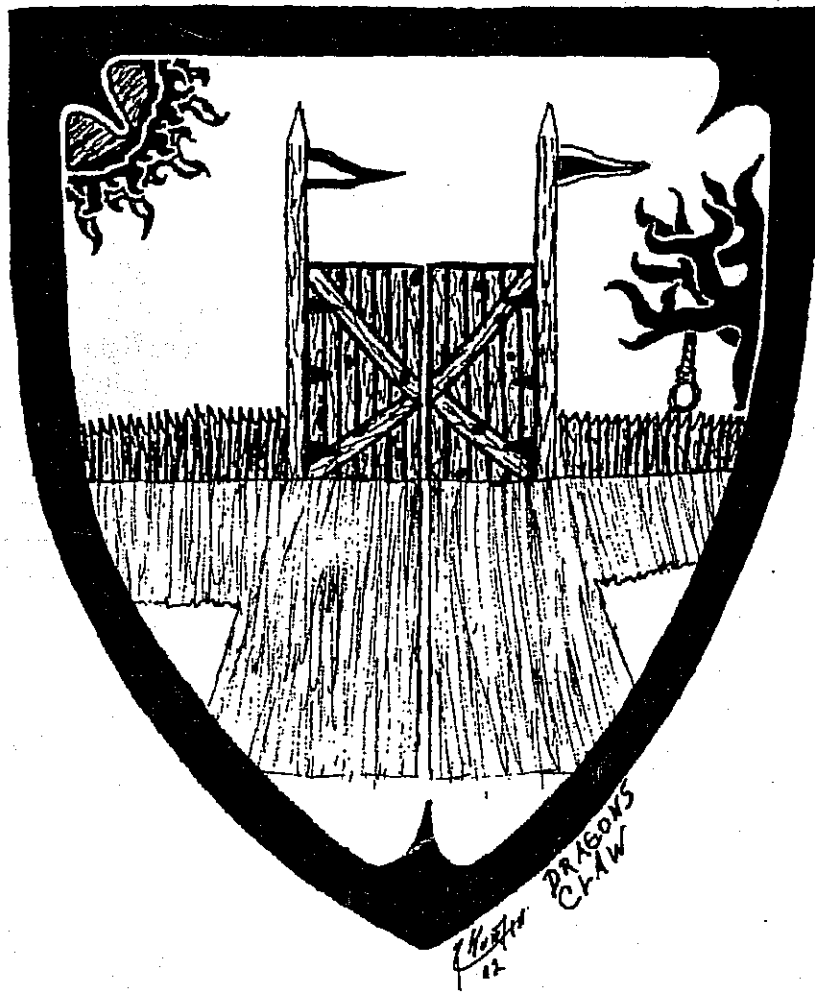


The Ballows

Edition #3

Amtgard Newsletter for Traitors Gate.

April 2002



The Duchy of Traitors Gate, Celestial Kingdom Amtgard

Duchy Officers

Duke - Theo
Regent - Alana
Champion - Nocturne
Chancellor - Mistress Wynd
Web master - Colonel

Traitors Gate Guild masters.

Anti Paladins - Sir Zircon
Archer - Vermilion Vagabond
Assassin - Grifter
Barbarian - Bromhir
Druid - Dark Star
Healer - Scarlet
Monk - Cirrus
Monsters - Colonel
Paladin - Do we have any?
Reeve - Sir Zircon
Scout -
Water Bearer -
Wizards - Scarecrow

Calendar of Events

Quals are today at Talonfield. They meet
at
Fishermans Park in Bastrop. Doh!

Coronation will be on April 19-21 at
Webberville Park
in Webberville. From South of Austin:
IH 35 North to Ben White/Highway 71
Right (East) to FM 973 turn Left
(north)to FM 969 Turn Right (East) to
Webberville(or Webberwood, there will
be a sign I just cant remember the name)
road turn right. Follow the signs from
there. From North of Austin: IH 35
South to MLK Blvd, turn Left (East).
MLK becomes FM 969, Turn after about
23 miles. Follow signs. From East of
Austin (Bastrop area) Highway 71 West
to FM 969 (just out of town) turn right
Follow signs to site. From West of
Austin (Kerrville area) Highway 16
North to Fredericksburg to US 290, turn
right (East) into Austin -Merges with
Highway 71. Follow hwy 71 through
Austin to FM 973 and turn Left (norht)
to FM 969 turn right. Follow signs to
site.

Lets see, there are no glass containers of
any sort, no ground fires and pets must
be on leashes.

Some time after that Traitors Gate will
be holding local elections.

Learn to stand
where
Traitors hang

Spring Qualifications for Traitors Gate

Allthing

Cultural events

Banners – Theme - Traitors Gate
Court Garb
Fighting Garb
Weapon construction
Armor Construction
Flat Art
Writing
3D Art
Games
Cooking

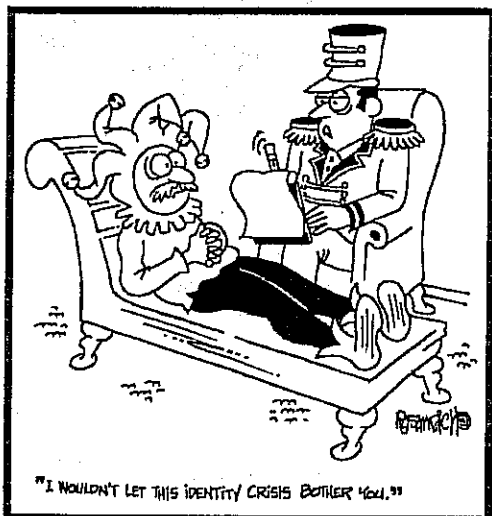
Fighting events

Single sword
Sword and shield
Florentine
Two man team
(Open - no duplicate weapons)
Archery
Weapons scramble
Hinged weapons
Pole arm

To qualify for Duke you must enter 4 cultural events, 4 fighting events and pass a reeve and Capora test.

To qualify for Regent you must enter 6 cultural events, 2 fighting events and pass a reeve and Capora test.

To qualify for Champion you must enter 6 fighting events, 2 cultural events and pass a reeve and Capora test.



The US Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.

Why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Okay! Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagons would break on some of the old, long distance

roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts. So who built these old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for or by Imperial Rome they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Thus, we have the answer to the original questions. The United State standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification (Military Spec) for an Imperial Roman army war chariot. MilSpecs and Bureaucracies live forever.

So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back-ends of two war horses.

You Might Be A MacGregor If...

by Ruadh From: DUCORBEAU@AOL.COM
(Susan Mayer)

- Your favourite cut of meat is on the hoof in Montrose's herd.
- You've been told a bonnet is made of virgin wool and you ask to meet the sheep.
- Your bowl of Campbells Soup has real Campbells in it.
- You refer to a petting zoo as a brothel.
- You'd rather look at a copy of the latest Museum Replicas catalogue than Playboy Magazine.
- Your eating utensils consist of two knives and a flask.
- You think "Woolly Bully" is a Campbell love song.
- You actually like haggis.
- You take your claymore to the ATM, just in case.
- You've actually bought a vehicle based on how many pikes it will hold.
- You can set off metal detectors ten feet away.
- Your spearmint gum is made from real spears.
- Dressing for an occasion means wearing woad.
- You refer to nudity as "being totally regimental."
- You refer to anyone outside your clan as Sassenach.
- All your weapons are named.
- You have a choice between steel and uisgebeithe and you choose steel.
- You have a choice between steel and uisgebeithe and you realize that with enough steel you can get all the uisgebeithe you want.
- You have a choice between steel and uisgebeithe and you ask "There's a choice?"
- The total value of your weapons collection exceeds the value of your vehicle by more than 50%.

Tech support in Medieval times

"Merlin, Inc. technical support. How can I help you?"

"Yesterday I've bought your sword..."

"Congratulations, sir, you've made the right choice!"

"It doesn't work."

"What does it mean - doesn't work?"

"It doesn't cut the dragon's head."

"Have you read the manual, sir?"

"A noble knight have not to know how to read! But my armour-bearer has read it for me aloud twice."

"Well, sir. Have you taken the sword out of the sheath?"

"Yes."

"Is that really so? Check it again, please."

"I've done it, I say to you!"

Okay, sir. Now check the edge sharpness."

"Ough!"

"You shouldn't do it with your finger, sir."

"What thinger? I've done it with my phonguel I always check a sharp flavour of my dishes like that."

"You see, sir, a sword has a bit different construction than your dinner dishes. The term 'sharp' means here..."

"I'm not obliged to know you technical terms! I'm a user, not a hardware specialist. You'd better answer why doesn't it work!"

"Did it work before?"

"I don't know, I've bought it only yesterday!" "Okay, sir."

Have you done anything with it?"

"No!"

"Are you sure?"

"Well, I only took it out of the sheath."

"Did you try to grind it yourself?"

"What for?"

"You know better, sir. Maybe you tried to install new spells on it?"

"No, I use the default ones, which are supplied with the sword!"

"Maybe it's the spoiling, sir? How long ago have you updated your holy water?"

"I've downloaded the fresh version only two days ago!"

"I see, sir. Then look if there are unscreened sources of black magic nearby. They may create hindrances for the sword."

"What sources?! I'm in the desert!"

"Don't be so nervous, sir."

"I'm not nervous!"

"Then why do you pant?"

"Because the dragon is chasing me!"

"Oh, so the dragon is near you?"

"Yes, genius, he is already QUITE near!"

"Excellent, sir! Give him the receiver."

"And what if he bites my arm off?"

"Sorry, sir, but medical issues are beyond our competence."

"Next time I'll buy a sword of Morgana, Ltd.!"

"Well... okay, sir. Describe at least how the dragon looks."

"Well, he is such... yellow... with a red moustache..."

"It's clear now. You should begin with it. It's a non-licensed dragon, a Chinese counterfeit."

"And?"

"Read the license agreement, sir. Merlin, Inc. doesn't guarantee any compatibility with non-certified devices."

"And what shall I do?"

"Don't use cheap no-name dragons anymore, sir."

"Looks like HE is going to use me right now! Aaagh! No! Aaaaarrghhh!!!!..."

"Sir? Sir, are you okay?... Well, in any case, Merlin, Inc. thanks you for your business."

Now hiring. No experience necessary.

Amtgard hydration supervisor (Water bearers Guild master) and Amtgard hydration technicians (water bearers). Duties include lugging around ice chest. Collecting, sanitizing, filling and handing out water bottles. Salary starts at a neat belt favor with a big blue water drop on it. Experienced Water bearers can receive low level order of the Rose awards. Yearly bonus-The knowledge that you helped prevent someone from getting sick or dying from a heat related illness.