

# BREWING NEWS

The Newsletter of the West  
Kingdom Brewer's Guild

June Crown  
A.S. XXXVI

# Brewing News



The Newsletter of the West Kingdom Brewer's Guild

## Welcome to June Crown!

For those who were not present at March Crown: We had a very well attended competition with over **TWENTY-TWO ENTRIES!** Our winners were Iliia Filia, with a mead, and George of Berwick, with a beer. Huzzah to all of the competitors! Henry an Eynhallow officially stepped up as the Chancellor of the Brewers Guild! Huzzah and Vivant for Henry!



## Note From the Chancellor

Greetings Fellow Brewers!

I am pleased to tell you that brewing is alive and well in the Kingdom of the West. Our ranks have been growing through a lot of hard work by many people: teachers, judges, brewers, and the interested members of the populace – but mostly through your individual efforts. Principality Guild Representatives have renewed the commitment to brewing in their areas and continue to encourage new brewers.

To further encourage more participation in brewing, we have extended the announced Kingdom competitions to appeal to a wide audience. No matter what type of brewing you are interested in, there is something to fit your interests. So gather your ingredients and start brewing!

To advance in the Guild ranking system you must perform works of service in addition to demonstrating competence in styles of brewing. What better way to perform service than to teach others to brew? Volunteer to teach at a Collegium, an A&S event, or better yet teach someone from your own local group how to brew. The Brewer's Guild has new one gallon jugs (like apple juice comes in) available for your classes. This way students can take some of the wort or must home to ferment. Jugs are \$0.50 each through the Chronicler (lids are a small amount more). Try offering an easy mead class where everyone takes home gallon of must! Plan ahead a little and your students can enter into upcoming contests.

Don't forget to bring some brew to share at crown events...

Prost!

Henry



## Brew Contest Announcement

The Barony of Westermark will be having a competition at Westermark Madness, the weekend of August 3-5. The competition will be "Strange Brews". Points will be given for the usual categories (taste, documentation, etc.) with additional points for unusual ingredients or methods used to brew... the weirder, the better. ALL entrants will receive a token for entering. First prize will be a gift certificate from "Fermentation Frenzy" in Los Altos. Entries need to be submitted by 3 PM, Saturday, August 4th. For further info they can contact the Mad Brew-o-crat (George of Berwick) at [rennieguy@hotmail.com](mailto:rennieguy@hotmail.com).



## News From Cynagua

Our Cynaguan Representative is Cassandra von Verden  
Cassandra has set-up a competition calendar for the Cynaguan Brewing Guild for the rest of this year. She is starting out with broad categories to determine the level of interest and participation.

July Investiture - Cordials  
Cynagua/Mists War - Mead  
October Coronet - Beer

Her goal is to have more specific categories for competitions in the future. There will be brewers' guild meetings at Cynaguan events. Please try to attend these meetings and give Cassandra some feedback on what your interests are and what you would like to do as a guild.

Cassandra will be teaching a Cyser (apple mead) brewing class at Kingdom Arts and Sciences.



## News From the Mists

Our Mists Representative is George of Berwick.  
George has set up a basic website which he plans to develop further as time goes on:  
[www.angelfire.com/ca5/1baldaccl/mistsbrew.html](http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/1baldaccl/mistsbrew.html)

The Contest at Mists Investiture, for Fizzy non-alcoholic brews (medievalloid soda pop, etc.), was postponed due to insufficient entries. Instead, it was decided to make Fall Investiture open to ALL non-alcoholic beverages, not just carbonated ones. George provided two and a half gallons of lemonade for the populace on behalf of the Brewer's guild, which was VERY well received.

Here are the other upcoming competitions for Mists events:

Mists Fall Coronet: Period beverages served hot! (caudles, hot spiced wines, etc.)

Mists Principality competitions will follow the same submission guidelines as for Kingdom-level competitions. Note that documentation will usually be worth 20% (+/-) of the total possible points.



## Upcoming Classes!!!

Time to look at your schedules and sign up to teach or take classes! If you are not ready to teach, then there will be great opportunities to be a student and learn more about brewing! Brewing classes will be taught at **Kingdom A&S, July 27-29**. So far we have classes in: Brewing Cyser, and Non-alcoholic Brews. Henry may also teach a class if the schedule allows.

For all those brave souls venturing to the **Pennsic War, August 4th through 19<sup>th</sup>**, there are usually many excellent brewing classes taught there. Henry will be teaching "Tasting the World of Beers", and co-teaching "The Brewing Marathon" - a full day of brewing featuring the Markham Mashing Technique, with his apprentice brother. You can register to teach Pennsic classes online at: <http://www.pennsicwar.org/penn30/AANDS/index.html>

**Darkwood** will be having their **A&S September 22nd and 23rd**. This past fall Henry and I taught three brewing classes: Cider, Cyser and Perry, Brewing Utensils, and English Ales. We haven't signed up to teach specific classes yet, but I'll let you know what we'll be teaching as soon as we decide.

Fall Collegium will be Oct 20th and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Watch for our website!** The West Kingdom Brewer's Guild Website is under construction. It is linked off of the Canton of Caer Dath website at [Caerarth.org](http://Caerarth.org). There are now a couple of newsletters on-line, with more going up this coming week. Our plan is to eventually have all of the newsletters that we have source for posted on this site as a resource for brewers and to have a hefty collection of links to brewing sites.



## Research Notes!

Crystal of the Westermark discovered an excellent on-line research source. It is called "**Patterweb**" and it consists of a search engine that has access to about twelve dictionaries from the late 1500's and early 1600's. The url is <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/english/emed/patterweb.html>

She writes "Here you can find such little treats as (first line is the author, year and name of the dictionary) :  
Vigon Traheron (Vigon Traheron 1543 @ 4491261)  
"Hydromel. Hydromel is meth made of water, and honye"

Vigon Traheron (Vigon Traheron 1543 @ 4511160)  
"Oximell. Oxymel is made of vinaygre, and honye."

Apparently, they are less "dictionaries" in the modern sense; most of them seem to be english-to-french/spanish/latin books or word-of-the-day sources. Still, it looks like there might be some good stuff if you have time to search carefully.

For those who are looking for on-line sources for period recipes, **Medieval/Renaissance Brewing Homepage** has a very nice collection, including recipes from Digby and other period sources. Be aware that not all of the material on the site is period - check the dates before using this material as documentation. Some of the non-period materials may be very informative, and the recipes may produce a tasty brew, but they will NOT make appropriate documentation for a period brew.

<http://www.pbm.com/~lindahl/brewing.html>

This reminds me of a problem that judges often encounter when reading documentation. An entry makes use of a recipe from a book that was labeled "traditional". There are NO period attributions. What is the judge to do? Generally, the word traditional has no research value. A significant portion of the "traditions" in modern folk ways have developed during or since the Victorian era. This is not to discount all traditions, they may have a historical basis, but simply stating that something is traditional is NOT documentation. You need to find a period document, or inscription, a chemical analysis report, or some other hard fact that indicates the existence of a technique or ingredient.



## West Kingdom Brewers Guild Contest List

2001

June Crown	Fruit beers
A&S Tourney	Medical Medievalia - documented Medical cures using wine or ale as a component.
Purgatorio	Scented waters (Rose water, Orange Blossom, Jasmine, Sage water, etc.)
October Crown	Hypocras or Clarrey made with at least two kinds of peppercorn.

12th Night	Ciders and Cysers
March Crown	Any Period Brew – Any type of brew made from a documented period recipe.
Beltane	Cordials
June Crown	Meads
A&S Tourney	Methaglyns and Melomels
Purgatorio	Non-alcoholic Thirst Quenchers – Fruit and Herb Based Drinks
October Crown	Period German Beer



## Brewers' Guild Ranking System

### DEFINITIONS:

**Style** - beer, wine, mead, cordial, or non-alcoholic beverage.

**Public Service Work** - teaching a workshop, submitting articles or art to newsletters, holding a contest or tasting, etc.

**Proficiency** - competency in a style, as judged by fellow brewers from a sampling of at least four different brews.

### RANKINGS:

**Apprentice** - Anyone who wants to play and participate in the Brewers' Guild activities. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a green field.)

**Journeyman** - Someone who is proficient in at least one style of brewing and has performed at least one public service work. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a blue field.)

**Craftsman** - Someone who is proficient in at least two styles of brewing, and had performed at least three public service works. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a red field.)

**Master Brewer** - To achieve this rank you must have attained the previous rank of Craftsman, be nominated by your fellow Craftsmen, and be approved by the other Master Brewers. (Is entitled to wear the Guild badge on a purple field.)

All members of the Guild are encouraged to donate bottles of their beverages to the Guild for use as "taxes" given to the reigning Royalty during court presentations. Brewers outside of the central Kingdom, or in the more distant regions of the Marches, may achieve awards up through Craftsman by participating in their local events. Such individuals should write to the Guild Master to inform him or her of their level of participation.

**The Guild badge is as follows: "Fieldless, A tun palewise Or charged with a laurel leaf vert." The tun, as generally depicted, is a wooden barrel.**


The West Kingdom Brewer's Guild newsletter is an unofficial publication and is printed and published through donations. It is published at no cost to the Brewers' Guild or the SCA. Members who would like to have a newsletter mailed to their home are welcome to donate \$ 7.00 per year to the Guild Chronicler. Both stamps and suitable coins of the realm will be gleefully accepted! Some small number of newsletters will be available at Crown events. We would encourage all gentles who have email to accept their newsletter by that medium. E-newsletter subscriptions are free.



# Brewers' Guild Leadership

## Guild Chancellor

Henry an Eynhallow



## Chronicler for the Guild

Eirny Thorvaldsdottir



## Cynaguan Representative

Cassandra von Verden (Roxane Goergen)




## Mists Representative

George of Berwick (Tony Baldacci)



## Oerthan Representative

Bjarni Edwardsson (Charles Diters)



No Calls After 9PM Please - The Yeasts Are Sleeping.....

This newsletter is an unofficial publication prepared by and for the members of the Brewers' Guild of the Kingdom of the West. The articles, opinions, and recipes published herein are strictly the responsibility of their authors and not of the SCA or the Kingdom of the West. (Now that the lawyers are happy... relax and have a home brew!)