Reflecting on the Merovingian Dynasty

Merovingian Mirror

Newsletter of the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty: 448-751
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Fall 2012

Officers...

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HONORARY PRESIDENTS GENERAL
Richard Alan Gregory
Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr. EdD

The President General’s Message...

On behalf of myself and all the officers of OMD, I would like to express appreciation to you for your vote of confidence in us, and for allowing us to serve you as our term soon will be ending. I think we have had great success as we have served this great Order.

I commend Dr. Hardwick Johnson and the nominating committee for selecting such an outstanding slate of officers for the next term; these fine people will be voted in at our next annual meeting and I heartily endorse all of them to you. Brantley Knowles, a Founder, will bring an era of exciting leadership to the Order, to which we look forward. The nominating committee report follows.

My term as President General has been a dream due to the untiring work of our great officers, all of whom are to be congratulated. To all of them I say “thank you so very much”. I would be remiss if I did not especially thank Barry Howard, Tim Beard, John Harman, Dianne Robinson, and Shari Worrell all of whom have worked behind the scenes continuously and untiringly.

Barry and Tim are Founders, and deserve special accolades. Their assistance and support continues to be just outstanding.

OMD will be indebted forever to the wonderful benevolence of Dianne Robinson, who created the Cornelia “Nellie” Smith Isenhour Memorial Scholarship program. Through this scholarship program, OMD will continue to be able to offer two scholarships each year to worthy students in the field of medieval studies. OMD has a special relationship with Associate Member, Dr. C. Brian Rose, Pritchard Professor of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania; Deputy Director, Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; President, Archaeological Institute of America who helps us to select the awardees.

The Order continues to increase in membership; I am astounded at how many new members are being added each month. We have now passed three hundred members. Please encourage your relatives, and children to apply.

The next annual meeting of OMD will be at 12:00 noon, City Tavern Club, 3206 M Street, Washington, DC 20007, Wednesday, 10 April 2013 (Courtesy of Barry C. Howard). We have an exciting speaker: Professor Helmut Reimitz, of Princeton University, who is an expert in Medieval Studies and will speak on women in Medieval Studies and will speak on women in the Merovingian Era. He had great accolades when he spoke at BOMC recently and the Mirror has printed his remarks. See the following article. Invitations will be mailed February, 2012.

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Saying our Goodbyes...

SONYA REBECCA JORDAN FOX
OMD Member #285

Sonya Rebecca Jordan Fox, beloved sister of Dick Jordan, tragically passed away on January 5, 2012, as a result of a fire that destroyed her home in Sunflower, MS. Sonya was born in Columbia, MS, July 27, 1928. Sonya was a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. While at USM, she was very active in campus life, a cheerleader for three years, female vocalist for the Modernist Dance Band, and the First Bathing Beauty Queen at USM. Sonya was the President of Mu Omega Sorority and was instrumental in the changing of this sorority into the National Sorority of Chi Omega. Knowing that she would graduate in two months, she chose to be the Charter First Vice-President of Chi Omega at USM. Upon graduation, she was hired to teach Health and Physical Education at Clarksdale, MS. After her first year, Sonya met and married Coleman Allen Fox. Allen and Sonya moved from Clarksdale to the Fox Bend Plantation in Sunflower, MS. Sonya taught English in Indianola School system. After one year, she was hired to be on the staff of the Sunflower Welfare Department where she remained for over 45 years, the last 25 years as the Director. Upon her retirement, Sonya and Allen traveled extensively throughout the USA until Allen’s death in 2009. Sonya’s passions were the Sunflower United Methodist Church in Sunflower, MS, and her lineage societies. Sonya was very active in the Colonial Dames XVII Century, Daughters of the American Revolution, Magna Charta Dames and Barons, and the Jamestowne Society. Sonya was also a member of the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne and the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty. Memorial services were held at the Sunflower United Methodist Church in Sunflower, MS, on January 14, 2012.

SUE STURGIS WETHERINGTON
OMD Member # 304

Mrs. Sue Wetherington, age 81 of Brentwood, TN formerly of Metropolis, IL, passed away at 6:34 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012 at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at the First United Methodist Church in Metropolis. Rev. Jon Cockrell officiated. Burial followed in the Masonic Cemetery. Sue was a retired school teacher with Massac Unit #1 school district. She was a member of the Fort Massac Chapter of the DAR, where she was past Regent and an associate member of the Robert Cooke Chapter NSDAR in Nashville, TN. Sue is survived by her husband of over 61 years, Milton E. "Bud" Wetherington, currently of Brentwood, TN; daughter, Carol Holloway of Winter Park, FL; son, M. Sturgis Wetherington and wife Susan of Parker, CO; 3 granddaughters, Laura Weatherston of Larkspur, CO, Megan Holloway and Kara Holloway, both of Winter Park, FL; great-grandson, Liam Weatherston of Larkspur, CO; sister, Jean Easley of Brentwood, TN; 2 nieces, Pam Pfeffer and Jan Baker, both of Nashville, TN; and several nieces and nephews by marriage.

Proposed 2013-2015 Slate of Officers...

Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., Ed.D., Nominating Committee Chairman, presents the following proposed slate of officers for 2013-2015 to be voted on and accepted by the members:

President General
1st Vice President General
2nd Vice President General
3rd Vice President General
4th Vice President General
Genealogist General
Asst. Genealogist General
Registrar General
Webmaster
Secretary General
Asst. Secretary General
Chaplain General
Treasurer General
Asst. Treasurer General
Archivist General
Curator General
Chancellor General
Surgeon General
Counselor General
Advisory Council

President General
Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles
Charles William Neuhauser
Juanita Sue Augustus
Anna Boykin Ferguson Duff
Dianne Alley Robinson
Timothy Field Beard, FASG
Philip Robert Livingston
John Robert Harman, Jr.
Barry Christopher Howard
Karen Mandeville Cardullo
Michael Perry Schenk
The Rev. Dr. Albert Clinton Walling, II
Barry Christopher Howard
Catherine McCready Strach
Carter B. S. Furr, Esq.
Michael Scott Swisher
Craig Huseman Metz, Esq.
Dr. George James Hill
J. Michael Phelps, Esq.
Caroline Bowen
Charles E. F. Drake, MD
John Hallberg Jones
Karen E. McClendon
F. Lee Perryman
Priscilla Roberts

New Associate Member, Robert Pond Vivian...

Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., EdD - Chairman
Caroline Bowen
John R. Harman
Charles E. F. Drake, MD
Barry C. Howard

On rare occasions the Board of Directors may elect someone to Associate Life Membership who has made a significant contribution to the study and genealogy of the “Merovingian Dynasty”, or who has been a significant benefactor of the Order. Lineal descent is not a requirement. The Order of the Merovingian Dynasty bestowed this honor to Robert Pond Vivian at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Bob is currently serving as Marshal of Baronial Order of Magna Charta and Crusader Commander of The Military Order of the Crusades. He is also the Past Governor General of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. Congratulations, Bob!
New Members.....

BIRCH, Mary Alma Baxter
Mrs. Mary Alma Birch, 5595 Homewood Road, Pensacola, FL 32504-8317 [mabirch@cox.net]

BODEAU, MD, Geoffrey Robert
Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, MD, 6608 Kenney Place, Edina, MN 55439 [gbodeau@gmail.com]

CLARK, Joan Marie Littley
[305] Admitted: 23 Jun 2012  Gateway Ancestor: Rev. Thomas James, Jr., NY
Mrs. Henry Albert Clark, 1860 Stratford Park Place #308, Reston, VA 20190 [jclarkee@verizon.net]

DEVINE, Robert James
[300] Admitted: 4 Apr 2012  Gateway Ancestor: Thomas Trowbridge, MA
Robert James Devine, 3124 Sweetbriar Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76109-2057 [lincdevine@prodigy.net]

EATON, Christine Fortenberry
Mrs. Christine Fortenberry Eaton, 1740 Orchard Drive, Columbia, MS 39429 [chriswillf@bellsouth.net]

HENDRICKS, Catherine Saunders
Mrs. Catherine A. Hendricks, 1600 W. Monmouth Drive, Richmond, VA 23238-4732 [selahom@aol.com]

HOWELL, Laura Nelle Clark
Mrs. C. Samuel Howell, 2200 Ayers Drive, Anniston, AL 36207-6382, [lauraclarkhowell@gmail.com]

JENKS, Joan Faraci Jenks
[293] Admitted: 1 Feb 2012  Gateway Ancestor: John Prescott, MA
Mrs. Joan Jenks, 41 Old Black Point Road, Niantic, CT 06357 [catsop@aol.com]

KEEN III, Edward F.
[291] Admitted: 30 Jan 2012  Gateway Ancestor: Thomas Ligon, VA
Mr. Edward F. Keen III, 6136 Los Fuentes Drive, El Paso, TX 79912 [edwardkeen@gmail.com]

KITCHENS, Carol Crane Kitchens
Mrs. Frederick L. Kitchens, Jr., 3874 County Road 852, Heflin, AL 36264 [carolkitch@mac.com]

LOCKWOOD, Norma Futch Kent
Mrs. William G. Lockwood, Jr., 4844 Arapahoe Avenue, Jacksonville, FL, 32210

McSWAIN, Katherine Elizabeth Carter
Mrs. Betty McSwain, 92 McCallum Lane, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

MOORE, Thomas Richard
Mr. Thomas Moore, 70 Princeton Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 [palmsilk@aol.com]

NIELSEN, MD, Eric Jon Nielsen, MD
Eric Jon Nielsen, MD, 5490 Lions Cross Circle, Granite Bay, CA 95746-9023 [ericorn@aol.com]

PATRICK III, Bower Reynolds
Bower R. Patrick III, 516 Fairfax Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23507 [brpatrick13@gmail.com]

SHERMAN, Elizabeth Jane
[301] Admitted: 4 Apr 2012  Gateway Ancestor: Robert Lawrence, VA
Elizabeth Jane Sherman, 701 Donaghe Street, Staunton, VA 24401-2939 [societydame@verizon.net]

SIMMONS, Eliza Ann Atkinson
[303] Admitted: 27 Apr 2012  Gateway Ancestor: Martha Bacon, VA
Mrs. William E. Simmons, Jr., One Gov. Hugh White Place, Columbia, MS 39429 [asimmons@columbia@aol.com]

WARREN, Helen Parker
[295] Admitted: 21 Feb 2012  Gateway Ancestor: Alice Freeman, CT
Mrs. Charles Warren, 3720 Merlin Way, Annandale, VA 22003-1327 [cheab3@verizon.net]

WETHERINGTON, Carolyn Sturgis
Changes/Corrections to Roster...

New Addresses

#47 BOLTON, Nancy Jane
1105 Inglecress Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

#115 BOWEN, Caroline
1270 England Creamery Road
P.O. Box 527
Rising Sun, MD 21911-2308

#265 DoBELL, Helen C.
4570 Whitewater
Bonner, MT 59823-9400

#281 DUAY, Deborah Lynn Boshart
11901 Tara Drive
Plantation, FL 33325

#225 DUAY, Theodore M. III
11901 Tara Drive
Plantation, FL 33325

#182 FREY, Charlotte P.
86 Konight Court
Mahwah, NJ 07430-2960

#138 HALE, Cecilia
PO Box 514
Fayette, AL 35555-0514

#46 LAWLESS, Karen (Mrs. Robert)
PO Box 686
Montgomery, TX 77356-0686

#228 MADEIROS, David
Rua das Papolias, 587
2570-757 Cascais, Portugal

#169 NEWTON, Agnes
3755 Fall View Trail
Cumming, VA 30041-5742

#149 SMITH, Wallace Harden, II MD
6520 Rocky Falls Road
Charlotte, NC 28211-5520

#159 SMITHSON, Christopher
4219 Paddock Road
Darlington, MD 21034-1034

#70 WARD, Nicholas
1212 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20005-6127

#40 WHEELER, Beatrice Geraldine
990 Miramonte Drive, Apt #2
Santa Barbara, CA 93108-1350

The Merovingians—The Making of a Medieval Dynasty

This reprint of Part II of Professor Reimitz's talk first appeared in the Fall 2011 issue of THE HERALD, the newsletter of the Baronial Order of Magna Charta and The Military Order of the Crusades."

By Helmut Reimitz
Department of History – Princeton University
Continued from The Merovingina Mirror Volume 3, Issue 1

The establishment of these kingdoms was not an imposition of Germanic customs of rule and succession. It was a constant and relatively open negotiation between various elites, between different social networks, cultural backgrounds, aristocratic, royal, military and ecclesiastical groups and their interests.

Some numbers might help us understand the constant need for negotiation. When Clovis extended his rule over most of the former Gaulish provinces, he had a very efficient army. After all, he managed to assert his rule not only against the smaller kingdoms of the North, but against the powerful Visigothic kingdom in the South. At that time armies did not consist of more than a few thousand men. This was in marked contrast to the settled population. Gaul, for example, was since the late Roman period a very rich and densely populated area. Several million people lived there. Later, at the time of Clovis, the number was probably much lower, but still the population of Gaul must have outnumbered the Frankish army by far.

So the establishment of legitimate rule over the territory of the former Roman empire was only possible on the basis of a new contract with all the people living in the country. An unpublished study by a friend of mine in Berlin shows that this new contract was concluded in a general oath that the entire population was supposed to take. It was the legal basis for the king as successor of imperial rule as the highest legal, tax and military authority. But the taking of the oath was preceded by a great number of negotiations. The officials of the kings went into the different administrative units of the former provinces. Their representatives negotiated with the legates of the ruler about the conditions under which the oath would be taken. During these negotiations they often managed to strike a good bargain for the city, its population or themselves. We hear of tax exemptions, financial support, the right to levy some of the taxes themselves or public offices.

But when a king died, the negotiations started anew. As I already mentioned, Clovis had four sons, three from his Burgundian wife Clothild and his eldest, Theuderic, from a previous marriage. Theuderic had already been an adult for some time, and it seems that he managed to secure his succession in the eastern territories of the kingdom a while before Clovis died. The support of the local elites in the East must have played an important role for Theuderic’s powerful position. He came to terms with his three half brothers who divided most of modern France among themselves. But here again the elites of the cities and territories must have been involved, since they all needed to swear new oaths to the new kings, which gave them new opportunities to
negotiate their positions and rights. In a similar way, the womanizer, Chlothar I, outlived his brother and ruled for a few years over the entire kingdom. But when he died, the kingdom was again divided among four of his sons. And again, the details of the division had to be negotiated among them as well as with the local elites. The sources clearly indicate that officials of the different kings rushed to the different cities to persuade their elites to swear the oaths for their king and not the others. That was the occasion to negotiate new deals and to confirm already existing privileges and rights which were received by former Merovingian rulers.

New Magnates Created

In this process, new magnates were created in Gaul when local elites decided to cooperate. Many presented themselves as descendants of old and noble Roman families in Gaul, but most were the offspring of families who did not “call the shots” before the Merovingian kingdom was established. The prominent position they developed since Clovis’s takeover of Gaul rested on their decision to cooperate with the new rulers. It was based on the new scope that was created through the negotiation of social positions that the establishment of Merovingian rule entailed.

One member of this new elite class, Gregory of Tours, wrote a comprehensive history of Gaul at the end of the sixth century. Gregory was not only an author. As bishop of Tours, home to the prestigious shrine of St. Martin, he was also one of the big political players of his time. Of course he defended the privileges that Tours had received from earlier Merovingian kings and might even have managed to extend some of the tax exemptions. Members of his family are attested as bishops all over southern Gaul, but only after the establishment of the Merovingian regime. It is also to Gregory the historian to whom we owe the story of the womanizer Chlothar I. Interestingly, there is no explicit critique involved in Gregory’s version of the story. This is all the more interesting because Chlothar’s marriage to a sister of his wife was actually against the laws of the Church and regarded as incestuous. That there is no word of critique in Gregory is also striking considering that the many sons that Chlothar produced caused a lot of problems in Gregory’s time.

Some of them even rebelled against their father. There were others who claimed to be his sons, and although Chlothar could not be sure, some took the claims seriously and supported these men as genuine claimants. In addition to all that, Chlothar’s four sons, whom he had with the two sisters, eventually succeeded him and were in constant conflict with each other. These civil wars belonged to the worst aspects of the late sixth century. But when Gregory wrote about these events in his Histories, he never took the opportunity to question the legitimacy of the Merovingian kings.

It was not the sexual hyperactivity of the Merovingian kings that annoyed Gregory. What he really disapproved of were Merovingians who started to act like former Roman emperors. This becomes obvious in his description of the king who ruled Gregory’s diocese for most of his episcopacy – Chilperic, one of the sons of Chlothar. As different sources tell us, Chilperic, an ambitious and quite sophisticated ruler, adopted and cultivate Roman traditions of representation and legitimization. He had the Roman amphitheatres in Paris and Soissons rebuilt and put on expensive circus games.

Like the Roman Emperor Claudius he wanted to reform the Latin alphabet. Poets emphasized his Latin education in their panegyrics – and indeed he wrote poetry and even a theological treatise. Some literary works have survived and other evidence also supports the accuracy of these accounts. Chilperic clearly wanted to present himself as a real successor of the former Roman Emperors.

One would have expected Gregory of Tours, who presents himself as a member of an old and noble Gallo-Roman family, to have liked this, too. On the contrary, Gregory characterizes Chilperic as a truly bad king. According to him, Chilperic’s poetry never really reached the standards of Latin composition, his theological treatise on the Trinity bordered on heresy and his writing reforms were never put into practice. In order to finance his expensive self-representation, meaning his circus games and likely also his wars, he constantly raised taxes and thereby wasted the money that belonged to the poor.

In Gregory’s portrayal Chilperic oriented himself after models which in Gregory’s view belonged to the past. But Gregory was a man of a new age. This new age started with the establishment of the Merovingian kingdom, which created a new scope of negotiation for families like Gregory’s. And these families not only used their newly forged perspectives and scope for negotiation to establish prominent positions in the Merovingian kingdom. They were also willing to defend them. Not even the bishops, the majority of whom were descended from senatorial families, wished to return to the circumstances before the Frankish regnum was established. A king like Chilperic, who reached back too strongly to older Roman forms of rule, could be seen as a threat to the established consensus.

Merovingian Dynasty a Stabilizing Factor

But in the course of the sixth century the members of the Merovingian elite also learned that dynastic continuity was a stabilizing factor for recently established opportunities for their social and political positioning. In this light, the sexual activity of the Merovingians served constantly to create important opportunities for the continuation and renewal of this legitimization. As long as legitimate rule was based on being of Merovingian descent, of being the son of a Merovingian king, the successors were likely to act in keeping with their predecessors and to confirm their privileges and rights they had bestowed. And if there were more Merovingian heirs competing with each other, one could make more out of the new deal. Thus, we see the Roman members of the governing class supporting the principle of dynastic continuity in the Merovingian kingdoms – as bishops, authors, politicians. Whether it was a Germanic tradition or not, members of the governing class with their strong roots in late Roman Gaul could care less. They saw the advantages of dynastic succession as a tool to stabilize their own influential positions in the kingdom. Their contribution was crucial to establish it as the main pattern for legitimate succession in the most successful successor state of the Roman Empire – the Frankish kingdoms. And with the political success of the Frankish kingdoms it also acted as important filter and transmitter of the model which the medieval and post-medieval West developed further in the following centuries.
Scholarship…

The Cornelia “Nellie” Smith Isenhour Memorial Scholarship was founded in 2009 by Dianne A. Robinson to honor her grandmother and with contributions by other members to continue the growth of the scholarship. It is awarded each year to two students majoring in Archaeology and are recommended by Dr. Brian Rose, James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania; Deputy Director, Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation may send a check, payable to OMD Scholarship, to:

Dianne Robinson
18602 Balmore Pines Lane
Cornelius, NC 28031-5208

2012 Recipients…

DAIRA NOCERA

Daira earned her BA in Classics, with a focus on archaeology, at the University of Pisa, Italy, with a thesis on the Roman military installations along the eastern limes. During her undergraduate years she participated in archaeological excavations in various sites in Italy. She then completed a specialization program in Classical Archaeology at the University of Genova, Italy, where she wrote her dissertation thesis on an amphorae context from the Forum of Nerva.

Before joining AAMW Daira lived and worked in Rome for six years where she participated in the excavations in the Forum of Augustus, Forum of Caesar, Palatine and Villa of Maxentius. Daira joined AAMW to pursue her interests in Roman classical archaeology. She is particularly interested in architecture, limes issues, techniques and methodologies of excavation, material culture with a special focus on amphorae and trade and economy, and computer applications. She is currently involved in the project of excavation in the Villa of Maxentius, Rome, with the University of Colorado at Boulder.

JORDAN PICKETT

Jordan Pickett graduated in 2006 from Indiana University with a BA in the History of Art, Religious Studies, and Medieval History. Jordan's research is situated at the intersection of architecture and social history: published and under-review projects include studies of the economics of masonry construction in medieval Anatolia, early modern conflicts over Holy Places in Palestine, and Byzantine iconoclasm. After work at the Villa Magna Project and in Cappadocia, Jordan has most recently served as an intensive survey team leader and architectural investigator for the British Institute in Ankara's Avkat Project, based in Mecitözü, Turkey. Jordan’s dissertation, “Water After Antiquity” is a comparative study exploring the diverse afterlives of Roman baths and hydraulic architecture in the Eastern Mediterranean during Late Antiquity. Jordan very much looks forward to joining the Danish excavations at Jarash, Jordan this summer, for work related to his dissertation.
Minutes of the Eighth Annual Meeting…

Order of the Merovingian Dynasty
Eighth Annual Meeting, Minutes
11 April 2012
City Tavern Club, Washington, DC
(Courtesy of Barry C. Howard)

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty was held 11 April 2012 at the City Tavern Club in Washington, DC at 11:00 a.m. President General Colonel Charles Clement Lucas, Jr., MD called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Albert Clinton Walling, II.

Officers in attendance were: Colonel Charles Clement Lucas, Jr., MD, President General; Mrs. Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles, First Vice President General; Ms. Juanita Sue Pierce Augustus, Third Vice President General; Mrs. Anna Duff, Fourth Vice-President General; Mr. Timothy Field Beard, Genealogist General; Mr. John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar General; Mr. Barry Christopher Howard, Treasurer General; Mrs. Catherine McCready Strauch, Asst. Treasurer General; Mrs. Dianne Robinson, Secretary General; Dr. Albert Clinton Walling II, Chaplain General; Mrs. Eva Gray Harding, Curator General; Mr. Craig Metz, Esq., Chancellor General; Mr. George James Hill, MD, DLitt, Surgeon General. Also in attendance were Advisory Council members: Mrs. Shari Worrell, Mrs. Caroline Bowen, Mrs. Karen Cardullo and Mr. Russell Scott. The minutes of the Seventh Annual Meeting of 13 April 2011 were approved as distributed.

Officer Reports:
The following officers gave reports, attached to these minutes*: President General, Colonel Charles Clement Lucas, Jr., MD; Mrs. Dianne Robinson, Secretary General; Mr. Barry Howard, Treasurer General (reflecting total assets of $103,357.61); Mr. J. Michael Phelps, Counselor General, sent in his report. Mrs. Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles, 1st Vice-President General gave a report on a new medal for women who would be President General (see following). The Registrar’s report was given by Mr. John R. Harman Jr., Registrar General. The scholarship committee’s report was given by Mrs. Dianne Robinson, Chairperson, Scholarship Committee (see following).

Old Business: None

New Business:
President General Lucas asked Mrs. Dianne Robinson to present the Scholarship Committee report. Mrs. Robinson announced that the scholarship recipients for 2012 would be presented to the membership at the luncheon following the meeting. They are Daira Nocera and Jordan Pickett who will be accompanied by our speaker Dr. Brian Rose. She also announced that the OMD existing VA HSG bond in the Scholarship Fund is valued at $51,669.50. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

The Order “offered its highest appreciation to Mrs. Robinson for her efforts in establishing the Scholarship Fund and continuing to support it”.

1st Vice President General, Mrs. Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles reported that she has investigated an alternative new insignia design for future female Presidents General of our Order. While male Presidents General may comfortably wear the present OMD regalia, a more practical option is indicated for ladies, due to a requirement for comfort and the delicacy of female clothing, especially evening attire. Mrs. Knowles has been in dialogue with Mr. Don Ross at Citypride Jewelers regarding this matter. Although there is no rendering as yet, a suggestion is to use the present female insignia with the bow fixture, to which an additional embellishment may be added. Don’s suggestion for an addition, is perhaps the center medallion of the President General’s insignia.

Mrs. Shari Worrell was commended by Genealogist General, The Hon. Timothy Field Beard and President General Lucas for her work on the Mirror.

Colonel Charles Clement Lucas, Jr., MD, President General was commended for his excellent leadership during this past year as was Mr. Barry Howard for his excellent Treasurer work.

President General Lucas appointed Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., EdD, as per the by-laws, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the next term.

President General Lucas announced that Mr. Robert Pond Vivian had been elected as an Associate Life Member and would receive a certificate at the luncheon.

There was discussion of having a dinner/dance jointly with the OCC again next year but no decision was made. It was pointed out by Scholarship Chairman, Mrs. Dianne Robinson that the Scholarship Presentation would not be as effective at a function such as this.

President General Lucas gave the next meeting date as April 10, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35.

Mrs. Dianne Robinson, Secretary General

*All reports are available for review by contacting the Secretary General.

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Save the date...

President General COL Charles C. Lucas, Jr., MD
and the General Officers of the
Order of the Merovingian Dynasty
request the pleasure of your company at the
Order’s Annual Meeting and Luncheon
on
Wednesday, the Tenth of April
Two Thousand Thirteen
at the
The City Tavern Club
(Courtesy of Barry C. Howard)
3206 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-8770

Speaker: Asst. Professor Helmut Reimitz
Europe’s Mothers:
The Role of Women in the Formation of a Carolingian Family

Invitations will be sent in February.
Memories of Washington, D.C.:

Richard DeMott, Grayson Harding, Mario Cardullo

Bob Vivian, Charles Lucas, Brian Rose

Betty Campbell, Martha and George Wright

John Harman, Lee Perryman

Barry Howard, Jane Power

Doug Richardson, Priscilla Roberts

John, Katherine and Melissa Boyter

New members

Carlo Capomazza, Caroline Bowen

Russell and Anne Scott

Jordan Pickett, Dianne Robinson, Brian Rose, Daira Nocera

Laura and Mike Schenk
Order of the Merovingian Dynasty
http://www.merovingiandynasty.info/

Large Neck Medallion for Gentlemen
Bow and Tails for Ladies
Miniature Medal

Blazer Patch-Cipher
Blazer Patch-Star
Recognition/Lapel Pin ~ Charm

“The Order of the Merovingian Dynasty Medal is manufactured in Sterling Silver, (925 parts in 1,000 pure silver), and then 24ct gold plated (prices for silver and gold are approximate and will vary based on market fluctuations).”

The Medal consists of an eight pointed star, alternating four gold plated fluted rays and four silver bright cut rays. The star rays are bound by a circle of purple vitreous enamel with the title Order of the Merovingian Dynasty. A gold plated Merovingian decorative wreath encloses a white enamel disk, upon which is the title Sanguinarius Regum (Blood of Kings) Symbolism includes period Eagles heads and the Royal Bee. The centre disk is in purple enamel and contains the gold plated silver portrait of Childeric, taken from the Ring of Childeric.

The link to view the insignia on the website is http://www.merovingiandynasty.info/Medals.htm

ORDER FORM:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price @</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large Neck Medallion for Gentlemen</td>
<td>$1350</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bow and Tails for Ladies</td>
<td>$1350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miniature Medal (silver/gold plate)</td>
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<td>Miniature Medal 14K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognition/Lapel Pin (bronze plate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognition/Lapel Pin (silver/gold plate)</td>
<td>$85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charm (bronze plate) Suitable for use on Branch Bar</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charm (silver/gold plate) Suitable for use on Branch Bar</td>
<td>$85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blazer Patch-Cipher</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blazer Patch-Star</td>
<td>$35</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Shipping and handling $8.50

TOTAL

Send Order to:
Order of the Merovingian Dynasty
John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar
2112 White Oak Road
Raleigh, NC 27608-1452
Questions?
jrharman1@gmail.com
Order of the Merovingian Dynasty

PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

12 April 2011

To the President General and Membership Committee:

The undersigned propose for membership in the Order:

Full Name: ___________________________________________

Maiden Name: ________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City: _________________________________________________

State: Zip: Country: _____________________________________

Tel # Email: ___________________________________________

Occupation: ___________________________________________

Who is personally known and we request that a formal invitation be sent to our friend. It is understood that upon acceptance of the invitation and payment of the fees, that lineage blanks will be sent to the prospective member on which can be recorded the requisite genealogical data relating to lineal descent through the Gateway ancestor.

Other Personal Recommendations
(As Societies, Commissions, and Honors)

Name of Gateway Ancestor: ______________________________

Proposed by: __________________________________________

Proposed by: __________________________________________

Proposer Comments:

Please send completed Proposal for Membership to:
Order the Merovingian Dynasty
John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar
2112 White Oak Road
Raleigh, NC 27608-1452
Questions?
jrharman1@gmail.com
The President General’s Message

Continued...

I would like to mention also that our companion organization BOMC and Bob Vivian, Associate Member, have planned an exciting breakfast at the University Club, Washington, DC, on 11 April 2013. The speaker will be The Very Rev. Dr. Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln Cathedral who will speak on Lincoln and Sir Christopher Wren and the 2015 Magna Carta celebrations of which Lincoln is an integral part. I have seen him speak, and I can assure you it is a presentation you will not want to miss. As a part of the Diamond Jubilee, the Queen was at Lincoln. Lincoln is the repository of best remaining copy of the 2015 Magna Carta. Contact Bob Vivian for more information. His email is: rpv47@hotmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you in April in Washington.

COL Charles Clement Lucas, Jr., MD

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Announcement from the Webmaster...

The Order’s website has been a valuable source of information for many years. When implemented, it was a timely and valuable asset to the organization, tying our mission to a wider public interface. As is always the case with evolving technology, it has become necessary for us to upgrade our current web presentation to a more contemporary context. Over the coming months, our webmaster Barry Howard will drive this project to completion through an independent development firm, and by next spring the Order’s online presence will be infused with a new look and feel. Updates will be forthcoming.

Please note the new OMD web site address on the masthead on page 1.

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Please notify the Secretary General and the Registrar General of any changes:

Dianne A. Robinson, Secretary General
18602 Balmore Pines Lane
Cornelius, NC 28031-5208
704-892-0442
diannebobr@att.net

and

John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar General
2112 White Oak Road
Raleigh, NC 27608-1452
jrharmanl@gmail.com

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A Special Thanks...

The Order of the Merovingian Dynasty would like to thank OMD member, Michael Swisher, and his firm Bayport Printing House, Inc. for printing the *Merovingian Mirror*.

Meet our Guest Speaker….

HELMUT REIMITZ studies the history of the Early Middle Ages in Europe focusing on the political and social transformations of the Latin West from the end of the Roman Empire to the Carolingian Empire (ca. 4th -10th cent.). Before coming to Princeton in September 2008, he was the head of the Early Medieval Department at the Institute for Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, one of the European Centers for Early Medieval Studies. Currently he is writing a book on conceptions of identity and ethnicity in the Frankish world (*Historiography of the future: History and Identity in the Frankish Kingdoms*) investigating the variety of models developed for the Frankish community in the Merovingian and Carolingian kingdoms by historiographical texts and their manuscript transmissions from the end of the sixth century to the tenth. In this study, he not only discusses the varying and competing identity processes that were linked with the name of the Franks, but also shows how processes of social and cultural experimentation with the name and meaning of ‘Frank’ created blueprints for ethnic and national identity, which Europe was to develop successfully in the following centuries.

Helmut Reimitz is a member of numerous international networks and research groups on early medieval history, among them the European Science Foundation Project on the “Transformation of the Roman World”, “Texts and Identities in the Early Middle Ages” (cooperation of the Universities of Cambridge, Sorbonne, Utrecht, Leeds and Vienna), “Rulers, History and Exegesis. The formation of a political identity in the Carolingian Empire” (at the Netherlandish Institute for Advanced Studies), and the "Networks of Editors of Historical Sources” (with the Institute for Historical Research, London; École nationale des chartes, Paris; Académie royale d’ histoire, Brussels; Institute for Netherlandish History, Den Haag and the Institut für Mittelalterforschung, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna). He has edited a number of volumes on the history and the meaning of the early Middle Ages, of which the most recent are: *Vergangenheit und Vergegenwärtigung. Frühes Mittelalter und Europäische Erinnerungskultur* (Forschungen zur Geschichte des Mittelalters 13, Vienna 2009, in print); *Staat im frühen Mittelalter* (Forschungen zur Geschichte des Mittelalters 10, Vienna 2006); *The construction of communities in the early middle ages – Texts, resources and artifacts* (The Transformation of the Roman World 12, Leiden 2003).

Teaching interests:

Helmut Reimitz is teaching a survey course on early Medieval History (The civilization of the Early Middle Ages). He also taught an undergraduate seminar on the making of history in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (Time and Society. The creation of the past), and is planning to offer seminars on ethnicity, on frontiers and perceptions of space and on techniques and traditions of writing, copying and collecting books in the Middle Ages, both at the graduate and undergraduate level.