



*L'Academie
Atlantienne
de la Danse*

Academie Officers

Chancelier

Lady Nicolosa d'Isefir
(Kendra Schmid)

Secretary

Looking for Volunteers!

Chatelaine

Looking for Volunteers!

Web Minister:

Lady Nicolosa d'Isefir
(Kendra Schmid)

Chronicler

Lady Wenllyan Goch

Deputy for Dance to the Atlantian Ministry of Arts and Sciences

Baron Geldamar le Farceur



Ball from *Facta et dicta memorabilia*. Second half of the 15th century.
BNF Fr. 288, fol. 181v. Bibliothèque nationale de France

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Dance Competition at KASF

Contributed by Lady Nicolosa d'Isenfir

At Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival, many artisans across the land shared their work. The fine dancers and musicians of Atlantia were no exception. Having worked for months to learn, rehearse, and polish their dances, the dancers were ready to show their work to the Kingdom.

Dance groups from the Barony of Black Diamond, Barony of Ponte Alto and Shire of Roxbury Mill, Shire of Isenfir, and Canton of Sudentorre created teams to enter into friendly competition. The groups brought great diversity of styles to share with the Kingdom.

The first group to perform was the Canton of Sudentorre led by Lady Helena Hrolfsdottir. They performed a progression of versions of "Leoncello" by Domenico showing how a dance can evolve over a hundred years. The group created new garb for the event to more closely match with the time periods displayed in their dancing. Due to some scheduling hiccups, Sudentorre actually performed twice! They were officially judged during the morning time slot, but did a reprise for the afternoon audience.

The next group was the Barony of Black Diamond led by Baroness Evelynne Merrymet. They performed two Gresley dances - "Armyynn" and "Roye", then followed by the 15th Century Italian dance "Voltati in Ça Rosina". The dances across styles had many parallels with the three person arrangements, not touching hands, and could be used to tell stories.

The third group was the Shire of Isenfir led by Lord Bryan Morgan. They performed "Newcastle", an English Country Dance and "Bizzarria d'Amore", a 16th Century Italian dance. In addition the group choreographed and composed a new dance, "Strozzino" in the style of the 15th Century Italian manuals. The large team of twelve dancers and three musicians aimed to show the breadth and depth of dancing in Isenfir.

The final group was a joint effort of the Barony of Ponte Alto and Shire of Roxbury Mill led by Lord Randall Clark. The group performed "Petit Vriens" and "Contrapasso en Due". In "Petit Vriens" the team told a story through how they moved apart and together again. "Contrapasso en Due" was performed by a single couple just like it would have been done at a Caroso ball.

While the judges deliberated, all in attendance joined together in doing "Ruffy"
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(Dance Competition at KASF, continued from page 2)

Tufty” then “Hearts Ease” to live music. The group barely fit into the space, but the energy and excitement was flowing.

The judges with the hard task to evaluate and provide feedback were Mistress Azza al Shirazi, Lady Sonja Flicker (Patches), and Baron Watkyn of Kent. Filling out thoughtful forms for all groups and after tough deliberation, the judges awarded the Shire of Isenfir the victory for both the period documentable dance and new choreography.

Thanks to all the groups who participated and shared their dancing with the Kingdom!

If you weren't able to see it, the dances are available on the Academie's YouTube Channel.

Upcoming Events with Dance

| | | |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Hawkwood Baronial Birthday</u> Dancing throughout the day. | May 18-20 | Hawkwood Arden, NC |
| <u>Ruby Joust</u> Saturday evening ball. Dance classes and hafla expected. Dance Band Leader: Baron Watkyn of Kent | May 25-29 | Caer Mear Courtland, VA |
| <u>Atlantian Summer University</u> A full dance track, plus music classes. See Page 5 for additional information. | June 16 | Black Diamond Lynchburg, VA |
| <u>Kings Assessment</u> Dance Mistress: Lady Wenllyan Goch There will be various performing arts classes, including dance, throughout the day | July 6-8 | Black Diamond Appomattox, VA |

*Sometimes, upcoming events would love to add dance, but need a Dance Master or Mistress!
If you would be interested, please contact Lady Nicolosa d'Isenfir. If you want to see dance at your next local event, be sure to reach out to your autocrat or A&S coordinator.*

First Quarter 2018 Event Recap

Twelfth Night - all day classes and evening ball
Dance Master/Mistress: Baron Stefan of Cambion and Baroness Evelynne Merrymet
Ice Castles - dancing during the day
Winter University - full dance class track
Tournament of Ymir - one class and an evening ball
Dance Mistress: Lady Wenllyan Goch
Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival - two dance competitions: documentable, and new choreography (see article on Page 2)
Spring Coronation - evening European ball and concurrent Hafla



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Meet the Chancelier

New chronicler, Lady Wenlyan Goch, interviewed the new Chancelier, Lady Nicolosa d'Isenfir, via email in early March. Here is their conversation.

Wenlyan: Congratulations on becoming the new Chancelier of L'Academie Atlantienne de la Danse! Please tell us about yourself, within the Society and in mundane life. What is your favorite dance?

Nicolosa: Rostiboli Gioioso because it is so versatile. It's quick to teach to new dancers yet offers challenges to more experienced dancers to play it up with storytelling through movimenti and refining their footwork. Bonus that in balls couples that don't want to do it can instead do Gioioso in Tre to the same music.

W: Least favorite dance?

N: I can't think of any because I don't keep ones that I don't like in my set lists.

W: Favorite dance tune?

N: For ECD it is a tough call between Scotch Cap and Whirligig. I'll chose Scotch Cap because of the looks the musicians give me when I ask for Whirligig. Suggestion to the wise - don't put Whirligig at the end of a 3-hour ball – you will not make any friends with the musicians.

N: For Italian I really enjoy Lo Spagnoletto. It's so catchy.

W: Least favorite dance tune?

N: Any tune that I still only have as a MIDI recording. Have I mentioned recently how much I love and appreciate live musicians?

W: Favorite general type of SCA period dance and why?

N: Recently I've really become drawn to 16th Century Italian dances. ECD dances such as St. Martins, Parson's Farewell, and Newcastle used to win due to their fun patterns. Now the 16C Italian dances have the interesting patterns, new footwork, and I recently got a Negri translation so I'm looking forward to doing some new reconstructions.

W: Who are some dancers and teachers who have influenced you?

N: Lord Bryan Morgan has been the biggest influence on my SCA dance career. When I first started I thought I'd only be in Isenfir for a couple years so I asked him early on to teach me how to teach the dances so I could take them wherever I moved to. When I stuck around he continued to mentor me in how to teach more complex dances, run balls, pay more attention to footwork, and weave in more history & cultural context into my teaching.

N: I have been inspired by so many other teachers and dancers through championing
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Summer University

Summer University will be held June 16th in Black Diamond, Lynchburg, VA. There will be a full dance track and additional classes on music.

The Dance Track

10:00 Introductory English Country Dance – Larkke

11:00 Choreography & Composition by Committee – Nicolosa & Dan

Choreograph a new English Country Dance in the style of Playford first edition dances and write the music at the same time.

1:30 Introductory Italian Dance – Valentine & Catelina

Basic Italian dances such as Petit Riens, Amoroso, and Anello

2:30 Beyond the Basics of 15th Century Italian Dance – Helena

Depending on dancer experience, may cover Angelosa, Jove, Leoncello, Spero, and/or Voltati in ca Rosina.

3:30 Intermediate English Country Dance – Randall

Cuckolds all a Row, Grimstock, and the Night Peece

4:30 Dance like the Valois: Improvised Dances for the Music of the French Renaissance Guitar – Wenllyan & Johann

Burgundian bransles, branles gay, tourdion, alman, pavan, and--if we have time--galliards

The Music Room

1:30 Pennsic Pile Practice – Azza & Dan

2:30 Period Middle Eastern Music for Instruments Without Quarter Tones – Azza

For more information on teaching or taking a class at any session of Atlantian University, go to <http://university.atlantia.sca.org/>

New Initiatives

Some of things on this list may not seem new to the dance community, but they have either started, or been made a greater priority since the last time this newsletter was published circa 2013.

Building the Dance Community

The dance community exists wherever dancers gather, but in the age of instant communications, we are striving to plan ahead and find more ways to bring together those who dance or support renaissance dance.

- Conference Calls – Lady Nicolosa hosted a virtual meeting to discuss future plans of the Academie, as well as to let the vast Atlantian dance community get to know each other. She plans to host more in the future.
- Roundtable Discussions – Daniel of Red Mountain led a dancers'/dance musicians' roundtable at Fall University that was so well-received, the discussion continued over email for days afterward!
- Online/Social Media – The Academie maintains a Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AtlantianDanceAcademie/> and an email discussion list dance@seahorse.atlantia.sca.org. Both are used for informal discussion, planning, recruiting dance teachers, promoting classes and balls, providing informational resources, and getting to know each other. The Academie continues to maintain the <http://dance.atlantia.sca.org/> website.

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(New Initiatives, continued from page 5)

YouTube Channel

The Academie has begun recording videos of specific dance performances. The goal is to identify dances for which no good online video is available and/or where the Atlantian variation of the dance differs from the available YouTube videos of the same name. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-MaBuQ9LeJLn9mn68vMzIw>

The channel also features videos from the recent dance competition at Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival on March 3rd.

Google Sheets

Various members of the Academie are collaborating to gather and update data using sharable Google spreadsheets.

- Top Atlantian Dances for Balls – Lady Nicolosa has started a spreadsheet to crowdsource the most common dances at Atlantian balls. Anyone can add a ball list.
- Ball Lists for the Dance Band – To help the Atlantian Dance Band prepare a ball, Mistress Azza creates a spreadsheet linking to both the sheet music and video (audio) for each tune. Other dance band leaders have started following her example.
- SCA Dance Teachers and the Dances They Teach – Lady Sophia has started a spreadsheet where each person who is willing to teach dance can add their name and check off which dances they are able to teach.

For access to any of these sheets, contact the people named above or the chronicler.

Dance Presence in Atlantia

Many of the new initiatives add to the visibility and continuity of dance in Atlantia. The Academie sponsored a dance competition at Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival. There have been specific efforts to publicize ball lists, provide daytime dance opportunities at events, offer a wide variety of dance classes, and provide online resources.

Resource Highlights

Lady Nicolosa recently started a blog at <https://nicolosadeisenfir.wordpress.com/> to share her class notes, thoughts on SCA dancing, and journey through new resources.

If you are interested in dance beyond Atlantia, including Pennsic and Known World discussion, consider joining <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scadance/> which is the **SCA Medieval and Renaissance Dance page**. For those not on Facebook, there is a listserv here, <https://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-dance> although it does not generate as much discussion as the Facebook group.

Want dancing or other performing arts to be featured at an event? Not sure how to make it happen? Ask the **Royal Players!** The Royal Players of Atlantia are dedicated to making space and time for performing arts at events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RoyalPlayersofAtlantia/>
<http://perform.atlantia.sca.org/category/royal-players-of-atlantia/>

If you know of a blog, article, or resource that should be highlighted, send it to the chronicler!





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(Interview with the Chanclier continued from page 4)

new dances in the Kingdom such as Lady Evelynne is doing with the Gresley dances, to Margaret Roe with writing multiple books, to the many fine dancers whose technique I aspire to, and to all the teachers such as Stefan, Patches, Helena, Randall, Elizabeth, Wenlyan, Sophia, Maia, and more who keep dance alive in the Kingdom through giving of themselves to teach regular practices and inspire dancing locally.

W: You put forth some new goals and initiatives when you stepped up at the end of June. How have they been received so far?

N: The community has been so supportive with the new initiatives. We have already set multiple of them underway. We created a YouTube channel to contribute more widely to the dance knowledge especially the Gresley dances plus show the Kingdom our fine dances. We also held a friendly competition which inspired many groups to polish up their dance technique, make new garb to complement their period of dance, write some new music, choreograph a new dance, and once again show our fine dancing to the Kingdom.

N: We had a conference call to host an Academie meeting, but it was light on attendance. That is one area I'd love to find a better way to get our community talking with each other and working together more. If anyone has ideas, I'd love to hear them!

W: What are your goals for L'Academie for 2018?

N: I'd love for our dance community to expand our skills and repertoire. Let's move beyond our comfort zones to learn something new whether that be new steps, new techniques, new dances, or even trying a dance to different music. I also would love to see us share our knowledge between groups more. Let's get more articles in these newsletters, post interesting findings to the FB group and email lists, write blog articles, and record dances.

W: What do you need from the members of L'Academie in order to achieve those goals?

N: I'd love all of the members of the Academie to feel empowered to try something new whether that is a new dance, teaching a single dance, teaching a class, learning new footwork, starting a conversation, or take any risks to make our collective art more rewarding. We should all support each other so if you have questions about anything I think we should create a safe space so those questions get asked, new things get tried, and we all grow together.

W: Tell us a little bit about what you are currently working on as a dancer and dance teacher?

N: As a dancer I am trying to improve my technique through posture, control of my arms, and especially footwork. I want to be more clean and precise with my steps so I'm focusing on smaller steps and more awareness of my foot position. I also want to start reading sources closer to the original such as the scholarly works on Gresley and Negri. Thanks to our library systems I now have both of them and just need to get reading.



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N: As a dance teacher I am trying to expand the repertoire of my group. In 2017 I issued a challenge to my shire that we learn all 68 dances in the Isenfir dance manual (plus a few others after Known World) in our local practices. We successfully did it by November 2017 at which point we started polishing dances. This year I want to make sure we cover all of the dances again then bring in more new dances that I have learned from other teachers and manuals.

N: Finally, I want to start bringing in more new choreography to the SCA. It helps us be both creative and think about the styles of dances at a more detailed level in order to create new dances in the style. Look for an upcoming university class where we live choreograph something together!

W: Where can we go to find out more about you and your experiences with renaissance dance?

N: I've recently started a blog at <https://nicolosadeisenfir.wordpress.com/> to post my old class notes, thoughts on SCA dancing, and hope to document my journey through the new resources. If other folks have blogs I'd encourage them to submit them to the newsletter as well and we can share the knowledge.

W: Tell us a little about this excellent, recent newspaper article: <https://www.crozetgazette.com/2017/10/06/bransles-pavans-and-cascarde-renaissance-dance-finds-a-home-in-crozet/>

W: How did the reporter find your group?

N: In Charlottesville we have an English Country Dance group that does dances from all versions of Playford. We have multiple members who attend both SCA dance and the ECD dance practices. One of those joint members shared our practice information and the reporter came as a guest.

W: What did she get right and wrong?

N: She got most of the information correct because she dances with the modern ECD group so a lot of the material is familiar to her. We just taught her some Italian dances. The main thing that I would say is wrong is the picture at the top of the article is Horse's Bransle which is done in a line vs Jenny Pluck Pears which is always in a circle.

W: What advice to you have for anyone being interviewed by a mundane reporter?

N: Ask to review the article prior to publishing to make sure facts are correct. Don't adjust the style of writing, but simply advise on any information that can be clarified.