



# TRAOEAMOS

ISSUE 1 SPRING 2008

## THE NEWSLETTER FOR ORLOVA DOLINA



### The Herald's Call: Announcements

- We meet twice a month on Sundays. At the time of publication we have not picked a single meeting location, so in the meantime keep an eye on the mailing list or [www.orlovaldolina.com](http://www.orlovaldolina.com) for locations and times. One meeting a month is a business meeting, all are welcome to attend but officers *must* attend. The other meeting each month is a Moot, involving activities and the participation of the membership as a whole. Watch the website for more.
- ATTENTION FIGHTERS: Frederick de Fulbert of Blachmere is leading us towards our goal of being a fighting land. Sometime in the next month, on a Sunday, he and an arranged cadre of marshals will be coming to train us and help see that we have certified fighters as well as a Marshal in Training as quickly as possible. You will need a weapon, but he will be bringing loaner armor for us to practice in. More information will be available on [orlovaldolina.com](http://orlovaldolina.com) regarding this event.

- A special thank you to Anne, Mike and Hans from *Brigid's Cross* for allowing us the use of their wonderful pub for our first event.
- Another hearty thank you goes out to *Harmony Food Coop* for their donation to our first feast.
- We wish to thank our sponsoring Shire, Vilku Urvas, for all their help and hard work in making our first event such a success. Huzzah!
- Armoring nights will now resume and continue as schedule and weather allow through the summer; see the website for more information from week to week to be mindful of any cancellations or special time considerations.
- We have an offering of free peacock feathers to the citizens of our fair land from the charitable Grant (persona name pending at the time of publication). If you are interested, contact him at 218-333-1337.
- Orlova Dolina would like to congratulate Adorabelle on the birth of our newest citizen, *Addyson Teraesa Rose Grapevine*, born on February 20, 2008. Welcome to the village, little one!
- The Brewer and Vintner special interest group is formed and active! Arondel is the group coordinator. If you want to learn more about what this group doing, or get involved, contact Arondel at 218-751-1756.
- For the month of March, our business meeting will be on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and our Moot will be on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. See the website for more information about these meetings and others in the coming weeks.



# FROM THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

The following are letters from the council of Orlova Dolina addressed to the populace. If you have any questions for these officers, please seek out their contact information at [orlovadolina.com](http://orlovadolina.com) and you will find them quite eager to assist you.



Greeting Good Gentles All!!

Hail and Well Met; Welcome to the forming land of Orlova Dolina.

Ten short months ago the first meeting for the unnamed SCA-land known mundanely as Bemidji was held. Brilliant gold and green posters announced the gathering, personal in-person and telephonic invitations insured at least a few persons would be in attendance. From that humble start the blossoming land now known as Orlova Dolina came forth. Four months later we had participated in two demos and one event, all held by our sponsors and guiding group, Vilku Urvas (Hibbing). Five months into our existence we had a website, a device designed and researched, and were laying the groundwork for our greatest challenge to date—an event of our own. Nine months after our initial gathering we faced our public debut, the presentation of our inaugural event, Brigid's Fyre. With a recorded attendance of 106 guests, excellent reviews, and post event rave reviews, it is safe to say our debut was a success.

There was an enormous amount of discussion, brain-storming, and planning that went into bringing the concept of Brigid's Fyre from idea to fruition. Recipes were found and tested, toys and games researched and made, garb sewn (60 loaner tabards!!), posters, ads and announcements strewn across the land, personal garb created, equipment built, facility use negotiated, a bountiful feast prepared and, most challenging of all—a time

portal generated at the door of Brigid's Cross Irish Pub.

The effort and work that went into this moment, coupled with generous media coverage (an unprecedented gift of a full color front page article and two live radio interviews) and gracious guidance from our site host all came together to create a superb event.

What was wrought was a labor from all; no one person could have created this without everyone else, and no one contribution was insignificant. You, the people of Orlova Dolina have created something to take deep satisfaction and pride in—a dynamic, welcoming, inclusive land where all hands work together. Watsu Orlova Dolina!!!!

And now, as we move forward, we welcome new members to our populace, celebrating the gifts they bring of their enthusiasm, knowledge and experience. Special interest groups are edging ever close to becoming guilds; the fighters gather their weapons and armor, preparing for diligent practice; brewers and vintners have put up their first batch of meade; and the chronicler gleans articles from all for the first edition of our newsletter.

As winter loosens its grip on the land, Orlova Dolina moves into her next phase of growth; Spring will see many opportunities for Orlova Dolina to grow and continue to weave a vibrant SCA-community. We will have many opportunities to travel to other lands, learning from and meeting our neighbors. Spring will see the planning and preparation for our Summer's end/Autumn's start event take off, our moots will move outdoors (weather permitting!) and our presence will continue to grow, taking our place both within the SCA and the tableau of the mundane lands of Northwest Minnesota.

Again—Watsu Orlova Dolina!! You all deserve great credit for your diligence and work; may we as a land continue to grow and blossom in all aspects of our community.

*Gav je Hajduk,  
Seneschal  
Orlova Dolina*



## EXCHEQUER

Hi! I'm Adorabelle! I'm the exchequer for Orlova Dolina, which means I handle the money for the land. There's not much to say about this as we are just getting started. If you ever have any questions regarding financial information, feel free to contact me at (218) 444-7586 or [lrgrapevine@yahoo.com](mailto:lrgrapevine@yahoo.com).

*Adorabelle*



## MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Hi. I'm Laura Butler, aka Arnliel Faelyn, current Minister of Arts and Sciences for the Village of Orlova Dolina. That means I get to poke my nose into every project that involves making something to be sure it is period appropriate. I have lots of books I can bring on request. Costuming, beekeeping, painting, paper-making, arms and armor, tactics, candle-making, wine-making, brewing, hide tanning, and several herb books to name some. I am more than willing to assist in others learning these things too (not that I'm expert) by arrangement. Call my home phone after 4pm except Tuesdays to speak to me. (218) 835-8279.

*Laura Butler*

*Minister of Arts and Sciences  
Village of Orlova Dolina*



## HERALD

Hey! Hey! We're the Heralds! Enion ap Trahearne is the Herald and Aelfwin vrec Enion is the Deputy Herald. Remember, behind every great Herald is his wife. If you need any information regarding heraldry, persona creation or device and name registration, give us a call at either 218-444-7586 or 218-694-3684. We also have email; Enion's is [gryphonhb@care2.com](mailto:gryphonhb@care2.com) and Aelfwin's is [wynyard@wildmail.com](mailto:wynyard@wildmail.com). We look forward to

hearing from you!

*Aelfwin and Enion*



## CHRONICLER

As spring comes, and the snows melt, it is great to see Orlova Dolina so prosperous. Our ranks have grown, our first event us under our belt, and already our plans are beginning to come together for what comes next.

You are now reading a good deal of what the office of the Chronicler is responsible for. The primary focus of this office is the publication of the newsletter, and it is an important part of a land's growth and promotion within the SCA.

This fledgling issue is meant as an introduction to our land, and a taste of what I hope the newsletter can grow into. To that end there are a couple of points I want to stress.

This newsletter is not my newsletter, it is *ours*. I am simply the person responsible for publishing it, which means in short, I need writers. I would love to have people come forward with their ideas for the newsletter, and would love to have writers of articles on any topic related to either Orlova Dolina, or the SCA as a whole.

I would also like to hear any criticism you might have, as it takes input from all members of the land to make a newsletter successful.

Initially, this will be a quarterly letter, so that gives you a couple of months to send me articles, letters, or even ideas.

Remember, this is *our* land, and *our* newsletter. Let's make it something memorable.

*In Service,*

*Brynjolfr Hrafnsson*





*A modern map of Dalmatia*

## Dalmatia Through The Middle Ages: A Brief Overview

by Malhora Dell'Mare

Despite constant changes in ruling nations and influences, Dalmatia managed to remain an entity defined by a common culture and settlement types and unified by common Mediterranean climate and vegetation. The actual size of Dalmatia changed through history but it has always incorporated the concordant coastline of the northeastern Adriatic Sea. Today, it is the only remaining land called Dalmatia and it is located in the south of the Republic of Croatia.

The history of Dalmatia began when a tribe, after which the land was named, declared independence from Illyrian king Gentius and formed a republic. In 156 BC, the country was attacked by Romans for the first time and compelled to pay tribute, but it wasn't until AD 9 that Dalmatia completely submitted to Rome and accepted Latin civilization. The fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 marked the beginning of reign of Gothic rulers Odoacer and Theodoric the Great. In 535, however, Justinian added Dalmatia to the Byzantine Empire.

The 7th century was marked by the migration of Slavs into Dalmatia, followed by hostilities between native communities of

Dalmatians and Celts and newly settled Slavs. Around that time, Dalmatia became known as the Principality of Dalmatia. In 806, the Principality was attached to Frankish Empire, but was returned to the Byzantium in 812. A few decades later, Dalmatian coast was raided by Saracens. In 850, Principality of Dalmatia became a Duchy and in 925 it was united with Croatia into a Kingdom.

The city-states of Dalmatia were protected by a well-developed shoreline, numerous islands, coves, and channels; a feature that made Dalmatia the prime interest of growing maritime power – Venice. A community of pirates developed in Dalmatia that robbed Venetian ships and fought Venetian attempts at conquering Dalmatia; they were so successful that for half a century Venice was paying tribute to these pirates to be left alone.

Because the last Croatian king died in 1097 without a male heir, the right to the throne was given to the king of Hungary (who was Croatian queen's brother). In 1102, however, the Kingdom of Croatia was forced into a personal union with Hungary, while Dalmatia had to be conquered to become a part of the said union. Venice still remained a threat; in 1202 the armies of the 4th Crusade occupied Dalmatian port city of Zara in exchange for the financial assistance from Venice.

In 1204, the same crusader army was persuaded by Venetian Doge Enrico Dandolo to attack the Christian city of Constantinople thus finally eliminating Byzantine Empire from the list of contenders for Dalmatian territory.

The Mongol invasion of Hungary in 1241 impaired that nation so much that King Bela IV had to take refuge in Dalmatia. After a few years of trying to conquer Dalmatia, the Mongols finally withdrew. Fighting between Hungary and Venice, aided by insurrections from Dalmatians, continued for the next few centuries with a new player eventually entering the arena – Naples. In 1409, Ladislaus of Naples sold his rights to Dalmatia to Venice for 100,000 ducats; for the same price Hungary recognized Venetian rule over Dalmatia in 1437.

Dalmatia remained under the rule of Venice for approximately four centuries with minor upsets by the Ottoman Empire. The final

overthrow of Hungary from Croatia in 1526, coupled with Venice withdrawing its troops from Dalmatia some fifteen years earlier for home defense, allowed the Turks to easily conquer Croatia and the majority of Dalmatia by 1537. The peace treaty of 1540 returned coastal cities to Venice. The instability of peace between Venice and the Ottoman Empire was perpetuated by the newly formed pirate community of Uskoks.

The current stability that Dalmatia has in the Republic of Croatia was preceded by political and cultural turmoil brought by Napoleon, the Hapsburg Monarchy, a couple of unions to create Yugoslavia, and two world wars. Those events, although very interesting, are beyond the scope of the Middle Ages and, as such will not be discussed.



## Resources for New Members

by Brynjolfr Hrafnsson

Orlova Dolina has had the privilege to welcome many new members in the past few months. To newcomers the SCA can, at times, seem a bit overwhelming. There is a persona to consider (where and when do you want to be from? What sort of person was he or she?), and garb, armor and weapons for those who wish to

fight, to say nothing of the wide variety of arts and sciences that may garner your interest; from textiles to cooking, to brewing and period camping, this short list barely touches the surface of what the Society has to offer.

So where does one begin the process of finding their niche(s) in the Society? Where does one turn in an effort to wander the maze of information and activities available?

To begin with, turn to your fellow villagers. Many of the citizens of Orlova Dolina have a wide variety of interests, ranging from armor to weaving and everything in between. Ask around and you will find a wealth of knowledge and people eager to share it. More specifically, turn to Arnliel, our Minister of Arts and Sciences. Her role in our land is to function as a clearing house of who knows what, link people with common interests, and help those who have questions about the arts and sciences find their answers.

Other officers are good information sources as well. If you seek to know more about fighting, talk to the Marshal (we hope to have one very soon). If you wish to know more about heraldry or registering your heraldic device with the SCA, then look for Enion or Aelfwin, our current Heralds. If you want to know about the governing structure of the SCA, then perhaps seek out Gav, our reigning Seneschal. Odds are, if the officer in question doesn't know, they can point you to one of our citizens who has the expertise in question.

The Internet. The very term conjures images of overflowing piles of data. And it *is* a wealth of information, but unfortunately, it is unfiltered. While it is enticing to simply enter a search term into Google and reap the rewards of more data than your brain can process in ten lifetimes, also keep in mind that there is a lot of *bad* information out there. There are sites that are more reputable than others, and many in Orlova Dolina can help you refine your use of internet searches by helping you steer clear of some of the poor information, and pointing you in the direction of the useful sites. The multitude of both SCA and sites with historical information can send the mind reeling, so use and enjoy what it has to offer, but take nothing for granted. For instance, you might use the internet to make a

rattan sword or a piece of armor, letting an online how-to guide instruct you. But that guide might come from a member of a kingdom whose safety standards are slightly different from the kingdom in which you reside. Double checking what you learn on the internet is a good way to save you heartache later on.

The SCA official publications are an excellent source to utilize. A complete list of them can be found at [www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org) and they can be purchased there. The forty years worth of printed material available can help you learn virtually anything you might wish to know about the SCA or activities therein. I personally have limited experience with them, but their subjects are wide ranging, and their reputation fairly solid.

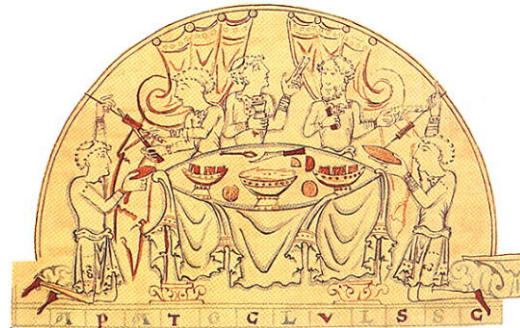
And finally, I bring up what most people would probably have expected to hear about first; books. I am mentioning books last for a reason. If there is one source more important than any other to me, it is books. They are as close as we get to a direct link to the past. If you really want to know how the Vikings thought, turn to their sagas. If you really wish to know what life was like during the Black Death, seek out one of the many journals that were kept in those darkest of times. While some information is harder to come by than others, books give us the closest thing we have to touching the past directly, which for many, is at the heart of what the SCA is all about. Some part of us want to reach out and touch times long past, to know what it was like to weave wool as an ancestor did, or to swing a sword in the lists of a grand tourney, and a book can help us bring that closer to our own modern middle ages..

In seeking out these books, look to your fellow villagers. Likely we have many well stocked libraries they may let you peruse (respect their books, however, and do not assume you will be able to borrow them). Also make use of the public library, as with interlibrary loan you have access to nearly all the library books in Minnesota. Finally, if your pockets are deep enough, scour the likes of Amazon.com and you will see countless volumes on the most obscure of topics available for purchase. There are also online bookstores such as Powell Books, which specialize in old and out of print books, of which it seems there are a good many that are excellent sources.

In the end, we can put as much or as little

of our energy as we like in our research. There is no right answer, or right amount of study. We are each in this for our own reasons—for some of us, research and learning about the past is our first and foremost reason, for others its secondary to other activities within the SCA, or time prohibitive due to our mundane responsibilities. But regardless of how much you enjoy researching, there is a certain reward in sharing that knowledge with your fellow villager.

Sharing this learned information can be every bit as fun as learning it yourself, and in the end, *fun* is the one reason we all have in common for joining the SCA.



This is the March, 2008, issue of the *Tradewinds* a publication of the Orlova Dolina branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *Tradewinds* is available from James Paulsen 49362 County 27, Solway, MN 56678. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright 2008 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.



And with that comes the end of our first newsletter. As spring yields to summer, please consider writing for the next issue, to be published on the first day of June.