

COLLEGE OF CRANEHAVEN

December, A.S. XLVI

Volume 1, Issue 1

YULE FEAST

Join your fellow Cranes for our annual Yule Feast Potluck social!

The social will be held from 6-10 PM at the Sunnyslope Church, 3330 School Street in Wenatchee.

This is a dry site. Dinner is Potluck Style. For dishes to bring mundane

name:

A-I Appetizer or Dessert

J-O Side Dish or Salad

P-Z Main Dish.

Please bring a dish that feeds 8-10 people. Also please list the ingredients on a 3" x5" card for those with food sensitivities.

ARTS & SCIENCES DEFENDER

Have you been working on a project this year? Bring it to the social and compete for the title of Arts & Sciences Defender!



Documentation describing the piece is not required, but will enhance evaluation of the piece and further the knowledge of your fellow branch members.



inside this issue:

An Tir Regnum	2
Cranehaven Officers	2
Saturnalia Traditions	3
Upcoming Events in An Tir	4

Yule or Yuletide ("Yule-time") is a winter festival that was once celebrated by Germanic peoples as a pagan religious festival. It was later absorbed into, and equated with, the Christian festival of Christmas. The festival was originally celebrated from late December to early January on a date determined by the lunar Germanic calendar. The festival was placed on December 25 when the Christian calendar (Julian calendar) was adopted.

Source: Wikipedia



THEIR ROYAL MAJESTIES OF AN TIR KING THORIN AND QUEEN DAGMAER

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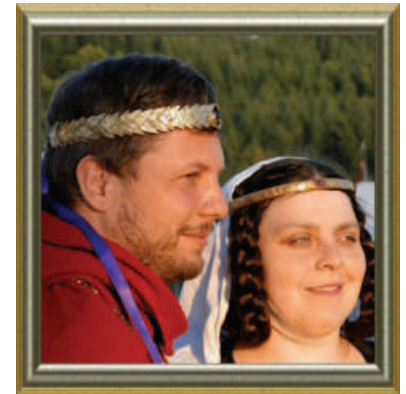
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SATURNALIA TRADITIONS

—THL Julia Sempronia, GdS, JdL

Quos ibit procul hic dies per annos!
quam nullo sacer exolescet aevo!
dum montes Latii paterque Thybris,
dum stabit tua Roma dumque terris
quod reddis Capitolium manebit.

(Time shall not destroy that holy day

so long as the hills of Latium endure and father Tiber

while your city of Rome and the Capitol remain!)

— Publius Papinius Statius, *Silvae* VI

Our best resource from antiquity on Saturnalia is the ancient writer Macrobius, though the poet Catullus also called Saturnalia "the best of days." Essentially, Saturnalia and Christmas are similar in offering several days of feasting, gift-giving (including candles and little figurines) public gambling (usually forbidden outside of the Circus) feasting and merriment. Stuffy clothes such as the inhibiting toga were thrown off for the much more comfortable synthesis (usually seen only at supper) and the soft *pilleus* or liberty cap.

SATURN'S FESTIVAL

Saturn is one of the "elder statesmen" in the Roman pantheon. While he is often paired with the Greek Titan Kronos, he is essentially a peaceful deity. His name, which may be connected either with *satur* (gorged) or *sator* (a sower), signifies abundance. According to Roman mythology, he was driven from the heavens by Jupiter and hid himself (latuit) in the countryside, called Latium in his honour. As a king, he reigned, together with his wife, Ops, over Rome's golden ages, bringing prosperity, abundance, and civilization.

Saturn's public festival fell on December 17, and activities recapture the spirit of Rome's golden age.

During My week the serious is barred; no business allowed. Drinking, noise and games and dice, appointing of kings and feasting of slaves, singing naked, clapping of frenzied hands, an occasional ducking of corked faces in icy water—such are the functions over which I preside.

—Lucian, *Saturnalia*

Worship on this day included, in addition to conventional sacrifices by His priests, conducted in the Greek manner, a *lectisternium* (a feasting couch set up for Saturn in front of His temple in the Forum), and the untying of red wool ropes that bound the feet of Saturn for the rest of the year. (This may be connected with the capture of Heaven from Saturn by Jupiter or to prevent Saturn from leaving Rome.)

Interestingly, the Saturnalia holidays grew longer over time, just like the modern holiday season (causing some folks to complain) In late Republican times, Saturnalia was a two-day holiday, from December 17-19. By Cicero's time it had grown to seven days, then the Emperor Augustus cut it back to

three days. But by the middle of the first century, celebrations started creeping up again: Saturnalia was celebrated from December 17-20 by the middle of the first century, and by the end of the first century celebrations continued to December 23.

quem tu scilicet ad tuum Catullum misti, continuo ut die periret, Saturnalibus, optimo dierum!

(..and this was the book which you sent your Catullus to kill him off at once on the very day of Saturnalia, best of days!)

—Catullus XIV: on receiving a gift of bad poetry

The poet, Martial, wrote many clever "gift tags" for his friends, and his surviving epigrams tell us how common it was to give and receive presents during the Saturnalia:

...my basket of ice isn't a good gift for December? Retaliate by sending me a summer-weight toga!

It is now the month of December, when the greatest part of the city is in a bustle. Loose reins are given to public dissipation; everywhere you may hear the sound of great preparations, as if there were some real difference between the days devoted to Saturn and those for transacting business...Were you here, I would willingly confer with



you as to the plan of our conduct; whether we should eve in our usual way, or, to avoid singularity, both take a better supper and throw off the toga.

—Seneca, *Epistolae*



Many Saturnalia traditions: feasting, giving of gifts — and lengthening of the holiday celebrations — can be found in our modern Christmas traditions.



**COLLEGE OF
CRANEHAVEN**

www.cranehaven.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

10 **Yule Feast**
College of Cranehaven
Sunnyslope Church
Wenatchee WA

Yule Feast
Barony of Wastekeep
Tri Cities, WA

JANUARY

6-8 **12th Night**
Canton of Silverhart
Coeur d'Alene, ID

27-29 **Ursulmas**
Barony of Aquaterra
Monroe, WA

FEBRUARY

11 **Festival of Red Lanterns**
Shire of Dregate
Omak, WA

MARCH

3-4 **Kingdom Arts & Sciences**
Shire of Danescombe
Penticton B.C.

17 **War in the Oasis**
Shire of Ambergard
Ephrata, WA

APRIL

13-15 **Hopping Phules/Baroness War**
Barony of Vulkanfeldt
Yakima, WA

MAY

18-20 **MAY CROWN**
Tonasket, WA

26 **Celtic Revolt & Baronial
Champion's Tournaments**
Barony of Wealdsmere
Spokane, WA

JUNE

1-3 **Junefaire 30TH Anniversary**
Barony of Dragonslaire
Kitsap/Mason County, WA

8-10 **Springfest**
Barony of Wastekeep
Tri-Cities, WA