

# Caer Mear QD

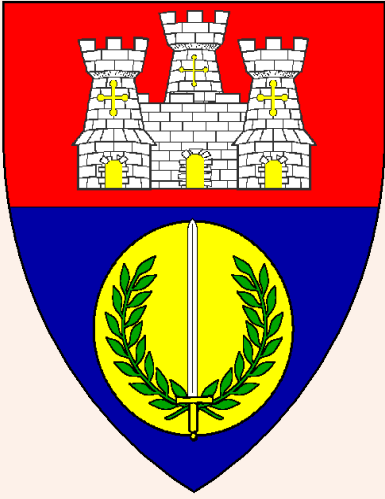
Volume 41 Issue 10



Quid Novi

December 2019

A Publication of the Barony of Caer Mear, Society for  
Creative Anachronism, Inc.



# From the Baronage

Unto the Good Populace of the Barony of Caer Mear,

We have been honored to have served the Barony of Caer Mear these past three years as your Baronage. We hope that we have kept the honor of the Barony bright and supported our populace with the affection and respect that they deserve. We have spoken to their Majesties and our officers and they will begin the process to find the next noble who will serve the barony. Our term will end at Ruby Joust.

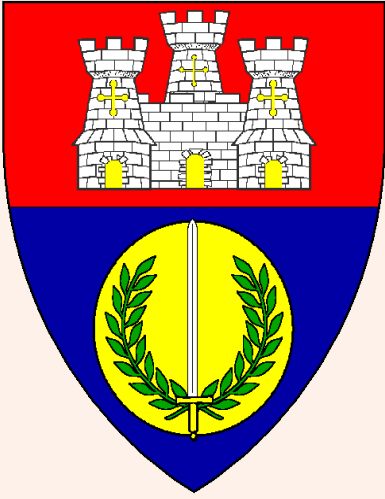
We are privileged to be able to have the opportunity to hold court before we depart. If you have recommendations for awards or if you were given an award with no scroll, please let us know so that we may attend to that before our departure.

Our time here until our departure will be busy and exciting. The College of Yarnvid will be hosting a newcomer scribal event, Introduction to Medieval Writing, on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at the Midlothian Library Small Meeting room from 1:00 to 3:00. This Demo should be great! Our 43rd Baronial Birthday on March 21 will be a delight. Caer Mear feasts are legendary and we expect our Birthday Feast to be splendid. Please celebrate with us and bring your friends for the fun. Our Barony will also see Coronation held in its lands. Several of our members are involved with the planning and execution of the event on April 4th.

We will once again have to change our meeting location at the end of January. We hope to find a suitable place or places for our Barony to meet, learn, socialize and grow to be a strong family.

Yours in Service

Toejenarum and Magda



# Announcements

## Caer Mear Baronial Birthday

March 21 2020 (10:00 AM - 8:00 PM )

Come join us as we celebrate 43 years as a barony, and most especially our beloved Baron Tojenareum, and Baroness Magda! We'll honor the occasion as in the 14th Century, with Arthurian ideals, including heavy, rapier, archery, thrown weapons, and also youth combat. Come relax and socialize in our spacious hall while enjoying music, dancing, poetry, and a sumptuous feast. There will also be a tavern operated by our site owners. Prizes will be awarded in all martial, and A&S competitive fields.

**Fighting:** Armored, Rapier, Archery, Thrown Weapons, and Youth Combat, with the availability of covered fighting in case of inclement weather

**Arts & Sciences:** A&S Open Display and Competition, 14th C Poetry Competition, Performance Opportunities During the Day/Evening, Dancing

**Cost:**

	Day Trip	Feast
Adult, Member	\$15.00	\$12.00
Adult, Non-Member	\$20.00	\$12.00
Youth (5-17)	\$5.00	\$6.00
Child (0-4)	\$0.00	\$0.00

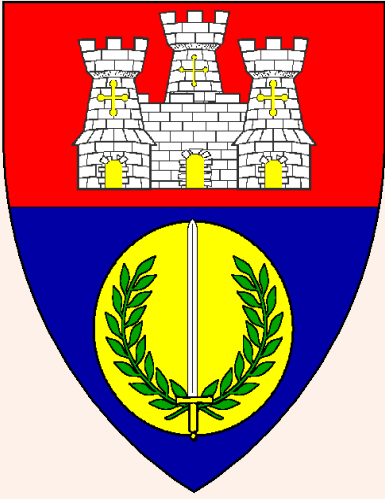
\*\*\*\*\* Registration for adults increases by \$5.00 after 3-11-2020

**Site:** Richmond-East Moose Lodge, 7167 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

**Site Restrictions:** No Alcohol may be brought on site, Alcohol will be available for purchase through the Moose Lodge No pets.

**Autocrat:** Helen Whitmore (Elizabeth DeByle), 4503 West End Dr., Richmond, VA 23294, Phone : (804)405-3054, Email: beth.g.morgan@gmail.com

**Reservations:** (Terry Miraglia), 3631 Patsy Ann Dr. Richmond, VA 23234, Phone (804) 690-1725, Email: terry.miraglia@gmail.com



# Announcements

Will you be the next  
**Barony of Caer Mear Bardic Champion?**  
Lady Jeane Kilmeny challenges you to find out

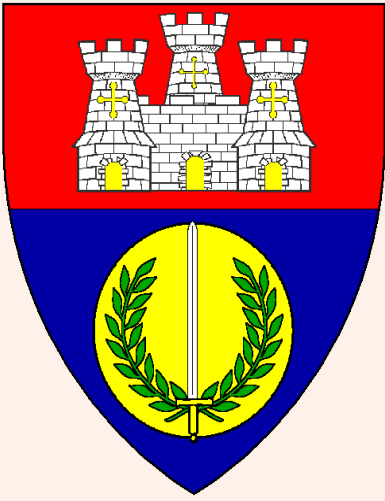
**Calling all Caer Mear Bards**  
**The Caer Mear Bardic Champion will be**  
**awarded at the**  
**Caer Mear Baronial Birthday Party**  
**On March 21, 2020**

**As the Bardic Champion what are my responsibilities?**

- The Bardic Champion is the performer which represents the Barony of Caer Mear
- To participate in inter-baronial competitions and showcases on behalf of Caer Mear
- To provide entertainment for the Baronage upon request
- To provide information and formal instruction, either in person or via networking, in the performing arts at least twice per term
- To help, encourage, and foster the performing arts at the local and Kingdom level, when able, particularly by helping coordinate performing arts at events held in Barony lands or by the Barony

**How long is the Bardic Champion's term?**

You will be declared Caer Mear's Bardic Champion for One  
Year



# Atlantia Events

## January 2020

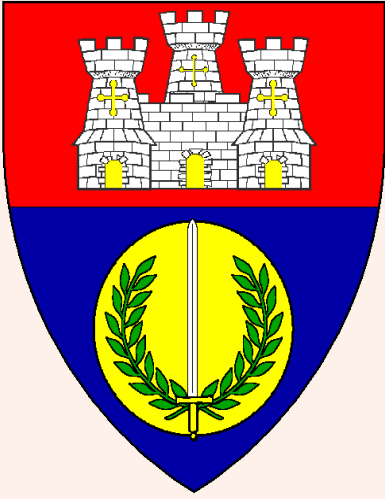
11	<a href="#">Garb Workshop</a>	Nottingham Coill	Spartanburg,, SC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
18	<a href="#">Kingdom 12th Night</a> (R,H)	Atlantia	Roanoke, VA ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
25	<a href="#">Tourney of Manannan mac Lir XL</a> (R,H)	Tear-Seas Shore	Harleyville, SC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
25	<a href="#">Midwinter's 2020</a>	Lochmere	Severna Park, MD ( <a href="#">Map</a> )

## February 2020

1	<a href="#">Winter University</a>	Dun Carraig	St Mary's City, MD ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
8	<a href="#">Bright Hills 26th Baronial Anniversary</a> (R)	Bright Hills	Manchester, MD ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
8	<a href="#">Medieval Arts in the Park</a>	Ritterwald	Aiken, SC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
14-16	<a href="#">Nottingham Coill's XL-ent 40th Birthday</a> (Pr)	Nottingham Coill	Bennetsville, SC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
15	<a href="#">A Day of Love</a>	Marinus	Virginia Beach, VA ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
15-16	<a href="#">Aedult Swim V</a> (P)	Aethelmearc	
21-23	<a href="#">Ymir 45</a> (R,H)	Windmasters' Hill	Ellerbe, NC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )

## March 2020

7	<a href="#">Kingdom Arts &amp; Sciences Festival</a> (R,H)	Atlantia	Matthews, NC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
14-22	<a href="#">Gulf Wars XXIX</a> (R,H)	Gleann Abhann	
14	<a href="#">St Paddy's Day Blood Bath</a>	Ponte Alto	Vienna, VA ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
14	<a href="#">Raven's Cove Baronial Birthday (Battle of Brunaburh)</a>	Raven's Cove	Richlands, NC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
14	<a href="#">A Day of DaVinci</a>	Cydllan Downs	Trenton, SC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
14	<a href="#">Irish Holiday</a>	Crois Brigte	Winston Salem, NC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
21	<a href="#">Caer Mear Baronial Birthday</a>	Caer Mear	Mechanicsville, VA ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
27-29	<a href="#">Hidden Mountain Birthday and Investiture</a> (R)	Hidden Mountain	Bennettsville, SC ( <a href="#">Map</a> )
27-29	<a href="#">Academy of St. Clare of Assisi V: Keeping You in Stitches</a>	Aethelmearc	
28	<a href="#">Defending the Gate 2020</a>	Sudentorre	Spotsylvania, VA ( <a href="#">Map</a> )



# Business Meeting Minutes

## Upcoming Events:

- Baronial Birthday: March 21, 2020, please donate prizes if possible
- Ruby Joust: May 2020, Site deposit check has been cashed, awaiting the contract to be returned.

## Old Business:

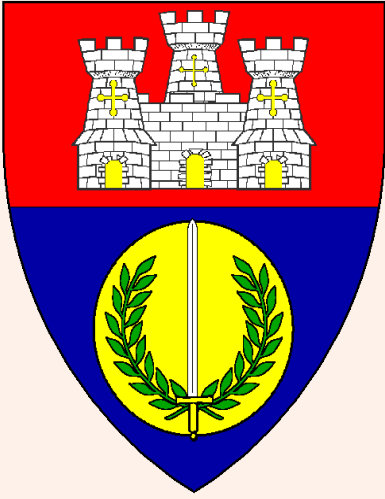
- Seneschal requests ideas for community outreach, & demonstrations
- Seneschal requests ideas for new meeting locations
- January 4th, last Diversity payment due

## New Business:

- Seneschal requests ideas for community outreach, & demonstrations
- End of the year officer reports are due
- January meeting will include a financial committee meeting

## Meeting Closed

- No financial committee meeting



# Officer Reports



## Exchequer

- No expenses last month



## Chatelaine

- January 21, 2020 Midlothian Library 1 - 3 pm Introduction to Medieval writing demonstration



## Herald

- Nothing to report



## Chronicler

- First QD publication has been sent



## Minister of Arts & Sciences

- Seeking instructors for Tuesday A&S, University in February and March is Kingdom Arts and Sciences



## Chancellor of Youth

- Nothing to report



## Minister of the Lists

- Nothing to report



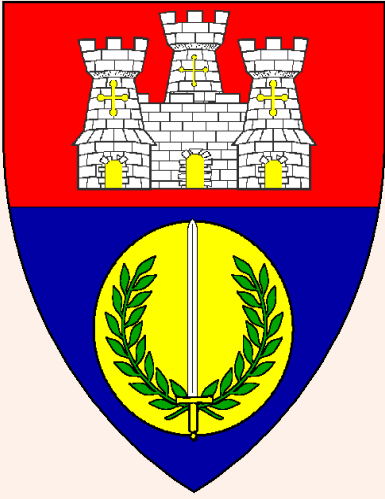
## Knights Marshal

- Rapier will see a rules change in 2020



## Web Minister

- Nothing to report



# Regnum



## Baronage

Baron Tojenareum Grenville of Devon  
Baroness Magda z Stalburg

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## Minister of Arts & Sciences Lady Eadyth Woderose

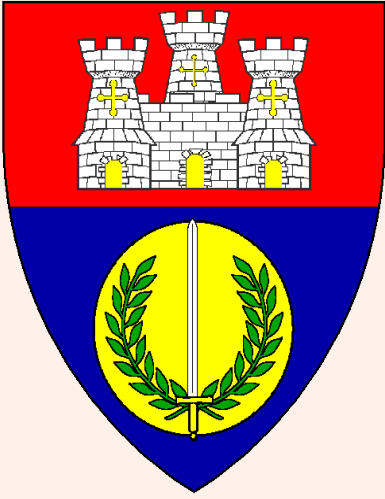
Email: [MoAS@caermear.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:MoAS@caermear.atlantia.sca.org)



## Chancellor of Youth Lady Ginevra Fiammetta di Silvestri

Email: [YouthChancellor@caermear.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:YouthChancellor@caermear.atlantia.sca.org)





# Regnum



**Knights Marshal** Sir Abran de la Barra

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**Rapier Marshal** Lord Steffan von Musbach

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**Archery Marshal** Lord Vytautas Vilkas

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**Thrown Weapons Marshal** Lady Rose Eileen Robertson

Email: [Thrown.Marshal@caermear.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:Thrown.Marshal@caermear.atlantia.sca.org)

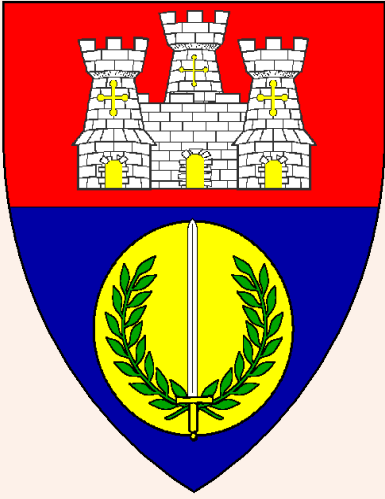


**Youth Armored Marshal** Lady Helena de Berkeley



**Web Minister** Lady Lady Rose Eileen Robertson

Email: [Webminister@caermear.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:Webminister@caermear.atlantia.sca.org)



# Meeting Schedule

Caer Mear's next business meeting will be held at Diversity on Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 7 PM

## Caer Mear

**Business Meetings:** Monthly; 2nd TUESDAY at 7:00pm

**Fighter Practice / A&S Gathers:** Weekly; every Tuesday at 7:00pm Both are held at, Richmond Diversity Center 1407 Sherwood Ave, Richmond VA, 23220

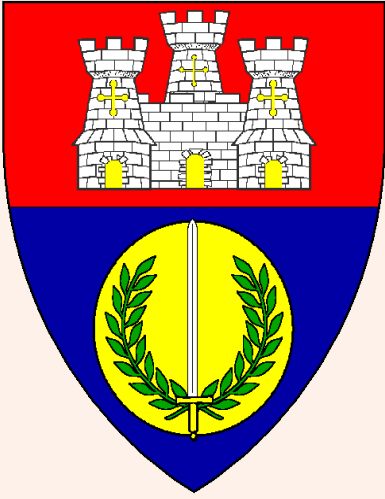
**Archery Practice:** Every Sunday, weather permitting, from 2 to 4pm at Rockwood Park in Chesterfield. The park is beautiful and the archery range is in the shade of the trees.

**Thrown Weapons Practice:** Sundays 12 noon and weather permitting. Will update on Facebook.

## College of Yarnvid

**Business Meetings:** Held as needed.

**Arts & Science Gathers:** Weekly; every Thursday at 7:30pm Both are held at Epiphany Church 11000 Smoketree Drive, Richmond VA



# Flint and Steel

Making Fire in Medieval Europe and in the Current Middle Ages

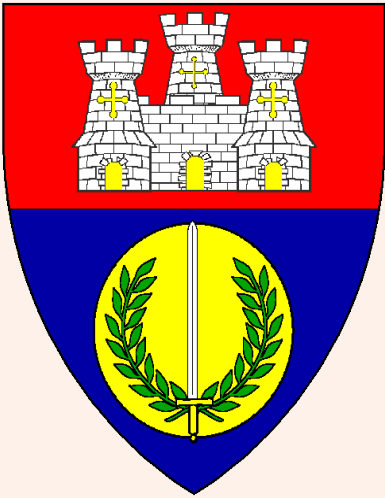
By Elias de Birton

Percussion firemaking, the practice of generating sparks by striking a ferrous material with a hard stone, has existed in Europe for millennia. Ötzi the Iceman, who lived between 3400 and 3100 BCE, died in the Ötztal Alps carrying what is thought to be a Neolithic firemaking kit – flints and a wad of processed tinder fungus that was found to contain traces of pyrite (an iron sulfide) tucked in a leather pouch [1]. Over time, forged fire-steels replaced pyrite as the ferrous material from which sparks were driven, and flint and steel remained the primary method for firemaking in Europe until the invention of the friction match in the 19th century [2].

## Preparing tinder

The sparks generated by flint striking steel are too cool (about 800°F) to ignite kindling, so they must be caught on some highly flammable material, or tinder, which will create a glowing ember [3]. One tinder that enjoyed long popularity in Europe was *Fomes fomentarius*, known as tinder fungus or hoof fungus [4]. *F. fomentarius* can be processed into a felt-like material called amadou or touchwood that can catch a spark created by percussive methods [5]. Ötzi the Iceman carried a “shredded feltlike wad” of the fungus over five thousand years ago [1], touchwood is thought to have been used at Hedeby (a Viking Age settlement in Germany) [4], and a method for preparing touchwood from “olde Todestooles growing out of the bottomes of nuttrees, beechtrees, okes, and such like trees” (*F. fomentarius* grows on beeches, oaks, and other hardwoods [4]) was described in Cyprian Lucar’s *Three Bookes of Colloquies Concerning the Arte of Shooting*, published in 1588 [6].

While touchwood is perhaps the most documentable tinder used in Europe during the SCA’s period of interest, *F. fomentarius* can be difficult to find in some areas. A more convenient tinder may be charred cloth, also called charcloth. Lucar describes a method for preparing charred cloth for a gunner’s tinder boxe, instructing the reader to “take peeces of fustian, or of old and fine linnen clothe, make them to burn and flame in a fire, & suddenly before the flame which is in them doth die, choke the fire, & keepe their tinder so made in a boxe lined within with clothe, to the ende that it may not be moyste at any time” [6]. While this method will produce charred cloth, most modern bushcrafters make charcloth using a slightly different method [3]. Cotton cloth is placed in a tin, which is then set on the coal bed of a campfire (a grill or gas stove will also work). The cloth inside will be superheated with limited oxygen, resulting in a carbonized charred material similar to charcoal. This lowers the cloth’s ignition temperature enough that the relatively cool sparks generated by flint striking steel will be able to catch and create embers. The carbonization process usually takes about ten minutes. Finished charcloth will be black and somewhat brittle; if the cloth is brown, it needs more time. When making charcloth, it is important to open the tin only after it has cooled, as a sudden influx of oxygen will cause the hot charcloth to ignite.



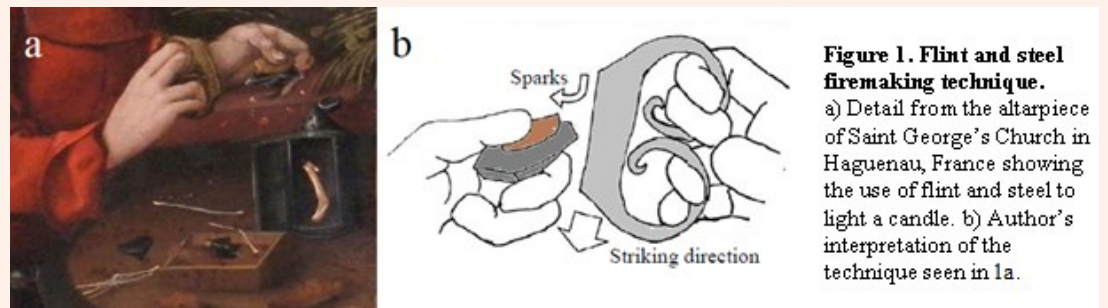
# Flint and Steel

Making Fire in Medieval Europe and in the Current Middle Ages

By Elias de Birton

## Striking a spark

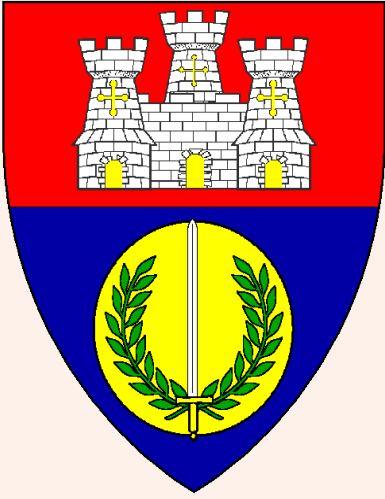
Generating a spark by striking flint with steel and catching it on tinder to create an ember from which a flame can be kindled requires a bit of technique. A method for doing this can be seen in one of the late Gothic paintings composing the altarpiece of Saint George's Church in Haguenau, France [7]. In the background of the piece, Joseph can be seen working to light a candle lantern with flint and steel (Figure 1a). He holds the fire-steel in his right hand and the flint in his left, with a piece of tinder (likely amadou) held on top of the flint with his thumb. This corresponds with a technique described in *Le Menagier de Paris* (1396): “when someone wants to light a fire, let him take a piece [of tinder] about the size of a pea and put it on his flintstone, and he will soon have a fire” [8]. Both of these sources suggest that the fire-steel would be struck down across a sharp edge of the flint while the tinder is held on top of the stone (Figure 1b). This technique should result in sparks being sheared from the steel and igniting the tinder.



## Growing the flame

Once the tinder is smoldering, it can be placed into a bundle of fine kindling (sometimes called a bird's nest or tinder bundle) blown into flame [3]. Fine strips of cedar bark, dead grasses, and cattail fluff are good natural materials to use in a bird's nest, but in a more urban environment linen tow or jute fibers will also work well. Providing more oxygen by blowing into the bundle will cause it to smoke, then burst into flame. This short-live blaze can be used to ignite larger kindling, which can eventually be nurtured into a proper camp or hearth fire.

If flame is required only to light a candle or lamp, it might be more efficient (and certainly less smoky) to use the smoldering tinder to light a sulfur match. The instructions quoted above from *Le Menagier de Paris* end by saying that after a spark has been caught on the tinder, one “only needs a sulphured spill, and he can light the candle [8]”. Since it appears that Joseph is intending to light a candle in Figure 1a, it seems likely that the small sticks on the table are those “sulphured spills” or matches: slivers of resinous wood dipped in molten sulfur [9].



# Flint and Steel

Making Fire in Medieval Europe and in the Current Middle Ages

By Elias de Birton

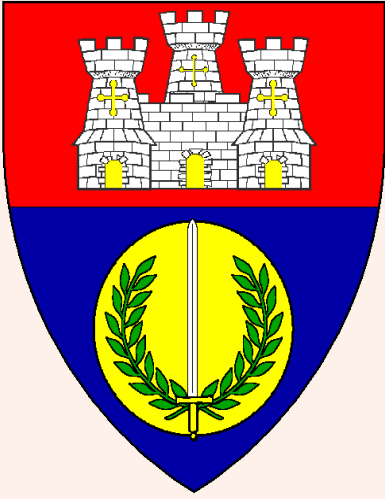
## Conclusion

Percussive firemaking has a long history in Europe, and while the tools changed somewhat over the millennia, the practice of generating sparks by striking a ferrous material with a hard stone remained one of the primary means of obtaining flame until relatively recently. Fire may no longer be the everyday necessity it once was, but studying and practicing medieval methods of flint and steel firemaking is one way of better understanding those whose lives depended on it.

## Works Cited

- [1] B. Fowler, in *Iceman: Uncovering the Life and Times of a Prehistoric Man Found in an Alpine Glacier*, University of Chicago Press, 2001.
- [2] J. Weiner, "Feuerschlagsteine und Feuererzeugung," in *Steinartefakte vom Altpaläolithikum bis in die Neuzeit*, Tuebingen, Germany, Kerns Verlag, 2012, pp. 943-960.
- [3] D. Canterbury, *Bushcraft 101*, Avon, Massachusetts: Adams Media, 2014.
- [4] O. Schmidt, *Wood and Tree Fungi: Biology, Damage, Protection, and Use*, Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2006.
- [5] S. Labiste, "Substitutes for Tinder Fungus," PrimitiveWays, 2016. [Online]. Available: <https://www.primitiveways.com/Amadou%20substitutes.html>. [Accessed 10 June 2019].
- [6] C. Lucar, *Three Bookes of Colloquies Concerning the Arte of Shooting*, London: John Harrison, 1588.
- [7] Anonymous, Artist, Last Judgement (left panel). [Art]. Saint George's Church in Haguenau, France, 15th or 16th century.
- [8] J. Hinson, "Le Ménagier de Paris," [Online]. Available: <http://www.daviddfriedman.com/Medieval/Cookbooks/Menagier/Menagier.html>. [Accessed 10 June 2019].
- [9] J. Needham, *Science and Civilization in China: Volume 4, Physics and Physical Technology; Part 1, Physics*, Cambridge University Press, 1962.

*Interested in flint and steel firemaking and other outdoor skills? The Kingdom of Atlantia Royal Forestry Guild is dedicated to researching, recreating, demonstrating, and teaching medieval forestry, outdoor living, and primitive skills. We enthusiastically study and practice leave-no-trace camping, self-reliance, woodcraft, campcraft, bushcraft, overland travel, inland water travel, outdoor cooking, survival, primitive skills, and the use of historical tools, methods, equipment and techniques for living, camping, traveling and cooking, all in period fashion.*



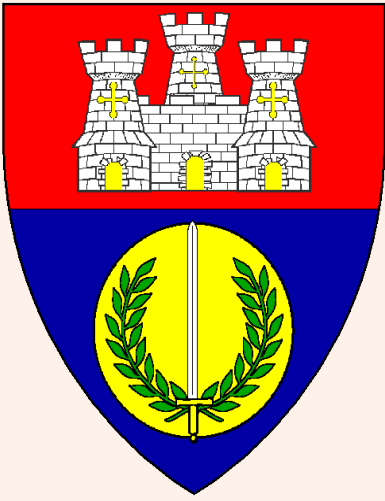
# This Month in Period

## December 13, 1577: Francis Drake Embarks Upon his Circumnavigation of the Globe

**Sir Francis Drake is the most well known English seaman and privateer of the Elizabethan Era. On December 13, 1577 Francis Drake embarked Plymouth, England with 5 ships, his flagship the Pelican (renamed the Golden Hind during his voyage), the Elizabeth, the Marigold, the Swan and the Christopher (Royal Museums Greenwich, 2019). Although this voyage began on December 13, its inception began long before, and comprised in secrecy between Queen Elizabeth I and Drake. Drake's mission was to raid Spanish colonies along the pacific coast of South America (Princeton, 2019). During his voyage Drake captured the *Nuestra Señora de la Concepción*, consisting of "eighty pounds of gold, thirteen chests of coins, and jewels, and more than twenty-five tons of silver equivalent of millions of dollars today" (Princeton, para. 2, 2019) in March 1579 (Princeton, 2019). In September of 1580, after nearly three years at sea, Drake returned home to England, with only his flag ship, the Golden Hind (formerly the Pelican) (Princeton, 2019). Upon his return he was Knighted by Queen Elizabeth I onboard the Golden Hind (Royal Museums Greenwich, 2019).**

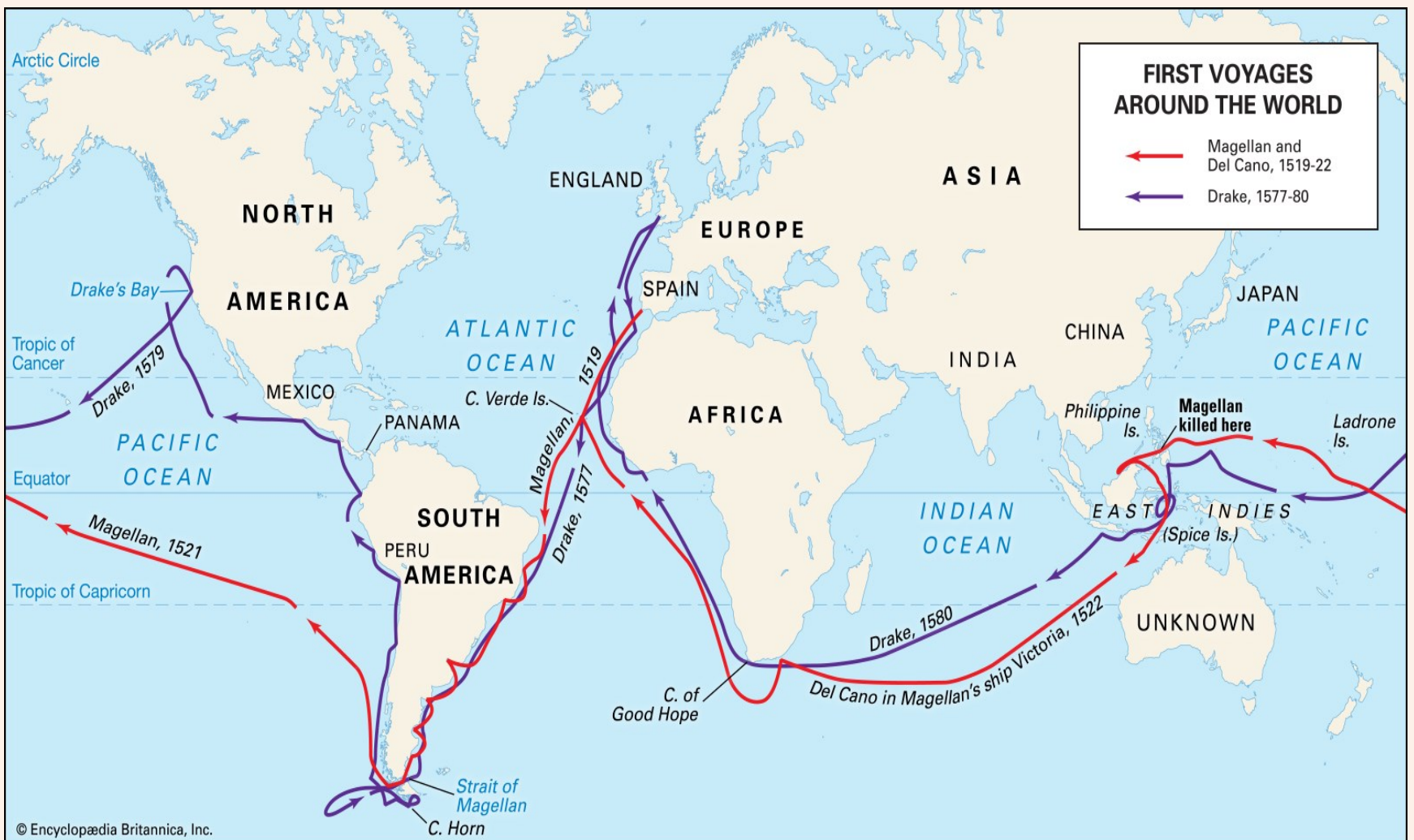
Princeton, Sir Francis Drake. (n.d.). Retrieved January 5, 2020, from [https://lib-dbserver.princeton.edu/visual\\_materials/maps/websites/pacific/drake/drake.html](https://lib-dbserver.princeton.edu/visual_materials/maps/websites/pacific/drake/drake.html).

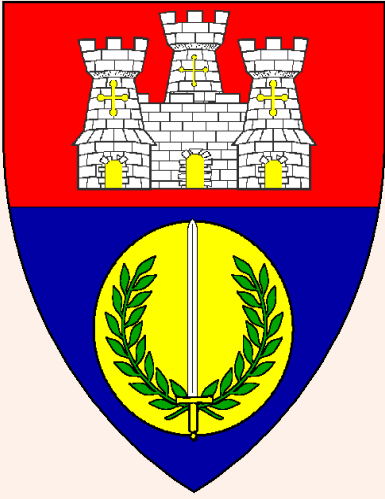
Royal Museums Greenwich, What did Sir Francis Drake discover, and why is he so famous? (2019, October 22). Retrieved January 5, 2020, from <https://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/francis-drake-pirate-seafarer>.



# This Month in Period

This map from the Encyclopedia Britannica details Drake's voyage comparative to Magellan's 50 years prior.





# Acknowledgements

## Cover Page:

### Border:

Vine Border Green clip art. (2012, February 10). Retrieved November 25, 2019, from <http://www.clker.com/clipart-vine-border-green.html>.

### Knight:

Boyaval, O. (2013, June 10). Medieval Knight by Etory on DeviantArt. Retrieved November 25, 2019, from <https://www.deviantart.com/etory/art/Medieval-Knight-377118704>. (Image editing by Kenric the Hale)

## This Month in Period:

Bradford, E., & Fernández-Armesto, F. (2019, August 16). Sir Francis Drake. Retrieved January 5, 2020, from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Francis-Drake>.

Princeton, Sir Francis Drake. (2019). Retrieved January 5, 2020, from [https://lib-dserver.princeton.edu/visual\\_materials/maps/websites/pacific/drake/drake.html](https://lib-dserver.princeton.edu/visual_materials/maps/websites/pacific/drake/drake.html).

Royal Museums Greenwich, What did Sir Francis Drake discover, and why is he so famous? (2019, October 22). Retrieved January 5, 2020, from <https://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/francis-drake-pirate-seafarer>.

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