Lenora of Esperance has her work cut out for her in meeting the other half of this challenge!

Upcoming events in Umbria to make note of:

- Barony War - March 8
- Imperial Estates Meeting - March 22-23
- March Kingdom Tournament - March 29

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# Terre Neuve

## 12th Night Symposiums & Feast Awards

The Terre Nuevian 12th Night was a wondrous occasion for all, with great food, great entertainment and a very enjoyable atmosphere for all. Many very informative Symposiums were given prior to the feast, touching on subjects such as: chain mail, lucet, bobbin lace, fighting techniques, equipment repair, recorder, calligraphy, embroidery and beginning costuming. During the 12th Night Feast, Terre Novenas were recognized for their great deeds within the Kingdom.

Among those to receive awards were:

- Order of the Royal Star: Lady Akria
- Order of the Cheese: Squire Sean Patrick McBreaty
- Order of the Golden Scorpion: Lady Claire, Sir Madoc McDonnon
- Order of the Queens Guard: Squire Patrick McLean, Burke Campbell, Sir Sivax Wartongue, Knight Captain Cornelius Storm
- Order of the Crown Companion: Ceridwenrose, Juliet de Ramona, Sir Wilhelm the Shakespearian
- Order of the Oak Tree: Lord Gunther the Grey
- Order of the Acorn: Mistress Kate of Dundalk
- Order of Gaston: James MacDubh, Cledwyn ap Llanrwst

## January Crown Event Tourney Winners

Master Valcoline of Y Ddraig ap Rhyfel won the Shenai Tournament. The Renn Tournament was again won by Sir Sivax Wartongue and the Steel Tournament was won by Sgt. Burke Campbell of Black Company. In the Arts, Tailan Bran MacNeil received a Masterwork for A Meal at the Broken Mug Inn and Lord Gunther the Grey also received a Masterwork for a handcrafted Lute. The Archery Tournament was unfortunately postponed due to the Superbowl.

## County Formed Within Terre Neuve

The Kingdom of Terre Neuve would also like to announce our newly formed County: Terra Amata, consisting of the Barony of Spire Heights and the also newly formed Barony of Dracai Lopt. We are very excited about the continued growth within the Kingdom and welcome all of the new members who have joined our Kingdom over the past few months.

## Fairies vs. Dragons Fun War

A fun war of mythical creatures was held during the month of January as well. And of course it was lots of fun! There was, however, no winner in the war (both sides being of equal fighting abilities). Lady Ann of Y Ddraig ap Rhyfel presented a beautiful song that she wrote as an arts entry and Lady Akria Krastel also of Y Ddraig ap Rhyfel received a tourney win for a very fine feast that she prepared and entered in the Arts.

## Terre Neuve's Future Events

During the March crown event, the Fiber Guild is planning a class on the Kumihimo braiding technique (which produces a circular braided cording that is extremely strong and quite colorful in its pattern). Also at the March event, Lady Allonah Rhoudhan will be giving a collegium on Courtly Etiquette and Forms of Address. Don't forget that the Kingdom of Terre Neuve's Crown War is scheduled for March 28, 29, 30 and 31st. March 28th for setup, the 29th and 30th are actual war days, and the 31st for tear down.

For specifics or details regarding any of Terre Neuve's activities/events, please contact the Information line at (619) 624-0014. You may also get information on-line at [www.kingdomofterreneuve.org](http://www.kingdomofterreneuve.org) or at the kingdomofterreneuve Yahoo! Group calendars.

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# Esperance

## Mardi Gras Feast and Masked Ball

**March 8th, 2003**

**5:30PM - 9:30PM**

**Olive Park (Orange, CA)**

**Mask Contest and Bardic Contest**

\$12 per Adult                      \$6 Children (6 to 11)

Payment must be made in advance by March 4th.

Make Checks payable to Adrian Empire, Inc.

Mail to: Steve Huizenga

19732 Larkridge Dr.

Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Questions to Dame Lyrica [talltunes@aol.com](mailto:talltunes@aol.com)

For more info, visit [www.kingdomofesperance.net](http://www.kingdomofesperance.net)

# Imperial News

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## All Those New Manuals

There has been a lot of discussion about all the new manuals we have, and why do we keep changing things? Here's the answer: **We don't change things unless we have to.**

If the rules change, though, we are honor-bound to make sure the manuals reflect those changes. If we find errors, we need to correct them. If a manual is in playtest, it is expected to change as the bugs are worked out of it.

The priority last year was simply to get all the manuals and guides on-line. The priority for this year is to get all those documents to reflect current law. (It is painfully obvious that some of these manuals haven't been updated for years.)



To make life easier, there are two ways you can get to an updated manual:

- Simply download the most current version (it will have all the additions and clarifications in red text)
- Download the last edition, and the addendum that provides the major changes (you can use it for a cross-reference, but it won't have the typos or minor clarifications)

The only time you will not have these two options is when the changes are so significant that it is a completely new manual. For instance, the old Rolls Manual was published many years ago and was horribly out of date. The new Rolls Manual completely overwrites the old one, but the old manual is still available in the archives if you want to compare them.

~Maedb Hawkins, Imperial Publishing

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## The Rumor Mill...

*This is the official place for stopping the rumor mill. We have decided to publish some of them for the populace's benefit. This will, no doubt, be a regular feature.*

**Rumor:** Sangrael is going to be dissolved and/or absorbed by another subdivision.

**Commentary:** This is a rumor that goes around on a fairly regular basis. A couple of years ago, theoretically Esperance was going to forcibly "take over" Sangrael; now the villain is Brandenburg. Next time perhaps the rumor mill will be really creative and claim an east coast subdivision is going to reach and snatch Sangrael up. We never have figured out the basis, or need, for this rumor. One can only suppose that it is meant to stir the poor populace of Sangrael into a panic attack, or make them mistrust the purported "villain" subdivision. Why them? We cannot say, but at the least the villains spreading the rumor could go pick on someone else for awhile.

**Facts:** The Duchy of Sangrael holds an Imperial charter. They may only be dissolved in accordance with the Bylaws, which generally stipulate to punitive actions that would require a long series of due diligence procedures among other things. If the estates of Sangrael wanted to merge with another subdivision they certainly have that option, and the procedures are pretty cleanly laid out. It would have to be by their own action though, from within their own estates.

**A Happy Ending:** As soon as this rumor began to circulate, Dame Xuxa of Sangrael went public and asked about it via e-lists and through the Imperial Government. The rumor was killed before it had a chance to circulate widely and create collateral damages. Kudos to the Duchess for immediate action in timely fashion.

**Please:** When you hear accusations and/or alleged stories circulated ask people for their sources, talk to the alleged involved parties directly, or contact whomever the appropriate local or Imperial minister might be to get the facts. And who knows, you may help bring to light a problem that needs solving - if it isn't rumor!

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## Imperial Estates Meeting - March

*The March 2003 meeting of the Imperial Estates of the Adrian Empire will be held within the bounds of the Kingdom of Umbria in the city of Tempe, Arizona. The meeting will be held on Saturday and Sunday March 22nd & 23rd.*

### Agenda

The agenda for the Imperial Estates Meeting will be published no later than February 22. It will be announced through the various e-lists, and placed on the Imperial website at <http://www.adrianempire.org>.

### Hotel

#### Executive Suites Extended Stay 1635 North Scottsdale Road, Tempe, AZ

Discount rooms are available for attendees who make reservations by March 15th. Room rate is \$89/night, call (480) 947-3711 for reservations or questions. Mention "Adrian Empire Mtg". The sleeping rooms are suites (each with a small kitchenette, sitting area with fold-out couch, and separate bedroom).

There is no restaurant on-site, but there are several nearby, as well as a grocery store. There is continental breakfast available in the morning, as well as a very inexpensive honor "bar" (soda, snacks, etc.) available throughout the day to hotel guests.

### Transportation

**Airport:** The nearest airport is the Phoenix airport. They have a very good website with traveler information regarding directions, parking, ground transportation etcetera at [http://phoenix.gov/AVIATION/maps\\_dir/directions.html](http://phoenix.gov/AVIATION/maps_dir/directions.html).

**Taxi Service:** Cab fare's about \$13. Three taxi companies have contracted with Sky Harbor Airport to provide service for the set rates. There are no extra charges for more than one in the party or baggage. The three companies are: AAA Cab (602) 437-4000, Allstate (602) 329-1017 and Discount (602) 266-1110

**Airport Shuttles:** One company, SuperShuttle, operates 24 hours a day on a time scheduled basis offering airport-to-door service. Vans depart at least every 15 minutes to all areas of the Valley from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with lesser frequencies from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Fares are charged on a flat rate to each sector of geographic area. Call (602) 244-9000/voice or (602) 243-7786/TDD, for reservations.

Umbria is also coordinating a courtesy shuttle from the Phoenix airport to the hotel. Contact HRM Aislynnne ([lady\\_aislynnne@hotmail.com](mailto:lady_aislynnne@hotmail.com)) to make arrangements.

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## Invitation From Umbria (or "What to do When NOT at the Estates Meeting")

Umbria would like to cordially invite the Empire to Our Kingdom for the March Imperial Estates meeting. We have the following activities planned in addition to the meeting:

**Friday evening.** A mundane mixer, hosted by the Kingdom of Umbria. Come in your blue jeans and hang out for a while - this is a great chance to relax after your journey and get to know some of the people from around the Empire! We are holding a cookout/picnic.

**Saturday evening.** At the Emperor's request...a party! This is a chance to show your finery and dance and game the evening away

**Saturday & Sunday.** Collegia! Contact Lady Cimindri Delaforte or Queen Aislynnne of Umbria if you would like to present a class.

For those traveling companions who want to know what else Umbria has to offer besides medievalism and

Imperial Estates business, the following is a sampler of activities that are all within ½ hour of the meeting site:

- Phoenix Art Museum has a show of Masters from El Greco to Picasso that is worth seeing (602-257-1222 or [www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org))
- Arizona Science Center is exhibiting Scream Machines (science of roller coasters) as well as the planetarium and normal exhibits (602-716-2000)
- The Heard Museum is famed for it's excellent displays of Native American art and artifacts (602-252-8848 or [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org))
- The Phoenix Zoo (602-273-1341)
- Desert Botanical Gardens (602-941-1225 or [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org))
- Boyce Thompson Arboretum (520-689-2723 or <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu>)

# And More

## Palantine Duchies, Archduchies, Duchies: What?

For the uninitiated, the Adrian Bylaws can be a strange place. The history of the organization lurks in the drafting of its text, sometimes to the confusion of many.

One of the more murky concepts is the finagling that results when new laws are passed with the codicil that subdivisions already chartered should not be affected. This is generally known as “grandfathering”, a loose and ambiguous term at best and not always seemingly logical.

As years pass and newer members take offices of ministry it becomes a befuddlement to many to understand the apparent discrepancies in administration. One of those bewildering items is the permanent “Duchy” status that came about for some subdivisions in 1998.

At the Imperial Estates Meeting of February 1998, the “Palantine Duchy” was eliminated and the “Duchy” and “Shire” were adopted. The Estates agreed that Palantine Duchies could keep their originally chartered requirements. This affected Sangrael, Chesapeake, and Terre del Fuego.

The result is that those subdivisions may go down to 1 member and still be considered a duchy with the consent and blessings of the Imperial Estates (Reference Bylaws Article VIII.D.4.) Under current bylaw, a Duchy normally requires a membership of at least 20 members.

In the agenda of the February 1999 Imperial Estates Meeting (held at the Roadhouse in Vegas) there is a note in section G Ducal Retirement Titles that references the creation of archduchies at the previous Senate, but finalizes it in that same agenda. An Archduchy is still a Duchy, but indicates a membership in excess of 50 An Archduchy is considered to be essentially a Duchy on the verge of Kingdom status. Elevation to Archduchy does not require re-chartering.

## How the Imperial Agenda Works

The Imperial Agenda is separated into several different sections:

- Crown Business
- Chancellor’s Business
- Old Business
- New Business

Any items dealing with charters would be Crown business, as well as anything the Imperial Crown feels needs to be addressed more quickly than the normal old/new business format.

Chancellor’s business are those items dealing clarifications of the law.

Old Business is the New Business of the last meeting (as well as any tabled items).

New business are the new items submitted by the Estates. New business won’t be addressed at the current meeting unless the Estates feel there is overwhelming need. Discussion of the New Business items may take place, which helps people to form ideas for counter-proposals (included in the next agenda as part of the original item).

After the agenda has been gone through, there may be time for general discussions.

~Maedb Hawkins, Clerk of the Chancery



No, you don't have to know how to play chess in order to make sense of the bylaws or estates meetings.

Frontispiece to Cessolis, Libro di Giuoco di Scacchi, Florence 1493-94



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## Don't Drink the Water

*David Whitaker, Gentleman*

While it is true that water is an unfit drink for an Englishman (Boorde, 1547), it was common practice to water wine down for daily drinking. Also, wine's alcoholic level would depend a bit more on the sweetness of the harvested grape- modern wines usually add sugar to the must to boost the alcohol up. While this was done in period with honey (the resulting drink is called pyement), the resulting brew was more of table wine than thirst quencher.

Beer was also divided between table beer (often strong by American, but not English or German standards) and small beer. Small beer is made from reusing the barley. I've made it (off a 1503 English recipe) and it came out about 1-1/2% alcohol. Still enough to relax the reflexes, but it won't get you drunk unless you really try.

For teetotalers, there are spiced and unspiced fruit juices (probably at least slightly fermented in period), herbed waters and the occasional non alcoholic caudle (a sort of eggnoggy drink). Right now, Trader Joe's is selling a non-alcoholic drink alledgedly based on a 10th century recipe. It's sold over by the nonalcoholic wine alternatives. I had some, it's ok, although I'm willing to bet that the original recipe called for spirits.

### Almond Caudle

*From a 1450 recipe, translated by Cindy Renfrow, Harleian MS 4016. Redaction done by David Whitaker.*

- 1 cup raw almonds
- 1 cup of beer and water combined (original had mostly beer. Note the alcohol will largely boil off, but if you want to be safe, leave it at water)
- 1 or 2 saffron threads (optional)
- 1/4tsp salt
- 1 tbs raw sugar (can use light brown as a substitute)

Grind beer, water and almonds in a blender until smooth. Boil until hot and thick. Add the other ingredients, boil a minute and serve. The original recipe called for the caudle to be strained before boiling.

Note that this drink is appropriate for Lent. Also note that most caudles are made with eggs.

*Tip: Soak the almonds overnight in the liquid to be used. This softens them up a bit, and makes them easier to blend.*

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## Sekanjabin (Oxymel)

Oxymel is a general term for medicinal drinks that combine vinegar with honey or sugar. Arabic Sekanjabin is one such drink. Although it was intended to be drunk with hot water as a medicinal draught, it was also probably enjoyed cold for refreshment.

According to Hippocrates, (*On Regimen in Acute Diseases*), the combination of vinegar and honey promoted freedom of breathing and was the foundation for many medicinal herbal formulas.

### Syrup of Simple Sikanjabîn

*From An Anonymous Andalusian Cookbook of the 13th Century, translated by Charles Perry*

*Take a ratl of strong vinegar and mix it with two ratls of sugar, and cook all this until it takes the form of a syrup. Drink an ūqiya of this with three of hot water when fasting: it is beneficial for fevers of jaundice, and calms jaundice and cuts the thirst, since sikanjabîn syrup is beneficial in phlegmatic fevers: make it with six ūqiyas of sour vinegar for a ratl of honey and it is admirable. [gap: top third of this page has been cut off]... and a ratl of sugar; cook all this until it takes the consistency of syrup. Its benefit is to relax the bowels and cut the thirst and vomiting, and it is beneficial in bilious fevers.*

- 4 cups sugar
- 2-1/2 cups water
- 1 cup wine vinegar
- Handful of mint

Heat water. Dissolve the sugar in the water. When it comes to a boil, add the wine vinegar. Simmer half an hour. Add mint. Remove from the fire and let it cool.

### Oxymel

*From an Anglo-Saxon Leechbook, Cockayne p. 285*

*Take of vinegar, one part; of honey, well cleansed, two parts; of water, the fourth part; then see the down to the third or fourth part of the liquid, and skim the foam and the refuse off continually, until the mixture be fully sodden.*

### Sources

- *Jebanne de Huguenin*,  
<http://users.iafrica.com/m/me/melisant/cook/oxymel.htm>
- *Cardiodoc's Miscellany*,  
<http://www.pbm.com/~lindabl/cariadoc/miscellany.html>

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# Robin Hood

There is much controversy surrounding Robin Hood. Was he real? Was he fiction? Did he live in Sherwood? Barnsdale? Somewhere else? Was he a staunch supporter of the kidnapped King Richard the Lionheart? Or a simple highwayman? Was he a wronged nobleman?

The truth is that Robin Hood has changed considerably over the years. This article is meant to provide some tidbits to entice you to look further. There is a list of authoritative internet links you can explore, as well as a list of books you can read on the topic. Enjoy!

Robin Hood, as we know him today, returned from a Crusade to find his noble father's home reclaimed by the evil Prince John, who was governing England in the absence of King Richard the Lionheart. King Richard had been on Crusade himself, captured and held for ransom by Saladin. Robin led a band of highwaymen who robbed from the rich and gave to the poor, all the while trying to "save up" enough money to pay the king's ransom.

"The earliest Robin Hood was a yeoman, not a wronged nobleman, who haunted Barnsdale Forest, not Sherwood; he didn't become a Saxon or mere Englishman fighting the Norman oppressor until Sir Walter Scott dressed him up for his walk-on in *Ivanhoe*." (*Legends, Robin Hood*)

Robin Hood may well have been a descendent of another character, Eustache the Monk, who was the subject of a long poem (2307 verses), written in Old French between 1223 and 1284.

"The first reference to Robin by name is found in "The Vision of Piers Plowman", written by William Langland in 1377. In one verse, a drunken chaplain berates himself for knowing the rhymes of Robin Hood better than he knows his prayers. These rhymes have not survived but they were obviously so well known in Langland's day that he refers to them without explanation." (*Nottinghamshire*)

Robin was known by name in 1420, when Andrew of Wyntoun wrote this in his *Orygynale Chronicle*:

*Litel Iobun and Robert Hude  
Waythmen war commendit gud;  
In Ingilvode and Bernnysdaile  
Thai oyssit al this tyme thar trawale.*

Also from the 15th century is the oldest ballad that tells this tale, *Lytell Geste of Robyn Hode*, which appears to be a collection of stories which, themselves are derived from much earlier sources. This is from a 15th century manuscript at the Lincoln Cathedral:

*Robyn Hode in Scherewod stod bodud and hathud, hosuf  
and schod ffour and thuyrti arowus he bar in his bondus*

## Internet Sources

- The Robin Hood Project, University of Rochester  
<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/rh/rhhome.stm>
- Legends, Robin Hood  
<http://www.legends.dm.net/index.html>
- Nottinghamshire, Robin Hood's Guide  
<http://www.nottinghamshiretourism.co.uk/themes/robinhood/>
- Worldwide Robin Hood Society  
<http://www.robinhood.info/robinhood/>
- Robin Hood: The Early Poems, by Thomas Ohlgren, Professor of English, Purdue University,  
<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~ohlgrn/>

## Books

- Child, Francis James. *English and Scottish Ballads*. Vol. 3; first printed 1882-1892. Reprinted NY: Dover, 1965. (Robbins PR1181 .C53e)
- Dobson, R.B. and J. Taylor. *Rhymes of Robin Hood*. London: W. and J. Mackay Limited, 1976. (Robbins PR2129 .D6 1976)
- Gutch, John Mathew. *A Lytell Geste of Robin Hode*. London: Longman, Brown, Green, & Longmans, 1847. (Robbins PR2125 .G98)
- Knight, Stephen. *Robin Hood: The Forresters Manuscript*, British Library Additional MS 71158. With a Manuscript Description by Hilton Kelliher. Woodbridge, Suffolk: D. S. Brewer, 1998.
- Percy, Thomas. *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*. 1765; rpt. London: Bohn, 1864. (Robbins PR1181 .P43r 1864)
- Ritson, Joseph. *Robin Hood: A Collection of all the Ancient Poems, Songs and Ballads*. London: William Pickering, 1832. (Robbins PR2125 .R61r2)
- *Roxburghe Ballads*. 2 vols. London: Reeves and Turner, 1873-74. (Stacks PR1181 .R88r)

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# Events

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**March 1/2: Aragon**

Crown War (Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, Las Vegas, NV)

**March 8: Esperance**

Mardi Gras Feast, Masked Ball (Olive Park, Orange, CA)

**March 22/23: Imp. Estates Mtg.**

Umbria (Executive Suites Extended Stay, Tempe, AZ)

**March 28/31: Terre Neuve**

Crown War (Portreo Park, San Diego, CA)

**March 29: Aragon**

Crown Coronation (Las Vegas, NV)

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**May 19: Agenda deadline**

for Imp. Estates Meeting

**May 24/25: Imperial Civil War**

(location tbd)  
*(If no Civil War, this will be fought as a Banner War)*

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**July 19/20: Imp. Estates Mtg**

(location tbd)

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**August 30/31: Imp. Crown War**

(location tbd)

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**September 1: Agenda deadline**  
for Imp. Estates Meeting

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**November 1/2: Imp. Estates Mtg**

**Imperial Coronation**  
(location tbd)

*Sir William de Mild of Esperance  
(Banner War 2002,  
by Lady Claire of Eagle's Roost)*



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**the Adrian Herald**

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