

# JANUARY 2020 SCOLAIRI NOTES

## MOAS:

From Heregyth, your friendly neighborhood MOAS:

Many thanks to Norelle for hosting A&S nights in December and January.

I have a few notices to pass on from the regional A&S minister:

There will be a queen's prize tourney at Val Day in February 2020. Laurels and Evergreens can sponsor folks to enter this tourney. It is not limited to novices.

The Sponsor must supply a prize for a category different from the category of their sponsored artisan. Each person can only sponsor 2 others. Sponsors MUST be present. Artisans must be present.

The Midlands A&S Faire is on March 7th. Mail in entries must be in 4 weeks ahead of the date of the fair. Rules of the Faire and category criteria are at <https://library.midrealm.org/kmoas/asfaire/>

Groups are invited to contact the regional MOAS to offer for hosting the 2021 A&S Faire or for Craftspersons Faires at events other times of the year. Craftspersons Faires are NON COMPETITIVE! They can happen several times each year. Artisans can stay with their display or just leave it with a comment book.

Lastly, SCIENCE FAIRE. It's coming, it is new, it is different, and Mwnwyn calls it awesome. The first one has already happened. Look out for more information about when the next one will be. (Science Faire is about the process of figuring out, the how, who, what, why, where, when, etc of our crafts) This is Singularly Competitive. The Scientist versus the Criteria

## Event Report:

Best wishes to all as we revel at 12th Night events, ending the season of Yule and Christmas and beginning a new calendar year.

Heinrich and I had a friendly visit with the neighbors over in the Barony of Illiton at their 12th Night moot on Jan. 4. They hosted a day of games and food competitions, plus a filling and delicious potluck feast.

Heinrich spent a good part of the afternoon playing the ancient Asian game of Go, which is gaining in popularity among courtiers to Their Majesties Seto and Ynes. I played tunes such as "Horse Bransle" and "Bransle of War" during the hobby horse dressage competitions. Children and adults hopped around with their horse heads on sticks and used lances to tilt at the rings, trying to best each other in speed and style. The children who won at the games proved that being adult-sized is not always an advantage. Heinrich and I rejoined each other to play medieval and Tudor-era carols on our recorders.

Baronial Court and feasting were a simultaneous spectacle. All was calm until the baronial soothsayer was called to make some predictions for the new year, which he divined by reading the "entrails" after

explosively sacrificing a plush toy chicken. What was foreseen? A year of changes in leadership. Let us hope the planned ends of reigns do not creep up any sooner than expected. No further great portents interrupted our enjoyment of the desserts that won awards or the song by Caneus, the new Illiton A&S champion.

We did not stay for the gift exchange games, but previous experience tells me the dice rolling and gift trading was fun at a furious pace.

We bring back to all here in Baile na Scolairi the well-wishes for a happy new year from our friends in Illiton.

Heregyth Ketilsdottir

### Da'ud Bob:

([www.appletonstudios.com/movies2.htm](http://www.appletonstudios.com/movies2.htm))

I had high hopes for this one, I really did. Sure, they weren't going to be using Shakespeare's language in this movie based on two of Shakespeare's plays, but that's not always a negative. Goodness knows I've watched, and reviewed for you, a lot of movies based on Shakespeare but not using Shakespeare's words. (Some of the best weren't even in English, like *Ran* and *Throne of Blood*.) And I wasn't unduly concerned about some of the complaints that I heard of historical inaccuracies. Even Shakespeare took liberties with history in the interests of making a better, more engaging story. And, in fact, in watching this movie, I was impressed by the quality of the cinematography, and the realistic "feel" it gave of the time period in which it was set, at least some of which was bolstered by some of the sites where it was filmed; for example, in Lincoln Cathedral in England, a classic piece of High Middle Ages architecture. (You want a middle ages feel to a film? Shoot it in places that existed at the time in which your film is set!) But the more I watched, the more the departures from actual history started weighing on me, and the more some of the "gimmicks" the film makers used increasingly distracted me from truly enjoying this movie. It's not that I consider a bad movie, but it could have been so much better with very little work. But thus it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you Netflix's 2019 offering, ***The King***.

Starring Timothée Chalamet as Hal/King Henry V, Ben Mendelsohn as King Henry IV, Joel Edgerton as Sir John Falstaff, Robert Pattinson as the Dauphin, Thibault de Montalembert as the French King Charles VI, Lily-Rose Depp as Catherine, Philip Rosch as the Lord Chamberlain, Andrew Havill as the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Tom Glynn-Carney as Henry "Hotspur" Percy, this film can be summed up as: Hal, wayward prince and reluctant heir to the English throne, has turned his back on royal life and is living among the people. But when his tyrannical father dies, Hal is crowned King Henry V and is forced to embrace the life he had previously tried to escape. Now the young king must navigate the palace politics, chaos, and war his father left behind, and the emotional strings of his past life - including his relationship with his closest friend and mentor, the aging alcoholic knight, John Falstaff

Good points: Much of the armor. Real chain mail. The sets. The herald's tabard. Some of the costuming. There was enough mud in the scenes of the Battle of Agincourt. The ships. The trebuchets! The massed cavalry. Falstaff yawning during the Dauphin's threat speech.

Bad points: It messes about - a lot! - with the actual history. Some of the costuming; e.g., the rabbit fur "ermine" robe collars. Fisticuffs in full armor. Knights wearing the Royal arms. Too many ships in the cross-Channel fleet. The livery collars. The Dauphin himself coming to the English camp. For that matter, King Henry himself going to the French camp. (In real life, they would have used heralds for

that sort of back and forth.) Addressing King Henry as “Your Majesty.” (Henry VIII, yes; Henry V, nope) Not enough arrows at the Battle of Agincourt.

Zero breasts. 1½ gallons of blood. 161 dead bodies. Sword fu. Dagger fu. Axe fu. Trebuchet fu. Crossbow fu. Polearm fu. Arrow fu. Mace fu. Mud fu. Knights roll. Heads roll. Waves roll. Gratuitous dirt. Gratuitous dancing man. Gratuitous mechanical bird. Gratuitous camels. (No, really!) Gratuitous assassin. Academy Award nomination to Joel Edgerton as Sir John Falstaff for, “Never have I felt so vile as standing victorious on the field of battle.” A 53 on the Vomit Meter. 3 Stars. Da’ud Bob says, “If you don’t watch it thinking that you’re seeing real history, but rather something more like *Game of Thrones*, it is well-done, interesting, and entertaining. But real history it ain’t. Check it out!”