



## The Apple Press - January 2025

# PENNSIC UPDATE

*By Katharine of Caithness*

It's the first of the year again which means that Pennsic countdown has begun! Registration for PENNSIC 52 is open and there is a major change;

A Block closure due to changes at Coopers Lake Campground the following Land Blocks will be closed B 6 AND B 7. These blocks are being permanently closed and will no longer be available for camping. If you camp in either of these blocks it is up to your land agent to select a new site.

The reason for this is Cooper are building a permanent structure to handle troll. With this there may also be a new traffic pattern. The reason why this was not announced at Pennsic 51 was because the Coopers were waiting for all the I's to be dotted and T's crossed on the plans and permits to be approved.

There will be some wording changes as well. Instead of Troll for check in, Registration will now be used. And Name or Legal Name will replace Mundane Name on the check in forms also. While these changes are printed on paper you are still free to use the older SCA terms of Troll and Mundane. After all the C in SCA is for creative and the A is for anachronism.

# ***Keeping Time***

By Katharine of Caithness

The term AD (Anno Domini) and BC (Before Christ) are used in designating years in both the Gregorian and Julian Calendar. The question is how they came about, Anno Domini is medieval latin loosely translated it means "in the year of our Lord" How two words became six I have no idea something must have got lost or added in translation.

The Catholic church had a problem: when was the correct day to celebrate Easter? The church put a monk named Dionysius Exiguus on the job in the 525 and he calculated the correct date that Easter was to be celebrated each year. It is not known exactly how he came up with his calculations. One theory is he used the Gospel of Luke as a basis. One thing we do know is that the Pope had the final approval and gave it.

So how did BC come about? BC was added two centuries after Dionysius when an Anglo/ Saxon historian Bede of Northumbria published his Ecclesiastical History of the English People in 751. His work brought the AD system to the attention of a lot more people. He then expanded it to include those years before AD1. These years were numbered to count backwards to indicate the number of years and had taken place before Christ or BC. Bede also used the phrase "anon [...]ante Christi nativitatem" translated in the year before the incarnation of the Lord.

By the ninth century the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne adopted the BC/AD for dating government acts throughout the empire. In the fifteenth century all of western Europe was using the system. In the sixteenth century the system's inclusion was implicit with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar. In 1988 it would become the international standard when the International Organization for Standardization released ISO 3601 which declared it the internationally accepted way to represent dates and time. However some individuals and organizations are now using BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era) instead of BC and AD. But that's another story,

# ***Hidden Stories in Iceland's Manuscripts***

By Katharine of Caithness

The Country of Iceland has a long and rich literary tradition dating back to the middle ages. Some say that it is due to the very long dark nights they have in the winter.

The Icelanders as well as other civilizations wrote down their stories and history on vellum or parchment. However in Iceland only calf skin was used and it took a lot of calves to create enough parchment for a book. Recycling contrary to popular belief is not a twentieth century idea, The Icelanders were doing it in the middle ages with parchment to create new books and manuscripts.

What makes Iceland so special is that it wasn't just old saga's written in Old Norse that have been covered but it was old books that were recycled AFTER Gutenberg invented the printing press and the Reformation took place. Latin Religious texts were scraped away and replaced for works in the everyday Icelandic Language, preferred by the protestant reformation.

What lies underneath are previously unseen fragments of text containing hymns, prayers, and church music. The way in which the text is read is a blend of high tech and low tech detective work. By closely examining the manuscripts and books sometimes one can make out the barely visible traces of the original writing that sometimes shine through the newer writing. The high tech method uses infrared imaging that can help reveal what is hidden. Surprisingly many fragments are readable with the naked eye, after be exposed. Giving us a window into the past.