

F E W M E T

N E W S L E T T E R O F T H E B A R O N Y O F T H E S C O R R E

THE THREE RAVENS HYMN, A CONTRAFACTUM by Fridrikr inn gamli Tomasson

In period times, what we today think of as “filk songs” were labeled **contrafactum**, or counterfeits. From **Wessex Parallel Web Texts**, “What is a *contrafactum*?”

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~wpwt/notes/contraf.htm>:

[The absence of contrast between 'secular' and 'sacred' styles of music in the Middle Ages] 'can be shown simply by the observation that a secular song, if given a set of sacred words, could serve as sacred music, and vice versa. Only recently has it been recognized how frequently such interchange took place, and the more we learn about medieval music, the more important it becomes. **The practice of borrowing a song from one sphere and making it suitable for use in the other by the substitution of words is known as "parody" or contrafactum.**'

(Manfred F. Bukofzer, 'Popular and Secular Music in England', in

The New Oxford History of Music 3: Ars Nova and the Renaissance, 1300-1540, ed. Anselm Hughes and Gerald Abraham (London: Oxford University Press, 1960), p. 108.)

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Cover Art: Collette de Paris	

A *contrafactum* can move in either direction: from secular lyric to sacred, or from sacred to secular. Seems to me that in the SCA, we will likely go from sacred to secular, as we do not generally write sacred music. From the same website, one example of a Latin contrafactum from the 12th century. This adaptation takes a Latin hymn praising the control of both the emotions and the appetites and turns into a drinking song:

*am lucis orto sidere
Deum precamur supplices
ut in diurnis actibus
Nos servet a nocentibus . . .*



Now at the dawning of the day
 To God as suppliants we pray
 That from our daily round he may
 All harmful beings keep away . . .
 becomes:

*Iam lucis orto sidere
 statim oportet bibere;
 Bibamus nunc egregie
 Et rebibamus hodie . . .*

Now at the dawning of the day
 We must start drinking straight away;
 Let's drink now till the drink's all gone,
 And have another later on . . .

(Texts from F.J.E. Raby, ed., *The Oxford Book of Medieval Latin Verse* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1959), nos. 41 (p. 53) and 237 (pp. 362-3); my translations).

Thus, we get a *contrafactum*.

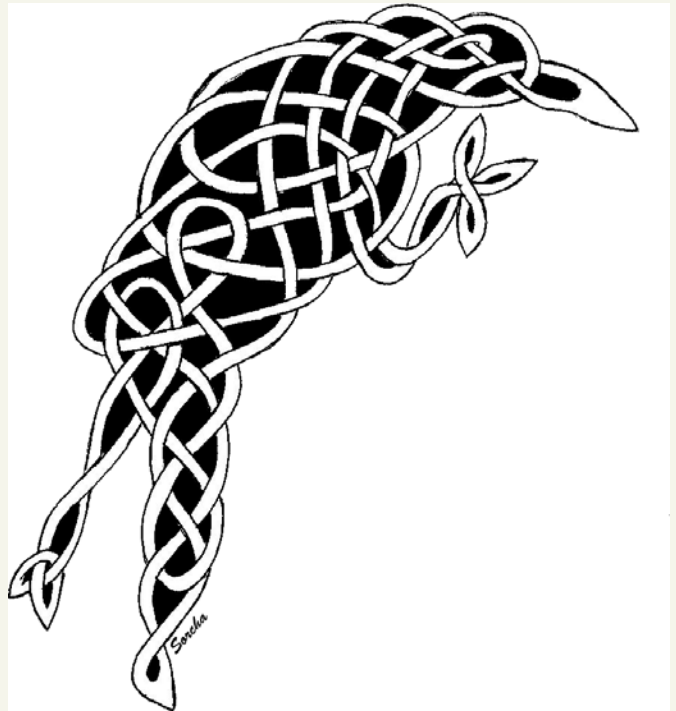
The Three Ravens hymn was written for performance at the College of Three Ravens. It is adapted from the *Magnus Hymn*, a very well known 12th century Latin hymn from Germany which praises King Magnus, an early Christian convert who was killed by his pagan cousin, Haakon. The original can be found at **The Songs of the Vikings** <http://www.lienet.no/Vikings.htm>.

The Three Ravens Hymn Lyrics:

Flying high soaring high battles carnage he espies
 Seeking truth speaking sooth to his baron beardless youth
 Making plans for bloody wars Hugin teaches all
 Bringing wisdom Odin's corpse hawk leads our troops to war

Keeping lore learned before singing bloody songs of war
 Calling names saving fame to heroes glory cowards blame
 To our memories bring the flame Munin past recalls
 Bringing tales Odin's cup-mate leads our folk in song

Fighting foes bedding hoes armored talons tearing toes
 Singing filk staining silk croaking voice could curdle milk
 Bingeing til the break of day Black-helmed Bob flies forth
 Making merry, Loki's minion tells us "It's a play."



K I N G D O M E V E N T T E A S E R S

March 7, 2009

A Gathering of the Bards — Dominion of Myrkfaelinn (Ithaca, NY)

<http://myrkfaelinn.aethelmearc.org/events/2009-03.html>

On Saturday March 7th, from 10am-6pm, the people of Myrkfaelinn will be hosting a Bardic event with a Tavern theme. What happens when three bards walk into a bar? I'm not sure, but you can bet there will be music, stories, and a lot of laughter. If you're an experienced Bard, would like to try it, or just enjoy rubbing elbows with those great folks that keep us entertained, than this is the event for you. More of a fighter? We've got that! Looking for something more quiet and artsy? We'll also be holding a Scriptorium! and, as always, we'll have some great activities for the little ones!

March 7, 2009

A Gathering of Scribes — Shire of Gryffyns Keep (Murraysville, Pa.)

March 14, 2009

The Donnan Party — Shire of Ballachlagan (Wheeling, WV)

<http://ballachlagan.org>

The event will feature a Rapier Schola with tracks for Historical fencing, Marshal training, and Melee. There will also be a miscellaneous track for Arts and Science classes that will be announced as soon as possible. There will plenty of space for pickup fights, melees, and of course the infamous "birthday smacks" for Don Donnan MacDubhsidhe are a prerequisite for this event!

March 14, 2009

Stormsport's Feast of the Bears — Shire of Stormsport (Union City, PA)

<http://www.stormsport.org>

Heavy weapons fighters will compete to determine the winners of both a bear pit and a double elimination tournament. The bear pit will begin as soon as the second round of the double elimination tournament has ended. The winner of the double elimination tournament will receive an invitation to the Amethyst Tournament to be held later in the year.

March 28, 2009

Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon — Barony of Rhydderich Hael (Clarence, New York)

<http://www.ice-dragon.info/>

The Four Rhydderich Hael Scholars of note; 2 Astronomers, a Zoologist and one self proclaimed Seer report that this years Ice Dragon is developing into quite the elegant and fun loving entertainer, artisan and martial expert... Though some are saying he also has a penchant for courtly love, dance and music. Looks like that will come in handy as there is plenty of fighting, fencing, art, music, dance, and more just explore the tabs on your right. Get some great garb together and a picnic basket as after court there will be a dance party. Enjoy food and drink with your friends, make new friends, (site is discretely damp), dance, enjoy the music, feel free to perform, tell tales or play games.... Lets have fun!

OFFICERS AND NOTABLES

6th Baron & Baroness

Eric Grenier de LaBarre & Katja Orlova Davidova Khazarina
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Youth Marshals at large

Vacant
(Send application to Seneschal)

Steward

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Court & Country Dance

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Middle Eastern Dance

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Lord Carlo Gallucci
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Scriptorium

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Threadworker's Guild

Baroness Orianna
orianna@thescorre.org

Armor Workshop

Gaius Sergio Vettius (called Vettius)
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BARONIAL CHAMPIONS

Archery Lord Eldjarn the Thoughtful
Arts & Sciences Baron Fridrikr Tomasson
Bardic Champs Lady Meadhbh
Court Jester Lord Carlo Gallucci

Fencing Lord Sigvaldi inn Enski
Heavy Weapons Lord Decimus
Thrown Weapons Lord Gaius Sergio Vettius
Youth Fighting Gabriel

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REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Fewmet endeavors to publish information as up to date as possible, but changes occur. Please check Thescore's Yahoo Group for last minute postings or consult with the appropriate officer/coordinator listed in

Baronial Social Meeting

1st Tuesday of the month

Baronial Business Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the month

7:30-9pm, 2nd floor, Adam's Street Recreation Center 85 Adam's Street Rochester, NY

Martial Arts

Archery

Sundays 1-2pm
RIT Archery Range

Rapier (Fencing)

Mondays 7-9pm, + 1st & 4th Wed. of each month
Adams Street Recreation Center

Armored Combat

Thursdays 6:30-9pm
Adams Street Recreation Center

Thrown Weapons

Watch the Yahoo Group
At the home of Athos

Arts & Sciences

Western European Dance

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, 7-9pm
Adams Street Recreation Center

M.E. Dance & Drumming

Mondays 7-9pm
Adams Street Recreation Center

Cauldron Bleu Cook's Guild

2nd Tuesday each month, 7:30-9pm
At the home of Devon & Daedra

Brewer's Guild

Watch the Yahoo Group

Threadworker's Company

http://www.thescore.org/Threadworkers_Company/Threadworkers/Schedule.htm

Armor Workshop

Thursdays 5:30-?
At the home of Vettius

Ravensong

www.thescore.org/Ravensong/RavensongHome.html

S O N N E T 2 1

by William Shakespeare



So is it not with me as with that muse,
Stirred by a painted beauty to his verse,
Who heaven it self for ornament doth use,
And every fair with his fair doth rehearse,
Making a couplement of proud compare
With sun and moon, with earth and sea's rich gems:
With April's first-born flowers and all things rare,
That heaven's air in this huge rondure hems.
O let me true in love but truly write,
And then believe me, my love is as fair,
As any mother's child, though not so bright
As those gold candles fixed in heaven's air:
Let them say more that like of hearsay well,
I will not praise that purpose not to sell.



Shakespeare