

The Skein

Wherein are Wound the Jararvellir Jarns



The Skein
Paul Goldschmidt
5625 Highland Way
Middleton WI 53562



July 2006 A.S. XLI

**Baroness:**

Her Excellency Eithni ingen Talorgan (Jean Hetzel) 4934 Goldfinch Dr, Madison WI 53714, 628-7782, 226-0846, baronesseithni@yahoo.com

Baronial Officers



Archery Captain Co-Captains: Lady Sirona (*Vicki Stekly*) 241-7534, berkana@execpc.com; Lady Jois Corbet (*Deena Thompson*) 226-0846, corvusjoyous@gmail.com



Chatelaine: Lady Alienor Hathaway (*Mariessa Dobrick*) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com



Chirurgion: Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreasen*) 446-6438, tskrangsangel@lycos.com



Chronicler: Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-6891 goldschp@tds.net

Demo Coordinator: Reinholdt von Trolenhagen (*Mark Doyle*) 338-5895/825-5621, mark.doyle@win-na.com

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Exchequer: Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreasen*) 446-6438, tskrangsangel@lycos.com

Historian: H.E. Adrien de Troyes (*Chris Olson*) 249-6382, detroyes@hotmail.com



Knight Marshal: Stephen du Bois (*Stephen Ward*) 886-3909 sward1@chartermi.net



Minister of Arts & Sciences: Roisin igen Ailill (*Rebecca Heidelberg*) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com



Pursuivant: Reinholdt von Trolenhagen (*Mark Doyle*) 338-5895/825-5621, mark.doyle@win-na.com

Rapier Marshal: Rosa de la Mer



Seneschal: Robert the Stout (*Robert Trefz*) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

UW Reservations: Heinrich von Stuttgart (*Andrew Shallue*) 259-9427, shallue@math.wisc.edu



Web Minister: Osyth Scopesdohr (*Genevieve Gorman*) 345-7596, webminister@jararvellir.org

Baronial Mailing Address: PO Box 1002, Madison WI 53701-1002

Baronial Web Page: <http://www.jararvellir.org>

Baronial Email list: jararvellir@minstrel.com

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Submissions & Subscriptions: Subscriptions for 2006 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year = \$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

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Canton of Coille Stoirmeil

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)

<http://home.centurytel.net/cantons/>

Seneschal: Seonag Srensdatter (Sue E Schwall)

112 E Monowau St, Tomah WI 54660

goddess_b@msn.com, (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: 1pm on 1st Sunday at the Nest in Tomah

Outpost of Wulfhomm

(Monroe and surrounding area, WI)

Seneschal: Michaeus O'Ciaragain (Michael T Combs)

PO Box 259938, Madison WI 53725-9938

stmike7@yahoo.com, (608) 235-2293

For more information contact through the group's
listserv: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Canton_of_Wolfhome

Baronial Meetings, Guilds, and Contacts

Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!

Archery Practice UW Stock Pavilion Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-9PM.

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 628-7782, Lady Sirona (Vicki) 241-7534

Armoured Combat UW Stock Pavilion Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM

Contact: Stephen du Bois (*Stephen Ward*) sward1@chartermi.net

Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

Bardic Night: 4th Sun, of month, 6-8PM, Escape Java Joint, 916 Williamson St

Contact Ingrid the Crafty (Ingrid Stark) 249-8795, ingridthecrafty@yahoo.com; or

Reinholdt von Trollenhagen (*Mark Doyle*) 338-5895, mark.doyle@win-na.com

Brewing & Vintning 3rd Monday. Various locations (call for info)

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM at Eile's

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

Clothier's Guild 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7PM. Contact for location.

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebecca Turner) 628-7638, rturner@library.wisc.edu

Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM Contact for location

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008,

cianna@silverdragonenterprises.com

Equestrian (not currently active but information available)

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433,

alissende@centurytel.net

European Dance Sundays 3PM. UW Campus—check TTTU for room.

Contact: Lady Thea

Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 17 Vinje Ct.

Contact: Lady Jois Corbet (Deena Thompson) 221-1061

Fool's Guild Alternate Wednesday 6:30PMish, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,

Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.

Contact: Lady Marian Elizabeth Wollenschlager (Mary Hoffman) 846-0859

Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.

UW Campus—Check TTTU

Contact: Lord Heinrich von Stuttgart (Andrew Shallue) 251-1849

Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming Wednesday 8:15pm, UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30. Call for location

Contact: Ivan (John Beebe) 298-0918

Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Don Mateo Montero de Madrid (Andrew Heinrich) 442-0247,

Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish Irish Waters on University Ave

Contact: HE Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

Thrown Weapons 1st and 3rd (after brunch) Sundays Noon, 2nd Wednesdays 7PM, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: Michaelus O'Ciaragain (Michael T Combs) 235-2293

Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM UW Campus—Check TTTU

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

July 2006

Directory of Baronial Officers	2
Table of Contents	3
General Meeting Minutes	4-6
Epistle from the Baroness	7
Baronial Transition	8
The Anti-Calendar	9-11
Dear Trystan	11-13
Fool's Moot	14
Warriors and Warlords	15-16
Events	16
Local News	17
Meetings, Guilds, and Contacts	18
Legalese and Such	19
Canton Information	19

July General Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Alienor Hathaway, Reinholdt von Trollenhagen, Eithni ingen Talorgain, Marian Elizabeth Wollenschlager, Nikolaus der Auslander, Iohanna, Michaeus, Robert the Stout, Chiere Nicole de Brienne, Aleksandre Dmitriovich Volochev

Wulfhomm (Michaeus) - the Balloon Rally demo went well, the Bard of Wulfhomm competition was postponed due to low attendance and rain.

Clothiers' Guild (Iohanna) - things are going strong with people working on camp clothes, WW, pirate coats, and other projects.

Music Guild (Nikolaus) - practicing for the WW dance ball. They recently performed at Heinrich and Heregyth's wedding, with the assistance of some Nordskogen folk.

Marian - wondering about Coronation bid. Robert will return to that in the Seneschal's report.

Baroness (Eithni) - Wulfhomm demo/TW: At the Wulfhomm demo a new TW champion was selected - congratulations to John Bartholomew of Flanders, aka Jack! **WW:** Remember to volunteer lots at WW! **KWCS:** There is currently no bid to host the Knowne World Costuming Symposium - an event well beloved by many in the Barony's populace. Eithni would like to pursue a bid for late fall/early winter, possibly at Edgewood College. There was consensus among those present that the Barony would be interested in hosting the event. She will be bringing a completed bid to the August General Meeting.

Stock Pavilion (Reinholdt) - there is currently nothing scheduled on the Stock Pavilion calendar for September. Reinholdt will be looking into demo and alternate practice sites after WW.

Pursuivant (Reinholdt) - There were 14 submissions from

Local News

Stock Pavilion Schedule

The Stock Pavilion Schedule has been published through September. We have our accustomed dates and times (Wed 6-10PM, Sun Noon-4PM) for May, June & July.

At present, we are NOT reserved for any dates in September, due to the floor resurfacing. The official schedule can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

Jararvellir Artillery Brunch

Sunday, July 16 at 10:30am

You are invited to attend the July Archers' BBQ. We'll provide the hot coals and condiments, bring a grillable item for yourself. We'll be ready to cook at 10:45. Feel free to provide something else for people to munch on, though it's not required. And now that we are picnicking, please bring your own feastware. We will be meeting at **Hoyt Park** for the BBQ, then retiring to the Stock Pavilion at noon for archery and thrown weapons practices. Loaner equipment is available. Archery practice begins at noon at the Stock Pavilion. We will be trying a novelty shoot called the mentoring shoot. Thrown Weapons will also be set up starting around noon.

Directions to Hoyt Park:

From the east side of town--take your best route to Regent St. Head west on Regent, keep going past West High School and the cemeteries. Continue on Regent, it will take you into Hoyt Park. Across from the scenic overlook you will see stone BBQ grills scattered on the lawn, we'll be at one of them. Parking is available at the overlook, otherwise it can be found just after Hoyt School on your right as you enter the park.

From the west side of town--take your best route to Midvale Blvd. Turn onto Hillcrest, located halfway between the Mineral Point and Regent intersections. Go several blocks on Hillcrest and turn left onto Owen Parkway (note that you will pass Owen Dr. along the way). Owen Parkway will take you up into Hoyt Park and turn into Regent St. Look for the lawn with stone BBQ's on your right and the scenic pullout on your left.

Questions? Contact Sol (233 5433 or fula_chris@yahoo.com)

Baronial Bardic Competition at WW!

At WW, Baroness Eithni will choose her new Bardic Champion at the Friday night Bardic Circle, after the Baronial Open House. The Jararvellir Baronial Bardic Championship is open to all interested performers, regardless of residency. The Baronial Champion will, however, be chosen at Her Excellency's whim from the Jararvellir entrants.

The theme will be: Songs in celebration of Times, People, or Events that have provided inspiration.

Events

Out and About

For more information visit the individual group's website (easily accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/events/>).

August 2006

4-6—**Poor Man's Pennsic**, Falcon's Keep (Pittsville WI)
4-20—**Pennsic War** (Slippery Rock PA)

September 2006

1-3—**Autumn Rose**, Rokeclif (Galesville WI)
1-3—**Middle Kingdom Academy of Defense**, Ravenslake (Lakemoor IL)
29-1—**Siege the Day Again**, Shattered Oak (Hixton WI)

30—**Baronial Championships & Michaelmas Court**, Caer Antherth Mawr (Menomonee Falls WI)

October 2006

7 —**Day of Arbeau**, Rockwall (Janesville WI)

December 2006

9—**Boar's Head**, Caer Antherth Mawr (West Bend WI)

February 2007

3—**An Artful Haire Affaire**, Falcon's Keep (Marshfield WI)

Jararvellir in the last Herald's letter!

Chatelaine (Alienor) - She would like to step down in November and is announcing that she is looking for a successor. She is also planning a fall Newcomers' Revel, with Chiere Nichole as an assistant.

Fools (Alienor) - Faris has gotten a job that means he may not be at the Fools' Moot and so Roiberd is taking over as Fool-o-crat and they are auditioning for a replacement for Faris' roles.

Choir (Alienor) - they are working on material for WW and the Fool's Moot.

Chiere Nichole - would like to develop Newcomers loaner feast gear. She is given \$30 and the lost and found feast gear from the storage locker with which to start. She is instructed to ask for more money as the loaner gear "disappears" as it often happens.

Spring Crown Tourney 2007 bid (Robert for Josceline) - an amended bid was presented and approved by the Barony. Site: Mandt Center, Stoughton. Finances: 200 people x \$5 site fee = break even point. The bid will be discussed at the next Stallari meeting.

Seneschal (Robert) - *Baronial transition*: There are two candidates for the Baronial high seat: Eithni ingen Talorgain and Fly-Fornication Barbon (a late 16th c. strict Puritan who looks a lot like, but is of course not in fact, John Chandler of Greyfeather. House Greyfeather disavows all knowledge of FFB.) There was a discussion about how to proceed when one of the candidates is a "joke" candidate, but technically is an eligible candidate who submitted a valid letter of intent. The consensus was that the Barony cannot decide which letters of intent are "serious" and we will proceed with the process, sense of humor firmly in hand. There will be a September meet the candidates moot, date and location TBA. The recommendation was for a midday weekend moot to allow members from the Cantons to attend, if they so

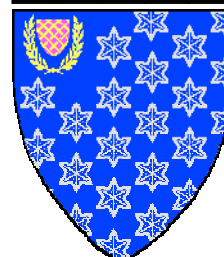
desire. Michaeus will talk to Wulfhomm, but he suspected that the paid members would travel to Jara and not require a separate meet and greet in the Outpost. Michaeus will report back to the Seneschal and Robert will also discuss the local meet and greet option with the Canton of Coille Stoirmeil. Polls will be distributed in early September and be due by October 6th. Biographies of the candidates will be published in the September Skein and so will be due to the Chronicler before the September general Meeting, which will in fact be in late August. From this point out, Lady Alexandra der Wasserman will be taking a more active role in mediating the process.



Middle Eastern Dance Changing Location!

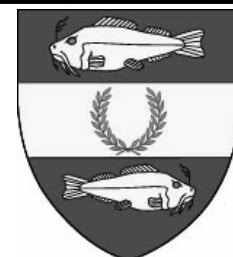
For anyone interested in Middle Eastern Dance - we have returned to the UW Stock Pavilion! Our current location closes early over the Summer, so for at least the Summer months we will be at the UW Stock Pavilion Wednesday evenings. Kenya has a meeting before dance but can generally get over to the Pavilion by 8:15pm - so that's our start time.

Warriors and Warlords



Warriors and Warlords XIII

July 6-9, 2006



Nordskogen Autocrat
Rosanore of Redthorn
(Susan G. Henry)
258 South Griggs St
Saint Paul, MN 55105
651-699-0714

Jararvellir Autocrat
Seraphina de La Warr
(Rebecca Hotynski)
4723 Star Spangled Trl
Madison, WI 53718
608-467-8262

autocrats@warriorsandwarlords.org

Site: NCN North Campground
N8390 Hwy 12, Black River Falls, WI 54615

Directions: From I-94, take Exit 115 and go North on Hwy 12 & 27 about 4.5 miles. The site is on the Right side if the road.

Site is open: 9 am Thurs - 1 pm Sun.
Non-member surcharge of \$3 will apply to those without proof of membership.

SITE FEES Site fees change at 4am	Arrival		
	Thur	Fri	Sat
Adult—Non-Pre-Reg	\$28	\$24	\$17
Minor (ages 6-18)	Half of Adult Fees		
Children age <5	FREE		

All adults **must** bring a valid state driver's license/photo id.

Alcohol policy: Alcohol is allowed. Legal drinking age in WI is 21. Be prepared to be carded. More info on this policy and on other site rules is at:
<http://www.warriorsandwarlords.org/rules.html>

www.warriorsandwarlords.org

Fool's Moot

July 23, 2006
Site opens 5pm
Edgewood College

The Fool's Guild invites anyone with a sense of humor (i.e., all SCA folk) to the Fool's Moot on July 23rd at Edgewood College. We will be providing an evening of foolery for the warriors of Jaravellir before they undertake the *dangers at Pennsic*. Because life is short, the potluck is desserts (or finger-food) only.

The warriors and their supporters can enjoy silliness from the Fool's as well as other performances including an open stage. Anyone with a silly story or amusing song is welcome to share his or her talents during the open stage. Any guilds interested in performing are welcome to contact Sarah the Fool (Berzerker.prime@gmail.com or leave a message at 608-215-1407).

There will also be a tacky garb contest, an A&S contest (humorous themed), and an anti-raffle. The anti-raffle has items that are not normally appreciated as gifts, and tickets are bought to put someone else's name in for the item (It's always better to give than receive). Items donated to the anti-raffle are appreciated (contact Alienor to donate).

Site opens at 5pm, and monetary donations at the door are appreciated. Be warned that the Fool's might not have all of their marbles.

Eat dessert first!

Epistle from the Baroness

Greetings unto the Populace of Jaravellir from Baroness Eithni ingen Talorgain!

I write to you on the eve of Warriors and Warlords XIII, so I know many of you are hard at work sewing, armoring, preparing class notes, packing, or any one of an infinite number of preparatory activities. I know my next few days will certainly be a flurry of sewing and like activities! There is always so much to see and do at WW—classes, shopping, battles, competitions, courts, concerts, and more very quickly makes for a very full weekend!

But even with all those activities, I would like to remind you all that, (should you find time to read this missive before heading out to site,) remember to volunteer! There is an activity for everyone, so stop by Info Point to find out where and when willing hands are needed.

Once we all return from WW, it will be time to look to the future of the Barony. My term as Baroness will be over in December. While I am interested in serving the Barony again, I had wanted the Barony to have a choice and had encouraged any interested gentle or gentles to run with me in this transition process. I am happy to announce that one gentle has risen to the challenge and I would like to introduce Fly-Fornication Barbon. Mr Barbon is a late 16th c. strict Puritan (who looks a lot like, but is of course not in fact, John Chandler of Greyfeather). I look forward to some lively debated about the merits of many of our Baronial activities and traditions. I'm sure that the transition process will be a fun experience, and I hope you will all join me in enjoying the debates!

Yours in Fishy Service~
Eithni ingen Talorgain

Baronial Transition

The Barony of Jararvellir is in the process of the transition of the Baronage of Jararvellir. The transition process is designed to gather as much information for Their Majesties so that They may make the best decisions for the Barony and the Kingdom. It is in no way a majority vote process so please do not think that the ticket that gets the most votes will necessarily be who is chosen as the next Baronage. Their Majesties will use all the information They've collected, Their years of experience, and Their wisdom to make the best choice as they see fit.

It is my pleasure to introduce the candidates for the Barony of Jararvellir:

Eithni ingen Talorgian, the current Baroness of Jararvellir

Fly-Fornication Barbon, a late period English Puritan, who wishes to "celebrate the Middle Ages the way it was meant to be celebrated: without the scourges of alcohol, music, and dancing."

Due to the limited number of candidates, we will not hold an informal poll. In September, an external poll will be sent out to each member who lives within the borders of Jararvellir (membership based on zip code). The poll will be used to gather information both in the way of comments and numbers for Their Majesties and will be sent to the Transitions and New Groups (TANG) Deputy Seneschal. The results and gathered comments from this poll will be given only to HE Elashava, Northshield Seneschal, and the Royal Family, and will never be shared beyond that group. The deadline for receiving the polls will be October 6th

The Barony will hold a moot in September, to give the populace the chance to meet, and question the candidates before filling out their polls. The exact date of the moot is to be determined.

Additional details will be posted on line, and in the *Skein* as they come available. Thank you.

Robert The Stout

Seneschal, Barony of Jararvellir

his or her tongue. The length and nature of this engagement depends wholly upon the oral alacrity of the parties involved. A cunning recipient can prolong this exploration for several minutes, should they be so inclined. Less recommended: the pathetic ploy of swallowing the clove. This is felt to be bad form and can leave one's admirer confused, exhausted and severely chapped.

- 5) Finally, upon the ritual's completion, it is traditional for the fruit to change hands. This initiates a chain of debauchery of indeterminate length, as the fruit retains its potency until either all the cloves are exhausted or it lands in the possession of one who fails to pass it on (for whatever reason: too shy, too drunk, devours it to alleviate scurvy).

Given these guidelines, your past experiences could simply reflect ignorance of the proper protocols on the part of either yourself or, perhaps, each of those nine young lords you spoke of. In the future, you might benefit by quizzing those who offer you cloven fruit on the details of the ritual presented above (much like a marshal grilling an authorizing fighter). You will thus weed out the ignorant and the overzealous, not to mention any worthless varlets who fail to religiously read this my column.

In Service ~

**His honorable Lordship Trystan der
Facheltreager, Thee Most Wycked Sheriff of
Jararvellir**

(Who, as it happens, hasn't received a cloven fruit since the watermelon incident. Isn't it time we put that behind us, ladies? Forgiveness IS a virtue...)

Do you have a question for Trystan? Or maybe a cloven citrus fruit? Send it to him c/o the Chronicler (Paul Goldschmidt, 5625 Highland Way, Middleton WI 53562, chronicler@jararvellir.org).

perhaps other valuable ornamentations) was presented as a proposal of marriage, the expense of the decorations proving that the suitor was no beggar and had the wherewithal to support his chosen lady. This practice has waned and been replaced by an endeavor that is less legally-binding, now that the price of cloves is within the financial reach of every slack-jawed, would-be osculator with two groats to rub together.

The ritual itself is founded on the fact that after a feast everyone's breath smells of cabbage, overcooked onions and whatever medley of spices those using the kitchen previously left behind in the cupboards. Wed this to period dental practice and a touch of "freshening" is inarguably called for. A clove, plucked from a fragrant fruit and rolled about upon the tongue seems just the thing.

The tradition of the cloven fruit (with all its dyverse elements):

- 1) A flirtatious reveler initiates the ritual by offering an appropriately cloven fruit to one whom they find attractive, all the while endeavoring to keep any traces of a leer or smirk from marring their carefully prepared "earnest demeanor".
- 2) The gentle offered the fruit may accept and offer in return a hand, a cheek, or their lips.

Note: Offering of the hand shall be roughly translated as "Thank you for this fine fruit; now prithe skulk back to your bog, thou objectionable and malodorous troglodyte". The offer of the cheek may be translated in more or less the same way as the offering the hand, excepting only that the person in question does not credit the germ theory of disease. The offer of the lips can be translated in a number of ways, however, possibilities ranging from "You are fair, come hither" to "I am drunk and my eyesight passing poor" to "I am bored and want to see what my husband the Duke will do to you."

- 3) In the event that the lips are offered, the one who proffered the fruit proceeds under the conceit that they are merely checking to see if the clove has had the desired freshening effect. They advance to claim their prize, lips a-pucker.
- 4) In a decent and god-fearing world, this is where things would end, but, of course, this is the SCA so attend- when the clove has passed across the tongue once or twice, its further treatment serves as a discreet, coded instruction to our romantically inclined fruit-monger. If the clove is removed by hand prior to the kiss, one should expect an abbreviated smooch. If the clove is clenched visibly between the teeth then this is a signal that the tongue shall venture no further than this pearly (and incisive) barrier. If, however, the clove is retained within the mouth, then it serves as an invitation for the kisser to playfully try to retrieve the clove with

The Anti-Calendar

(A listing of events that have already happened)

Compiled by Reinholdt von Trollenhagen

- July 1, 1097 - The Battle of Dorylaeum. This long and bloody battle of the First Crusade began in the early hours with a surprise attack on Norman Crusaders by the Turks.
- July 2, 1578 - Martin Frobisher sights Baffin Island.
- July 4, 1187 - The Battle of Hattin. The defeat of the Christian Crusaders by Saladin in this decisive battle paved the way for the Muslim reconquest of the city of Jerusalem.
- 1584 - Sir Walter Raleigh first sees the coast of North Carolina
- July 5, 987 - Hugh Capet crowned. The first Capetian king, Hugh built up a power base that rivaled that of the last Carolingian king, Lothair. He was elected king of France in May by an assembly of Frankish lords, who became convinced that Lothair's heir Charles was unfit to rule. Deeming the crown elective rather than hereditary, they crowned Hugh at Noyon on July 5, 987. Hugh Capet was the first of the Capetian dynasty which ruled France for 800 years.
- July 6, 1253 - Mindaugas is crowned king of Lithuania.
- 1483 - Richard III is crowned king of England.
- July 7, 1534 - European colonization of the Americas: First known exchange between Europeans and natives of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in New Brunswick.
- 1543 - French troops invade Luxembourg.
- July 8, 1099 - First Crusade: 15,000 starving Christian soldiers march in religious procession around Jerusalem as its Muslim defenders mock them.
- 1497 - Vasco da Gama sets sail on first direct European voyage to India.
- July 9, 1540 - Henry VIII of England annulled his marriage to his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves.
- 1541 - Estevão da Gama departs Massawa, leaving behind 400 matchlockmen and 150 slaves under his brother Christovão da Gama, with orders to assist the Emperor of Ethiopia defeat Ahmad ibn Ibrihim al-Ghazi who has invaded his Empire.
- July 10, 1460 - Battle of Northampton. Yorkist forces led by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, were victorious at this battle in which they captured King Henry VI.
- July 11, 1346 - Charles IV of Luxembourg elected emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
- 1576 - Martin Frobisher sights Greenland.
- July 12, 1543 - King Henry VIII of England married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr at Hampton Court Palace.

July 13, 1174 - William the Lion of Scotland, a key rebel in the Revolt of 1173-1174, was captured at Alnwick by forces loyal to Henry II of England.

1573 - Eighty Years' War: The Siege of Haarlem ends after seven months.

July 14, 1223 - In France, Louis VIII becomes King of France upon the death of his father, Philip II of France.

July 15, 1099 - First Crusade: Christian soldiers take Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem after a difficult siege.

1240 - Battle of the Neva. Because of recent Mongol incursions into Russia, Earl Birger of the Swedes calculated that Novgorod would lack military support from other Russian cities. He landed a force at the mouth of the Neva river in an attempt to block Novgorod's access to the Baltic Sea. Prince Alexander Yaroslavich led an army against the Swedes and destroyed most of the army, a victory for which he was given the name Alexander Nevsky.

July 16, 1054: West excommunicates East. As the papacy sought to enhance its power in the west, it enforced Latin customs upon Greeks in southern Italy. In response, Latin churches in Constantinople were closed by the patriarch, Michael Cerularius. When Cardinal Humbert came to Constantinople to protest he was not welcomed warmly, and accordingly he left a bull excommunicating Michael Cerularius on the altar of the Hagia Sophia. This event, while minor at the time, is seen as the final split between the two Churches.

July 17, 1203 - Fourth Crusade captures Constantinople by assault; the Byzantine emperor Alexius III Angelus flees from his capital into exile.

1453 - Hundred Years' War: The French under Jean Bureau utterly defeat the English under the Earl of Shrewsbury, who is killed in the Battle of Castillon at Gascony

July 18, 1195 - Battle of Alarcos, great victory of Almohad ruler Abu Yusuf Ya'qub al-Mansur over the Castilian King Alfonso VIII

July 19, 711 - Muslim forces under Tariq ibn Ziyad defeat the Visigoths led by their king Roderic.

1544 - The Siege of Boulogne began.

July 21, 1403 - Battle of Shrewsbury: King Henry IV of England defeats rebels to the north of the county town of Shropshire, England

July 22, 1298 - The Battle of Falkirk. In this battle, William Wallace used extra-long spears to work against mounted soldiers, and King Edward I reinforced his cavalry with numerous archers.

1502 - Amerigo Vespucci returns from second voyage.

July 24, 1487 - Citizens of Leeuwarden, Netherlands strike against ban on foreign beer

1534 - French explorer Jacques Cartier planted a cross on the Gaspé Peninsula and took possession of the territory in the name of the King Francis I of France.

July 25, 1547 - Henry II (France) crowned

1567 - Don Diego de Losada founds the city of Santiago de Leon de Caracas, modern-day Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela.

July 26, 811: Battle of Pliska. After laying siege to the Byzantines the entire night, the Battle of Pliska began. King Krum of Bulgaria had been raiding the territory of Byzantine emperor, Nicephorus I since 808. Finally Nicephorus had enough of Krum's expansionist raids, and assembled 70,000 men to deal with Krum permanently. For a while, he had Krum on the run, and even burned down Krum's palace in Pliska. While Krum retreated to regroup, Nicephorus slew women, children and old people, burned the capital, and then arrogantly proceeded down the Vurbitsa pass, a steep valley north of Pliska. Krum seized his moment, and, with vastly inferior numbers, besieged the Byzantines. In the morning, the battle began. After a three-day stand-off, the Bulgars swept into the valley and massacred the demoralized Byzantines. Nicephorus's skull was mounted in silver and used by Krum as a drinking cup.

July 27, 1549 - Jesuit priest Francis Xavier's ship arrives in Kagoshima, Japan.

July 28, 1493 - Great fire in Moscow

July 29, 1030 - King Olaf II fights and dies in the Battle of Stiklestad, trying to regain his Norwegian throne from the Danes.

1567 - James VI is crowned King of Scotland at Stirling.

July 31, 1423 - Hundred Years War: Battle of Cravant - The French army is defeated at Cravant on the banks of the river Yonne.

1588 - The Spanish Armada is spotted off the coast of England.

Dear Trystan

Dear Trystan,

Sometimes at events or revels, I see cloven fruit making the rounds. When this happens, sooner or later a young man will offer one to me. Not wishing to be a spoilsport, I usually accept. Nine times out of ten, the young man will kiss me as if he is performing an emergency tonsillectomy. Do lords in the SCA believe they should use their tongue before they use their lips? Are ladies supposed to enjoy this?

—Appalled Newbie

Dear Appalled Newbie,

I see that it is time to illuminate the tradition of the cloven fruit so that all might comprehend its complicated rituals. It is said that in earlier times the gift of a citrus fruit studded with rare and expensive cloves (and