

NOV. 2017

Wyrms & Words

Baronial Newsletter

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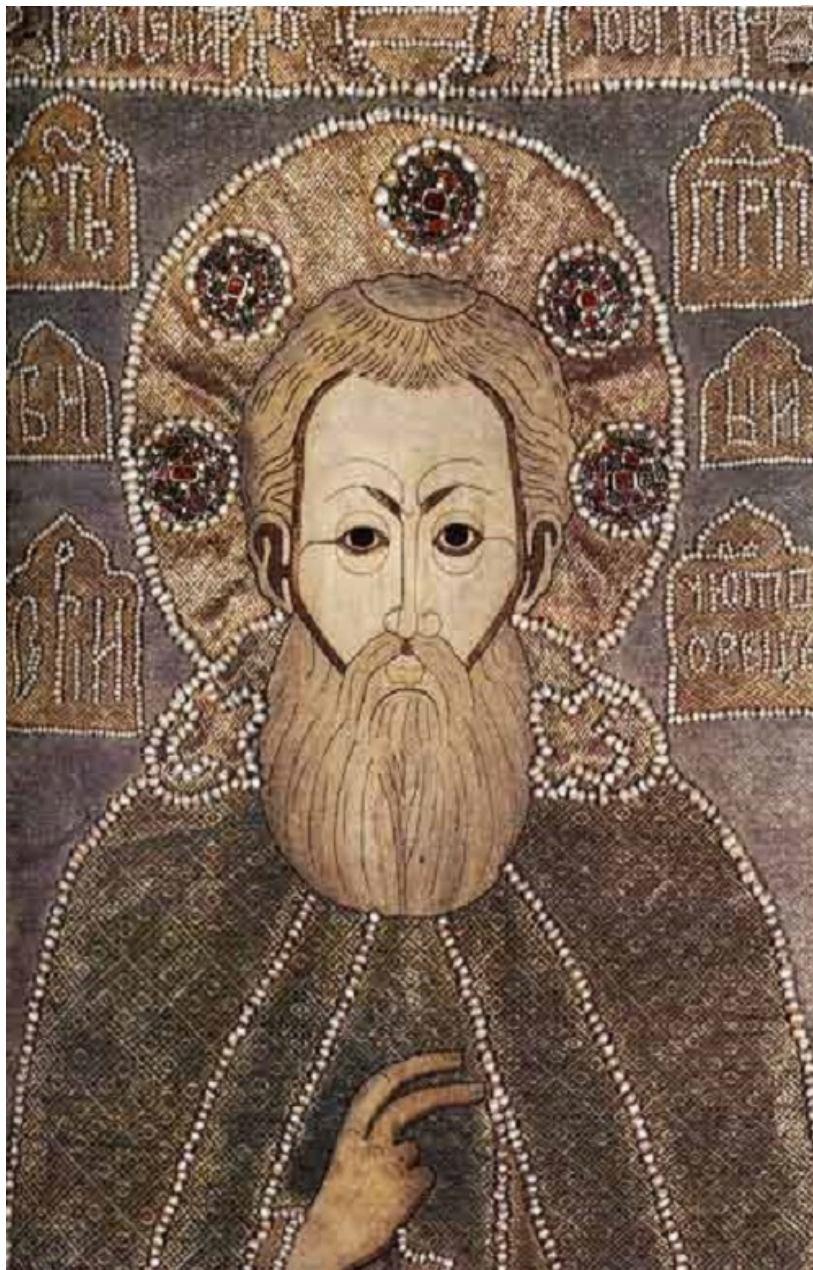
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Pratiques

Nos pratiques ont lieu toutes les semaines. Le droit d'admission est de **5,00 \$ par semaine** pour l'escrime et le combat de rotin. Le droit d'admission est de **5,00 \$ par semaine** pour le tir à l'arc et un supplément de **2,00 \$** si vous empruntez de l'équipement. Il n'y a aucuns frais pour les pratiques extérieures. Vous êtes tous les bienvenus!

À noter qu'il est également possible de s'inscrire pour des passes de saisons pour plusieurs activités. Informez-vous auprès du Seigneur Peter de Bracebridge pour plus de détails.

La location d'équipement : premier arrivé, premier servi. Veuillez communiquer avec l'officier en charge pour plus de détails. Vous devez avoir un support athlétique (Jockstrap) pour participer aux pratiques d'escrime et de combat lourd.

Fencing / Escrime

Mondays 7 pm to 10 pm / Lundi 19h à 22h
1090 Avenue Greene, Westmount, QC H3Z 1Z9

Archery / Tir à l'arc

Tuesdays 7 pm to 10 pm / Mardi 19h à 22h Wesley United Church
(basement / sous-sol) 5964 Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Blvd., Montreal

Fighting/Combat en armure

Mondays 7 pm to 10 pm / Lundi 20h à 21h30
1090 Avenue Greene, Westmount, QC H3Z 1Z9

EVENTS TO COME

100 Minutes War

Samedi 18 Novembre

Camp Sacajewea
844 White Lake Road,
Sparta NJ 07871

Noël Russe

Samedi le 9 Décembre,

Eglise St-Marcel
1630 boul. St-Jean-Baptiste,
Montreal, Quebec

Birka

26-27 Janvier
Radisson Hotel – Manchester
Downtown. 700 Elm St.
Manchester. New
Hampshire.

Les Beltaines

8 au 10 Juin
Duché de Bicolline.
Saint-mathieu-du-parc,
Québec

HERE WILL SOON BE YOUR VERY
OWN AWESOME PICTURE!

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHRONICLER
FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW TO SUBMIT
PICTURES FOR WYRM WORDS!

*in the meantime i will replace them with stick figures
drawn by our heavy fighters...you are warned*

HALLOWEEN, MEDIEVAL STYLE

by Lady Muireann ni Riordain, MOAS Ponte Alto, Silver Nautilus

(From "Il Tempo", October 1997)

Actually, the title of this article is something of a misnomer. Many of our modern Halloween customs have continued from the Middle Ages virtually unchanged. Activities that were practiced then are still carried on today, though the spiritual emphasis is no longer as important to us. All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, the two days following Halloween, are not as widely celebrated now, while in the Middle Ages they were just as or more important. In fact, during the Reformation, the feast of All Souls was removed from the Church calendar, since many of its activities were considered distinctly unChristian. It was placed back on the calendar in 1928; by that time the general feeling was that it was no longer a superstitious danger. Halloween has its origins in ancient Celtic culture. It was the end of the Celtic year, the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It was believed that on this night demons, witches and evil spirits roamed about, playing tricks on unsuspecting humans. One could avoid being the victim of such pranks by either offering sweets or other foods, or by disguising oneself as a demon and roaming the night alongside them. Hence, our modern custom of trick-or-treating in costume. The theory was that the demons would take the human for one of their own and not disturb him.

There is also a Roman influence on the holiday. The custom of eating apples, or giving them away, or bobbing for them stems from a celebration of the Roman goddess Pomona. Children still bob for apples by floating them in a large tub of water and attempting to grasp one with their teeth and pull it out. In the Middle Ages, it was a divination game. Each apple would be given the name of a potential lover, and the number of tries it took to bite the apple foretold how long the love would last. There is another, somewhat alarming in my opinion, tradition that did not survive, or at least not as widely, in which an apple was placed on one end of a stick, and a lighted candle on the other. The stick was spun about at the end of a string, and children standing in a circle had to try to grab the apple with their teeth as it went past. They were often splattered with flying wax and grease from the candle.

Other divination games were played on Halloween night. Nutcracking was very popular for this purpose. A couple soon to be married would place two whole walnuts or hazelnuts in the embers of a fire. When the nuts burst, if they make a loud crackling noise, it was considered a sign that the love between the couple would be strong. If the nuts only burned, that meant the love would soon fade and die. Guests at Halloween revels would crack walnuts to foretell their future. If the shells cracked cleanly and the halves remained whole, the person would have good luck in love. If the shells shattered into pieces, so would the love. Another interesting medieval tradition was a type of mummer's play that was performed at night. One person dressed as King Crispin, who was actually Saint Crispin, the patron of Cordwainers, or shoemakers who used Cordovan leather from Spain. He wore regal robes and a gold chain, and carried a scepter. After the feast, a person acting as the Surveyor asked King Crispin whether the mummers were allowed in.

Then the St. George's Play would commence. Afterwards, seven people acting as "soulers" would collect soul cakes, which were small shortbread cookies with currants, cinnamon and nutmeg. These were considered to be refreshment for the souls of the dead, who were thought to walk among the living on All Hallows Eve. The day after Halloween, November 1, was All Saints Day. This was a day to remember all of the saints, whether known or unknown by the Church. It was a day of contemplation and pious devotion. At this time it was recognised that there were any number of Christians who were worthy of sainthood but for whatever reason were not sanctified by the Church. All Souls Day, on November 2, all people who have died are remembered. A legend has it that a pilgrim returning from the Holy Land was shipwrecked on an island that was inhabited by a hermit, who told the pilgrim that a cleft in the rocks led to Purgatory. The monk said that he could hear voices of the souls claiming that Christians did not pray hard enough for them to make a quicker journey to heaven. Apparently they particularly wanted to monks of Cluny to pray for them. So the pilgrim went to Cluny and told his tale to Abbot Odilo, who immediately declared All Souls Day as a day of prayer and commemoration of those who have passed before us.

So while the origins of Halloween and its religious emphasis have lost some of their significance in our modern society, many of the practices and customs have continued on in unbroken tradition. Many people no longer believe in demons and evil spirits who roam the night, but our school children still disguise themselves as such and are offered sweets and candy in exchange for exemption from pranks. And we still take at least a moment or two to remember our loved ones who have gone before us, in silent commemoration.

*Vivat to the New Prince and
Princess of the East!*

It was Saturday, the 4th of November that more than 50 fighters took the field for the right to sit on the Tyger throne.

Among these fighters, Duke Brennan mac Fearghus fighting for Duchess Caoilfhionn inghean Fhaolain won the day!



Baronial Officers



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