



The Osprey  
azette

The Monthly Newsletter  
of the Barony of the Osprey



2010

OCTOBER

A.S. XLV

# Calendar of Events

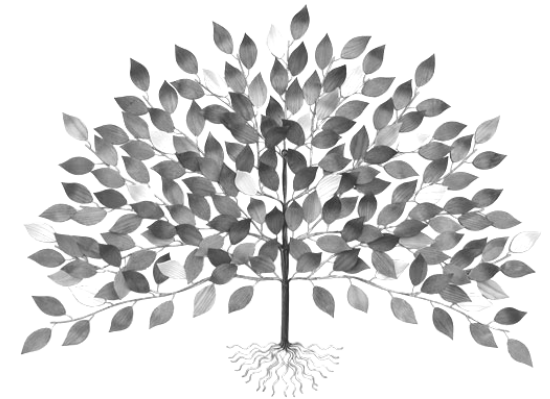
All Times, Dates, and Locations are Subject to Change

## October

- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Glynn Rhe - Wine List
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Iron Mount./Ironstone Spr. -  
Fall Crown List
- 16<sup>th</sup> - OOK - Panhandle Skirmishes
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Loch Cairn -  
Tales of Sherwood
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Bryn Madoc - Dancelaw
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - An Dun Thiene -  
Unchained Doom
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Baronial Business Meeting  
7:00pm West Regional  
Library
- 30<sup>th</sup> - \*\*\*OSPREY -  
GATALOP XXVII\*\*\*
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Thor's Mountain -  
Silver Hammer
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Tír Briste - Event

## November

- 6<sup>th</sup> - Sol haven - Legends
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Okeborne Keep -  
Fighter's Collegium
- 20<sup>th</sup> - South Downs - Castle Wars
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Baronial Business Meeting  
7:00pm West Regional  
Library
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Thorngill - Knights Gambit



All events listed on this calendar were drawn from Volume 33 Issue #10 of Popular Chivalry.

Unto the members of the Barony of the Osprey, come these greetings from Sir Alexander Brighthelmston, Baron.

I trust this missive finds everyone in high spirits as the long days of summer turn to the cooler days of fall. As the weather starts to cool, it is my hope that more of us will be able to attend more events. The months of war are upon us. Sharpen your swords and heed the Kingdom's call to war. Panhandle is fast approaching and on the heels of that is our own Gatalop. Looking forward is Castle Wars and then our little skirmish with the barony from across the kingdom borders called Turf Wars. That is a number of events in a short period of time but I would love to see the Barony well represented and leading the way for our coastal friends to follow. We are currently having war practice at 12:00 on Sundays and our Marshal, Lord Yesugai Naran called UCLA is acting as our travel coordinator. Please get with him so we can have an idea of the number of people we will be able to field as these events approach.

The duty of your Baron has been fulfilled and fealty sworn unto our new King Maxmillian and Queen Lethrenn. Long may they reign over our fair kingdom. I was able to speak with the Crown on my intention to name Lord Yesugai as Vicar while I am fighting abroad. The Crown has approved of this and he will step into the role at our Baronial Christmas Party. Please give him the same support you have all provided me.

I want to congratulate everyone on how smooth the restructuring of the Baronial Guidelines has been going. There have been some spirited discussions but no one has taken their toys and gone home. That speaks volumes for how well this group can work together. It is my hope that this trend will continue in my absence and after my return. We do not always have to agree on how to do things but we must be able to agree to disagree. This group is capable of doing great things if we can all work together.

Please join me in welcoming our group's newest peer, THL Christine. She is to be elevated to the Order of the Laurel at Gatalop.

In Service,  
Alexander

Unto the populace of the Barony of the Osprey come these greetings from your Seneschal THL Christine Silkewymman

I hope that this missive finds everyone in good health, great spirits and getting ready for a busy October. This group has three things going on this month.

Our canton Terra Terminus is having a one day event Oct. 2 in Panama City. I would love to see everyone there in a huge show of support. Lord Yesugai has offered to help people get there by arranging rides. Please contact him if you need one. Terra Terminus has also offered crash space for those who want to come early. Because this is their first event and I want to support them, we will not be having a demo at Bayfest this year. This does not mean that we will not revisit Bayfest but as a Barony, I feel it's critical to show as much support for our Cantons, and the Emerald Coast of Meridies.

Panhandle Skirmishes is the weekend of Oct 16th in Trimaris. Again Yesugai is heading this up so please contact him about price, meals, and rides.

Gatalop is around the corner. Sign up sheets are available now both at the meetings and online. Also Lady Laren will be doing troll classes. One of the classes will be offered Oct 2nd at the Grand Baronial meeting. In order to help at troll you need to take one of these classes. Remember that a group's event is only as good as those who help run it. Also remember to pre-reserve for Gatalop. We get the first price, but only if you pay before the event. Let's make this easier for all of us and get our money in.

I want to encourage everyone to please try and attend meetings. As of late we have been going over the Baronial guidelines. This is something that affects you. You can have a voice in what's going on by attending the meetings.

In Service,  
Christine

Unto the populace of the Barony of the Osprey come these greetings from your Marshall, Lord Yesugai Naran.

We have been conducting Baronial War practice starting at noon on Sundays. Having more at this practice will allow us to simulate more realistic scenarios. Come join the rest of our fighters as we prepare for the upcoming war season. Panhandle is right around the corner and we need to field at least 10 fighters and 5 archers. This is a realistic goal and I hope to exceed it. Your Crown will be in attendance at this battle and we need to show Him our support. Many people have been working hard to produce armor and shields for the war effort. Armor night is still on Tuesdays and all are invited. Guatemalan Thursdays are still at Lord Azrack and Lady Nuala's home starting at 6:00 p.m.

Our Baron has requested that we show our dedication to kingdom by wearing black and white when at war. Be creative and incorporate black and white into your time period. A sea of black and white will be most impressive and strike fear into the hearts of our enemies.

Please join me in congratulating Titus Mallus (Ollie) on his first tournament victory at Daggers and Hemlock. This was not only his first victory but also his first event in the Society. Sir Alexander says that we had a great turnout for this event. Let's continue to help promote our brothers and sisters along the coast.

In Service,

Ucla

Greetings and Salutations unto the Barony of the Osprey and her  
Cantons from Lady Larun of Farsund, Reeve.

On October second I will be teaching a troll class at the one day event in Terra Terminus. I will be teaching a class at the Osprey business meeting Oct. 25th. I will be contacting Eden soon on scheduling a class in Sedracas for the end of September. With Gatalop coming up I will need more qualified people to help run troll. Please, if you can not make one of these, contact me so I can set up times that are convenient to teach these classes locally. You must take this class to run the cash register at troll. If you have already taken the class, a refresher class is never a bad idea.

At this time Thea the Archer will become my deputy.

As of the writing of this we have 42 reservations.

Larun

Greetings unto the Barony of the Osprey!

I would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to the members of the barony who contributed to this issue of the Gazette.

Participation usually goes down this time of year due to the busy nature of war season, but I appreciate the effort you have put forth to keep the Gazette going.

If there is anything you would like to see in the Gazette in future issues, please do not hesitate to contact me or my deputy.

The deadline for submissions for the November Gazette is October 15<sup>th</sup> at Midnight.

Please e-mail all submissions to  
[ospreychronicler@yahoo.com](mailto:ospreychronicler@yahoo.com)

In Service,

Nuala

*Greetings are sent unto the Populace of the Barony of the Osprey and her several Cantons from Countess Rhiannon of the Isle on behalf of the Staff of Gatalop XXVII*

*We trust this missive finds everyone well and prosperous and looking forward to the approaching Fall and the many delights of both the cooler weather and the varied activity of Tourney Season. There are certainly a lot of options on the Kingdom Calendar - both near to home and throughout our fair Kingdom. Fall is a busy time of the year event-wise for many of us, and even more so locally as we get geared up for the latest installment of Gatalop.*

*This Gatalop, as most of you are aware, is the third incarnation of the 3-day format which has proved even more successful than any of us could have hoped for. There is a LOT going on 'behind the scenes' as it were in getting geared up for the event. That having been said, we are making every effort to keep the populace informed and we continue to welcome your input; whether that is suggestions for ways to improve the event or your gracious volunteering of your time and effort, both prior to and at the event. Gatalop is a HUGE undertaking, and as with any effort, many hands make light work. . . and thus affords more folks the opportunity to have 'free' time to pursue activities that are their personal priorities at the event.*

*However, as always when hosting an event, our primary objective is to make sure that the event is as enjoyable as possible for our guests. Gatalop is truly an opportunity for Osprey to extend hospitality to a great many people, both from Meridies as well as our neighboring Kingdoms. As our signature event, it perhaps better than any other event we host, is the 'standard' by which our group is measured. Therefore, it is in the best interest of every one of us to do what we can to assure that it is as successful as possible.*

*Once again we are fortunate to have the Crown include Gatalop on Their Progress. I encourage everyone to make an extra effort to express to Them how much we appreciate Their attendance.*

*This year, as many of you are aware, it has been necessary to renegotiate our contract with Ft. Gaines to assure that we are in compliance with new rules from the Kingdom as regards events and specifically dry/discretely dry sites. We have been very fortunate indeed to have a good working relationship with Ft. Gaines for a very long time. They have willingly worked with us to do all that can be done to continue to allow us to host Gatalop much as it has been hosted in years past. It's what our guests expect, and it's what we want to deliver. Gatalop has a reputation as not only a great fighting event, but also as a great 'party' event. . .it's what brings the same group of folks back year after*

year. . .and with them, their friends. We also feel that Gatalop has a good reputation as a 'hospitable' event. . .all these factors combine to give us the opportunity to host what is an event that is generally categorized as one of the events on the 'to do tour' :-). Even folks that have not yet made it to a Gatalop yet know about it - and that speaks volumes for it's 'history'. We want to see that 'legend' continue.

I would like to bring to everyone's attention the need to practice discretion as pertains to alcohol at the event. Per definition, discretely dry means NO ORIGINAL CONTAINERS. It also means that all empties leave site. With the new policies as regards discretely dry sites we all need to be aware that we are under a microscope on this. There are fewer and fewer sites that will allow alcohol. . . just the facts, as many of us have discovered in recent months. When this is the case any infraction of the rules would certainly be grounds to lose the SCA the use of site. That having been said, please be aware that we must be very diligent in observing and adhering to the rules for discretely dry sites. This also means that we must be much more circumspect regarding parties at Gatalop. We are not discouraging parties - we all love a good party (though not everyone drinks) - but we will be requiring that folks not be 'blatant'. . .no toting around of kegs, no passing of bottles. . .enjoy yourselves, but adhere to 'discrete'. Enough said.

Our staff is working hard, as a result of many of the changes brought about by policy, to codify some of the 'traditions' of Gatalop. . .for a couple of reasons. We have 'treaty households' that are crucial in assisting with the manpower to run Gatalop each year. In an effort to clearly delineate what is expected, a lot of effort has gone into communicating with representatives of the treaty households so that we are all on the same page. Some of you may ask why this is of concern to you individually, well. . . if it weren't for the assistance we receive from the members of the participating treaty households, there would be a lot more pressure on members of the group. Enough said - I don't want to belabour this point - I just want everyone to be aware. Please, when you have the chance, take a moment to tell these folks how much we appreciate their efforts. Especially those outside of the Barony proper.

Volunteering. One word. . .lots of different interpretations of what it means. Lots of options for each and every one of us to contribute to the success of the event. Please take the time to volunteer to assist. There are lots of options, as I said. Sign up sheets are available - please use them - or contact the staff member in charge of a specific area and work with them to determine where they most need help. Wherever that might be please know that your assistance is needed and appreciated. Often I've heard people express their opinion that service is drudgery. All I have to say to that is that you're obviously

*missing something here. Anything can be tiresome if you allow it to be. . .and certainly it is more likely to be if you approach it with the attitude that it is going to be. Just as with almost anything, it is what you make it. It has always been my experience that it is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with old friends, or a chance to make new ones. Everything is generally more enjoyable when shared with someone. If you can, buddy up with someone to take a shift, be it security, troll, parking or public works. Here we go back to that 'many hands make light work' concept. . .and by sharing it you have the opportunity to get to know someone better, whether it is an old friend or a potential new one. If you haven't volunteered in a given area before, see if you can't pair up with someone who is more knowledgeable. . .benefit from their experience, and mayhap give them a chance to see it with 'new eyes'.*

*Again, use the published sign-up sheets, or see the Staff Member primarily responsible for a given department:*

*Autocrats: in addition to myself the autocrating staff consists of Lady Nuala, Lord Azrack and THLord MaelColium*

*Security: THLady Inga, as our Constable, is in charge of Security*

*Troll: Lady Laren is in charge of reservations and registration at the event*

*Martial Activities: Lord Yesugai (Ucla) is responsible for seeing to it that armour inspections, authorizations and marshalling duties are covered.*

*Breakfast & Hospitality/Travelers Fare/Baronial Buffets: THLord MaelColium and Genevieve are heading up this effort*

*In addition, we are looking for individuals who are able and willing to assist with setting up the site on Thursday. We will be taking the Baronial Trailer down to the site Wednesday afternoon so that it will be ready to go first thing Thursday morning. We will begin site set up promptly at 9:00 when the fort opens. This is a massive undertaking, as we have to get the Troll pavilion set up and ready for Lady Laren and her staff to begin receiving our guests. We will also be marking the parking lot and loading/unloading area. Setting up the Baronial Pavilion for Court and other functions. Setting up the Common Pavilion for Artisans Village. We will also be marking the camping area within the grounds to delineate boundaries and mark spaces for those individuals pre-reserved. If this year is like recent years, all the spaces within the fort will be spoken for.*

*As you can see - there is a LOT that has to be done to make everything run as smoothly as possible. And there is always the chance that the weather can throw us a curve and make this even more of a challenge, so the better prepared we are, the easier it will be to deal with any eventuality.*

*Travelers Fare/Baronial Buffets: I can't stress this enough. Not only does this serve to welcome our guests to the event and offer them 'hospitality' as befits a polite Society, it serves as a meal option for our membership too. Think of it as a great big pot luck. Consider that rather than having to provide for a meal for yourself, you can contribute to a 'family type' dinner. There are sign up sheets available, and Genevieve is asking that folks let her know not only who you are, but what you are contributing. This allows us to make sure that there is sufficient variety to tempt any appetite. And as I've said before, you don't have to be a great cook to contribute...there is plenty of stuff that can be, as a good friend of mine says, 'hired done' (purchased already made). And there is always a need for bread, beverages, desserts and the like. Many of the larger grocery chains have family sized items, potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw, just to name a few, that are certainly suitable for our needs. We are not requiring this to be 'period' - though certainly we are not gonna discourage those who would prefer to contribute a period dish. Variety is the spice of life! Other items that would doubtless be welcome would be paper products; plates, bowls, napkins, cutlery and the like. But again, Genevieve is working very hard to make this as good as we can make it - I'm sure she'd welcome your assistance. She is also in need of folks to assist with 'manning' the tables, making sure that things are replenished, etc. She has this planned out and defined with the sign up sheets. . .your assistance is greatly appreciated.*

*By the time this is published, the webflyer should reflect a lot of information that will answer a good many of the questions that many of you may have. However, the staff is certainly more than happy to field your questions. Please don't hesitate to contact us.*

*Thank you, as always for your participation and contributions. This is the group's big event - and it takes all of us to make it a success.*

*Pray know I remain,*

*Ever in Service,*

*Countess Rhiannon*

Greetings to all,

It is with great pleasure that I am assisting with the baronial breakfast and arranging Traveler's Fare at Gatalop 27. I am writing today to touch the hearts of every Barony member and to open their mind to giving!

First of all, there is the topic of Traveler's Fare. For anyone who has ever arrived late to an event on opening night, a warm something to throw in your belly as you're setting up is a god-send. I am asking that anyone, especially from the Barony, bring a dish to hand over to Traveler's Fare. Traveler's Fare will run for five hours, from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. both Thursday and Friday nights. I have set up an easy-to-use database on the Barony of Osprey yahoo group so everyone can sign-up at their leisure and make their own opinion of what to bring. I am hoping the Barony can pull together to provide enough food to help at least 100 people both nights. Remember that everyone has partaken from Traveler's Fare at one point or another and it would be wonderful if we could show our guests at this event a warm welcome. Secondly, I am asking for donations to help ease the budget lines for breakfast. Breakfast will be served all three mornings of the event (see website for full menu). Mostly I am asking for fruit and paper and serving products as in cups, plates, bowls, silverware, aluminum foil, aluminum (disposable) serving dishes, storage bags. Any donations can be given to me or any Gatalop staff member at any time from now until the event. Service is also needed in helping with set-up and clean-up before and after breakfast. It would be my pleasure to work alongside any fellow SCA member and offer service hours to those who are willing to give up their time to the greater good (and stomachs) of the event. If any of the above topics pique your interest, please feel free to sign-up on the Osprey group or contact me directly for any questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for helping make Gatalop 27 the best one yet!  
Genevieve of Osprey

# Sociology and the SCA: some brief thoughts

by Master Hrolf Herjolfsson

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I have often been asked to explain to people various things about the sociology of the SCA. This is a long topic. This note is a brief attempt to discuss a few of the issues.

We live in a time that is generally classified as being either post-modernity or else late modernity (Crook, Pakulski and Waters 1992). The characteristics of this period are change and fluidity. Whilst some cultures are able to thrive on uncertainty, others are not (Hofstede 1997). For many people, the basic needs are intimately connected with security (Maslow 1970) and without some connection to a security there is an increase in anxiety and stress. If the connection with solid roots cannot be made through the socially accustomed modes of modernity (for example the definitions of work and career are increasingly under attack), then it must be achieved through other, and more accessible, means such as hobbies and lifestyles. (Gelber 1991). Many are able to find this solidity through a re-connection with roots, for example by identifying with an ethnic origin (Wallman 1983). Some of these connections with roots may be made through a search for the 'real' and the 'authentic' (MacCannell 1974, MacCannell, 1976 #58). For others it is achieved via a romantic longing for a purer past, free from the problems of today. Among other means this can be expressed in attention to environmental issues – seeking to eliminate the false by searching for a created image of an Earth-Mother (Jagtenberg and McKie 1997) or it could be expressed through a neo-Romantic quest for a medievalism (Eco 1987) that is an analogue of Victorian Orientalism (Said 1978).

As a part of this breaking down within society the old salient divisions of class and nation are rapidly disappearing (Pakulski 1993) and the populations of the more 'advanced' Western societies find increased numbers of their people deriving more and more of their identity from their choices of material and non-material consumption which are expressed through lifestyle choices. This has led to the formation of taste cultures (Hebdige 1994) of people with a commonality of choice in the matter of style.

One of these taste cultures contains persons who are interested in computers, science fiction, medievalism and conflict simulation games. What mix of these is adopted by a particular member of the taste culture will depend on exposure opportunities and a variety of other factors. The SCA fits within one of these taste cultures (Lenehan 1994).

By itself, the SCA has no apparent connection with the macro issues affecting society. However it is in itself an interesting exemplar of a trend. The people within the SCA partake of a shared attachment to a constructed reality called 'the Dream'. This is an inchoate (and oft debated) set of ideals that is expressed through the participant's attachment to our peculiar form of staged authenticity (Rojek 1995: 101). That is we have created an 'authentic' set of rules based around a created mythos. We have produced a version of the 'real' that works for us – even though many are aware it is distant from the actuality of our period of interest (as any such reproduction in such an anachronistic environment must be).

As an exemplar of Elias' concept of the civilising process (Elias 1982), the SCA has taken violence to a new level of mimeticism. In a direct progression from the social releases of violence such as the gladiatorial games and the tournament (Guttman 1992), or more modern social forms such as football (Elias and Dunning 1986), violence in the SCA is ritualised to an unprecedented degree (1). The primary concern of the violence in the SCA is not to kill or injure your opponent, but to defeat them without causing harm. This mimetic violence can be seen as a part of an overall trend in society towards sports that are 'on the edge' (Beck 1992). Participants desire at least the illusion of danger as a means of coping with changes in the world around them.

One minor exemplar of the direct influence of the SCA (and perhaps its analogues) in contemporary society can be readily demonstrated. The post-modern rootlessness of societies under stress is often observed in seeking and especially risk-seeking behaviours. One expression of this can be seen in the rise of the drug cultures (no references at hand). Many persons, having found a touchstone to a form of 'the real' through the SCA use this as an enabling mechanism to leave the drug culture (Lenehan 1994: 31).

Another exemplar is in the proportion of people in the SCA who seek further knowledge through continued further education (1) (Lenehan 1994: 22). Whilst this can be noted as evident, as no research has been done on this point, I do not wish to speculate on whether this is causal or a part of the mind-set that prompts people into membership of this particular taste culture.

One of the most appealing features of the SCA, for its members is its stress upon courtesy. This is a feature conspicuously lacking in a more 'rational' contemporary society where inter-personal contact is more use-oriented. The members of the SCA tend to take this courteous mind-set back with them into what they call 'mundanity', the 'normal' contemporary world.

As a sidelight, the division between SCA and mundane mirrors the ages-old division between sacred and profane and is an expression of the process of identity formation through the establishment of an insider / outsider dichotomy (Elias and Scotson 1965). Those within the SCA 'family' are often regarded as having many similar attitudes to each other. They identify together as a group (despite internal differences) and, when in SCA 'mode' often treat those outside the group as a homogenous 'other' to react against.

In the SCA we can also see a classic example of a rite of passage (Gennep 1960). These are the rituals that mark the transition from one life stage to another. Although these have largely disappeared from our modern world (we are left only with bowdlerised forms of the original in our wedding and funeral rites and some 'coming of age' events), the SCA has managed to recreate some in a full and formal sense. A classic example is the introduction of a person into an Order of the Peerage. Here a candidate is secretly asked into the Order (as people used to be inducted into the old mystery orders). When the time of their ceremony comes about, they are removed from the company of their fellows, it is important that this is usually done quietly. They are then secretly told the 'mysteries' – they ask questions of the elders of their Order, discuss its rights and obligations. At the ceremony they are then re-integrated into the general life-world with an increased status marked in a formal fashion.

Another interesting point is raised in regard to the concepts of the backstage and frontstage (Goffman 1959). If we look at those on the thrones (at any level) and in the Peerage Orders they are often on public display. Here they present an act, a staged performance, as part of the 'show' that they present to the populace. This is Goffman's classic 'frontstage' where a person has a persona that is presented to the world. At the same time people desire to have their private lives separated from their public ones. This is their backstage. Those viewing 'public' people, as a result of normal interest, naivete, curiosity and a variety of other reasons forget that the people they see up front would like to separate their front and back stages. Many people in prominent roles in the SCA also forget that, when they were younger they were in the same position. The Royals forget that, for many people, significant actors in the SCA are *never* out of the frontstage. This process can snowball when someone constructs a public frontstage and a public backstage – all the while attempting to keep their true backstage to a small group.

I could expand on these brief notes, but to draw too many examples would be to over-emphasize the role of the SCA. Whilst, for its members, it tends to be crucial in their

identity formation process, and it serves as a valuable focus for their taste culture, it is but one of many foci. As well, while its taste culture is a rapidly growing one, it would only represent one or two percent of the general population of an advanced Western society. It must also be admitted that this is among the better-educated groups who have an increasing salience in many models of our time. Its main effect is not overt, and it is not out to change the world. It is evident through its members going, with changed mind-sets, into the mundane and occupying key roles in a technocratic culture. SCA members now occupy occupational niches as diverse as an Executive Officer on an American carrier, Chairs of Faculties in Universities, sports stars in American football and members of major rock groups as well as being truck drivers, storemen, sales assistants and especially students. I hope that I have a chance to repeats some of my studies on this subject when Lochac has been a successful Kingdom for around 20 years. The comparisons (and what new stuff arises) should be of great interest to us all.

Footnotes:

<sup>(1)</sup> This can occur either formally or informally through the club.

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# English ~ 14th Century Finger Foods

by THL Kateryn de Develyn  
(reprinted with permission from [www.florilegium.org](http://www.florilegium.org))

Recipes from 14th century English sources which have been redacted and used as finger foods. While not originally intended as finger foods, I have found that they were easily converted. These recipes have been redacted by Her Ladyship Kateryn de Develyn, of the Kingdom of Calontir.

## Tourteletes in Frytare/Groznd Figs in Pastry Forme of Carye from Carye on Inglysch

Take figs & grynde hem smal; do therein saffron & powdur fort. Close hem in foyles of dowe, & frye hem in oyle. Claryfye hony & flamme hem therewht; ete hem hote or colde.

10 Dried figs  
1 pinch Saffron  
1/4 tsp. Poudre Fort  
16 Won Ton wrappers  
1 tsp. oil  
3 tsp. honey

Grind figs, then add saffron and poudre fort. Place a tsp of mixture in the center of a wrapper, fold over and seal with egg whites. Oven fry with oil until lightly browned. Remove from oven and drizzle honey over them.

# RESPECT THE DUCK

BY LOKOTES

Ducks you would think to be quite docile creatures.  
They swim and they eat and display all their features,  
but I met a duck on the war field today...  
It didn't take long to put those thoughts away.

He stood about the same height as me.  
Tall for a duck but that wasn't the key.  
He was armed head to toe in leather and metal.  
Red belt, shield, sword, there to test mettle.

We sparred some at first and we traded some shots.  
He was quick for a duck, hit me hard in some spots.  
As more fighters readied it was time to change plans.  
We lined up in teams, each had to hold lands.

We fought several battles and critiqued each other  
and the duck held his own.. my yellow shielded brother.  
We ran to and fro and wore our selves thin.  
Sweat poured out of every pore on our skin.

The final fight we lined up three to four.  
The final "Hurrah"! behind my war door.  
We had them outnumbered it should have been quick  
but they had a plan for me and my stick.

That big old duck crashed right into me!  
Flattened me back on my back completely!  
I rolled and recovered but it was to late,  
struck in the head, he had sealed my fate.

I laid in the grass and chuckled to myself.  
Armor plated ducks are bad for my health...  
When it was all over I laughed... cuz it sucked!  
Mad respect for Daniel, the *Full Metal Duck!*

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