



# Adrian Herald

NOVEMBER 2011



Greetings to the Empire,

It is with great excitement that we look forward to the upcoming year. We would like to thank all of the people that helped make this possible. We would also like to thank the Duchy of Thinararia for hosting such a wonderful event. Their efforts made it a beautiful Coronation. Finally, we would also like to thank our competitors, Dame Pandora and Sir Polonious, for such an honorably conducted war. Hopefully this is a precursor of the conduct of future contested wars.

We have several goals for this year and to help accomplish them we have put together an excellent slate of ministers, both experienced and new. We have expanded the number of deputies to match each region so the load is more distributed and to have an Imperial minister at each site for both Banner War and Imperial War. One of our major goals is to address the issues so many have expressed with the Adrian legal system. Whether this means the creation of an independent judiciary or some other process is yet to be decided, but expect to see a proposal in soon. Another goal is to finish up the work on point conversions. Much was done in the last reign and we hope to complete it. We are also bringing back the Ministry of Education. We hope to have a site up where Adrians can go to find syllabuses on different subjects or to submit a syllabus that they have created. We are also going to create guides for different aspects of Adria.

In this next year we will be attempting to bring back more of the pomp and circumstance of Imperial Court. We will be following more of the ceremony and protocols as an example to newer members and any public viewing of our events. We are, after all, an educational organization and we should strive to set the best example possible. This has the added advantage of bringing more civility to our public discourse and we hope the example spills over to our internet communications also. Another tradition we are bringing back is the Chivalry Roundtable at all of our multidivisional events. Finally, we and our ministers are here to serve you. We will always be responsive and are taking steps to increase our accessibility. Again, thank you for this opportunity.

In Service,  
HIM Dame Etaine Llewelyn  
HIM Sir Thomas Weimar

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Their Majesties
- ◆ Outgoing Crowns
- ◆ IEM information
- ◆ Ministry reports
- ◆ Chapter highlights
- ◆ A Travelers Journey
- ◆ Medieval Card game
- ◆ Officers lists



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*Message from their out-going Imperial Majesties*

**Unto the Most Noble Adrian Empire,**

Our time is done, and we wish to take this moment to thank every member of the Adrian Empire for allowing us the pleasure of serving as Imperial Crowns.

Serving as Crowns is never an easy task, but thankfully we had many individuals assisting us over the year. Our announced awards are as follows;

**Imperial Order of the Nebula -**

Dame Rosa of York

**Imperial Order of the Comet -**

Sir Polonius of York

**Baron/Baroness of the Imperial Court -**

Sir Wot of Castilles  
Sir Cameron Kilshannig of Umbria  
Sir Terrin Greyphis of Lancaster  
Prince L'Bete of Constantinople  
Sir Frederick Falconer of York  
Sir Larke of Thinairia  
Dame Mary of Thiniaria

**Lord/Lady of the Imperial Court -**

Sir Willhemus of Sommerset  
Dame Cryssida of Alhambra

**Imperial Order of the Queen's Guard**

An-ridire Ruaidhri of Connacht

**Imperial Order of the Crown Companions -**

Sir Little John of Chesapeake  
Dame Toni Treeslayer of Chesapeake

**The Rising Star of Adria**

Shire of Lancaster

**In Service to the Empire,**

Sir Hawthorn de Tallyrand-Perigord

Dame Cocah Anatolii



*March Imperial Estates Information*

## Imperial Estates Meeting ~ March 17 & 18 2012

### **Portland International Airport (PDX)**

#### **Red Lion**

1021 NE Grand Avenue Portland, Oregon 97232

503-235-2100 (please call the hotel only NOT any 800 numbers or on line) Let them know your with the Adrian Empire for rate and block booking.

**Room Cost** ~ \$69.00 + 12.5% tax (Book as soon as possible.)

Flat rate for either King (2 people) or 2 Queens (up to 4)

**Hotel Parking:** \$12.00 per car parking overnight. (NO day fee for just the meeting)

**Max Light Rail** (train) (<http://www.trimet.org/index.htm>) runs from the Airport to the hotel for \$2.50 for an all zone pass. The hotel will refund this when you check in. Just present your receipt. You will need to be on the **Red line** train. The hotel also sits in the Free zone so if members want to go downtown they can travel for free.

**Restaurant info:** The hotel has one but it is only open for breakfast and dinner (they do offer room service as well).

Others in the area. Denny's, Red Robin, Burgerville, Subway, Wendy's, McDonald's, Starbucks, these would be the quick ones for a lunch.

#### **Autocrats:**

Gina (Dame Felicia) felicia \_ thebold @yahoo.com

Paul (Sir Dorn ) Sir \_ Dorn @yahoo.com

We can be reached at 503-283-4669



*July Imperial Estates Information*

The bid for the next Imperial Estates Meeting is due by April 15th (this would be the July estates meeting).

Please send your bids to their Imperial Majesties no later than April 15th.



*Office of the Chronicler*

**Welcome to the Adrian Herald.**

The next issue will be published in January so get me your articles by January 15.

Chapter chroniclers should send to me by the 15th of each month their chapter information articles.

My email address is [sirwilhelmus@gmail.com](mailto:sirwilhelmus@gmail.com)

Please feel free to email me your articles and pictures.

Sir Wilhelmus Blizce

Imperial Chronicler



IMPERIAL  
CHRONICLER



Office of Rolls

Greetings Your Imperial Majesties, Your Highnesses, Your Graces, Your Excellencies & Rolls Officers,

I am Dame Felicia the bold out of Tyr~lynn here in the Northwest. I will be your new Imperial rolls & list officer for 2011-2012. I can be reached at [improlls@yahoo.com](mailto:improlls@yahoo.com) if you need anything. I look forward to working with you all. I just need to send a few reminders out..

I will be needing your monthly reports by the 5 of each month as I will be sending in my report on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

I need you all to please list your territory name as part of the subject line when sending me mail. This will help me to learn each of you and not confuse paperwork as there are at least 28 territories out there.



**ARTICLE V: MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP (Adria bylaws)**

**E.** All Royal and Ducal Crowns are required to sponsor one (1) Crown tournament per month, in each discipline (arts, archery, and combat), and at least one (1) war event per year.

All forms that are needed to do your job can be found at the address below. If you have questions on which forms to use or how to use them; I will be happy to help.

<http://www.adrianempire.org/library-forms.php>

IMPERIAL  
ROLLS

The process of how the paperwork flow works is.

**I. THE OFFICE OF ROLLS AND LISTS (Rolls & List Manual)**

**C. STANDARD FLOW OF INFORMATION**

The standard flow of information is as follows.

- The local Office of Rolls and Lists (Minister of Rolls and Lists, Deputies, and/or others assisting) assures that all Rolls paperwork is created and complete at each event.
- The local Office of Rolls and Lists collects or creates records for all titles, ranks, awards, and orders bestowed in its Chapter.
- The local Minister of Rolls and Lists collects the Rolls paperwork for each event.
- As soon as all of the paperwork for an event has been collected, verified, and approved by the Crown, the local Office of Rolls and Lists enters the event details (including points as well as any titles, ranks, awards, and/or orders bestowed) into the Imperial Database. See *V.A.1. On-Line Reporting* on page 18.
- Once a month, within 30 days of the last event in that calendar month, the local Office of Rolls and Lists sends the original sign-in forms for the previous month to the Imperial Office of Rolls and Lists. The local Office should keep copies and is encouraged to do so. See *V.A.2. Physical Reporting (Sending in the Paperwork)* on page 18.
- The Imperial Office of Rolls and Lists reviews the paperwork, handles questions that arise from the paperwork, compares the paperwork to the information in the Imperial Database, and verifies the entry of each event in the Imperial Database within 90 days.

In Service,  
Dame Felicia  
Imp. Rolls & List.



*News of Albion*

Greetings,

Faire-- 145 Adrians and our guests many whom traveled from Arizona, California, Idaho, and Utah, helped entertain approximately 40,000 members of the public at the Clark County Parks and Recreation Age of Chivalry Renaissance Fair, over the three days of Columbus Day weekend. TIMs Hawthorn and Cocah granted TRMs William and Bella the Boon to autocrat The Adrian Empire's 13th Annual National Steel Tournament. The winners were:

- Combat
- Shinai- Sir Robert LaCroix (Note: Not a Knight Bachelor)
- Knight's Rapier-Sir Jesan
- Cut and Thrust- Sir Jesan
- Steel- Sir Sivax Wartongue
- First NIST Grand Melee- Sir Thomas Draggarc
- Archery
- Bowmen's List- Fecciu Pieta de'Masi
- Huntsmen's List- Sir Kristoffe Ramsey
- Arts
- Journeyman's- Fecciu Pieta de'Masi
- Knights'-Dame Milisent



**KINGDOM  
OF  
ALBION**

Prizes included: over \$1,000 of swords donated by Fireblood; \$800 of accessories donated by Sir Tomas Blackbeard; daggers and two longbows provided by the Kingdom of Albion; Liqueur donated by Dame Milicent, and most meaningful of all, the last set of arrows made by Sir Blackarrow. Dame Alistrina Bhallach was elevated to Knight Premier. Marquessa Mary Elizabeth received the accolades of Knight Minister, Knight Archer, and Knight Bachelor in a documented historical ceremony.

Coronation--guests included members of Albion from the Capital and all three Cantons, the Kingdom of Umbria, and the King of Coreathea. Participants brought period dishes representing their households and personas.

The Monthly Tourney in December shall determine Our Kingdom Champions. The list is open to outlanders but all winners shall be expected to serve Albion in time of need (Banner War and to answer any offense to Albion the rest of the year), this is a Knightly duty for a Champion and is not excusable (though historically, another of comparable skill may take your place or scutage may be paid).

\*\*\*\*\*

In Service,  
Lady Asa Lokabrenna, KR, KM





*News of Albion*



**KINGDOM  
OF  
ALBION**



These are photos from the national steel tournament





## *News of Bisqaia*



**ARCHDUCY  
OF  
BISQAIA**

Greetings from, HRG Sir Gilbert Ost Westley and HRG Dame Alinor D'Arcy du Calais, Archduke and Archduchess, of the Archduchy of Bisqaia,

Since Our last report the Archduchy has been very busy. But before I get into that, I would like to commend the Archers of Bisqaia for once again winning the Postal Shoot. Those archers would be: Lord Edward Dubois (also took individual top score), HE Fergus d'Onray, Master Nathan Thomas and HE Sir Mandrea Kahn. Well done archers, well done!! Let's see if you can do it again on this new shoot.

In September, in addition to Our regular monthly event, Our new Canton of Firefox, located in Austin, TX, held its first event. They are off to a good start. They had more at their first event than Bisqaia had at her first event here some four years ago. WE also did a two day demo at the Celtic Festival which was held at the Sherwood Forest Renfaire site southeast of Austin. HE Fergus d'Onray won the Saturday archery tourney.

October hit the ground running starting with the Bisqaia University – Fall Session on that first weekend. A total of 11 classes in all four pathways were given. Dame Shirlea Fitzedmund de Clare was made a Baroness of the Court of Bisqaia. Degrees were awarded to: Edmund d'Escoville - Associate of General Studies, Mandrea Kahn – Associate of Archery Crafts; Alinor D'Arcy du Calais – Bachelor of Crafts. More information on how the degrees work is available on request. Three more classes were given during the month. Firefox held its second event.

At Our October event, Master Alexander received his Bowman Tassel. Sir Greylin MacMoran took his Knight Civil. The Baroness of Bloodhaven, HE Dame Rose Thorne, was made a Court Baroness. HE Sir Eric von Stryker and HE Dame Rhiannon Roysdotter were presented with their retirement tiles of Viscount and Viscountess. The Baroness of Bloodhaven, HE Dame Rose Thorne, was made a Court Baroness. Sir Greylin MacMoran took his Knight Civil. During the entertainment after feast, HE Sir ERIC von Stryker and Sir Johnathon McCurry were given the Order of the Pegasus for their exceptional talent in the bardic arts.

In October, We also got in 8 more memberships; giving us our 50 to maintain Archduchy status.

Life is good in Bisqaia.

YIS

HRG Sir Gilbert Ost Westley and HRG Dame Alinor D'Arcy du Calais, Archduke and Archduchess, of the Archduchy of Bisqaia



## News of Brandenburg

We have been growing, just signed up two more members, should make 53.  
 We had one estates meeting which was mostly about ensuring we had budgetary items approved.  
 I'll just repost our post-event thanks for the Viking Festival that we support (1066 of course :-))  
 This is the only event we have in September, our Oct. event is held next week.  
 Feel free to look us up on Facebook.

\*\*\*\*\*

Wow, that was a great event! Magical!  
 You guys all rocked! Thank You to all who worked the encampment. It was a lot of work, but you all represented the Adrian Empire well, and hopefully Brandenburg, Terre Neuve and Esperance will all get new members from your efforts.

We had decent fighting demos and the kids loved us! Our arts and crafts and demonstrations had great responses. For those that didn't go, Lord Donovan displayed and demonstrated maille making, Sir Karl put out his woodworking display and he and Sir Johan demonstrated wood carving. Sir Karl and others demonstrated armoring by working on a shield boss, Mistress Katherine, Sir Basil, Lord Donovan and others showed the tug of war on blocks game - which we just found is called

**HUNKER-HAWSER (BECAUSE YOU HUNKER DOWN AND PULL THE HAWSER), AND JULIANA DID SOME FINGERLOOP BRAIDS AND HORSEHAIR BRAIDED FISHING LINE. MANY PEOPLE DISCUSSED THE ARTS, CRAFTS, ARCHERY AND WEAPONS WE HAD OUT FOR DISPLAY.**

We also want to make some special thanks to our newer members who supported this event for the first time - Mistress Nadira, Master Gautier, Lord Donovan, Mistress Katherine, and family, Countess Eleanor, Earl Edward and family. Thank you for helping so much! We really appreciated the effort you put in to help make this event a success.

Please post your pictures! You can either add them to the Yahoogroup photo section or upload them to the facebook group page:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ArchduchyofBrandenburg/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000085614873&ref=name#!/groups/377030040169/>

If you didn't sign in, please come by at the event and be sure you do. We want to be sure everyone gets their well-earned points!

Thanks again,  
 Duke Arion and Duchess Juliana

\*\*\*\*then my follow up \*\*\*\*

I am also so appreciative to those who helped set up Thursday while I was off on my business trip and tear down this evening, especially those who weren't able to stay long, but still came out to set up and tear down - Rick, Sir Thorson, Sir Karl, Lord Otto, and so many others.  
 I forgot to add how much I appreciated that Sir Brut took Johan and I home Sunday night when we were so very tired.  
 Also welcome our new members Rick and Tara, and I forgot to mention that Rick helped with fighting demos and armoring demos, set up and tear down.  
 You guys are all so awesome!!

Thanks again,  
 Duchess Juliana



**DUCHY  
OF  
BRANDENBURG**

*News of Somerset*

News From Somerset...

The month of October found us holding our event at Big Turkey Lake. We held archery and combat tournaments. The archery tournament was won by Dame Leandra Corzi. We didn't have enough combatants to have a winner on the combat field. A good time was had by all with the weather being excellent after a week of rain.

The month of November we were back at the Columbia City Library for our event. We had archery and combat tournaments and played poch. We also had some of our members working on arts projects. The archery was won by Sir Wilhelmus Blizce. We didn't have enough combatants to have a winner on the combat field. We had some local home school children that we demonstrated the arts and archery to (we are working with them on setting up a weekly demo for their class). Once again we had good weather (although a bit cold) after a week of cold and rainy weather.

Our December event will be our Christmas event to be held at a Dame Constance Rosewall estate. We will be having our Christmas white elephant exchange along with a dessert revelry, combat tournament, and indoor archery tournament.

Submitted by Duke Wilhelmus Blizce



**DUCHY  
OF  
SOMERSET**



## *News of Connacht*

News from Connacht....

During the September Long Weekend, (September 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) The Duchy of Connacht contributed to the Imperial Crown War for the Adrian Empire and its new Crowns. During the morning court both contenders were acknowledged and a small speech of what each contender was aiming for if they were to be Crown was given to the people of Connacht so the people may decided which side they would like to fight for. His Grace Sir Reyrketill Silverhand was to be the General of the side for His Grace Sir Polonius and Her Excellently Dame Pandora. Sir Ruaidhri Silverhand offered his Services as General to aid the other side Her Grace Dame Etaine Llywelyn and His Grace Sir Tomas Weimar. With the Generals Chosen and the people rallied to their respective armies, the war began. To keep it simple both sides contributed war to their side but here is a rough overall look at it. The war Archery team Polonius/Pandora won all three scenarios, The Shinai part of the War was won by team Polonius/Pandora, The Rapier War was won by team Polonius/Pandora, the Armoured part won by Team Etaine/Thomas In Arts and Science team Polonius/Pandora had two entries both earning a win and war pt, team Etaine/Thomas also had a entry with a win and war pt. Although the battle fought in Connacht was won for the side of team Polonius/Pandora, the overall war within the Adrian Empire goes to Her Grace Dame Etaine Llywelyn and His Grace Sir Tomas Weimar. Congratulations to the new Crowns. With the long weekend in effect the Duchy of Connacht was able to get some tournaments as well. Congratulations to Master Vladimir for his win on the Sergeants Shinai and to Squire Dreatan for his win on the knights Rapier List. For the Archery Tournament Mistress Christiana took the win with her 9'10" closest to the pole for bowmen in the long distance shoot and Squire Ormr Raizer took the win for Huntsmen with his 13.25" closest to the pole long distance shoot. Next weekend The Duchy of Connacht will head to the Summerland Fall Fair to give a small demonstration in the Medieval Arts! Later in the month the Duchy was suppose to head out to Summerland Fall Fair for a demo but sadly the event was cancelled; to take its place we held a last minute event called "Murder in the Orchard" out in West Kelowna. Combat was short listed, there were no arts and Science and lastly the Archery list had to be combined. Congratulations to Gabellotto Mizak Perado for his Tournament Win. Also thank you Gabellotto Mizak and Squire Roma for holding this last minute event. Next Month some of the Members of the Duchy will head down to Suncrest Washington for Anvil, Arts and Archery. Later in the Month we also will be heading out to West Kelowna to attend Day of the Dead, a War and Masquerade Ball!



**DUCHY  
OF  
CONNACHT**

Yours in Service...

*Squire Ormr Raizer*

*Minister of Archery*

*Chronicler of Connacht*

*Bearer of the Royal Star of Adria*

*& Member of the Ducal Honour Guard of Connacht*



## *News of Connacht*

News from Connacht...

News from Connacht...

October 8th 2011 the Duchy of Connacht headed down to Suncrest Washington to attend Anvil, Arts and Archery, The only information I have for this event is The Duchess Adina Silverhand was the winner of the Huntsmen List in Archery and Some Black smith Demos were held. But what I can gather from word of mouth was the small crew that headed down had a great time. Later in the month Connacht headed over to the Westside of Kelowna to Attend the event Day of the Dead. \$ art entries were submitted, Congratulation to Squire Melora and Squire Ormr for their Tournament Wins. In Archery Squire Romoro Razvardo for is Bowmen Win, Huntsmen List was Short Listed. In Combat the Sergeants List was Won by A destructive by and the Knights Rapier list goes to Squire Ormr. The War portion was Zombie vs. Human. Everything from Survival to Head shots only was the theme of the War, as the War was for fun everyone was a winner. Next Month the Duchy will head to Oyama From the Event Winters Coming, See you there!



**DUCHY  
OF  
CONNACHT**

*Squire Ormr Raizer*

*Minister of Archery*

*Chronicler of Connacht*

*Bearer of the Royal Star of Adria*

*& Member of the Ducal Honour Guard of Connacht*



*News of Tyr~lynn*

Greetings,

During the month of September the members of Tyr~lynn participated in the ICWNW. We had a few arts entries & all members shot archery. Sir Dorn & Squire David both took the combat field. Squire David fought in his first Sgt Ren Tourney & did rather well. Sir Dorn won the Knights Ren.

All in all we had a relaxing & enjoyable event except for the viscous & malicious rumor the Sir Dorn has a fun side.

At the War Dame Felicia received the accolade of Knight Robe....Huzzah!!!

We then took a weekend off then gathered for our local event to which Sir Dorn won the Archery. No other activity took place at the event.

In Service to the Empire,

Sir Dorn das Schwarz Brause  
Viceroy of Tyr~lynn



**SHIRE  
OF  
TYR~LYNN**





## *A Traveler's Journal of Italian Masterpieces*

Part 1  
By Ansel de Gace

Title: The Triumph of Death  
Artist: Francesco Traini  
Artistic Period: Proto-Renaissance  
Date: mid-fourteenth century  
Scale: approx. 10' X 20'  
Current Location: Camposanto, Pisa Duomo Complex

The "Triumph of Death" is a large scale fresco (see whole fresco link below) painted on an interior wall of the Camposanto (see close up of Camposanto link below) on the Piazza dei Miracoli of Pisa (the city's cathedral complex: the cathedral, baptistery, bell tower, yes that tower, the graveyard/mausoleum, and the connecting green fields). Camposanto roughly translates to Blessed Field. The enclosed structure was begun in 1278 and due to the architect's death (Giovanni di Simone) remained uncompleted until 1464. Many of the frescoes within the mausoleum were destroyed during Allied bombing raids in WWII: Traini's was unaffected but has damage due to its age and the instability of the surface. Traini's fresco is on display with his "Last Judgment" on the adjacent and opposite walls. Until recently the creator of this work was identified as Unknown Master.

"The Triumph of Death" refers to the rather apocalyptic conditions in mid-fourteenth century Europe caused by the terrible success of the virus known as the Black Death. Neighboring Sienna lost half of its population; the dead piled up in the city streets all over Europe without enough healthy people to conduct proper burials. Hysteria regarding the perceived last days created ever deeper religious fervor and in some cases despair. Some small villages in England lost all inhabitants. 14<sup>th</sup> century Europe saw Death Triumphant and Traini reminds the viewer of his work of Life's greatest truth: Death Comes For All.

### **Observations**

Beginning on the bottom left side of the fresco (see graves link below) there are three open coffins with newly dead inside; one appears to be a bishop in high robes with a snake crawling across in face. The next appears to be a monk, also accompanied by another dinner guest dressed in scales. The third is obscured by damage to the fresco. A monk stands at the far left above the dead with an open scroll. According to author Barbara Tuchman, it reads "They have taken more pleasure in the world than in things of God." The monk stands at the beginning of a road that goes diagonally up and to the right, which leads to a monastery where the brothers celebrate God by working (making butter) in the upper left corner and praying in the high middle quarter. The road is lined with trees and leads to the center top of the piece: heaven. At this junction of the high road and death is an elegant company of lords, ladies, mounts and attendants. At their head are four figures directly confronting the corpses: first, a lady in a jewel-toned dress, next a man with a chaperone on his head who points at the bishop in recognition next to a lord to the right cups his cheek in despair, and the last leader of the parade covers his nose in response to the stink of decay, his horse smells the death as well. The center bottom of the fresco (see souls battle link below) has a corpse pile, rich and poor, young and old, heaped together. Above them, devils and angels vie for their souls, represented as newborns. It is a fierce fight with hooks and claws. The pile of the dead has a cliff rising to the high road on its left side. On its left, there is a scene (see garden party link below) menaced by death all around it: ladies and youths gathered in a garden. They play psalteries, hold lapdogs, and gossip to each other immediately surrounded by blooming greenery, unaware and uncaring about the terror nearby. The garden party blithely carries on in denial of death's supremacy. Heaven seems to be somewhere above to the right; it's where the angels with saved souls are headed. The devils and reapers fly above the forest, in the valley of the corpses, intermingling with their former brethren. Two angels hold this saving on a scroll halfway up the cliff:

"No shield of wisdom or riches, nobility or prowess can protect them from the blows of the Approaching One."

### **Some links to view**

close up of Camposanto courtyard: <http://www.destination360.com/europe/italy/camposanto>

whole fresco: [http://www.comicbookbrain.com/\\_imagery/traini\\_entire\\_1600.jpg](http://www.comicbookbrain.com/_imagery/traini_entire_1600.jpg)

grave scene: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f2/Pisa%](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f2/Pisa%2C_Camposanto_trionfo_della_morte_16_opening_the_graves.JPG)

[2C\\_Camposanto\\_trionfo\\_della\\_morte\\_16\\_opening\\_the\\_graves.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f2/Pisa%2C_Camposanto_trionfo_della_morte_16_opening_the_graves.JPG)

souls battle: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/Pisa%](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/Pisa%2C_Camposanto_trionfo_della_morte_18_a_devil_stealing_a_soul.JPG)

[2C\\_Camposanto\\_trionfo\\_della\\_morte\\_18\\_a\\_devil\\_stealing\\_a\\_soul.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/Pisa%2C_Camposanto_trionfo_della_morte_18_a_devil_stealing_a_soul.JPG)

garden party: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/64/Pisa%](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/64/Pisa%2C_Camposanto_trionfo_della_morte_14_scena_cortese.JPG)

[2C\\_Camposanto\\_trionfo\\_della\\_morte\\_14\\_scena\\_cortese.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/64/Pisa%2C_Camposanto_trionfo_della_morte_14_scena_cortese.JPG)

for a clearer look, a black and white print of the fresco:

<http://www.philipreshph.com/a424/gallery/camposanto/triumph.htm>



## Medieval Card Game

### Poch

A card game in three parts

The simplest name for this card game is Poch, but it is also known as Pochspiel, Pochen, Bock or Bocken in Germany, Glic in France, Pukk in Iceland, and modernly as Tripoli or Three in One. It is mentioned as early as 1441, and boards for the game survive from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The boards in question have eight spaces to store betting tokens, and are labeled, Ace, King, Queen, Jack, Marriage, Sequence and Poch. These betting pots are primarily used for the first part of the game: the Lottery or Sweepstakes.

Setup:

Strip a standard poker deck to sevens and higher, including aces, leaving a 32 card deck.

Each of the 3-6 players antes into each of the eight spots on the board.

Deal cards to each player. Variations include everything from five cards up to the entire deck minus one. (The latter will frequently result in uneven numbers of cards; this is acceptable.)

Turn up a card to designate a “Trump” suit.

#### Part One - The Lottery

The lottery phase is fairly simple. If a player has the trump card for a pot, they receive the contents. The Marriage is having the Queen and King, and the Sequence is Seven-Eight-Nine. If a pot is not won, the contents continue to grow each hand until it is won.

Variations include allowing the dealer to claim any pot “won” by the trump card.

#### Part Two – Pochen

Pochen sounds very much like Poker, and that is for a reason, as this stage seems like a proto-poker, in which bets are made on the best hand. *However*, unlike modern poker hands, only one set of cards are counted. If I had a hand of the Two of Diamonds, Two of Hearts, Three of Clubs, Three of Spades and Three of Hearts, *only* the three Threes would matter for Pochen – there is no such thing as a Full House, nor is there such a thing as a Straight or a Flush. Pochen deals strictly in twos, threes or fours of a kind. In the event that two players each of a Pair of the same rank, the one that contains the Trump suit is considered higher. Betting proceeds fairly normally, beginning with the player to the dealer’s left. Players may choose to not participate in the Pochen at any time. They may increase the bet, requiring other players to contribute more tokens.

Once betting has closed, all participants still in display their cards and the higher hand receives the pot accumulated for Pochen.

Variations:

Players may only participate if they have at least a pair.

A limit may be placed on how high the betting can go.



## *Medieval Card Game continued*

### Poch

#### Part Three – Sequence

This is the portion of the game that has changed drastically over time. In the oldest versions of Poch, beginning with the player who won the Pochen, players take turns playing cards from their hand, attempting to get to the total 31, skipping players who cannot play without going over. When no one can play, each player pays a token to the person who played the last card. The winner of that hand plays the first card of the next sequence. When someone runs out of cards, each other player pays that person one token for each card they have left.

An example of play:

Player One plays the Ten of Spades (total = 10)

Player Two plays the Seven of Clubs (total = 17)

Player Three plays the Jack of Hearts (Total = 27)

At this point, with the abbreviated deck, only Aces can be played, since they are worth one point, and the next lowest card is a seven. So Player three wins the hand, unless any other players have Aces to play.

This variation works well if you are playing with five card hands.

#### Version Two

Post-dating the time covered by the Adrian Empire, the third segment was turned into what is called a Stops game, an entire category of card games that appear to not have existed in period. Again, play starts with the winner of the Pochen. Players regardless of position at the table play the next higher card in sequence, until no one can play. The person who played the last card begins the next sequence. When someone runs out of cards, again each player pays them one token per card left in their hand.

Player One plays the Ten of Diamonds.

Player Four plays the Jack of Diamonds.

Player Two plays the Queen of Diamonds.

Player One plays the King of Diamonds.

The Ace of Diamonds was flipped up as Trump, so no one can play that card, and Player One begins the next sequence.

This variation appears best for when playing with the entire deck.

#### Bibliography

Rules of Card Games: Pochspiel <http://www.pagat.com/stops/poch.html>

*Still More Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century Card Games*, Earl Dafydd ap Gwystl



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