

Il Tempo

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto-Volume 18, Issue 2 February 2009

Barony of Ponte Alto, February 2009, Chronicler* Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dothor



Two Lovers

Late 15th century. Niello print. Italy. British Museum

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From the Chronicler...

Where to start? This letter is bittersweet for me in that this will be my last issue as Barony Chronicler. I have been in this position for two years and have decided to step down, get well, and let my deputy, Brénainn MacShuibne, take on the duties. I've enjoyed being your Chronicler, and thank everyone that has helped and contributed over the last two years. Brénainn has some great ideas and I know the wonderful people of the Barony will be there to assist with implementing his visions.

Did you make it to Twelfth Night? What a wonderful, if chilly day! The investiture of James and Katherine was beautiful and many Pontoons were recognized! Our own Lady Cassandra was elevated to Pelican, Lady Riannon received a Coral Branch, Lady Sian received an Opal, Lord Jurgen received the King's Award for Excellence and Lady Talitha was named Queen's Bard. What a great day for Ponte Alto. Oh, and did I forget the Investiture of Baron James and Baroness Katharine?

As this month comes to an end and the new year is already into February – where does the time go – the Investiture and Presidential Inauguration are both over and we can now look forward to all the events to come. First and foremost, locally for Ponte Alto will be the Tournament of Love and Beauty on February 28th. Get your reservations in early, as you don't want to miss the fun. I had a moment to speak with Baroness Gracia, our Head Cook for the day, and her plans are extraordinary. She made mention something about gilded fruit and possible sugar art... Also in February, Winter University on February 7th, Bright Hills Baronial Birthday on the 14th, Feast of Foolishness in Highland Foorde on the 21st and Day in the Middle East in Dun Carraig will also be held on the 28th (but you know you'd rather be at Love and Beauty!).

March 14th we will be having our annual St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath in Vienna. This year promises to be great fun as it will be run as a Demo. Sir Thomas has some interesting things planned, so this is one you'll want to attend. We always have a great turnout for Bloodbath, and this year sounds as if we don't be disappointed.

That's about it for my last letter as Chronicler. Again, thank you to everyone that's shown their support for my time here, and I look forward to seeing everyone "out and about".

*Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dohtor
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto*

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Baronial Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting Minutes – January 25th Start Time 6:00

Seneschal

Marcellus has stepped up as Deputy Seneschal

Exchequer

Current Balance: \$12,339.82

The 4th quarter report is almost done. The fighter fund has \$363, and there are at least two weeks not received yet. The next payment for the indoor practice site is due on Feb 15th. Are there plans to continue indoor practice in March? The bill for Feb. is \$384. Payment will be due again on March 8th for \$256. The barony has already contributed \$300 in funds so far.

There was a vote to see if the barony will cover \$21 for remainder of payment in February. Vote passed.

There is a review of the books going on. There were a couple of changes recommended during a review of the financial policy with the Kingdom Exchequer. They will be presented next month. Do we want to include in the financial policy to comp the Baron and Baroness at events. Can we look to see how many baronies are doing this? Subject tabled till next meeting.

Heavy Marshal

Things are moving smoothly. I am still looking for a replacement. Max is talking to Lucas. I am looking for someone who can take it over permanently.

Rapier Marshal

Rapier practice continues with a good turnout, and we have had some visitors from Caer Mear. There have been some newcomers showing up.

Archery Marshal – Not present

A&S

Contact info hasn't changed on the website. Deputy hasn't heard from her. Seneschal has a message out to her and hasn't heard back yet. Is there an A&S competition happening at Love and Beauty?

Chatelaine

There was a meeting this Friday the 23rd. There were eight newcomers. A couple of the people have been to a couple of events. Six others want to come to meetings and events. There was a man and son talking with Connor about getting into armor. There were three women interested in singing. I will be emailing everyone tomorrow to find out what they want to do next. It went really well.

I would like to put together a list of people who want to host the next one in February and line up hosts for the next few months. Please email me if you would like to be put on the list. The week before the event is probably best time for the next meeting.

Herald

It's been quite quiet. In regards to the two awards that are either without name or armoury, Ponte di Ferro is not going to work. For the Argento, we need to come up with something interesting. I am going to open up dialog on the Ponte Alto list. We have lapsed outside time for resubmission without fee. They will be \$10 for each submission. Any ideas would be wonderful.

MoL – Not present

Chronicler

The 4th quarter report has been sent in. I will be stepping down at Love and Beauty. Brénainn will be stepping up in February. I want to thank everybody who has been involved the last two years.

Minister of Minors

There will be a children's corner at Love and Beauty.

Webminister

I have the accounts. I have updated Il Tempo, and I am figuring everything else out.

Heavy Champion - Not Present

Rapier Champion - Not Present

Baron and Baroness

Thanks for the support. At 12th Night Jurgen received the Kings Award of Excellence. Lady Sian got the Opal. Rhiannon got the Coral Branch. We have Maestra Cassandra. Lady Sorcha our Archery Champion won the kingdom white scroll competition. Lady Talitha is Queen's Bard. Lady Grace received the Silver Nautilus. Master Tirloch did a wonderful feast. Last weekend at Gathering of Guilds, we taught a class on fabric and their use in medieval lives. We had a great time visiting with their Excellencies of Lochmere and Stierbach. We are attending University and will be teaching fabric and shoe classes. We had an open house on Monday. There were about six or seven people. Two were newcomers, one of which came back to Newcomers.

Baronial Warlord

We have been pushing spear practice. There was a fairly large turnout. About five car loads went to the Inter-kingdom practice in Delaware. Hopefully we will have a good turnout for the wars.

Baronial Artisan – not present

EVENTS:

Winter Revel – The silent auction made \$506. The event had a profit of \$20.41. There were 66 adults and seven kids.

Tournament of Love and Beauty – I talked to Baroness Gracie. She mentioned gilded fruit and a friend who is sugar artist. I talked to Don's Johns and I was quoted the same price as last year, \$150 plus \$25 delivery fee. They are waiving their service charges. We will be having A&S activity. It will not be competition. There will be 1 competition for baronial artisan. We will be doing a show and tell type of thing. Yes, Talitha will hold a children's corner. His Highness from Ealdormere will be joining us. I am starting to put together a gift basket. The site is dry. Please let me know if you want to donate anything. I will check on invoice for the site.

Bloodbath – I talked to the county head rep and local guy. There is no problem having large numbers. We went over limitations we have. The cost of site will be \$290, which is \$125 for both picnic table and shelter because of the numbers we are having. We are the only group that has anything signed up for the day. The park will have bathrooms and faucets available. The contract we have will allow for merchanting. Merchants will have to give 15% of their gross. I got a call from a merchant but didn't have info at time. We will be indicating in February Acorn merchants welcome. They will have to have a Virginia merchant's license and pay Virginia sales tax. The local dance group will be doing a display. I am looking for other interest groups who may want to do a demo perhaps singing or music. We are hoping to encouraging people to get involved. His Excellency is going to do a show and tell of arms and armor he has. We will be looking at having some basic fighting demonstration. For advertising we are looking at local newspapers and craigslist.

Sapphire – Brénainn has volunteered to be land agent. There is nothing to report at this time.

Pennsic – Marlin volunteered to be land agent.

Chalice – There has been some discussion with local baronies about scheduling. We may be moving more towards the end of the month.

Tournament of the Lily – The challenge was issued at 12th Night.

OLD BUSINESS

New Coronets – Nothing at this time.

Children’s Award – An email list was started with various officers and people talking about the award. The

only person who wants to move forward on this is Jurgen. No one else on the list has spoken up to move forward. We will not moving forward with the award at this time. We may take this up in the future.

New Business

Do we need a release from people to post pictures of them taken at an event? No, you do not. It is a public event. On SCA websites you have to have permission from the photographer to put it up. To post a picture of an A&S item, you need permission of the creator.

Meeting ended 6:52

Attendees 24

Tournament of Love and Beauty
February 28, 2009 Barony of Ponte Alto

It's France, the 15th century, the time of the Hundred Years' War. The French nobles are torn; do they give their loyalty to the distant English King who already rules part of France from London, or the French King in Paris? Which King will give them the most independence over their own lands?

During this hard time there are brief moments of non-fighting. Come join us in the Barony of Ponte Alto and enjoy a day of peace before war breaks out again. A country faire atmosphere will cover the area. There will be some fighting of course, but only for the most honorable of causes, Love and Beauty. We will also have a non-judged display for your A&S projects – finished and in progress. Come display and discuss your works with the populace. Bring your musical instruments to entertain and instruct.

Food will abound. A warming luncheon of soups and accompaniments will be sold for \$5.00 a plate and a fabulous French feast for 100 will be prepared by Baroness Graciela for the evening repast.

Martial Activities: Armored and rapier fighting will take place in the Equestrian Barn throughout the day. This is an enclosed building, but dress for warmth as the building is not heated.

A&S Activities will be held in the main hall with plenty of room for everyone. Please have your items set up by 12:00 and picked up by 4:00 to allow time for set up for Court and Feast.

Cost:

Adult Member	\$12.00 Day-Trip	\$8.00 Feast
Adult Non-Member	\$15.00 Day-Trip	\$8.00 Feast
Child (6-17)	\$ 8.00 Day-Trip	\$5.00 Feast
Child (6-17) Non-Member	\$11.00 Day Trip	\$5.00 Feast
Child (0-5)	Guest of the Barony	

Make checks payable to: SCA, Inc., Barony of Ponte Alto.

Reservations: Rhiannon verch David ap Madyn (Kerri Smith), 5368 Ashleigh Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, (703)-815-0659, e-mail: blessed_sin78@hotmail.com

Merchants are welcome. There is no merchanting fee, but space is limited. Please contact the Autocrat for information.

Site: Loudoun County Fairgrounds, 17558 Dry Mill Rd., Leesburg VA 20175.

Troll opens at 9:00 and closes at 4:00. Site closes at 11:00.

Site restrictions: No open flames, no alcohol. Dogs not allowed in the main hall. Dogs are welcome in the Barn, but must be leashed and cleaned up after.

Autocrat: Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dohtor (Patty Cheshire), 14521 Skipton Court, Centreville VA 20121, (703) 501-0875, e-mail: snoleopard4@aol.com.

Directions:

Directions: From Points North, South, and East:

Take your best route to the Dulles Toll Road/Greenway (Rt. 267) off of the Washington Beltway (I-495). Go through the toll booth(s) past Dulles Airport. Merge onto VA-7 W via EXIT 1A on the LEFT toward LEESBURG/WARRENTON. Take Route 9 West exit (stay in left lane of exit). At STOP sign at end of exit, turn left and proceed over bridge that crosses Route 7 (stay in the left lane). Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left. From Points West of Leesburg: Take Route 7 East (Harry Byrd Hwy) towards Leesburg, VA. Take Route 9 Exit. At STOP sign at end of exit, turn right and immediately get into the left lane. Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left.

From Points West of Leesburg: Take Route 7 East (Harry Byrd Hwy) towards Leesburg, VA. Take Route 9 Exit. At STOP sign at end of exit, turn right and immediately get into the left lane. Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left.

St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath
March 14, 2009 Barony of Ponte Alto

Banners of the North! Weep! You shame your noble King with your winter's lethargy. While Atlantia's foes tilt at rings, you have wintered by your hearthsides growing soft on rude tales and mulled wine. Enough! Arise and shake off the rust of these past frigid months. Sound the battle horn and muster again. Let all the banners of the north fly and fan our hearts to acts worthy of song. The Barony of Ponte Alto is proud to present a day that will be sure to satisfy even the most bloodthirsty fighter. This event is a fighter's dream, featuring our usual bearpit tourney and as many pickups as you can stomach. Remember, this is for both light and heavy fighters; however, this year we will also be adding youth combat to the schedule.

In addition, as with two years ago, this event will be advertised to the general public which is expect to be in attendance. For this reason, we are encouraging all participants to fight in their best armour and wear their finest garb so we may present our finest face to the public. In addition to the fighting we are planning to have a few displays of SCA activities for the public. If you would like to participate in any additional activities, feel free to contact the Autocrat. Additional details concerning the event will be in the March Acorn.

St Paddy's Day Bloodbath Schedule:

9:00 Troll opens

10:00 Authorizations begin

11:00 Bear Pit Tourney (Rapier and Heavy)

12:30 Lunch break

12:30-1:30 Youth combat

1:30 Bear Pit Tourney resumes

Site: Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna, VA.

Site restrictions: No alcohol. Dogs must be leashed and cleaned up after.

Cost: This is a free public event; however, a donation of \$5 to the Barony would be appreciated.

Make Checks Payable To: SCA Inc., Barony of Ponte Alto.

Autocrat: Sir Thomas of Calais (Thomas Hundley), 8112 Bard St, Lorton VA 22079. Phone: (703) 212-9080, e-mail: thrid@aol.com

Directions

From the Beltway: The park may be reached by taking Beltway Exit 49 (Route 66) west. Take exit 62, Route 243 or Nutley Street north (towards Vienna). Turn left on Courthouse Road from Nutley Street and the park entrance will be on the left.

From 66: Take exit 62, Route 243 or Nutley Street north (towards Vienna). Turn left on Courthouse Road from Nutley Street and the park entrance will be on the left.

Monthly Calendar

February 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts 3:30-4:30 pm Dance Practice
2 4:30 pm Archery practice	3 7:30 pm Alle Psallite 7 pm Scriptorium	4	5 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	6	7 Winter University	8 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
9 4:30 pm Archery practice	10 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	11	12 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	13	14 Bright Hills Baronial Birthday	15 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts 3 - 4:30 pm Dance Practice
16 4:30 pm Archery practice	17 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	18	19 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	20 7 pm Newcomers Meeting	21 Feast and Foolishness	22 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
23 4:30 pm Archery practice	24 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	25	26 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	27	28 Tournament of Love and Beauty	

* = Baronial Progress

Events

Baronial Progress for February 2009

Date	Event
February 7	Winter University
February 21	Feast and Foolishness (tentative)
February 28	Tournament of Love and Beauty

February 2009 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
7	Winter University	Caer Mear	Richmond, VA
14	Bright Hills Baronial Birthday	Bright Hills	Manchester, MD
21	Feast and Foolishness	Highland Foorde	Frederick, MD
28	Tournament of Love and Beauty	Ponte Alto	Leesburg, VA

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY	
Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting	<p>Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idlywood Rd., Falls Church.</p> <p>Take your best route to I-66. Get off at the exit for Route 7 West (Tysons Corner). Turn left at the first light after the interchange onto Idlywood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.</p>
Sunday Social – - Heavy Weapons Practice - Arts/Sciences	<p>Lemon Road Elementary: Indoor Winter Practices for Heavy Weapons, Rapier, and an area for A&S activities are all included. Come and join the gathering and bring whatever you're working on. This is a great time to meet & socialize with other people in the barony. Activities held at Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 1pm-4pm. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity.</p> <p>From Southern Virginia, Maryland and Alexandria, VA Take I-495 (the beltway) to the VA-Route 7 East exit at Tysons Corner labeled Leesburg Pike/Falls Church, Exit #47B. Continue on Leesburg Pike towards Falls Church for 1.2M. Turn left onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. * Turn left into the Lemon Road Elementary School front parking lot.. From Northwestern Virginia and Washington, DC Take I-66 to the VA-Route 7 West exit for Leesburg Pike/Tysons Corner exit #66B. Continue on Leesburg Pike under 0.1M towards Tysons Corner. Turn right at the first light onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. Follow from * above.</p>
MONDAY	
Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)	<p>Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon.</p> <p>Contact Mistress Anne of Carthew (anne AT ravenstreet.org) For more information or directions. Music files can be found at http://www.ravenstreet.org/ Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm and on the Yahoo Group AllePsallite.</p>
TUESDAY	
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	<p>Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.</p> <p>Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for information and directions.</p>
WEDNESDAY	
Weaving Night	<p>Second Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com).</p> <p>Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions.</p>
Armoring Night	<p>Fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com).</p> <p>Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions</p>
THURSDAY	
Rapier Practice	<p>Every Thursday at Shrevevood Elementary school from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Please contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information. Indoor Rapier Directions. This is a school location activity.</p>
Heavy Weapons Practice	<p>Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6 pm - 9 pm. Practice is geared to developing beginning and intermediate fighters through intensive hands on training with experienced instructors, as well to providing ample opportunity for more advanced fighters to sparr with knight level combatants. All are welcome. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity.</p>
FRIDAY	
Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	<p>Fridays from 4:30 pm until 8 pm, the indoor season archery practice site is Bull Run Regional Park's shooting center. Archery Practice Directions. Practices are jointly held with Stierbach. You may also contact the Baronial Archery Marshal for carpool or other information. Contact and practice time/location information for Stierbach practices can be found at the Stierbach Archery website: http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html.</p>
Ponte Alto A&S Night	<p>May meet on a Friday during the month. Contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (dwatsonirwin AT cox.net, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for information and directions.</p>
Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic	<p>Come and share your songs and stories! Meets the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>Contact Baroness Briana Maclukas (darbyjanieAT hotmail.com) for information.</p>

MONTHLY

SCA Newcomer Meetings	<p>Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony.</p> <p>May's meeting will be Wednesday May 21th at the home of Luce Antony Venus and Miles de Locwode Contact our Chatelaine for information and directions.</p> <p>This month we will discuss Camping Events, expectations and what you need to have with you.</p>
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*** Note on school locations for activities:** There will be no activities at schools during school holidays or on other days when Fairfax County schools are closed or all nighttime school recreational activities are cancelled. Notification of cancellation or alternate site location will be posted on the web as soon as possible. You can visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Emergency Announcement page for school closure status: <http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm>

Special Thursday Night parking instructions at: We have received some complaints about lack of parking spaces from residents of the Peachtree of McClean apartment complex which adjoins our practice site. After some informal negotiations we have arrived at an agreement with the building management. We beseech those attending Thursday night practices to adhere to the following procedures from now on:

You may unload your gear from parking spaces adjoining our practice area. But then please move your car to another space either at least a block further away from Route 7 in the complex parking lot or in the library parking lot closer to Route 7. At the conclusion of practice you may once again move your car to a space adjoining the practice area in order to reload your gear before exiting the site. In this way we hope to be able to continue to use the parking facilities of the complex without inconveniencing the residents.

the Real Middle-Ages

St. Valentine

Saint Valentine is the name of several martyred saints of ancient Rome. The name "Valentine", derived from *valens* (worthy), was popular in late antiquity. Of the Saint Valentine whose feast is on February 14, nothing is known except his name and that he was buried at the Via Flaminia north of Rome on February 14. It is even uncertain whether the feast of that day celebrates only one saint or more saints of the same name. For this reason this liturgical commemoration was not kept in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints for universal liturgical veneration as revised in 1969. But "Martyr Valentinus the Presbyter and those with him at Rome" remains in the list of saints proposed for veneration by all Catholics.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Saint Valentine the Presbyter, is celebrated on July 6, and Hieromartyr Saint Valentine (Bishop of Interamna, Terni in Italy) is celebrated on July 30.

The name "Valentine" does not occur in the earliest list of Roman martyrs, compiled by the Chronographer of 354. The feast of St. Valentine was first established in 496 by Pope Gelasius I, who included Valentine among those "... whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God." As Gelasius implied, nothing was known, even then, about the lives of any of these martyrs. The Saint Valentine that appears in various martyrologies in connection with February 14 is described either as:

- A priest in Rome
- A bishop of Interamna (modern Terni)
- A martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

The first representation of Saint Valentine appeared in the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, (1493); alongside the woodcut portrait of Valentine the text states that he was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius II, known as Claudius Gothicus. He was arrested and imprisoned upon being caught marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Helping Christians at this time was considered a crime. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner -- until Valentinus tried to convert the Emperor -- whereupon this priest was condemned to death. He was



beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't finish him, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate. Various dates are given for the martyrdom or martyrdoms: 269, 270, or 273.

The official Roman Martyrology for February 14 mentions only one Saint Valentine.

English eighteenth-century antiquarians Alban Butler and Francis Douce, noting the obscurity of Saint Valentine's identity, suggested that Valentine's Day was created as an attempt to supersede the pagan holiday of Lupercalia. This idea has lately been contested by Professor Jack Oruch of the University of Kansas. Many of the current legends that characterise Saint Valentine were invented in the fourteenth century in England, notably by Geoffrey Chaucer and his circle, when the feast day of February 14 first became associated with romantic love.

While a website of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and other sources give different lists of Saint Valentines, the Catholic Church's official list of recognized saints, the Roman Martyrology lists seven: a martyr (Roman priest or Terni bishop?) buried on the Via Flaminia (February 14), a priest from Viterbo (November 3), a bishop from Raetia who died in about 450 (January 7), a fifth-century priest and hermit (July 4), a Spanish hermit who died in about 715 (October 25), Valentine Berrio Ochoa, martyred in 1861 (November 24) and Valentine Jaunzarás Gómez, martyred in 1936 (September 18).

Earliest Church Dedications

Hagiographical sources speak of a Roman priest and a bishop of Terni each buried along the Via Flaminia outside Rome, at different distances from the city, with each venerated on February 14. In the Middle Ages, two Roman churches were dedicated to Saint Valentine. One was the tenth-century church *Sancti Valentini de Balneo Miccine* or *de Piscina*, which was rededicated by Pope Urban III in 1186. The other, on the Via Flaminia, was the ancient basilica *S. Valentini extra Portam* founded by Pope Julius I (337-352), though not under this dedication. The basilica *apellatur Valentini*, "is called Valentine's"; but early basilicas were as often called by the name of their former owner as by the saint to whom they were dedicated.

This, the earlier and by far more important of the churches, is dedicated to the less prominent of the two saints, Valentine, presbyter of Rome; this was the *Basilica S. Valentini extra Portam*, the "Basilica of Saint Valentine beyond the Gate" which was situated beyond the *Porta Flaminia* (the *Porta del Popolo*, which was the *Porta S. Valentini* when William of Malmesbury visited Rome). It stood on the right hand side at the second milestone on the Via Flaminia. It had its origins in a funerary chapel on the site of catacombs, which the *Liber Pontificalis* attributes to a foundation by Pope Julius I (337-352). However, the dedications of two basilicas dedicated by Julius are not specified in the *Liber Pontificalis*. It was restored or largely rebuilt by Pope Theodore (642-649) and Pope Leo III (795-816), enriched with an altar cloth by Pope Benedict II (683-685) and by gifts of Pope Hadrian I (772-795), Pope Leo III and Pope Gregory IV (827-844), so that it had become *ecclesia mirifice ornata*, "a church marvellously adorned". The monastery of San Silvestro in Capite was annexed to it, and in the surviving epitome of a lost catalogue of the churches of Rome, compiled by Giraldus Cambrensis about 1200, it was *hospitale S. Valentini extra urbem*, the "hospital of Saint Valentine outside the city". But in the thirteenth century the martyr's relics were transferred to Santa Prassede, and the ancient basilica decayed: in Signorili's catalogue, made in about 1425, it was *Ecclesia sancti Valentini extra portam sine muris non habet sacerdotem*, "the church of Saint Valentine beyond the gate without [enclosing] walls, has no priest".

In the catacombs connected with the basilica of Valentine, outside the Porta del Popolo, nineteenth-century excavations unearthed two hundred Christian inscriptions. Lanciani reported, from the chronicle of the monastery of S. Michael ad Mosam, an account of a pilgrim of the eleventh century who obtained relics of saints "from the keeper of a certain cemetery, in which lamps are always burning'. He refers to the basilica of S. Valentine and the small hypogaeum attached to it (discovered in 1887)."

The earliest written *Acta* for Saint Valentine were written in the sixth or seventh century, when the hagiographical was well established, with pious accounts of miracles and torture shared among many texts and applied to many martyr-saints. The longer of the two is that written of the martyr Valentine of Terni and his cure, through faith alone, of a crippled child. Bede, in the eighth century, knew of both hagiographies and included transcripts of both under February 14 in his martyrology.

In The Golden Legend

The *Legenda Aurea* of Jacobus de Voragine, compiled about 1260 and one of the most-read books of the High Middle Ages, gives sufficient details of the saints for each day of the liturgical year to inspire a homily on each occasion. The very brief *vita* of St Valentine has him refusing to deny Christ before the "Emperor Claudius" in the year 280. Before his head was cut off, this Valentine restored sight and hearing to the daughter of his jailer. Jacobus makes a play with the etymology of "Valentine", "as containing valour".

The *Legenda Aurea* does not contain anything about hearts and last notes signed "from your Valentine", as is sometimes suggested in modern works of sentimental piety. Many of the current legends surrounding them appear in the late Middle Ages in France and England, when the feast day of February 14 became associated with romantic love..

St. Valentine's Day

Professor Oruch has made the case that the traditions associated with "Valentine's Day", documented in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Parliament of Fowles*, and set in the fictional context of an old tradition, had no such tradition before Chaucer. He argues that the speculative explanation of sentimental customs, posing as historical fact, had their origins among eighteenth-century antiquaries, notably Alban Butler, the author of *Butler's Lives of Saints*, and have been perpetuated even by respectable modern scholars. In the French fourteenth-century manuscript illumination from a *Vies des Saintt*(*illustration above*), Saint Valentine, bishop of Terni, oversees the construction of his basilica at Terni; there is no suggestion here yet that the bishop was a patron of lovers.

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