



The Apple Press - February 2025

Events Upcoming in April

Elevation of Salvadore de la Torres - At the Passing of the Ice Dragon

The Barony of Rhydderich Hael is hosting Ice Dragon Saturday, April 5th, 2024, at Genesee Community College located at 1 College Drive, Batavia, NY 14020. The event will be in the main buildings on campus. Additional locations on campus may be potentially added. The Pent will be in the same room as last year, on the second floor.

Shire Day in the Park - April 27, 2025 at Sam Michael's Park at 12:00pm

235 Sam Michael's Lane, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

The Elevation of Umbriana

By Katharine of Caithness

On the 1st of February 2025, at the Feast of The Seven Deadly Sins, The Lady Umbriana was made a landless Baroness. This was for her service as reign clerk for their majesties King Bjorki Rikardson and Queen Gabrille de Winter, as well as for assisting with reign duties for their majesties Murdock and Gareth's reigns.

The Feast of the Seven Deadly Sins in Fulton, New York celebrates the ancient Celtic festival of Imbolc. A celebration of the passing of the first half of winter and a look toward spring. Among the activities were during this festival were a Celtic themed fiber arts round table, games, a bardic tavern

time and a clothing contest. A Celtic themed dayboard was available and the feast was celtic themed as well.

Members of our fair Shire that were in attendance were Angellino the Bookmaker and Umbriana's husband Jacques. Umbriana's peer family were also there to share the moment.

VIVAT BARONESS UMBRIANA!!

Below Baroness Umbriana.

Photo on right: From left to right: Gytha, Amalie, Jacques and Umbriana



PENNSIC UPDATES

Pennsic 23 July to 10 August 2025

1. Thing 2.0 <http://thingpennsicuniversity.org/login>

The Thing 2.0 is the location to start registering if you wish to teach a class at Pennsic University as well as other activities are scheduled. More Information on Pennsic website

2. Archery Marshals: If you are planning on having some special practice / shoot or competition at Pennsic 51, PLEASE start making your entry on the Thing. REMEMBER IF ITS NOT SCHEDULED ITS NOT HAPPENING. More information on the Pennsic 51 Archery Facebook page.

3. Important Dates: Mail in Registration ends 31 May 2025 at 11:59 pm EDT, Online Paid Registration ends 15 June 2025 at 11:59 EDT , Registration ONLINE AND UNPAID ends 1 July 2025. More Information on the Pennsic website.

4. Pennsic Newcomers and Oldtimers looking to volunteer as deputy for Accessibly Assistance Coordinator. Job description is on the Pennsic Newcomer Facebook page.

The Importance of Color in Medieval Times

By Katharine of Caithness

In medieval times there were seven primary colors; white, yellow, red, green, blue, purple and black. Green occupied the key position that symbolically balanced between the extremes of white and black. Green was also regarded as a soothing color. Scribes often kept emeralds and other green objects nearby where they were working to rest their eyes.

Unlike today, white was not the opposite of black; red was. This was due to the fact that when the game of chess was adopted in Europe the pieces and the chessboard were painted white and red. This contrasted with the black and red sets that were common in India and the Middle East. The trend

began to change only towards the end of the middle ages. The black versus white dichotomy became more common. This was because of the advent of printing where black ink was used on white paper or parchment. Thus reinforcing the perception that these colors were natural opposites.

In the world of knights, the color that a knight wore was important, as they had deeper meanings and character traits thanks in large part to the Arthurian Romances of the time. A black knight was one who wanted to hide his identity; generally motivated by good intentions and prepared to show his valor. An example was the Black Prince Edward of Woodstock, son of King Edward III of England, who was regarded by his contemporaries as a model of chivalry and valor. The knight who wore red would be considered a deceitful or evil knight. Less common were the white knights who were viewed as good. A knight who wore green was considered to be a newly dubbed knight with not a lot of experience.

In the early Middle Ages, rules dictated that monks should not concern themselves with the color of their clothing. Over the centuries their attire began to get increasingly darker. The Cluniacs, one of the largest and most influential monastic communities, believed that black was an appropriate color for their habit. This perspective faced a backlash in the 12th century when another equally large influential monastic community, the Cistercians, decided to adopt a white habit. This of course caused a debate among the monastic order about what the proper color should be. Peter the Venerable, The Abbot of Cluny, thought black represented humility and renunciation, while white symbolized pride. Bernard of Clairavaux claimed that white stood for purity, innocence and virtue. Whereas black symbolized death and sin. Somehow this was all settled as the Cistercians wear a white habit and the Cluniac monks wear a black habit.

Green became widely associated with Islam in the 12th century. In the Quran the color green is mentioned eight times; always in a positive way, representing vegetation, spring and paradise. Green became a sacred color. Many medieval copies of the Quran had green bindings or covers, a tradition that continues today. Green gradually disappeared from carpets to avoid trampling on such a venerable color.

The color blue was neglected until the 12th century, when it attained a prominent place in painting, heraldry and clothing. The first significant use of blue was to represent the clothing of the Virgin Mary. Artists began depicting her in a cloak of blue. It quickly became the standard. Stained glass artists quickly overcame the technical difficulties and began to create brighter and deeper shades of blue allowing the color to be used in clothing and other mediums. By the Thirteenth century monarchs such as France's King Louis IX and England's King Henry III began wearing blue, leading it to become the color of medieval royalty.

Purple represented leadership and the king in medieval Europe. The color purple has been associated with royalty since ancient times, due in large part to the fact that it was so expensive to make and only the wealthiest, nobility, could afford it. There was also only one source; secreted from the mucus of the spiny murex snail, a type of sea snail. It took thousands of these little creatures to make enough dye for one garment. This was known as Tyrian purple, made in the great dye works of Constantinople. When Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 the European supply of Tyrian purple was cut off. Enter the alchemist whose job it was to come up with a solution. Which they did by using the cochineal insect which was more of a scarlet color than purple.

Yellow benefited from its resemblance to gold at first. Many medieval heraldic symbols incorporated yellow in their designs, it was seen as eternal, imperishable and indestructible. Gradually it began to fall out of favor. It was perceived as being gaudy and unpopular. The houses of prominent people found guilty of treason were painted yellow. It was associated with jealousy and hatred .