TALES FROM THE BURNING LANDS....



AMIGARD, KINGDOM OF THE BURNING LANDS VOL. IV, Number 5 - April, 1988

Contributors: Aramithris, Rex Kalibria, Princess Consort Joella, Prime Minister Gwynne, Court Scribe Dutchess Tawnee Darkfalcon

Art: Gwynne Joella Amigocon Information Courtesy of Dachs

OFFICERS/GUILDMASTERS - 10/24/87 TO 04/23/88

COURT

King Aramithris

Princess Consort Kalibria

Champion Gilos

Prime Minister Joella

COURT OFFICIALS

Scribe - Gwynne

Princess' Defender - Larce

Bard - Scarhart

Herald - Ozy

Jester - Theo

First Lady in Waiting - Shylarra

CORPORATE OFFICERS

Aramithris, Theo, Gilos Board of Directors:

M'Deth, Abedon .

Membership Officer: Aramithris Treasurer: Gwynne

KING'S GUARD

Zyax - (Captain)

Andre

Grymlac

Kam'Aron

Naes

Theo

Xevious

PRINCESS' GUARD

Aredhel

Esuom

Hellspawn

CLASS GUILDWASTERS

Antipaladins - Hellspawn

Archers - Sterling #

Assassins - Theo

Barbarians - Sigfried

Bards - Scarhart

Captains - Zyax Healers - Raven

Knights - Aramithris Magic Users - Tawnee

Monks - Larce

Monsters - Morbid

Paladins - Aredhel

Reeves - Esuom

Scouts - Naes

Warriors - Gilos

COLLEGES OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ARTS GUILDWASTERS

Art - Tawnee

Drama - Sigfried

Garb - Abdeon

Literature - Gwynne

Minstrels - Scarhart

SCIENCES GUILDWASTERS

Engineers - Sterling #

Gladiators - M'Deth

Heraldry - Joella

Sages - Kam'Aron Smiths - Aramithris

This is the 6th and last of a series of letters I initiated upon entering my second reign as monarch some five months ago. It is both ironic and appropriate that this last missive should begin where that first letter ended. I speak, of course, about the new handbook of rules. Our previous rulebook, which I also edited, was published in mid 1986. It was not drastically different from the 1984 rulebook presented by then King Nashomi. The chief departure from previous rulebooks was in the methods For the first time guildmasters were approached and applied. asked to submit their recommendations for class rules. reasons for inviting guildmaster participation were threefold: 1) to encourage active political participation by more club members, thusly providing a bulwark against the power play excesses of the past, 2) to make the position of guildmaster into a more responsible one, and 3) to provide a viable alternative to another proposed rulebook (sponsored by the Wandering Unicorns) that would have reduced all classes to only 3 levels and also would have given the Unicorns a permanent two-thirds majority vote over all club policies from then on. We were at the Estrella Wars at the time of this proposal and missed the hastily called "Allthing" that proposed that state of affairs. My thanks to Gilos for standing up to that nonsense. Upon my return the battle was joined and the "good" fight fought. I immediately went to the guildmasters and out of that strife came the 4th edition handbook. It was flawed and incomplete, but it represented a break with the past where the few dictated to the many. approach was not without its problems. There were guildmasters who decided to emulate past performances and do some power grabbing of their own. This led to a spate of unpleasant and inconclusive Allthings. I vividly recall one guildmaster, who shall remain unnamed, stubbornly insisting on passing the newest demigod like abilities for their class, and then, when turned down at the Allthing, refusing to act on the changes that were pass at that Allthing. , That was the first and not the last attempt by class guildmasters to legislate their "dream class" into the handbook.



This current handbook has its seeds of inspiration in another such power grabbing effort some nine months ago. The guildmaster in question was the same person, but the guild was different. Though I could have stopped it, I abstained from the scheduled Allthing. My reasoning was that I couldn't spend all my time putting out fires, and I was interested in seeing if people would stand up and defend themselves from being screwed. Incredibly, the measure passed (by something like a 12 to 10 margin) and Amtgard now officially has a class with the largest number of available spells, with 9+ levels, with extra spell points at higher levels, with the ability to wear armor, with enchantments that made them totally immune to everyone else's

magic, with at least two spells that automatically killed everyone else, with the ability to turn into a magic-using monster with unlimited lives; the list goes on. I kid you not. People, with smiles on their faces, voted to inflict, this indignity upon themselves and the club. Never had I been more discouraged about the future and the nature of my service (Is this really worth it?).

After some soul searching I decided to run for monarch some 3 months later. I couldn't let the new "demigod" abomination and yet endeavoring to eliminate it would be a tremendous By this time we needed a new rulebook to incorporate struggle. all the changes already in play, and some areas of class balance needed to be addressed, so I hit upon the idea of a long overdue rulebook revision to make something that would last for a while (A stable rulebook does help engender a stable Amtgard). Also, I could help incorporate those awful demigod rules (the class also to remain unnamed) in a manner to bring them more in line with the realities of the other Amtgard guilds. I informed the club of my intentions and gave the guildmasters the green light (Talk to your guilds and write up your guild the way it should be. You can have what you want as long as it doesn't impair game balance or playability".) One elected monarch, 15 elected guildmasters, and almost 5 months of hard work yielded the new handbook.

This new 5th edition handbook is a major step forward. It is organized and streamlined, the guilds are roughly equivalent, all rules are covered, and there are sections on weapons construction, garb, and game etiquette. It looks nice and will do Amtgard credit when we pass out and sell handbooks at the conventions and demos come early May. It is not perfect, and the guilds are not written the way I would do them, but that was the whole point - to let each guild's elected representative present the guild in the manner he or she perceived it. My role has been that of administrator, coordinator, peacemaker, confidante, and Of course there was the usual amount of politics, but the rules are remarkably free of bias and B.S. Most of the guildmasters were conscientious, hard working, and a real pleasure to work with; it's good to know that people care. Then again there are those petty, would be tyrants who don't want the workload or the responsibility, but insisted that their 2¢ be written into the rules. Their complaints and suggestions have been considered, and I've generally stood back and let the guildmasters deal with these toads, lending support only where a good -

necessary. It is rulebook, and no major problems have yet up, but it has to be given a chance. Some people are already crying "Allthing", their salivatting at the prospect of digging into the creative efforts of others painfully evident. Some of the guildmasters are even assailing each other's guilds. Enough I say.



We made do with a flawed and incomplete rulebook for almost two years. The problems that arose and their solutions are included in this handbook. Errors and problems will appear in time, and has always been the case, we will deal with them. It requires a full monarch's reign to initiate such a major project. This handbook will stand or fall in the test of time, and people tearing either at it or at each other are not doing anyone, themselves included, any favors.

But enough of this. Amtgard goes forward, and crown qualifications is upon us. Two sets of fliers have already been distributed, and dates and times of events are listed below. Rumor has it that Oz and Scarhart are sponsoring crown qualification. In any event, I will probably forego my usual myriad of entries in order to help in the organizing, judging, and scoring.

CROWN QUALIFICATIONS - DATES/TIMES OF EVENTS

April 2

- 1. Declarations for Crown due
- 2. Factual writing, composition, and poetry entries turned in to Gwynne
- 3. Pente tournament begins
- 4. Chess tournament continues

April 8

1. Written entries judged at the above of Gwynne and Sterling #

April 9 CROWN QUALIFICATION EVENTS

10:30 a.m.	Begin Corpora, Heraldry, Reeve's tests
11:00	Begin judging place encampments
12:00 noon	Best looking garb
12:30 p.m.	Best fighting garb
1:00	Instrumental music
1:30	Singing
2:00	Begin judging: 2-D art, 3-D art, Armor construc-
	tion, Weapon and Shield construction, The Rose
	(Banners and Favors)
3:00	Complete tests

NOTE: War events will be staged all throughout the day.

The calendar of events through June is included elsewhere in this newsletter. The election for monarch will be between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. on April 16, 1938. To be eligible to vote you must be an active member (6 or more sign-in attendances in the past six months). The Crown Feast is on April 23 and seating arrangements are limited. Hopefully there will be a flier included in this newsletter. In any event, reservations are being taken by Princess Consort Kalibria and Prime Minister Joella.

Believe it or not, I'd originally planned to write about the high and low points of this reign. Perhaps not. One other item of business, this split site idea of fighter practice has only hurt. I'm going to recommend to the next monarch that we permanently move the Wednesday practices to Ponder Park. Best wishes and good luck to the next monarch. May your patience and fortitude remain strong.

Yours in Service,

Aramithris, Rex

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2nd - Declarations for Crown due to Joella Written entries due to Gwynne Guildmaster elections - Joella Pente begins Chess continued Newsletter due (rules finalized) Fighter practice 6th 8th Judge written entries at Gwynne's Crown Qualifications 10:00 a.m. (Oz/Scarhart) 13th Fighter practice 16th Crown election and tourney (Aramithris) 20th Fighter practice 23rd Company battles (?) Crown Coronation Feast 7:30 p.m. (Kalibria) 27th Fighter practice (Ponder Park) 29th Amigocon III 30th Open May 1st Amtgard demo at Amigocon 12:00 noon (Dachs) 4th Fighter practice Weaponmaster tourney - (Aramithris) 7th 11th Fighter practice (Ponder Park) 14th Go back to 3:00 p.m. start time 21st Sword of Flame (Tawnee) 27th through 30th - S.C.A. Grand Outlandish June 4th No Champs tourney (Aramithris) 11th Open 18th Open

25th Camping trip with Plunder Tourney & Corsair Feast

QUASI EDITORIAL, REPORT ON ESTRELLA

AND

SPECIAL, PERSONAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

Aramithris, Rex

And Musketeers,

#1. Joella Starwatcher

#2. Scarhart, and his Lady.....

#3. Jackie the Indomitable

#4. Ozy Mandeus (aka Ozy Stockbreaker)

First thanks go to our Monarch who, rightfully discerning that your club scribe had more on her plate than she could easily consume what with Estrella (preparations, attendance, and recovery) not to mention electing to move her residence to the new location of 1308 North Oregon, quietly and gallantly went ahead with the typing and layout of the March newsletter thus sparing said scribe certain and total mental and moral collapse.

Second expression of profound gratitude is tendered to the four musketeers who with no sense of personal gain (other than beer and pizza) made the aforementioned relocation of 'domicile relatively painless and much more fun than moving has any right to be.

Now that I have gotten the important personals on paper let me drop a few words about Estrella, 1988. Please note that The Mad Rhymester was at Estrella though accoutered in a disguise so profound, and so clever that this writer doubts anyone recognized him. His work was so inspired, so comprehensive, (and so raunchy) I promptly decided that the report on Estrella 1988 would best be put in his words alone hence the following:

To reach Estrella was Esuom's bent
And she valiantly pursued this intent
But an 18 wheel truck
On her gear ran amok
Bent and rent there went the tent.

We saw very little of Tawnee
When we did she looked haggard and scrawny
Said she, "I don't give a fudge,
For being a drudge"
I'll not cook again for the royalty.

From a lady he desired her fair flower. So Rift decided to shower. But so cold the first dunk His *appurtenance shrunk And gave new meaning to deflower power.

*ap.pur.te.nance (e pur't'n ans) 1. anything that appertains; a thing added to a more important thing; adjunct 2. (pl.) apparatus or equipment; accessories

All the night he did wander quite stewed
And at dawn was most loud and most lewd
We now think the name Ozy
A good synonym of scuzzy
(Or muzzy, or fuzzy, even crude).

M'Deth got a whack on the finger (the middle) Ruined his career as a singer (with fiddle) He said, "What the hell, I still please my wife well As I don't use middle finger" (to diddle).

Rumor has it the mighty Ajax
Was hit in the knee with an Ax.
Me thinks with his history
Of soul rending repertory
He really just knelt on some tacks.

For his first SCA battle foray Gilos, in the midst of the fray, Was heard to exclaim In the midst of his pain "You mean these fools do this all day?"

When asking the location of his injury
Aredhel replied "there's no mystery,
But I consider it crass,
To speak of one's ass
Especially in such refined company".

When selecting camp sites at events, Gwynne's choice of where go the tents, Totally sucks The Claw camps with the ducks, And the gophers, the snails, and serpents.

> Lament over Abedon most fair, Who spent the event washing hair. If she'd learn to party, There's a welcome most hearty For the only civilized Corsair.

Broadswords, polearms, even the longbow Mighty Aramithris from these got not one blow But it turns out His Nibs Received two broken ribs By being struck by a well armored elbow!

Sterling # with a gleam in his eye
With his bow made the arrows to fly
His nose now out of joint
Missed first place by one point
"Wait till next year was his parting cry".

A ROSTER OF THE FAITHFUL ATTENDEES

Abedon Marika *Alric of the Emerald Isle M'Deth *Andralaine *Morluk Aramithris Ozy Mandeus Aredhel Raven Argon Rift Ariona Scarhart Ajax Shylarra Esuom Sterling # Gilos Tawnee Gwynne Theo Joella Kalibria Kurse Larce

*Indicates individuals who though no longer residents of The Burning Lands are nonetheless not only with us in spirit but produces actual bodily presence at Estrella.

*Lonewolf

I'll bet some of you didn't even know there was such a thing as a Literary Guild at Amtgard. Not only is the guild alive and well but will shortly begin to flourish just prior to the crown qualifications. As Guildmistress of Literature I spend most of the crown half year mucking about with the newsletter which is certainly interesting but the excitement comes during crown qualifications.

Most of you are aware that there are several types literary contests for crown, i.e., factual writing, composition (includes persona histories), and poetry/free verse. Last crown saw more literary entries than ever before and it would give both myself and my guild great pleasure to see even more entries this crown.

Please do not hesitate to enter these contests just because your name is not William Shakespear or Ray Bradbury.... our motto is "If you can think you can write".

One literary category that has had less than an overwhelming amount of entries is the short story (less than 5,000 words). This is a fun category and if you start now you can surely crank out up to 5,000 words on any subject you wish ... factual, fantasy, humor, drama, etc. As a matter of fact, how about a play? No one has ever, to my knowledge, entered a play in written composition before.

I would like to pass on a couple of pointers to those of you hopefully about to be inspired by the Muse, to wit: Literary entries for this Spring's crown qualifications will be more stringently judged than in the past.

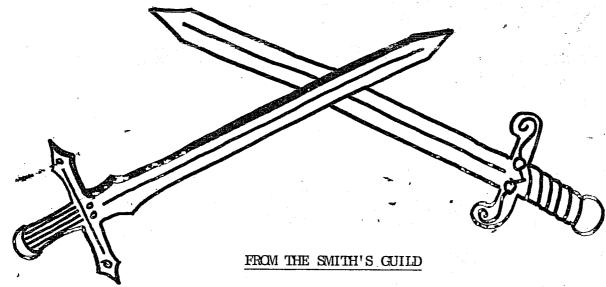
Entries will be given better consideration if they are typed and if they contain no typographical or grammatical errors. Illustrations are not encouraged unless they are germane to the subject matter, i.e., a how-to paper to which such illustrations are necessary, etc. All entrants are most urgently requested to not sign their names to their work.

The Guild is also seeking a representative panel of judges from all the companies of Amtgard and independents to judge all written entries. Note that if you enter these contests you cannot judge. Those wishing to assist in this judging please give me your names and phone numbers. Judging will be a my (new) abode at 1308 North Oregon prior to the date of crown qualifications and more information and details will be forthcoming.

NOTE: Judging is of course hard, painstaking, exhausting work so there will of course be munchies and libations to help you brave, courageous souls make it through several hours of non-stop reading.

Also a thought, this crown qualifications will have a theme chosen by our current royal consort Kalibria. What do you think of a literary category for crown relating to this theme? Give it some thought and give me some feedback.

Gwynne, Guildmistress of Literature



ARVOR EVALUATION - MARCH, 1988

NOTES:

- 1. Armor is rated as per the criteria set down in the handbook.
- 2. Armor was evaluated for the following in decreasing order of importance:
 - Weight
 - Appearance
 - Materials
 - Construction
 - Comparison to other sets of armor
 - Class applicability
- 3. 1/32 inch nagahide, even when doubled, was rated one level lower than 1/16 inch leather.
- 4. Even minimal armor, such as doubled furs, is rated at one point. In order to leave room for expansion, no armor was given the maximum value of 6. Stacked armor halves the value of the lower rated piece (rounded down).
- 5. The evaluation does not include the ability of 6th level warriors to raise their armor by plus one point in value.
- 6. Mixed armor was averaged whenever possible.
- 7. Listings are by who usually uses the armor, not necessarily who made it. Leggings, moccasins, and vests are usually not armor.
- 8. All pieces evaluated were either presented to the Crown for inspection or were taken from a list. This evaluation listing can serve as a basis for comparison, but if your armor has not been rated, then see to it.

Andre Chain - 4pt Padded Plates-3pt Studded Nagahide - 1pt Aluminum Plate - 4pt Plate - 5pt Plate-4pt reane l Arami in Tali Scalemail - 3pt Aluminum Plate 4pt Studded Leather Reinforced Leather-3pt Steel Legs - 5pt Armbands -2pt Studded Leather - 2pt Leather - 1pt Quilted - 1pt Dagger Sheath Steel Legs - 4pt -1pt Leather Kneepads - 1pt Jeweled Kidney Belt - 1pt Aron Balilnor Studded Leather Kidney Belt-2pts Studded Leather Armbands -2pts Studded Leather Armbands-3pts Ghee Gi los Esuom Double Weaved Leather-2pt Scalemail-2pt Reinforced Padded-2pt Aluminum Legs-3pt Hellspawn Kurse Studded Leather Armbands-2pts Studded Nagahide-1pt M'Deth Larce Reinforced Leather-3pt Aluminum and Leather-3pt Leather Reinforced Legs-3pt Leather Kidney Belt-1pt Cage-3pt Studded Leather-2pt Leather-1pt Copper Chain-3pt Gambeson-1pt Aluminum Legs-3pt Morluk Naes Morbid Studded Nagahide-1pt Leather & Plates-3pt Studded Nagahide-1pt Nashomi Pyro Oz Thick Leather-2pt Studded Nagahide-1pt Studded Leather Reinforced Leather-3pt Armbands-2pt Metal/Leather Legs-3pt Studded Leather Kidney Belt-2pt Rakasta Rift Taron Reinforced Leather-3pt Ringed Leather-1pt Quilted-1pt Reinforced Legs-3pt (Iron)Steel Plates-5pt Zor Tawnee Theo Dragon Leather-2pt Studded Leather-2pt Studded Leather-2pt

Zyax

Metal/Leather Shin-guards-2pt

Zucaron

Plastic/Metal Legs-2pt

Reinforced Leather-3pt



EFIFF



FANTASY ALLIANCE P.O. BOX 3177, EL PASO TX 79923

AMIGOCON 3 April 29 - May 1, 1988 El Paso, Texas

Location: Amigocon 3, a science fiction and fantasy convention, will be held April 29 - May 1, 1988 at the Holiday Inn-Sunland Park, El Paso, Texas, conveniently located on El Paso's west side, immediately off Exit 13 of Interstate 10.

Cost: Memberships to Amigocon are \$12.00 for the entire weekend if purchased before April 22, 1988. After that date, a weekend membership will be \$15.00. Purchase of a weekend membership includes admission to the reception on Friday evening, April 29 (see Special Activities).

One-day memberships at \$7.50 are also available for Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. Additional tickets for the reception will be available for \$2.50 to purchasers of one-day memberships.

Guests: Our Author Guest of Honor this year is George Alec Effinger, author of the critically acclaimed novel When Gravity Fails. Our Special Guest Author is Walter Jon Williams, author of Hardwired and a contributor to the "Wild Cards" series.

Our Artist Guest of Honor is Brad Foster, creator of <u>Mechthings</u>, who won the Hugo award for Best Fan Artist at the 1987 World Science Fiction Convention. Our Special Guest Artist is Mel White, artist for <u>Duncan</u> and Mallory.

Accomodations: The Holiday Inn-Sunland Park has offered a special rate for those attending Amigocon 3. Both single and double rooms will be \$45.00 a night. To make reservations, call the Holiday Inn-Sunland Park at (915) 833-2900 or toll-free 1-800-HOLIDAY. Be sure to tell them that you're with Amigocon.

Special Activities: The convention will begin Friday evening, April 29, with a wine and cheese reception for our Guests. The Art Show will be open for the reception, and prizes for the artists announced. The reception is included in a three-day membership, or separate tickets can be purchased for \$2.50 with a one-day membership.

An art show will be on display all during the convention. Artwork may be purchased by silent bid or at live auction. Prizes will be awarded for best amateur and professional artwork. Artists should write that for see of space is a vailable in the art show.

A masquerade will be held Saturday evening. Any costumes related to science-fiction or fantasy are encouraged. Prizes will be awarded.

Other convention activities include talks and workshops led by our Guest Authors and Artists, films, role-playing games, a dealer's room, autograph sessions, and more!

Amignon is sparsored by the El Paso Science Fiction and Fantasy Alliance.

EVENTS (HIGHLIGHTS)

FRIDAY who and -Cheese 7:30 pm. Opening Reception 9:00 pm Con Suite opens

SATURDAY

11 a.m. Panel on Comics and Graphic Novels Gro. Hec Effinger, Brad Faster, Mel. White

Noon SCA Damo

1 p.m. Walter Jan Williams Reading

2 p.m. Mel White Slideshow

3 p.m. Trivia Contest

4:30 p.m. Movie: Jay Duncan hosts
Or. Jekyll and Mv. Hydr (1932), with Fredric March,
only movie to wh an actor an
Oscar for playing a monster.

7:00 p.m. Masquerade - priver for best costumes 8:00 y.m. Art Auction

11:00 pm. Panel: Writing Sleaze for Fun and Profit

Midnite Movie: Or. Otto and the Terror of the Gloom Beam

SUNDAY

10 a.m. Panel! So You Want to Make a Living (professional winters & artists
11 a.m. An Hour with Brad Foster (Artist Guert-of- Honor - Hugo Award Winne

Noon Reading: George Alec Effinger

I P.M. AMTGARD DEMO

2 p.m. General Auction

4 p.m. Demonstration: Movie Mayic and Special Effects Make-Up Jay Duncan, Terry Gibson (Sust Er Fin) and other

6

PCUS MOUIES, READERS THEATER, AUTOGRAPHINGS, MORE!

GAMING ROOM OPEN ALL DAY AND NIGHT SATURDAY-SUNDA

WITH PRIZES DONATED BY GAMING COMPANIES.

Three of our Guest Authors (George Alec Effinger, Walter Jon Williams Thoraring Will sign books get Walden books at

His Majesty, King Aramithris and the populace of the Burning Lands:

I bring you greetings from Nithanalorn. His sojourn in foreign lands has borne fruit in the form of the creation of an Amtgard Duchy in Austin. This Duchy has eighteen regular members. They are governed by an elected Duke and Chancellor. They are a subject land of the Kingdom of the Burning Lands. If and when they feel they have a candidate worthy of knighthood, they will send a letter to the King of the Burning. Lands describing qualifications and accomplishments, requesting knighthood for the candidate. They hold their elections in January and July, and I believe they hold an

Arts and Sciences competition at that time. Their club is formed around the concept of a single Amtgard Kingdom, with a number of outlying subject Duchies, as I understand. When their Duchy, or any other, becomes strong enough, a war would be declared and fought. The winner would then be the Kingdom, the loser, a Duchy. If any of this information turns out to be incorrect, forgive me. Communication by speaking glass

is inconvenient at best.

Most of us are aware of the controversy surrounding Avalon's return from the Amtgard group in Albuquerque. It is my feeling that an Allthing should be called to discuss and determine a policy of foreign affairs for the club as a whole. Prior to this

all known Amtgard spur clubs should be contacted, and correct information regarding attendance, governance, and attitude toward the parent group

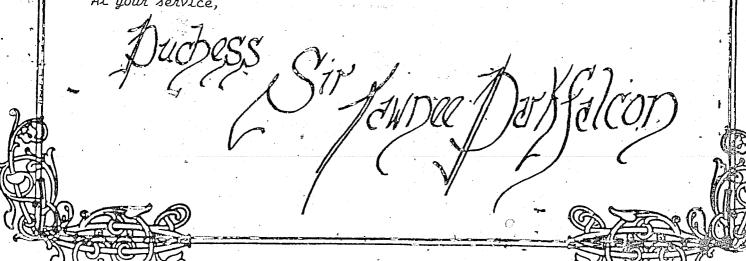
obtained for presentation at the Allthing.

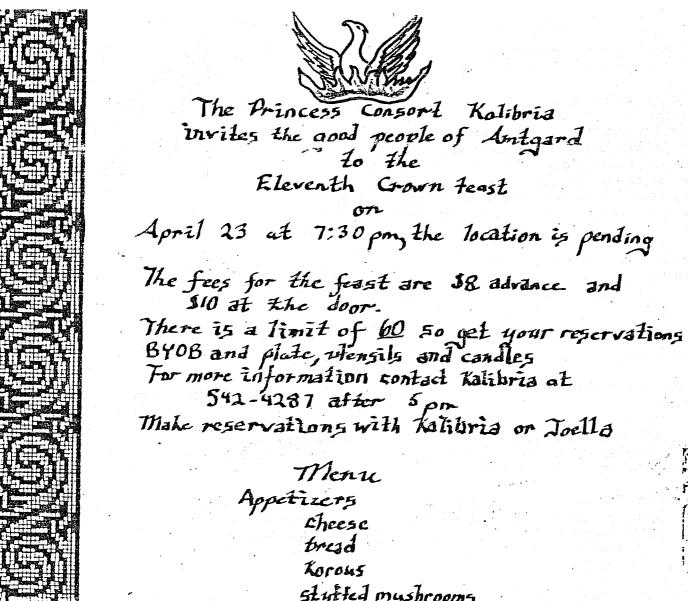
Wouldn't it be fantastic if, when visiting or moving to other cities, we could participate in Amtgard there? It a simple letter of introduction would allow you to carry your credits and honors with you? For this to be possible, we must offer the same opportunity to Amtgard members in other cities.

Nithanalorn, and with luck, other members of the Austin Amtgard will be coming for a visit in the next several months. It is my hope that they will be greeted warmly, with open arms and minds. Let us not become like other groups and clubs, so close minded that we discourage new membership and creative innovation. Our organization is too young to stunt our growth for fear of change.

I am looking forward to the day when six hundred fighters are on the field, contesting for whatever people make war about. I'll be playing a wizard. Just imagine, "Doomsday one, Doomsday two..." Utterly glorious!

At your service,





Cheese

bresd

Korous

Stutted mushrooms

fruit

Thain Dish

ham

poultry

5ide Dishes

salads

finger vegetables

Hotori (soup)

Dessert

Therwill be a pot luck contest, each

dish should serve 6-8

