

The Citadel *(under siege!)*

MAY 2021

During the Reign of:

Their Royal Majesties King Felix and Queen Madeleina

Newsletter of the Barony of Cynnabar in the Midrealm

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Words from their Excellencies, May 2nd, 2021:

On this second of May, being the 56th year of the Society, we Malachy and Óláfr, Barons of Cynnabar, send Greetings to the Barony.

As we wind our way to Summer, there are signs that our activities may return to some semblance of normalcy and we may earn a respite from our siege. While we have sad news of the cancelation of Pennsic, we have missives from the Society that re-opening may be at hand. Their Royal Majesties and Their Curia have made it known that their words on re-opening shall be soon, and certainly before the first of June date that the SCA Board has chosen as its initial target for resumption of activities.

We understand that the resumption of activities will not be complete, nor might they be uniform across the Kingdom. The health and safety of our members remains paramount. Please be mindful that within the Barony that Master Nezhka shall remain the voice of the Kingdom in these matters.

The milestones set by the State of Michigan will likely be an example of our own re-opening. Shots in arms will be the main contribution many of us can make toward ending the pandemic and putting us on the path to normalcy. If you are able to get vaccinated, we urge you to do so. Immunity girds us to be the "shields of the weak" for those unable to do so. Let us help support those in the Barony who have served in the front lines in public health, or in roles that have supported society as a whole.

We see the Hope of the members of the Society in the Kingdom's calendar. At this date, many events are penciled in. Some may not come to pass, but some will. For those of you who've kept your skills sharp, we know you look forward to the things to come. For many of us who've needed our energies elsewhere, ourselves included, we'll be dusting off our kits a few steps behind you.

So, for this fair May, we wish you Happy SCA New Year. Things are looking up, and we're looking forward to seeing you all when we can.

- Malachy and Óláfr

Letter from the Chronicler (and an apology)

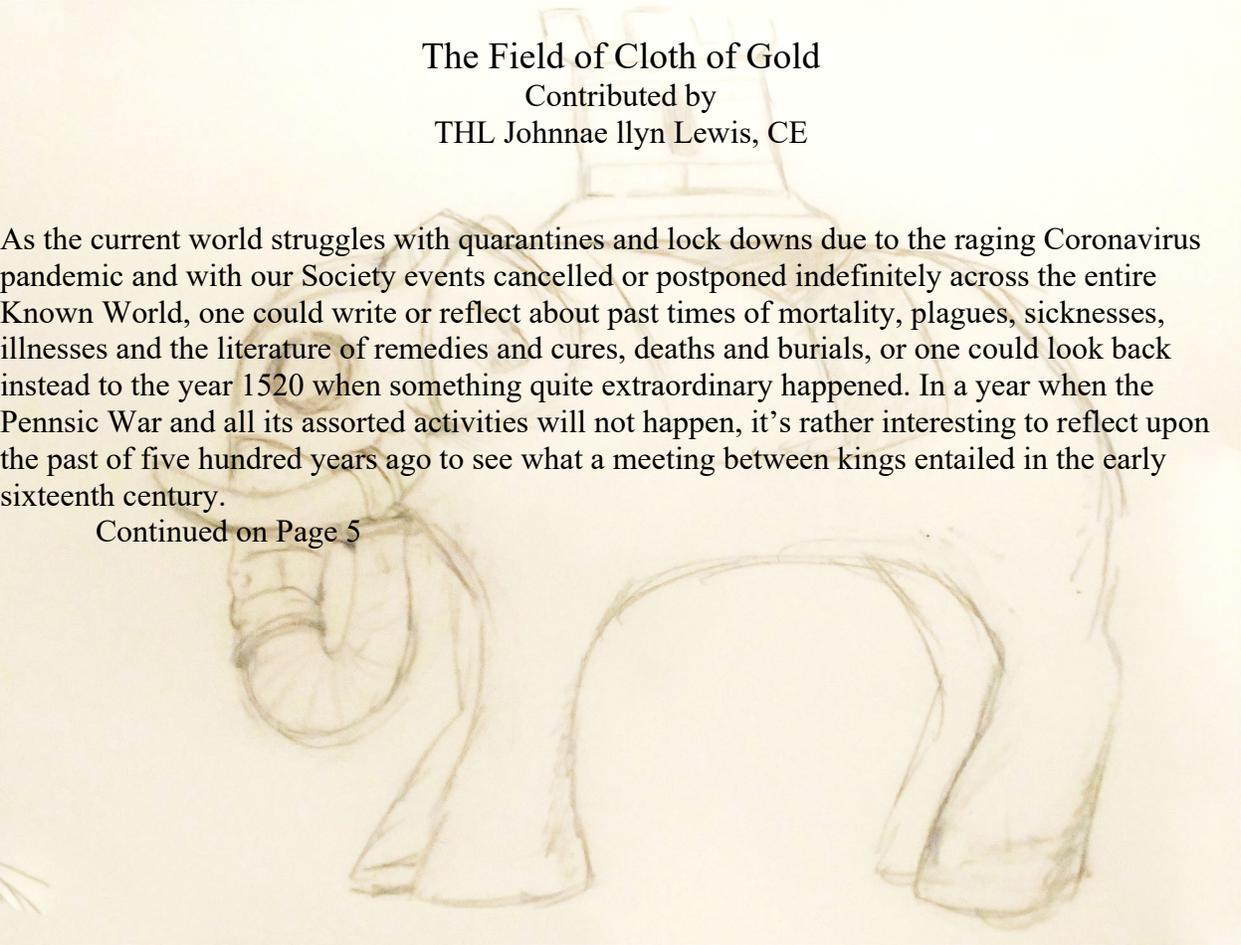
I haven't been AWOL, just... ok, I was AWOL. Please forgive, I'd blame the virus, but only so much can be excused. So without further ado, a pitifully short newsletter to fulfill my obligations and some promises that have been put off for dang near a year. My apologies to the (very frustrated I'm sure) author!

I'd still love for anyone send me input, ideas and opinions.
cynnabar.chronicler@midrealm.org

The Field of Cloth of Gold Contributed by THL Johnnae Ilyn Lewis, CE

As the current world struggles with quarantines and lock downs due to the raging Coronavirus pandemic and with our Society events cancelled or postponed indefinitely across the entire Known World, one could write or reflect about past times of mortality, plagues, sicknesses, illnesses and the literature of remedies and cures, deaths and burials, or one could look back instead to the year 1520 when something quite extraordinary happened. In a year when the Pennsic War and all its assorted activities will not happen, it's rather interesting to reflect upon the past of five hundred years ago to see what a meeting between kings entailed in the early sixteenth century.

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Events

The [Cynnabar University](#) and Showcase :

- Cynnabar University will be available via ZOOM – you must sign up for hosting or viewing/participating, please contact our Chatelaine at cynnabaruniversity@gmail.com
- Cynnabar Showcase will be less formal, to offer more opportunities to share the AMAZING things that you do! Please use [#CynnabarShowcase](#) so we can link the amazing together!

The [Cynnabar Webpage](#) is up to date with announcements and our group's online presence.

[Resolution to Lift Suspension of In-Person Activity in the SCA as of June 1st, 2021](#)

[Gulf Wars planned dates October 2-10, 2021](#)

Events in discussion within our Barony, please contact Their Excellencies or Master Nezhka for opportunities to participate and/or assist:

Grand Day 2021

Fall Revel 2021

Upcoming Online Events

- Thu, May 6, 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM [Cynnabar's Annual Budget Committee Meeting](#) (More)
- Thu, May 13, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM [Cynnabar's Monthly Baronial Business Meeting](#) (More)

Online in the meantime there are a large number of offerings to keep us in touch and learning new things every day!

[YouTube- The Barony of Cynnabar](#)

[YouTube- Kingdom of the Middle](#)

[YouTube- Royal University of the Midrealm - RUM](#)

[Facebook- Known World Entertainment Guide](#)

[VIRTUAL SCA COLLECTIVE CALENDAR](#)

Please check the [Midrealm Calendar](#) and announcements at Midrealm.org for the latest updates.

Normal meetings/fight practice/dancing/herald nights, check Cynnabar.org for content:

(Thursdays 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM) - People's Presbyterian Church, located at [210 Smith St, Milan, MI 48160](#) **(Suspended until government and SCA BOD allow)**

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In a field between the English held town of Guînes and the French territory of Ardres in France, King Henry VIII of England and King Francis I of France met in person in 1520 at the occasion which has come to be called the Field of Cloth of Gold or the Field of *the* Cloth of Gold. Why was it titled as such? The traditional view is that it was named 'Cloth of Gold' because of the rich fabrics and accoutrements, but historian Joycelyne Russell notes the field or valley where the encounters took place had been called *the golden vale, val de oro, val dore'* or *vallis aurea* previous to the 1520 meeting. The event was the result of elaborate staging and diplomacy and was two years in the planning. Each country established its own magnificent camps. Between these two camps in the middle of the valley, the two sides came together for the official pageants, festivities, and activities like the jousting. The Field of Cloth of Gold was months in the actual construction and making. Just like our modern Pennsic Wars, thousands of people traveled great distances to attend. It all lasted roughly two weeks or in this case officially from June 7th until June 24th, 1520.

In reading through the actual accounts, one finds many instances of common activities to both our Pennsic and other Wars and the 1520 Field of Cloth of Gold. Here are some passages of these various activities:

Tents, Pavilions, and Constructions

"FRAUNCES the Frenche kyng was with all his nobles of the realme of Fraunce, come to the toune of Arde, whiche was prepared for his commynge, many tentes, haies and pavilions, were set and pight in the felde." [Hall]

"Persons who have been to Calais tell wonders of the English pomp, and of the King's tent measuring some 6,000 yards (*auric*) of cloth of gold, and exceeding that of his Majesty here, which cost about 150,000 ducats or more." [Calendar of State Papers; hereafter CSP]

"The tent of the King our lord is a magnificent affair (*una grandisavnM cosa.*). From the ground to its summit, on which is a gigantic St. Michael, it measures 60 paces (*sessanta passi*); the poles which support it are tall masts lashed together to increase their length, which is such thiat it would certainly suffice for a ship of 400 butts. The diameter of this tent in its centre (*in fondo*) is sixteen paces, and all round it is a corridor, eight paces broad and some 20 paces in length." [CSP]

For Henry the VIII, a palace rivaling Whitehall:

"...on the playne grene was buylded a fountayne of enbowed worke, gylte with fine golde, and bice, ingrayled with anticke workes, the olde God of wyne called Baccus birlyng the wyne, whiche by the conduyctes in therth ranne to al people plenteously with red, white, and claret wyne, over whose hedde was writen in letters of Romayn in gold, *faicte bonne chere quy vouldra.*" [Hall]

"Could I describe the fortress-house raised at Guisnes by the King of England for his banquet (*festino*), you would be surprised to hear of its architecture, but you would be more delighted to

behold such a structure, built to last a day, and no longer. It appears to be that which it is not, and it is that which it does not appear to be.” [CSP]

“The house of the King of England covered four square acres. Outside the gates were two columns, one on each side ; on one the God of Love, on the other " *G'arihl*" [Hospitality ?], most admirably wrought, with a Bacchus on a fountain, which on the day of the banquet spouted wine.”[CSP]

“Throughout the building, at a distance of two feet below the windows, is a handsome gilt cornice whereon to hang the tapestries, which are all most magnificent.” [CSP]

“I have seen a temporary house built by him, said to have cost 100,000 francs, the handsomest ever beheld ; never did I see so beautiful or so costly a palace. The [French] King's tent is a stupendous sight.” [CSP]

“On either side there are stages on which the ladies and ever} 'body will be placed to see the entertainments, which will commence on Monday the 11th instant, and will last some eight or ten days. The jousts on both sides, some 220 men-at-arms in all, are in excellent condition.” [CSP]

Delays

It is said that this palace will be completed on Thursday, or thereabouts...[CSP]

“where are also a great number of other tents, the English also having pitched their tents outside Guisnes, but ours [the French] are the handsomer. Altogether they will amount to some 2,000 ; and they are still in the act of putting them up.” [CSP]

Fanciest of dress

Regarding HRM Francis: “The King wore a cap of black velvet with feathers of the same colour, and some large jewels in it very well set, which the King estimates at 2,000 ducats. His doublet was embroidered with gold knots, the shirt protruding from the slashes, the tags of which were most beautiful jewels. His breast was bare, and he had sleeves (*mangetti*). Over the doublet was a cloak of cloth of gold embroidered ; at the back of the cloak a certain bit of cloth of gold slashed, looking like a half cape, or well nigh a half mantle, fastened over the left shoulder, which half cape or mantle was costly and ornamented with large jewels. On his legs, he wore white boots (*burza- chini bianchi*). [CSP]

“The King of England wore a very handsome and costly doublet of cloth of silver, with a girdle and apron (*traversd*) or " *sbarra*" from the cincture to the shoulder, of cloth of gold studded with very beautiful jewels, and a black velvet cap with jewels and black feathers; and he rode a very handsome bay courser with a " trapper "t embroidered in gold.” [CSP]

“To tel you the apparel of the ladies, their rych attyres, their sumptuous Juelles, their diversities of beauties, and the goodly behavvior from day to day syth the first meting, I assure you ten mennes wyttes can scarce declare it.” [Hall]

Music

“Then up blewe the Trumpettes, Sagbuttes, Clarions, and all other Minstrelles on bothe sides,” [Hall]

Jousting

“The jousts will commence on Monday or Tuesday, and will last about 10 days.” [CSP]

On the morrow, the 11th, the jousts commenced, and were attended by both the Queens, with a very great number of most noble ladies, all vieing with each other in beauty and ornamented apparel, and for love of them each of the jousters endeavoured to display his valour and prowess, in order to find more favour with his sweetheart. And thus did they assemble daily to witness sword-fighting on horseback and on foot, and other tournaments and representations of war. [CSP]

“All, owing to the wind, did very ill, and an infinity of spears were lost, but they continued tilting until evening.” [CSP]

but also fighting on foot

“Fryday the xxii. daye of June in the campe was set a barrier for to fyght on foote,” [Hall]

Feasting and Dancing

“The King of France dined in the palace with the Queen of England. They were seated at the centre of the table opposite to each other under a costly canopy. ... The viands were more dainty and exquisite than can be told, and their description is therefore omitted. Constantly during dinner the most excellent vocal and instrumental music was heard ; a better performance was not possible. In the other halls a number of Lords and Princes who had accompanied the most Christian King dined, and after dinner there was a ball until night, the King himself dancing, and part of the time he made love to the ladies there. [CSP]

Note the phrase “and their description is therefore omitted” as to the foods served. As usual, Hall did not record exactly what dishes were served. Of this feast Hall writes: “he was ryght honorably served in all thinges nedefull, for Forestes, Parkes, felde, salte seas, Ryvers, Moates and Pondes, wer serened and sought through countreies for the delicacie of viandes, wel was that man rewarded that could bring any thinge of likinge or pleasure : Ryght honorably was the French kynge entertained.”

While we may not have the recipes or even the exact menus, we do have financial accounts. Professor Glenn Richardson author of a 2013 account notes, “The English contingent consumed over 29,000 items of fish, including a Dolphin, 98,000 eggs, 6,475 birds and over 1 million planks of wood were used to heat the ovens that prepared the food.” [SMP]

Exchange of Gifts

“The kynge of England gave to the Frenche kynge a colloure of Jewels of precyouse stoones ... The Frenche kynge gave to the Kynge of Englande a Bracelet of precyouse stones, riche Jewels and fayre...”[Hall]

Other Activities

“During this triumph so much people of Picardie and West Flaunders drew to Guysnes to se the kyng of England and his honor, to whom vitailles of the court were in plentie, the conduite of the gate ranne wyne alwayes, there wer vacaboundes, plowmen, laborers and of the bragery wagoners and beggers that for drunkennes lay in routes and heapes, so great resort thether came, that both knights and ladies that were come to se the noblenes, were fayne to lye in hay and strawe, and helde them therof hyghly pleased.” [Hall]

Weatherwise

“Today, the 13th, it blows a terrible gale, and as the Kings were unable to joust, they went to the lists to see some Bretons and Englishmen wrestle.” [CSP]

“Today, although the wind was high, and the weather bad..” [CSP]

“Towards evening it commenced raining, and all went to disarm...”[CSP]

“The French King's tent was pitched outside the walls of Ardres, near his dwelling house. The tent and pavilions remained up four days only, on account of the wind and rain, so that it became necessary to strike them, to the very great regret of the most Christian King and of all the French nobility,-as they were the pride of France; who thus counterbalanced the English pride generated by the house above described.” [CSP]

“Monday the xviii. daye of June, there blewe such stormes of wind and wether that marvaill was to hear, for whiche hideous tempest som said it was a very pronosticacion of trouble and hatred to come betwene princes.” [Hall]

As can be seen from these passages, the Field of Cloth of Gold was perhaps the fanciest and largest of the international summit meetings or royal expos of its time or any time with pomp and pageantry to spare. While it was most flamboyant, there was a concerted attempt to preserve equality between the sides. Neither was supposed to “overshine” the other.

How did it differ from our modern event? Did it include shopping? Probably not as we know it today; much of the procuring went on for months before hand and massive quantities of materials and victuals were brought to the site. Pennsic by contrast includes families with children; children are not mentioned in the accounts of 1520. And sanitation wise, the accounts don't talk about the latrines or chamber pots, which would have stood instead of the more familiar modern porta-potties. In the end, who can read these accounts and not smile knowingly when they encounter the passages about delays or the weather. Professor Glenn Richardson reckons it all cost in the neighborhood of fifteen million pounds in today's money

What did it all mean? In terms of peace and diplomacy, the good feelings didn't last. Henry soon sided with King Charles of Spain against France. Professor Glenn Richardson has written, “The making of the Field of the Cloth of Gold represented the largest example of Anglo-French co-operation enterprise until the building of the Concorde in the 1960's and the then the Channel Tunnel.” Perhaps Charles Whibley best summed it up as: “But the culmination of glory and splendour was the Field of the Cloth of Gold, whereon Henry and Francis took the sound advice of Comines, whose maxim it was that princes should not meet, except to share their pleasures.” Not a bad maxim for our current Society wars either.

2020 and the Anniversary

In 2020 in honor of the five hundredth anniversary, England's Hampton Court Palace was to be the site of many activities designed to celebrate the original festivities of June 1520. Advance press accounts promised a rousing display of nine days devoted to jousting on horseback, foot combat, and wrestling alongside displays of Tudor sports and entertainments. An exhibition was to feature artworks, objects, and documents from the period, plus a pavilion based upon the original designs was to be constructed on site. Then, of course, in March 2020, everything came to a dead halt, due to the pandemic. As of this writing, a virtual summit of scholarly lectures went on in May. Those are saved for watching on YouTube. It is being reported Hampton Court Palace still intended to hold at least some of the planned activities if and when circumstances allowed, but only time will tell what can be managed.

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Hampton Court Palace features this marvelous zoomable interactive image of the English encampment. *Image: The Field of the Cloth of Gold c. 1545.* © [Royal Collection Trust](http://www.royalcollectiontrust.org.uk) / Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019. <https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/field-of-cloth-of-gold-2020/#gs.799oh7> or see https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/field-of-the-cloth-of-gold-british/bAFv_RSYuCWJlg or see <https://www.rct.uk/collection/405794/the-field-of-the-cloth-of-gold>

A number of other images depicting the events and encampments can be found online. These include:

Friedrich Bouterwek's nineteenth century copy of the Hans Holbein the Elder's "Meeting at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, 7th June 1520." https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Friedrich_Bouterwek_-_Meeting_at_the_Field_of_the_Cloth_of_Gold,_7th_June_1520.JPG

Another engraved by James Basire in 1774 from an oil painting in the collection of HRM George III of England. "Field of the cloth of gold." Fragment of engraving.

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Field_of_the_cloth_of_gold.jpg

"Tent design for the Field of Cloth of Gold" from the Cotton Manuscript. Augustus III. 18. British Library. Zoomable image. <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/henryviii/militmap/tentdes/index.html>

The British Library contains a notable collection of Renaissance Festival Books. French festival books featuring accounts of the Field of Cloth of Gold include:

La description et ordre du camp [et] festiem[en]t [et] ioustes des trescrestiens et tres puissa[n]s roys de France [et] Dangleterre ([Paris], [1520]) <http://special-1.bl.uk/treasures/festivalbooks/BookDetails.aspx?strFest=0006>

Lordonnance et ordre du tournoy, ioustes, [et] combat, à pied, [et] a cheual. ([Paris], 1520) can be found at: <http://special-1.bl.uk/treasures/festivalbooks/BookDetails.aspx?strFest=0007>

Contributed by THL Johnnae Ilyn Lewis, CE

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