



The Parchment



Issue 4

Saint Andrews Noble Order of Royal Scots Guild

October 2005

Greetings to all Our beloved subjects and honored guests of the realm,

As we bid a fond farewell to our busy season of progress, We shall remember this passing year, with great fondness. 'Twas a busy year, and filled with great joy, many changes, and wondrous memories. Our stay in Truckee was most delightful. Methinks visitors to Our court did double that of last year's visit. 'Twas a bonny way to end this most prosperous year. Our greatest grammercies to all folk, old and new, those We see once a year or many times a year. Our ranks were joined by many new folk, We do wish to welcome them to our family. In our heart We hold each and every one of ye with true affection.



We have greatly enjoyed the company of our brother, James and sister, Jean within the court this year, despite the visits from Argyle and erstwhile young English Ladies intent upon our brother's hand. We extend our greatest thanks to Lord Christopher Alexander and Lord Johan von Pluym for their assistances with the "English Lords" who didst come to present their proposals. Whilst We made no commitments, warmest wishes of a long and fruitful marriage art bestowed upon Lady Morna MacGregor and her most trollish new husband. Our personal and sincere grammercies are sent to Cookie MacPhearson for dressing our coif so beautifully, thou art a saving grace indeed.

As ye dost take thy leisure over the long months of winter, do keep thy duties to the crown and guild afore ye. Cold and dark though the months may be, thy minds and clever wit can be active in creating new ways to bring the glory of our times to visitors from near and far. Verify, a new season of progress shalt be upon us all soon enough and how wondrous it should be to have preparations in place. We await with eager anticipation what new revelries and intrigues shalt appear in the year to come.

Thy loving Monarch,

MARY R

*Maria Regina de Scotia
Mary Stuart
Queen of Scotland and the Isles*

Saint Andrews Nobel Order of Royal Scots' 30th Annual

Winters Feast

Her Royal and most Gracious Majesty,
Mary, Queen of Scotland and the Isles
doth invite all to attend a Royal Masque Ball

Saturday, November 12th

Noon to 10:00 p.m.

Prepare thyself for a wondrous day full of merriment and feasting!!

Performances by Bangers & Mash

Wassail Parade

Court games through out the day & eventide!!

It is sure to be an event to remember!!

Be sure to bring a Feasting Dish to share, your own bederage(s) of choice, your cup, your finest garb, and don't forget your mask!!

For more information, please call His Grace,

Sir Drew MacQuain at 925-240-1562.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Tickets will be available at the door for \$20.00

❧ Missive from the Guild Master ❧

Good Folk of St. Andrews

Greetings this day! It is with great honor that I send forth my thanks to all of our good folk whom have worked so hard this past year – you have helped St. Andrews become a great place to play! It is sometimes a lot of work and takes great effort to put our Court on progress, and it is wonderful to have such loyal and hard working supporters!

I anxiously await our grandest event of the year: Winter's Feast! I hope you will all join me! I look forward to seeing you all there – it's an event not to miss! A time for us to come together in merriment, to reminisce on the season just completed, and the one before us! I'll see you there!

I do remain ever at your service.

Sir Drwg Douglas MacQuain
Duke of Dunvegan Castle
Lord Chanegllor of Scotland and the Isles
Cardinal Knight of the Knights and Dames of Saint John of Jerusalem
First Knight of Saint Andrews



❧ Winter's Feast Missive ❧

Good Folk of St. Andrews,

As we near Winter's Feast, I ask that ye remember that this is indeed a feast. When bringing food for the feast, please do NOT bring health & safety type viands. Prithgg, leave your pickles, chips, salami, cheese, etc. at home. A bag of chips does not a side dish make. The operative word is FEAST. Also, do remember to bring your MUG/GOBLET and assist any guests in doing the same.

We will have professional, hired help in the kitchen. Please remember, that they do not know you from Adam (or Eve). Please do not expect them to keep track of your things/dishes, even if your name is on the bottom. Do not bring dishes/platters/bowls that you are worried about. If you bring food on a silver platter, etc. at the end of the evening it will no doubt be washed and packed in the silver trunk. It is not reasonable to expect the worker bees to examine every item before it goes in the trunk for a name engraved on the bottom, nor is it reasonable to expect them to remember that 8 hours ago you pointed out that a certain platter is your personal property.

PLEASE, leave your treasured platters, serving spoons, etc. at home and save yourself some grief. The kitchen help will transfer your dish/food from the disposable container you bring it in to a guild platter/bowl/plate, etc. The guild also has a supply of serving utensils.

The kitchen help will NOT BE COOKING. They are servers, carvers, and cleaner-uppers. Please make sure the food you bring is already fully prepared. The kitchen is small and there is not room for more than the kitchen staff.

GRAMERCY!

Lady Britiah Sutherland He'lie

From the Quill of Don Juan

To the members of Saint Andrews,

The end of our fair year is once again upon us. Now is a good time to look back at the past year and count our blessings. Like good times we shared with our old friends and the meeting and making of new ones. Our successes as a performing Guild as we dusted off old shows and polished new ones. The continuing respect of the other Guilds on the Renaissance circuit and many other blessings.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make our school events a success and I would like to thank Lord Christopher for stepping up to take over as Master of the Court. He has my confidence and best wishes!

As well as looking back, we need to look forward. There is a saying that goes "if you want to be a success, find a need and fill it." I hope the membership will continue to find the Guild's needs and fill them, only then will we all enjoy the benefits of success.



Don Juan de Maraña
Duke of Roxburgh



www.saintandrewsguild.com

This is where to go for information regarding your St Andrews Membership. The Guild Calendar, important history, guidelines, costuming ideas, household pages, fun and helpful links – good stuff for everyone! If you haven't already, log on today and have a look around – check in often, as the site gets updated as new information becomes available!



The Parchment is published approx. every three months. It, in conjunction with the monthly newsletter, is the major communication source for all Guild folk.

If you have interest in contributing to *The Parchment*, please contact Dame Bronwynne Melville at donna_cary@hotmail.com



~ The Dogs of War ~

Gentlemen of the Guard, Dame Raven, and St. Andrews,

It has been a wonderful faire year, and I am looking forward to the upcoming Masked Ball/Winter's Feast. I look forward to visiting with all who can attend.

The final dinner of the year for the guards, "Dining Out" will be held on December 3rd. You should have received your invitations in the mail. If not, please contact me at 925-706-9485. Remember this dinner is for you and a guest, so please RSVP to Dame Raven ASAP.

I would like to have a Guards Meeting after the first of the year, so keep your eyes open for information to arrive in the mail and by e-mail. Thank you all for making this such a wonderful year.

Captain Sir Keegan Gunn, Dame Sheila, and Athena

~ Renaissance Symposium ~

That's right, it's that time of year, again! It's time for the Renaissance Symposium put on by Renaissance Productions.

Particulars have yet to be posted. It is highly suggested that everyone attend if you are able.

For more information & a complete list of classes, as they come available, see:

www.renaissance-web.net/conference/

~ The Ladies in Waiting ~

Good Folk of Scotland,

Since our last Parchment, we have been to Pittsburg, Pleasanton and Truckee Faires. All each we have served Our Gracious Queen most faithfully. Her needs and wants being met with grace, energy & good cheer.

We have met and overcome all those little difficulties that did crop up during the year and we are the stronger as a result. We have sewn, shopped and shared time together. We have served and sat repeat, learned new games (including cards). We have danced, tried out new skits and involved ourselves in the intrigues of court. We have been a colorful presence both by the throne and before it.

As we come to the end of another year of renaissance fun, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the ladies in Waiting for all your hard work, love and attendance to Her Majesty. It has been a most wondrous year and I am very proud of each of you.

To all of St. Andrews, I do hope to see you all at Winter's Feast, as it will be a grand and fitting end to our year's endeavors. May you all have a very special holiday time, stay in touch and I'll see you all come February.

Til then, I do remain,

Dame Mary Beaton
Royal Countess of Crichton and Glenrothes
Countess of Crichton and Bandon
Chamberlain of the ladies in Waiting



From the Mists

Pleasanton marks the pinnacle for fairé season for Clan de Faolte and, unfortunately, the last fairé of the season for us as our affairs in Ireland (football and soccer) keep us from court. However, the Irish House, while in transition this year, has been faithfully served by Clan MacCarraig and the Kelly's (Morgan's sister, niece, and nephew). Our Captain Morgan, Cherig, Ian, Andrew, Nicholas, and Jennette are now, have been, and will be the backbone of our house. Colleen Kelly, her son Proinsias (Frantz) and Kathrine have also been present at most of St. Andrew's events and all have served with distinction.

Pleasanton for us is really a four day event. I always count Friday preparations and Monday recovery in the package. As all battle-hardened veterans of the fairé circuit know, the missed chores of the weekend are there to meet you on Sunday night/Monday morning.

Highlights for me this weekend included the recreation of the Battle of Bannockburn when we charged up to the crowd brandishing our weapons. Not one of the kids in front of me flinched or showed fear. I offer two theories: 1. I am not as scary looking as my family or fleber claim, 2. They have watched too many Capital One credit card commercials where the ask "What's in your wallet?"

I was invited on Saturday to the Queen's repeat for the first time ever. Bonnie's food was better than words have described. I have been known on rare occasions to exaggerate but this is not one of those times. I was fortunate to be sitting between Johann, the Austrian Ambassador, and Sir James Mossman. They were kind enough to instruct me in the use of the fork. We do not have them in Ireland or in the Highlands, apparently, as Campbell also required instruction.

After hours we had a Ceili' to honor Ian Maelan, the guildmaster to the guildmasters. Ceile' De' played and the Caledonia Club provided ale and meat. There was grand dancing by Cherig, Jennette, and Mary and less than grand dancing by me.

Andrew and I shared the company of Neil O'Neill of the Caledonia Club and his lady-friend whose name I can't recall and the stone-carver fellow. We had a traditional party where we shared with each other poetry, songs, stories, and jokes. Andrew even honored us with his bodhran playing. Sure and the craic was grand that night!

On Sunday, day two, Mary and I accompanied Christopher to lunch and we later celebrated his Natal Day at Chevy's in Pleasanton. He is a grand man indeed for one so young.

I played a good little Englishman in the Prestonpans reenactment. I tried to run away and got killed by a Highlander.

Which leads us to the Johnston Cattle Raid. After being captured I was thrown into the stocks by a lanceer and was nearly beheaded by my own ax wielded by General Keegan Gunn. To triple the injustice I was verbally accosted by Argyll. Only a reprieve by Our Most Gracious Majesty kept my head from decorating the castle wall ramparts. I reported to the Earl of Desmond how the parsimonious Scots serve justice to a starving man. Now Gunn and Argyll have made an enemy of what was once a friend.

Sir Drew served as leader of the Irish House this year. At his request there will be emerging a new person to serve as leader of the Irish House. Our new Taoiseacht will need the support and mentorship of our current and previous heads of households to grow into the position. I am confident of that support. Sir Drew will let us know his decision.

To close I was reminded at Ian Maelan's eegremony of the person who first brought me into St. Andrew's. I spoke to this real nice lady who said I would be welcome and I could still be Irish. She put me in contact with the former Guildmaster and the rest is history. To Dame Bronwynne I would like to say, go raibh mi'le maith agat agus beannachtaí o Dhaia ort.

Submitted respectfully, Maitiu' MacRoibeard de Faolte



Clatter from the Highlands

Good Den to all folk of the Highlands and St. Andrews.

We have traveled many a mile in following Her Majesty on Progress this year. Since the last Parchment we did visit the shires of Pittsburg, Pleasanton and Truckee.

In the shire of Pittsburg this year we did receive a respite from the usual beastly hot weather, which did make the progress there quite pleasant. Our goodly cooks did prepare much meat on the fire for the pleasure of many including our hard working Royal Guard, it did also give them opportunity to speak with many of the patrons. Our own Mistress Morna MacGingor finally found a mate to hand fast with, when Her Majesty did hand fast her to Lord Sod of the Trolls. Good luck to the happy couple!

From Pittsburg Shire we did progress onward to the shire of Pleasanton. Again the weather did favor our visit to this shire with much cooler days than usual. We did gig much with other guilds to include a slightly misguided and misdirected raid on The Wicked Flye Tavern. During this raid Mistress Bernadette did stand up to the raiders quite admirably. Mistress Cookie was taken captive by the raiders and thus needed to be ransomed back by the Chieftain and Cullen. No blood was shed [sniff]. This accomplished, the weekend ended well, including a lovely meal for the Highlanders sponsored in part by the Royal Guard, Grammercy.

Before winter weather could slow us down, our party did end our travels in the beautiful shire of Truckee. Cool crisp mornings, mild afternoons and sunshing what more could a good Scot want. Ah, according to most from the Highlands a beautiful lass and a pint of ale. Ah I digress. With a light schedule and great weather much fun and frivolity was had by all. We did receive the happy news that our newly hand fasted Morna was expecting a litter with her new found love Sod. So again, best wishes to the couple.

I pray that you do remember the upcoming Winters Feast. This year Winters Feast will be a Masked Ball. Make sure to have obtained

your mask prior to the ball. There are many sources for such items including the walk about faires and internet as well as some modern shoppes. If you are of a creative mind, you can also craft a mask and attempt to fool us all as to your identity.

I also wish to request of all of you, do not allow friendships to falter over winter, do keep in contact with others in the house as we are trying to plan some events over the long dreary winter months.

I shall endeavor to see all of you at Winters Feast.

Ever loyal to Her Most Royal Majesty

Chieftain Heber MacPherson



Her Majesty's Jewels



Good Daye my Poppets,

What a wonderful year we've had! We greeted two new members, Lord Ellistair & Lady Laurana. We served & dined with her Majesty at Livermore, what a delicious treat! We tried out a new gig...I believe Don Juan is still in hiding. ☺ We played games with a pirate theme at the Santa Cruz picnic...(boy was Lord Ellistair frustrated when he earned a rope from the piñata). We welcomed a 'conquering hero' into our midst's...Lady Mai'ri, congrats on earning fourth place overall in the lady's competition! Lady Tory earned the Phoenix Award for her hard work! We worked hard serving her Majesty & her subjects during open court & morning notes, as well as ringing in the parades at each event.

The coming year is certain to show great change. We'll be wishing Lord's Ian & Andrew warm wishes as they 'graduate' from the Children's House into the Irish House, we'll be sure to greet familiar friends and new ones at each event we attend, and I'm positive there will be other surprises along the way.

I hope you will join us in the coming year!

All my love, Lady Kyra

✧ Ruffing it with the Courtiers and Ambassadors ✧

And so we reach the end of yet another year of Renaissance Revels.

Looking back on what we have done, I think we have had a pretty good year. Our court sparkles the way that few Renaissance Royal courts do, and that is due primarily to the courtiers and the ambassadors. Of course, our Sovereign has something to do with it, God Save the Queen!

It would seem that I have been entrusted for another year to run the household. There are some things I would like to see in the coming year:

First, a Grander courtier pavilion. Compared with our Chancellor's pavilion, our pavilion looks rather bland. It's time we take the situation in hand and change that. Dame Britta has thrown down the gauntlet (although a courtier, she will be dedicating herself to getting Dame Bronwynne's pavilion into shape), and I now consider our household in competition with all the other households for creating a pavilion worthy of a royal encampment. I know some of you have decorating talents, it's time to put them to good use.

Second, we need to do more along the lines of character development. We need to develop characters, and stay in character when we are at faire. One way I think we can do this is by everyone putting their character's story on paper. I would like to be able to include a roster of courtiers in handout materials next year, which would include biographical information and a picture of the person playing the character. I think it would be helpful for those of us (such as myself) who have difficulty with remembering one name, let alone a person's real name, faire name, titles, and whether or not they have been knighted.

Finally, we need to remain a presence in court. We were pretty good with this at the beginning of the year, but there were some instances where the court looked pretty sparse while Her Majesty was on the throne. Folks, this is not rocket science, this is not heavy lifting, it is simply being in court. As courtiers/ambassadors, the most important person in our world, the Queen, is there. We would be there, too, if for no other reason than to make sure that the other courtiers/ambassadors don't get the Queen's undivided attention.

I look forward to the year to come, and I'll see you all at Winter Feast!

Lord James Stewart
Earl of Moray



✧ Seamstresses & Tailors ✧

Below is a listing of those good souls that can sew a new gown or doublet for you!!

Lady Cheri MacCraig
Fremont, CA
510-770-1443

Dame Brianna de St Joer
Yellowstone, Montana
307-344-9213

Dame Mariöts Arras
Antioch, CA
925-754-6032

Dame Judith Von Holstein
Modesto, CA (Tams Only)



209-577-4761

They are all independent contractors - Give them a call and put in your order! Can you sew? Care to earn some money plying your craft, please contact Lady Kyra if you are interested in adding your name to our Seamstresses & Tailors list.

In need of Children's Costuming?

We may have something available to fit your poppet in the 'Children's Costume Trunk'. Has your child outgrown their garb? Why not donate it to the Guild for future use? For information, please contact Lady Kyra at lady_kyra@yahoo.com or 408-733-1145.



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Advertise in the Parchment

Parchment advertisement slots are available
as follows:

4 issues:

¼ page	\$25.00
½ page	\$50.00
¾ page	\$75.00
1 page	\$100.00

2 issues:

¼ page	\$12.50
½ page	\$25.00
¾ page	\$37.50
1 page	\$50.00



Thor's Hammer Royal Honorees

At the beginning of all of the Fairs where we perform, the Star Chamber is asked to take most particular note of outstanding efforts during the event. At the end of the weekend, a vote is cast amongst them, and a Thor's Hammer is awarded during the Flag Circle to that person whom the majority agree made the greatest individual contribution to our success. This is a once in a lifetime award, a signal honor, and is worn proudly by each recipient, for all who look thereupon shall honor them as they well deserve, as one of the most valued supporters of our Guild.

Our Apologies! If you find that you were inadvertently left off of the complete list of Thor's Hammer or Children's Thor Hammer Recipients, please let Dame Bronwynne Melville (donna_cary@hotmail.com) or Lady Kyra MacNeil (lady_kyra@yahoo.com) know so we can add you to it. Gramercy!

Past Honorees (in alphabetical order):

Christopher Alexander	Christina MacGeorge	Aaron Rockwell
Mariota Arras	Phillip MacGeorge	Mary Seton
Mary Beaton	Rose MacGeorge	Alice Sinclair
Katelyn Blackthorne	Brittiah MacGregor	Raven Sinclair
Bregan Borland	Kael MacGregor	Brianna de St. Joer
Margaret Bothwell	Morna MacGregor	Jennith Stewart
Charlotte Carmichael	Thomas MacLaren	John Stewart
Adam Gordon	Ian MacLeod	Sara Stewart
Alexander Gordon	Maira MacLeod	Annabelle Sumerville
Bonnie Gunn	Conor MacMillan	Duncan Sumerville
Keegan Gunn	Cora MacMillan	Ryk Tucker
Shaila Gunn	Ian MacMillan	Wolfgang Von Deekel
Claudia Hamilton	Kyra MacNeil	Marta Von Mier Jagiellonaka
Helen Henderson	Finnoola MacPherson	Johann Von Plumm
Andrew Hepburn	Drew MacQuain	
Orion MacAndrew	Megan MacQuain	Children's Thor's Hammer
Elapeth MacBeath	William Maitland	Honorees:
Cheri MacCarraig	Juan de Marana	Marni Carmichael
Morgan MacCarraig	Sabina de Mendoza	Mikala Carmichael
Shannon MacCodrum	Guy Maxwell	Scott Carmichael
Bebhain MacDomhnaill	Hannah Maxwell	Andrew MacCarraig
Pryderi MacDomhnaill	Bronwynne Melville	Tory MacNeil
Emma MacDowning	John Melville	Brianna MacQuain
Tucker MacDowning	Shiona ni Briain	Tyler Seton

❧ A Missive from the Assistant Guild Master ❧

Greetings Good Gentles of St. Andrews,

I do want to wish all of you good tidings, and thank you for all of your hard work and effort put forth this season just past! What a glorious progress it has been, I hope you all take a moment to reflect on all of the good times we have had!!

We saw many changes this year, and have welcomed in new members to our Guild Family! We are so very pleased to have found so many wonderful new friends, who also have so much to offer to Her Majesty's court! For all of us "old timers"; make sure you take the time to introduce yourselves to our "new folk" – we all remember what it was like when we first joined (however long ago – or recently that was). Our large family can at times seem overwhelming, do take the time to reach out and help our new folk feel welcome! And New Folk; don't be shy, you are now part of Her Majesty's Royal Court and are welcome in full! Have fun! And take the time to ask questions, make friends, and introduce yourself to those you haven't met yet!!

Our grandest event of the year is still afoot us, and it promises to be a very festive one indeed! Winter's Feast, with a new Masque theme, is sure to be full of merriment, music and games for all to enjoy! So, get those masks ready, prepare thy carriages, don thy finest gowns and doublets – and have a glorious time! Be prepared for some new traditions to be set forth this year!

I regret that I will be unable to attend in person, but my spirit will be there in full! We are awaiting the arrival of our little lady, due the same week as Winter's Feast itself! Perhaps a happy announcement will be made during the feast!! I can but hope that she will arrive by then, for that matter – now would be good...goodness knows I'm ready!! For those interested, all is going well with us both – just awaiting her arrival. I thank all of those who have put forth good wishes for all of us! It warms my heart to know that we are in your thoughts!! Now pray for a fast delivery – please!!!! ☺ Oh, and throw in "easy" while you're at it. ☺

As we head into our down season, do remember to stay in touch with thy guild houses and thy Head of Household. And look for newsletters and the First Parchment to start arriving in late January/early February. These will announce details for Her Majesty's 2006 Progress. And don't forget, for those who need to plan ahead budget wise, dues are due at Opening of Parliament, February 2006.

I do hope you all have a wonderful holiday season! Best wishes to you and your families! And look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

I Do remain,

Dame Bronwynne Alexandra Melville
Duchess of Sterling
The Queen's Chamberlain
Assistant Guild Master



Mary Seton

'Twas the custom of the time, that the most noble of families did enter certain family members into courtly service at their first opportunity to insure continued prosperity for the family through the alliance with the sovereign. One such opportunity for a girl child was lady-in-Waiting to a queen or future queen. George, Sixth Lord of Seton, loyal subject of James V and who had served Mary de Guise as an advisor was naturally desirous of continuing his status with the Court. His second marriage to Marie Pigris (one of Mary de Guise's ladies-in-waiting) and his role as Grand Master of the Household, made it that much easier for him to move his daughter into the lady-in-waiting role when Mary de Guise determined the necessity of sending her daughter to France (both for the personal safety of the young queen and to secure an alliance between France and Scotland against the English). This being done, together with Mary Fleming, Mary Livingston and Mary Beaton, Mary Seton began her life as friend, playmate, classmate, loyal servant, and trusted confidant to Mary Stewart (all at the tender age of four).



Conjecture can be made of Mary Seton's personality and the reasoning behind some of her life choices based on the Seton family history and the customs of the time. The Setons were among the most illustrious of the great houses of Scotland, conspicuous throughout their whole history for their loyalty and firm attachment to the Stewart dynasty, in whose cause they periled and lost their titles and extensive estates on numerous occasions. Their family crest embodies this fierce loyalty and determination. It is not difficult to speculate then, that Mary Seton would naturally personify an excessive degree of personal responsibility for the comforts and safety of the queen to whom she'd been chosen (by her revered father) to attend. (This assumption is further strengthened by the later fact that Mary Seton willingly chose to follow her responsibility to Her Majesty into captivity in England where she stayed by Her Majesty's side until the end).

It was also the custom of the time for the heads of households to arrange the marriages of their sons and daughters to assure the furthering of family and personal alliances and finances. One might think that Mary Seton, being from one of the wealthiest and most influential families in Scotland would have suitors lined up outside her father's door. Though from all accounts she exhibited a very meek and pious nature (especially in contrast to the vivacious personality of Mary Livingston) and was certainly not considered a great beauty (as were Mary Fleming and Mary Beaton), she did command certain admiration in England of the younger son of Sir Richard Norton (who unfortunately, was executed at the time of the northern rising in that country so that we may never know the full extent of his feelings). Mary Seton was no luckier with her next suitor, Andrew Beaton, for though it is readily accepted that he was "in love" with Mary Seton, two obstacles stood in the way of any marriage taking place; the first being a vow of perpetual chastity that the virtuous Mary Seton had taken early in her youth, and the second (and more important perhaps) that although coming from an honorable Scottish family, Andrew Beaton felt he was not quite on an equal social footing with the daughter of Lord Seton. He was able to overcome the spiritual impediment of the vow of chastity by traveling to France to have the vow nullified. Tragically however, on the homeward journey he was drowned and Mary Seton was left to mourn her last chance of married happiness as no one further attempted to dissuade her from the consolations of religion to which she had clung so long. She died a spinster under the name of Seton, which she prized so much, in a French convent where she had retired following the execution of her beloved mistress.



From The Book of the Courtier

The following is taken from the English translation of *The Book of the Courtier* by Sir Thomas Hoby (1561) as edited by Walter Raleigh and partakes of the virtues and faults, as may be, of that edition. It was transcribed by R. A. Bear at the University of Oregon during the summer of 1997.

OF THE CHIEF CONDITIONS AND QUALITIES IN A WRITING GENTYEWOMAN

- To be well born and of a good house.
- To flee affectation or curiositie.
- To have a good grace in all her doinges.
- To be of good condicions and wel brought up.
- To be wittie and foresging, not heady and of a renning witt.
- Not to be haughtie, envious, gyltuned, lyght, contentious nor untowardlye.
- To win and keepe her in her ladies favour and all others.
- To do the exercises meete for women, comlye and with a good grace.
- To take hede that give none occasion to bee yll reported of.
- To commit no vice, nor yet to be had in suspition of any vice.
- To have the vertues of the minde, as wisdom, justie, nobleness of courage, temperance, strength of the minde, continence, sobermood, etc.
- To be good and discrete.
- To have the understandinge beinge married, how to ordeine her husbandes substance, her house and children, and to play the good huswif.
- To have a sweetnesse in language and a good utterance to enterlein all kinde of men with the communication worth the hearing, honest, applyed to time and place to the degree and disposition of the person which her principall profession.
- To accompany sober and quiet maners and honesty with a lively quicknesse of wit.
- To be esteemed no lesse chaste, wise and courteous, then pleasant, feat conceited and sober.
- Not to make wise to abhor companie and talke, though somewhat of the wantonnest, to arrive and forsake them for it.
- To geve the hearing of such kinde of talke with blushing and bashfulness.
- Not to speake wordes of dishonestie and baudrye to shewe her self pleasant, free and a good fellowe.
- Not to use over much familiaritie without measure and bridg.
- Not willinglie to give eare to such as report ill of other women.
- To be heedfull in her talke that she offend not where she ment it not.
- To beware of praysinge her self undiscernably, and of beinge tedious and noysome in her talke.
- Not to mingle with grave and sad matters, meerie jestes and laughinge matters: nor with mirth, matters of gravitie.
- To be circumspect that she offend no man in her jesting and tauntinge, to appeere therby of a ready witt.
- Not to make wise to knowe the thing that she knoweth not, but with sobernesse geve her estimation with that she knoweth.
- Not to come on loft nor use to swift measures in her daunsinge.
- Not to use in singinge or playinge upon instruments to muche devision and busy pointes, that declare more cunning then sweetnesse.
- To come to daunce, or to shewe her musick with suffringe her self to be first prayed somewhat and drawen to it.
- To appareile her self so, that she seeme not fonde and fantasticall.



- To sett out her beawtye and disposition of person with meete garments that shall best becommg her, but as feyningly as she can, makynge semblant to bestowe no labour about it, nor yet to minde it.
- To have an understandinge in all thinges belonginge to the the Courtier, that she maye gyve her judgemente to commend and to make of gentylmen according to their worthinesse and desertes.
- To be learned.
- To be seene in the most necessarie languages.
- To drawe and paint.
- To daunce.
- To devise sportes and pastimes.
- Not to be lyghte of eredit that she is beloved, though a man commeng familiarlye with her of love.
- To shap him that is overaueie wyth her, or that hath small respecte in hys talke, suche an answer, that he maye well understande she is offended wyth hym.
- To take the lovynge communication of a sober Gentylman in an other signifcation, seeking to straye from that purpose.
- To acknowledge the praises whiche he giveth her at the Gentylmans courtesye, in case she can not dissemble the understandinge of them: debasynge her owne desertes.
- To be heedfull and remembre that men may with lesse jeopardy show to be in love, then women.
- To geve her lover nothing but her minde, when eyther the hatred of her husband, or the love that he beareth to others inclingth her to love.
- To love one that she may marye withall, beeing a mayden and mindinge to love.
- To shewe suche a one all signes and tokens of love savynge suche as maye put hym in anye dishonest hope.
- To use a somewhat more famlyar conversation wyth men well growen in yeres, then with yonge men.
- To make her self beloved for her desertes, amiableness, and good graec, not with anye uncomelie or dishonest behaviour, or flickeringe entiegment with wanton looks, but with vertue and honest condicions.
- To final ende whereto the Courtier applieth all his good condicions, properties, feates and qualities, serveth also for a waiting Gentilwoman to grow in favour with her lady, and by that meane so to instruct her and trainge her to vertue, that she may both refraine from vice and from committing anye dishonest matter, and also abhor flatterers, and give her self to understand the full troth in every thyng, without entring into self seeking and ignorance, either of other outward thinges, or yet of her owne self.

**Reminder: Dues are due at
Opening of Parliament
February 2006**

**See the January Parchment
& the web
(www.saintandrewsguild.com)
for updates to the 2006
calendar**