

# the Adrian Herald

SEPTEMBER 2004

## *Imperial War South East*

There is a chance that Hurricane Frances will veer and miss the Florida coast. The hurricane may not affect the war site itself. We cannot know. It may not affect the travel paths for those attending, or, indeed, their homes away from the war site.

**Frances Wins!**

We will not  
gamble with the  
safety of Our populace.  
This is an uncontested  
war, and it is not  
worth risking  
the roads.

**SouthEast War Cancelled**

Be safe and be well.  
So say We, Wright and Aislynn, Emperor and Empress

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# *Declaration from Prince Nikolai and Princess Jericho*

Good Populace:

The thrill which has galvanized the Empire since Dame Jericho, and I, Sir Nikolai, declared our candidacy in May has been electrifying. Regardless of the armies to which each of you might have been committed, we have been showered with good and positive feelings across the length and breadth of Adria. Your support has extended beyond our bid for the Throne to us personally, and the things for which we stand-- for which we have always stood. There has been so much excitement! For us, the feeling is as if the multitudes have eagerly lifted us over their heads and flung us skyward, while patiently and indulgently waiting to catch us if we fall. It is a feeling of supreme confidence. There is nothing we cannot accomplish! You have shared with us your visions of a better Dream, and we have committed ourselves to achieving those visions. The work is already started.

With so much momentum, it has surprised many that Dame Jericho and I have chosen not to take the field of battle this September. The reason is simple. The time for War is not yet, although that time is ever imminent, hanging like the Sword of Damocles by its slender fraying thread every May and September. We remain eligible candidates, approved by the Imperial Estates. With our strong support across all of Adria, we are ever ready for War. The forces which have gathered to our cause have placed upon us the heavy responsibility of assuring that the timing be when it be best for the Empire. That is our never-wavering focus.

After several gracious Imperial Audiences and many hours of discussion among the Estates before and during the Imperial Estates Meeting of July, it has boiled down to a simple matter. There are a number of things currently in progress which our Cousins still wish to achieve for all of us, the populace of Adria. They have spoken of Their accomplishments proudly, and rightfully so, and Their words have persuaded us that our restraint at this time would be of benefit to the Empire. They have committed Themselves to our

causes, be they just and right, and have granted us Their ear. On behalf of the populace, Dame Jericho and I have continued to exercise the power which comes to us by virtue of our station and position, and we have been fully supported by our Cousins. We, in turn, have directed our full support to Their Imperial Majesties for Their right and just causes in the good name of Adria.

We supported our Cousins a year ago, when They first declared their intentions for the Empire. We continue to support our Cousins today. At this time, Adria, whose blood flows in our veins, is better served by the current regime, with the level of participation which has been allowed us, and without the distraction of preparation for what admittedly would be a glorious war.

As the eager time of anticipation proceeds through the coming months, we remain at your service. As you continue to advance the progress of the Empire, we are here to help. Whether you need some advice, some history, an obstacle removed, or a gentle nudge in the right direction, we are here.

And we are not going away.

We have determined that now is a time for unity, but we are not among those who fear a contested war, or even a Civil War. Often, the Empire benefits from spirited contests among Family and Friends. That time will yet come.

As Dame Jericho and I give what service we can to the Empire, we are mindful that we are not the only eligible candidates for the Imperial Throne. Actually, there are quite many of you-- of us. To those Earls and Comtessas, Counts and Countesses Royal, and Viscounts, and to all of the populace, we urge you to think of yourselves as stewards of the Empire, each of you a potential Emperor or Empress, ever vigilant for opportunities to bring the Dream's ideals closer. We are the Empire. We are the Dream. Long live Adria. All of us. We are home.

Sir Nikolai MacLean Belsky von Hapsburg  
Dame Jericho Gutt, d'Or

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# *A Message from the Imperial Crown*

We address you here today with great strength and respect. We owe this feeling of pride to you the populace and here is why.

Upon our originally announcing for the throne last year the energy and excitement was unmatched. At the estates meeting we passed the acceptability vote by the highest approval rate that we can remember. We made promises of expanding the government, to address the many outstanding issues and to surge forward with a more business like presentation of the government.

Upon our taking the throne for some there was a rough adjustment period to our more direct style which created a few delays but due to your efforts and loyalty and our no nonsense approach we have achieved all of our promises. This was due to the people who were able to adjust and conduct themselves with honor and integrity.

But that's the past and although it makes us proud to review, it is a small glimpse of why we stand here so strong and proud, we feel untouchable.

As with all change some were unsatisfied. A challenge based on such was announced. Naturally we were concerned, confused and felt very alone. As any Crown may tell you this is the worst feeling one can have. We made many fair decisions showing no favoritism that advanced the empire beyond where it stood before we ascended to the throne. Now we were presented with abandonment.

And then while standing strong but feeling overlooked we heard a voice. "Don't worry we support you." It was a tiny voice but its conviction filled it and us with strength. Upon our turn there were three from Kildare. Then another call. "We're with you," said Castilles. Another "Why glum, is there one among ours not on your side?" was voiced from Brandenburg. Many from Umbria added, "You had our swords then, you have them now again." Then Albion announced "We would support no other." "We Can't lose," came from Carolingia. "Our masterworks are ready," voiced members of House Caffeam and several others from Esperance joined in with their call. This immediate and unwavering support made us proud. So many came and so fast were overwhelmed. But it didn't stop there. Our old opponents, Galloway, spoke up, "You have our support." Then Chesapeake - "We're decided and

with you". Other friends from the growing Northeast telephoned "You have my sword!" was spoken. Even loud voices from the home subdivisions of our opponents York and Terre Nueve announced "If push comes to shove we're with you". The Isle of de Morte opened its newborn voice and "We fight for you!" was their cry. Guilds and Domains were now speaking on our side "We will give up not one point." was one Cry. Old expired members even inquired "where do I send in my membership and regain my points" and individuals from the rest of the empire were weighing in on our side. What started as three voices became hundreds. The voices became a roar.

We were charged. As a group there is nothing we can not do. Like a raging river we surge across the landscape unstoppable. Because of you we wield Thor's Hammer, Achilles armor and Roman legionnaire shields.

And just when our armies have reached their pinnacle, when we thought support for our actions could be no more and we shouted with the strength of Gods - "We're tired of talking, bring it on," some of our opponents spoke. "You know we are not upset with you, we just want to support the contender from our home subdivision" spoke Terre Nueve. "Come to our subdivision and share your vision and hear our concerns" spoke Aragon. "Win or Lose, We support you" said Nikolai. Her Imperial Majesty and myself were touched and empowered. These opponents showed dignity and respect. They had no desire to villainize us and even though their swords were against us their souls were not.

It was in this spirit and with all the support we were shown Her Imperial Majesty gestured. She took the hand of our opponents. She showed our compassion and supported those that supported us as we all re-entered the Imperial Estates. Although quiet while our opponents informed about their withdrawal we realized separate but honorable we can achieve much but combined we have no limits.

It is all of these that fill us with pride. As far as we are concerned you, our support, and them, those honorable opponents, have raised our own perceptions of chivalry. It is an honor for us to stand as your leaders.

Lord Wright and Dame Aislyne  
Emperor and Empress of Adria



# Imperial News



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## *November Estates Meeting and Coronation Jubilee*

We bring news of the accommodations for the Nov. Imperial Estates Meeting and Coronation Jubilee of their Imperial Majesties; Sir Wright Bentwood & Dame Aislyne de Chartier to take place in the Grand Kingdom of Terre Neuve!

We will be at the Holiday Inn Select at 595 Hotel Circle So. San Diego, CA. 92108 The phone number to reach the reservations desk is 619-291-5720 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Pacific Standard time, or you can call 1-800-HOLIDAY, 24 hours a day

Please identify yourself to be with the "Adrian Empire" when making your reservations to receive the promised room rate of \$89.00 per night (single or double). Check in time is 3:00 pm. We have a block of rooms reserved for Fri. November 5th through Sun. November 7th.

The Hotel offers a complimentary shuttle to and from San Diego's Lindbergh Field Airport, simply call the front desk upon arrival at 619-291-5720 to make arrangements for transportation to the hotel. Free parking is also arranged for those guests who will be driving in.

The hotel offers many amenities; outdoor heated pool, whirlpool, fitness center; in the rooms are wireless internet, free CNN, ESPN, and HBO, as well as Nintendo for the kids. Speaking of kids, if you are bringing them along, kids stay and eat for free. For the adults, the hotel offers a Managers Reception each day between the hour of 5:00 and 6:00 pm with complimentary beer and house wines. View their website at

<http://www.holidayinnselectsd.com/amenities.html>

The hotel offers an onsite restaurant, the Sante Fe Salsa Company with a southwestern flair, and just down the street is the 24 hour Valley Kitchen restaurant with a great menu at reasonable prices.

The hotel is right in the heart of San Diego with many of our most beautiful attractions just a few miles away, including the San Diego beaches, Old Town, Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo and Sea World. If you've never visited here before, Balboa Park is absolutely magnificent; filled with museums, botanical treasures and gorgeous Spanish "Sugaresque" architecture and should not

be missed. Visit their website at:

<http://www.balboapark.org/>

The Coronation Jubilee Feast will be held at the La Mesa Women's Club, and we will make arrangements for those of you who require it to have transportation to the site. Menu and details will be posted very soon.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you here!

*Angus & Claire, King & Queen Terre Neuve*

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## *Hurricane Frances*

Good Populace, as you know Hurricane Frances is threatening to make landfall on the Florida Coast sometime on Saturday morning. Due to the advisories put out by local mundane officials we have canceled the official Southeast Imperial War.

We wish to advise the locals not to panic. This is not the first hurricane in this area and we shall endure. Make sure you have reserved water for drinking, as well as, filling up the bathtub in your bathrooms in order to flush toilets in case of water interruption. Also it is wise to have a canned food reserve, as well as, batteries and non-wall powered electrical light sources.

Finally, a small cash reserve is wise in case banks are closed and cash machines are down. Remember after Andrew (strongest hurricane in the states history) supplies were shipped to the State in days. So power may be out but food and medical attention were available and should be so again if needed.

Rather than wishing everyone good luck for ridding out the storm we wish to be proactive. We want to set up an Adrian Hotline for all those who may need help and a way to get the help from those with extra to spare. We are making our telephone number available for any Adrian (954-342-8039) during this time.

If you have no where to go and are nervous about staying alone contact us for gathering points. If after the hurricane you have sustained no damage or have extra supplies notify us to be put on an Adrian list. If you have taken damage or need help contact us so we can put you in touch with those who were untouched.

This is a time to put differences aside and help all our brothers and sisters if needed. Together we are strong. ~Lord Wright, Emperor

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# Nat'l Invitational Steel Tournament Registration Form

Kingdom of Albion, Adrian Empire, Inc.  
Registration Form for the 6th Annual National Invitational Steel Tournament  
October 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2004  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Game Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 21) \_\_\_\_\_ Tent Size \_\_\_\_\_ Mundane/Period \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If you are not a Member of Adria, please list what group you are with. You must provide proof of a minimum of one-year Combat experience to fight in Steel and Knight's Renn. If you do not have an Adrian Empire Combat Card, you must be qualified by one of our Marshals for Safety purposes. For current Rules and Regulations, please review Our Manuals located in the Library section of the Adrian Empire website.)*

## Site Fee Schedule

### Attendance and Tournament Participation:

Children 5 and under are free  
\$3.00/day or \$5.00 for the weekend Children age 6-12  
\$5.00 /day or \$10.00 for the weekend 13 and up

**Included in the Site Fees are:** Unlimited Admission to the Faire, Water, Collegiums and Demonstrations, on-site Entertainment, and Tournament participation.

### Food Plan:

\$15.00 Children 10 and under No Food Plan  
\$20.00 11 and up \$5.00 (Saturday Feast only)

(This fee includes Friday Lunch and Dinner, Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, and Feast, and Sunday Breakfast, Lunch, and Light Supper. Please circle which one you prefer.)

Or \$10.00/day (with no discount for Children)      Friday      Saturday      Sunday

**Note:** *We will take any special diets & allergies into consideration if you include them with this form. The above fees are for preregistration only. If your registration is postmarked after September 20th, 2004, or if you pay onsite, a fee of \$5.00 will apply to each of the above. All fees are non-refundable.*

Please complete this form and send it with your Check or Money Order (a separate form must be submitted for each person attending) to: **Kingdom of Albion, 5563 Topaz Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89120**

## Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of the following categories. *Please checkmark each category you wish to enter*

<input type="checkbox"/> Shanai (for beginning fighters, minimum age 13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant's Rapier (minimum age 16)
<input type="checkbox"/> Knight's Rapier (minimum age 16-experienced)	<input type="checkbox"/> Steel (minimum age 16-experienced)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowman's Archery (Beginner level-no age limit)	<input type="checkbox"/> Huntsman's Archery (Experienced Archers)
<input type="checkbox"/> Master's Arts (Beginner level-no age limit)	<input type="checkbox"/> Knight's Arts (Experienced Artisans)

## Informed Consent to Participate

I, do hereby agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless ADRIA, its agents and assignees from any and all claims including claims from property damage, injury, death, mental or emotional distress I may receive by reason of participation in Martial Arts or other activities or events sponsored or arranged by ADRIA. I am fully aware that ADRIA activities are potentially dangerous and can result in serious harm. I understand that ADRIA does not provide any insurance coverage for my person or my property. I acknowledge that I am responsible for my safety and my own healthcare needs, and for the protection of my property. In consideration of my being permitted to take part in these activities, I agree to follow all ADRIA rules or directions of ADRIA officials regarding equipment, participation, or personal safety and voluntarily accept all risks associated therewith. Should any disputes arise from my participation in ADRIA sponsored activities, I agree to work through the internal dispute resolution procedures of ADRIA. If these procedures do not lead to the resolution of the dispute, I agree to submit it to a Board for binding arbitration and to abide by the decisions reached by such a Board. The arbitration may take place wherever the parties mutually agree, but will be in Phoenix, Arizona if they do not agree otherwise, and in any case the Law of the State of Arizona will apply. The undersigned affirms that he or she has read and understood this statement, and agrees that this is a waiver of all claims arising from participation in Events sponsored by ADRIA to the extent permitted by Law.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Legal guardian's signature if this form is for someone under 18)



# Regions



## Albion

Unto the Good Populace of the Kingdom of Albion, we, the Crown, do send our greetings and well wishes.

We eagerly await the pleasure of your company at the "Age of Chivalry" Renaissance Faire and Imperial National Invitational Steel Tournament October 7th-10th. We have already received inquiries from members of several other Organizations, and expect record attendance.

Congratulations to each and every one on our elevation to Kingdom. It has been a long road, and every step in the journey has been well worth the effort. Thank you to you all for your part in getting us to this point.

We are also excited about everything we have accomplished over the past few months, including, Lied Discovery Children's Museum "Amazing Castle" Demo's, Coronation Feast, UNLV Demos, etc. We have been growing at an amazing pace, and now top 150 Members. We also now have official Members in Bullhead City, Az. and Cedar City, Ut.

This month, please support the Crown Event, Fiestas Patrias Demo, Canton on the River Event, Shakespeare in the Park Demo, Sunrise Library Demo, and Faire Preparation.

Together, we have demonstrated that Albion can accomplish amazing things. Now, we have the task of exceeding even our own expectations. We invite the Empire to share these exciting times with us.

*With deep affection*

*William and Ashlinn, King and Queen of Albion*

The head of a dragon sculptured in 1590 by Ulrich Vogelsang for the city of Klagenfurt, Austria, was modeled on a "dragon skull" found by quarrymen in 1335. It is now known to be that of an Ice Age woolly rhinoceros.

## Isle de Mort

A new subdivision has been born in Arizona!! It's name: The Isle de Mort. With their Imperial Magesties' blessing and the cooperation of the estates of the Kingdom of Umbria, the Isle was born. Our borders will be open to visitors. At this time our tournaments will be held on the third Saturday of each month.

We had our first tournament on July 17, 2004. There were three arts entries and steel combat. The tournament was a "breakfast" tournament with her Excellency Dame Kate having prepared sausage and eggs and cheeze.

Our second tournament was held on August 21, 2004. We had two arts entries and a steel combat in which Sir Philippe's squire, Guillian-Barre, acquitted himself very well against experienced combatants in his first steel combat by nearly winning (he came in second). We had luncheon afterward. The winner of the combat tournament was Throckmorton Ashby, a seasoned combatant who had praise for squire Guillian-Barre's ability. Our castle was graced by the presence of her Imperial Majesty and her lovely family.

*His Grace Sir Philippe du Bois Guilbert and Her Excellency Dame Kate MacPherson-McIntosh*

## Kildare

On July 17th we celebrated the Coronation of Duke Ian McMillan and Duchess Cathan ni Sonoid. The winner of the combat tournaments was Gwaen Leosidha MacSheoinings and the winner of the archery list was Gwaen Leosidha MacSheoinings. Ermac did indeed manage to win the Duchy Champion battle which this year consisted of single elimination combat. Next year the Duchy Champion will be determined by tournaments in every discipline.

*Dame Cathan ni Sonoid, Duchess of Kildare*

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## Terre Neuve

July's Archery Tournament yielded some fine scores at the Balboa Walk Down Range. His Grace Sir Badger Kelly McDonnon took the Huntman's win. Terre Neuve is so very proud of its awesome archers.

The Crown Tournament was Autocrated by the Counties of Anwnn and Terre Amata. Count Callon Bryn Corey created some exciting combat scenarios. The victors were; for shinai- Master Joseph Von Rothenberg of Brandenburg, Renn and Cut and Thrust -Sir Sivax Wartongue, and the Steel Champion was Sir Jason Barca, Crown Champion. Lord Corwin Bristow took the Shinai Academy Tournament.

Both of the Crowns joined the populace and had great fun shooting war arrows and throwing javelins at one of Terre Neuve's brave combatants (Master Steve).

A round-table discussion also took place concerning the basics of Heraldry. Her Grace Dame Kendra McFadyen and Sir Cledwyn ap Llanrwst provided some very helpful information. New and more experienced members and visitors learned a great deal.

The second annual two-day demo at San Diego Comic Convention was a big success. Leather working, combat of all sorts, dancing and sewing were all demonstrated. Some of the mundanes even joined in with the fighting and dancing. The event was attended well with between 20 and 35 Adrians working to put it all together. We even had help all the way from the Kingdom of Esperance. Sir Coda and his wife Dame Giulianna traveled the distance to help with combat and in speaking with the crowds. The Autocrats work hard every year to make each annual demo better than the last.

A FireFeast was hosted by King Angus and Queen Claire at South Mission Bay. There was plenty of food and welcome entertainment. Prince Nikoli, His Grace Sir Warhammer, Sir Gunther, and Sir Patrick of Esperance, along with other impromptu entertainers lead the group in both stories and songs. Congratulations to Sir Eric Svartr who received the accolades of Knight Bachelor and Knight Minister at the FireFeast!

The Young Adrian War will take place in late October, location to be determined. We want to extend an invitation to everyone in the Empire to attend. The main focus of this war is the young



people. However, points bearing activities will be provided for everyone. If anyone would like to help or has suggestions please notify Dame Akria at [shequests@yahoo.com](mailto:shequests@yahoo.com)

### A note from the Crowns

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize a dedicated member of this Kingdom who often goes unrecognized in these submissions, since she is the Chronicler and never seems to include herself in these. For the Coronado Parade Demo last month, Dame Akria Krastel simply decided that it would be a wondrous thing to have a float. That thought translated to direct action and with the assistance of her Lady in Waiting Mistress Aileen, they went down and arranged for a rental of a flatbed truck. Many others did also assist in the building and decorating of the float, and were recognized in last month's Herald. We wish to recognize those that made it happen in the first place. Well Done Dame Akria and Mistress Aileen! Huzzah!

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## Submission Deadline

The Imperial Chancellor's Office would like to remind everyone that any items of business for the Imperial Estates Meeting (November 6/7, 2004) must be submitted no later than **September 7**. This includes new proposals, and counter proposals for old business. Be sure to send your agenda submissions to:

[chancellor@adrianempire.org](mailto:chancellor@adrianempire.org) (Sir William Baine, Imperial Chancellor) and [warren811@yahoo.com](mailto:warren811@yahoo.com) (Sir Warren Anthony, Deputy Chancellor).



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## *Guild of the Scarlet Needle*

Greetings one and all,

The Guild of the Scarlet Needle is proud to post this update on how the Guild is fairing. The Guild was formed to give those of us interested in sewing a place to exchange ideas and information. It has expanded to cover just about any "fiber art" available from sewing to spinning your own yarns, to several styles of weaving, to embroidery of all types from primitive to refined, and there's no telling what skill will be brought up next.

Since its launch the end of July 2004, 27 members of Adria (and friends of Adria) from all over the Empire have joined the Scarlet Needle Yahoo Group. Everyone is welcome to join the Yahoo group and membership in the Guild itself is NOT required, but is certainly welcomed and of course, encouraged.

In the last 2 1/2 weeks, we have welcomed 21 Official Members of the Guild of The Scarlet Needle from Albion (including our newest member from Cedar City UT), Umbria, Kildare, Galloway, Esperance, Sangreal and Terra Neuve.

Every day there are several posts from group members either giving or asking for ideas, instructions, exchanges of opinions, help with finding documentation on a myriad of subjects and general discussion of different aspects of the fiber arts and documentation. We are also giving and getting advice on the requirements of entering projects in the Arts. The information is flowing and we couldn't be happier this Guild has lived up to everything we hoped it would, and MUCH more, in such a short period of time.

We are also VERY proud to announce the creation of the first Local Chapter of the Guild outside

the borders of Albion. The Duchy of Kildare has created a Chapter of the Guild with HG Dame Cathan Ni Sonoid as Local Guild Mistress. Thank you Dame Cathan for taking the request to form a Local

Chapter to your Estates and getting their approval. Congratulations to Kildare for taking the initiative to help us expand and grow.

I believe Esperance is also in the process of forming a Local Chapter. Our goal is to help any Subdivision, regardless of how large or small, to form a Local Chapter, if they wish, to assist the members of their subdivision in their efforts to learn and teach sewing, research & documentation, and the fiber arts.

If you are interested in joining the Yahoo Group as a way of learning and/or sharing your skills and experience, please contact us at:

[scarletneedle-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:scarletneedle-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

or directly to me at: [mamameteu@hotmail.com](mailto:mamameteu@hotmail.com)

or Talliyah at: [tallyahroseblackhawk@cox.net](mailto:tallyahroseblackhawk@cox.net)

We look forward to welcoming new members to both the Guild and the Yahoo Group, and ALL

members of Ardia (and 'guests') are welcome to join. Please provide your game name if applicable and your subdivision. Its just a little security measure, we are trying to avoid spam issues that have hit other group sites recently...

*In Service,*

*Lady Madison de Malo, Thee Bad Squire*

*Squire to Dame Merula Cornix of Seawulf in the Kingdom of Albion  
Chancellor of the Kingdom of Albion  
Co-Founder of The Guild of The Scarlet Needle*

*Member of the Order of the Silver Spoon*

*Official Seamstress to The Nubian Prince*



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# Dragons

*Excerpted from the Aragon Sun, August 2004*

Pliny, ignoring Greek and Roman mythology, held that "dracos" did exist, but just in faraway India, where he reported that they were large enough to prey on elephants by dropping out of trees and strangling them. Modern naturalists assume that he heard reports of pythons, which not only grew bigger in retelling, but also turned into fish stories. Some dragons, Pliny wrote, had such large crests on their heads they could sail to Arabia to hunt.

Pliny's descriptions (treated as factual) persisted for centuries, turning up in 1608 in an English translation of a German naturalist's work. That just strengthened belief in subsequent legendary dragons, Beowulf's Grendel; Fafner, whose belly was slit by Siegfried; and the Midgard serpent that Thor struck with his hammer. As late as 1420, a battle between Sir John Lambton and the milelong Lambton Wyrn (old English for snake) was reported as fact, and flocks were reported at London fires.

Throughout the Middle Ages, the devout assumed that dragons existed; the Bible said so. The 300-eyed steam-spewing Jordan-swallowing Leviathan in the Book of Job is a dragon, and so, according to early translations and many medieval paintings, is the creature that tempted Eve. After all, it would be hard for a mere snake to offer an apple while whispering sweet temptations.

The ancients often cited "physical evidence," for which modern scholars offer new explanations.

In 58 B.C., Pliny reported, the "spine of the sea serpent killed by Perseus at Joppa" (modern-day Jaffa) was displayed in Rome. Karl Shuker, author of "Dragons, A Natural History" (Simon & Schuster, 1995), surmises that the monster Cetus, swimming up to eat Andromeda, might have grown out of rare sightings of oarfish, a snakelike fish up to 30 feet long with a coral red head crest. Other scholars theorize that the skeleton might have been one of the sperm whales that once commonly beached near Jaffa. A half-rotted whale, with its jawbones and vestigial leg bones exposed, would look rather dragon like, they say.

Before Linnaeus played spoilsport, stuffed monsters were routinely exhibited at fairs. An Italian mathematician reported seeing "dragon babies" in Paris in 1557. They may have been snakes with bat wings sewn on. (Centuries later, P. T. Barnum sewed a dried fish tail to a dried monkey torso and told Americans that it was a mermaid.)

But there is another obvious source for the dragon myth: the bones of dinosaurs and extinct mammals. Bones exposed by storms, earthquakes or digging were well known to the ancients, said Dr. Adrienne Mayor, a professor of folklore at Princeton and the author of "The First Fossil Hunters" (Princeton, 2000). She argues that the myth of gold-guarding griffins arose in the red clay of the Gobi Desert, a landscape literally scattered with white Protoceratops skulls, with parrot beaks and bony neck frills.

Othenio Abel, an Austrian paleontologist, speculated as early as 1914 that the central nasal holes in skulls of prehistoric dwarf elephants were the source for Homer's Cyclops. Abel added that the skulls of cave bears — *ursus spelaeus*, half again as big as grizzlies — could have given rise to tales of dragons.

Medieval Europe is "full of stories of knights fighting dragons in caves," Dr. Mayor said.

Some extinct mammals have startlingly dragon like skulls, and Asian dragon myths may be based on Pleistocene and Cretaceous fossils, which were at one time universally known as "dragon bones," Dr. Mayor added.

*Sivatherium giganteum*, a huge proto-giraffe, has a pointed three-foot-long skull, and another, *Giraffokeryx*, has four swept-back horns.

Mount Pilatus in Switzerland abounds in pterodactyl fossils, and with stories of fights between men and dragonets — small, scrawny winged dragons.

Paleontologists can even account for the legend that dragons have jewels in their foreheads. Big calcite crystals form on long-buried skulls.

Marco Polo's "factual" descriptions of Chinese dragons more or less match the large crocodiles once found there. Nile crocodiles, which can grow 22 feet long, still prey on rural Africans while their overseas relatives eat two or three Americans and Australians a year.

## Source

<http://notes.utk.edu/bio/greenberg.nsf/0/cf8d731d5806bde485256d17007585d2?OpenDocument>

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# Manuscript Books

The following information has been excerpted from *Medieval and Renaissance Book Production - Manuscript Books*, by Richard W. Clement. This highly informative, authoritative article is available at: <http://www.ku.edu/~bookhist/medbook1.html>



Parchment has traditionally been made from sheepskin, and vellum from calfskin,[10] parchment being usually thick and rough, vellum thinner and finer.

However, once the skin has been prepared, it is difficult to determine what kind of animal it came from. It has become common simply to describe a finely prepared skin as vellum and the more ordinary sort as parchment. In any case, skins were usually soaked in a lime solution in wooden vats or in stone-lined pits. They were kept there from anywhere from three to ten days depending upon the temperature and were occasionally stirred and turned. Finally they were washed in water. Each skin was then stretched on a frame--traditionally circular, but occasionally rectangular--and scraped with a *lunellarium*, a circular knife. Parchment, or sheepskin, was scraped only on one side; vellum, or calfskin, was scraped on both sides. Some medieval recipes state that the skin should be scraped when wet; others state that it should be scraped when dry. When the skin was dry and it had been scraped, it was re-wet slightly--one

recipe recommends spraying the skin with a mouthful of good English ale--and then it was pounced, that is, it was rubbed with pumice.[11] This smoothed the surface and removed blemishes. The skin was then completely re-wet and dried again under tension. Finally it was finished again by pouncing, and perhaps by rubbing chalk or some other compound into it to give the skin a white smooth surface which would take the ink, but allow no bleeding.

Having prepared a writing surface, it was also necessary to prepare ink.[12] The ink commonly used in the ancient world was a carbon ink made of soot suspended in gum and water, similar to present-day India ink. It was not permanent and could be washed off. A much more permanent ink, called iron-gall ink, was more commonly used in the Middle Ages, and indeed long after. It was made by mixing either pulverized and extracted galls (which yielded tannic acid) or fermented galls (which yielded gallic acid) with ferrous sulphate (commonly known as copperas) or ferric sulphate, and with gum arabic to give it viscosity. When mixed properly, each of these formulae produced a fine permanent black ink, but when improperly mixed produced a highly acidic, or encaustic, ink which over the centuries has slowly burned its way through a great many manuscripts.

The emergence of a literate middle class in the later Middle Ages created a demand for new types of books. These tended to be popular works of a recreational or technical nature, which were often in the vernacular. We know very little about the beginnings of the book trade outside of the monasteries and universities, but certainly there was an independent trade by the late twelfth century. University stationers were free to engage in outside trade and no doubt did so. Books seem most often to have been made to order, but also occasionally for speculation--with no specific buyer in mind. Some orders were large: in 1437 a wholesale bookseller sent an order to a scriptorium in the Low Countries for 200 copies of the Seven Penitential Psalms, 200 copies of Cato's *Disticha* in Flemish, and 400 copies of a small prayer book.[30] Such an order implies true mass production and the development of the production line approach in which different workers consistently and repetitiously labored at specific tasks, perhaps even dividing the types of labor on a single book between different shops. Thus the textual scribes would be in one shop, each scribe repetitiously working on a quire or section of the same book. The rubricators might be in another shop, the illuminators in another, and so forth.



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# Events



**Labor Day Weekend: Imperial Crown War**

**West:** Featherly Park (Anaheim, CA)

**Southeast:** CANCELLED

**Northeast:** Flax Scutching Grounds, (Stahlstown, PA)

**First weekend of September: Deadline for Imperial Agenda Items**

**First weekend of November: Imperial Estates Meeting**

Holiday Inn Select (Hotel Circle So) San Diego, CA

**First weekend of November: Imperial Coronation/Jubilee**

Holiday Inn Select (Hotel Circle So) San Diego, CA



*His Grace Sir Johan "Warhammer" von Hohenstaufen,  
Seventh Earl of Terre Neuve, etc., etc.,  
Photo taken at TN Fire Feast, by Sir Gunther the Grey*

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