

# The White Birch

The Newsletter of the Shire of Rokelith  
December XLVII (2012)

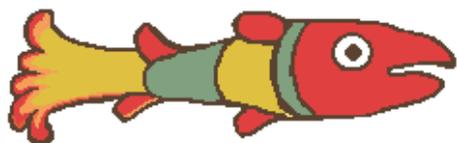
## Seneschal's Missive

Ahhh... the satisfying feeling of a delightful feast. Our November potluck provided all one could wish for in terms of viands and company. Randy, Vitaliano and Vettoria stopped by between engagements, and Brother Matthias from Coille Stormeil spent the day with us. Robert incurred the ire of his neighbors with the splendid aroma of his roast beast.

As you'll see in the meeting minutes, we're doing a little time shifting. With all our meetings on Wednesdays, we pretty much knock out anyone with an "every Wednesday" work schedule. So we placed one regular gathering (Research Night) on a regular Thursday evening schedule, and left the Populace Meeting on Wednesdays. A&S will be flexible, since some projects and meetings require different times & venues, but we're adding the possibility of Chatelaine's Choice. I've heard rumors of rapier practice on Sunday evenings, but these won't be announced here so they remain unofficial and non-SCA related.

Don't miss our holiday potluck at Cybele's on December 15. If you can't stay the whole time, at least drop in for a cookie.

THL<sup>2</sup> Kudrun



## Next Meetings

December 5 — Research night — Event etiquette, Holiday customs — Bronislava's (702 S Losey)

December 15 — Holiday potluck at Cybele's (3091 Michael Way, Holmen) Noonish. Feasting begins at five.

January 3 — (Thursday) Research Night — Bronislava's — thinking of time

January 9 — (Wed) A&S — Bronislava's more with time. Exploring time in period

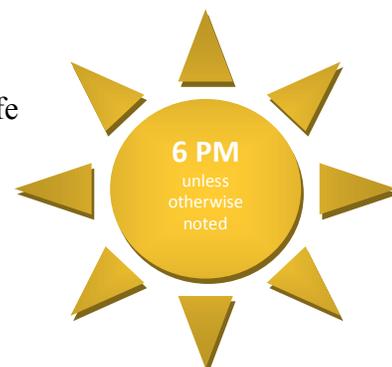
January 23 — Populace Meeting — King Street Kitchen

(If you have suggestions for new meeting locations, please let us know)

February 7 — (Thursday) Research night — Bronislava's — You light up my life

February 13? — A&S night

February 27 — Populace meeting



# Proceedings of the Populace Meeting

November 28, 2012

King Street Station

Present: Bronisláva, Cybele, Failend, Tim, Kudrun, Gavin

Bronislava oyezed us into a semblance of order and ordering at 5:58.

We didn't have solid information about the demo opportunities (Cameron Park and Samuel's school) but we did chat about things each one of us could show off. Bob, who has 10 feet of cord can show kumihimo. Cybele is our storyteller. Kudrun can ask kids what they'd be doing if they lived in the middle ages (apprentice, page or farmhand). Games would be good. (Egg joust, anyone?) Serving food is iffy because of allergies, but we could describe a feast. Gavin has archery, TW equipment. We need someone with armor. Rapier gear would be good.

Before we do a school demo, we should have a dry run so we can estimate times needed and effectiveness of presentation.

Kudrun reminded everybody that many reports were due on Dec. 1. (Chatelaine & Exchequer excepted.)

We talked about coming events, which are posted elsewhere in this issue. Nordskogen Twelfth Night will be the next Big Event that's nearby. SUN will be in St Cloud in February. If we can get to no other event, this would be the one.

Then we started messing with the schedule. It was agreed that the populace meeting should stay on the fourth Wednesday.

Beginning in January, research night will be held on the first Thursday (not Wednesday). A&S opportunities and Chatelaine's night will come at less regular intervals, since A&S sometimes requires more/less time. Some Chatelaine's Choice gatherings will occur on Friday, so Jeoffrey can come. Bronisláva and Radegunde will work out that schedule. We still want to host Carol Jacobs, the herbalist, before salads start sprouting.

Themes for the month will still be in effect, and as strictly adhered to as our insistence on period foods for all gatherings. (Pass the chocolate, please.) December is feasting. January—Time. February—Light. Failend is working on a class on period lighting for February.

Speaking of feasting... Cybele will be hosting our potluck feast on Saturday, December 15. We can come noonish with snacks & appetizers, but serious feasting will begin around 5. Whatever business we need to transact will occur sometime between noon and five, so there will be NO POPULACE MEETING ON DECEMBER 26. Failend volunteered a green bean casserole, and Robert has a ham in mind. Cybele will have Norwegian desserts.

Brief interlude while Kudrun obsesses on a term which refused to come to her mind during the meeting.

## **Ductus** the direction and sequence of the strokes of each letter.

<Marc Drogin. Medieval Calligraphy: its history and technique. Dover, 1980. p.84>

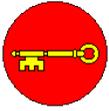
The meeting devolved into a discussion of suitable medieval activities for children—particularly for demos, and continuing into a full-fledged class for some upcoming event. There were a few activities, such as blacksmithing that might be reserved for older kids. Milking goats might not work well in a classroom. Calligraphy would be a great exercise, given the lack of attention given to ductus in modern schools, and a carpenter's pencil would be the ideal beginner's tool. Period games abound. Cooking skills can be taught very early, though the butcher knife might be reserved for older youth. Hand sewing can be taught very early as well. Fighting rules can be taught long before SCA-sanctioned boffer is allowed. "Hold" is a term every kid should learn as soon as they are able to get into trouble, and "no hitting unless your opponent is in armor" is a good rule to observe. This is a conversation that could go many directions. Please contribute.

Anyway, the meeting dissolved around 7:15.



Getting our ductus in a row.

# Officers of the Shire



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**Web Minister** — Kudrun’s holding the fort



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**Ambassador to Coille Stoirmeil** — Failend (Lisa Richards)  
 Appointment pending

## Upcoming Events

December 8	Boars Head — Caer Anterth Mawr (Waukesha WI)
December 15	Fighters’ Retreat — Blachemere (Anoka MN)
January 5	Twelfth Night — Nordskogen (Ramsey MN)
January 26	It’s only a flesh wound — Jararvellir (Jefferson WI)
February 9	Stellar University of Northshield — Wynandremer (St Cloud MN)
February 23	Japanese Haire Affaire — Falcon’s Keep (Wausau WI)
March 2	Lupercalia — Rivenwood Tower (Nicollet MN)
April 27	Bardic Madness — Falcon’s Keep (Marshfield WI)

This list is far from complete. It’s mostly events nearby, or of particular importance. Many events begin Friday and end Sunday. I used the Saturday date for ease of comparison. Consult [www.Northshield.org](http://www.Northshield.org) or the *Northwatch* for a complete event schedule.. Your membership in SCA gives you access to other kingdom newsletters, in case you are able to travel to Lochac or Caid for an event. Carpooling will be arranged (if possible) at any shire gatherings, or on the Rokeclif facebook page. We’re pushing SUN as The go-to event.

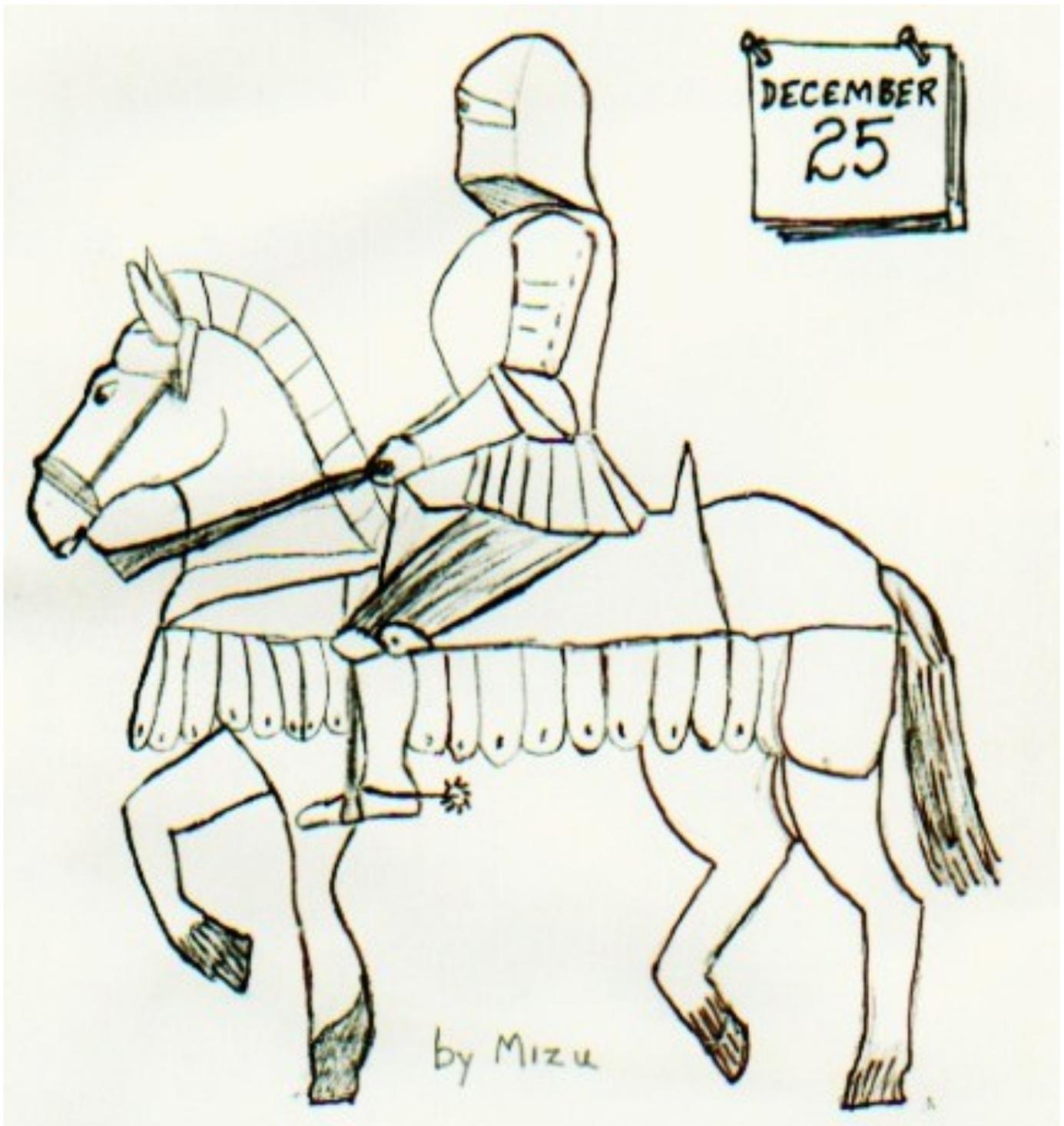
### DISCLAIMER

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### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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## Coloring Page



This picture was drawn for the White Birch by Mizu, who was a member of Rokeclif before it became Rokeclif. I believe she was about twelve when she drew it, in about 1998. The pun was added by the White Birch editor.