

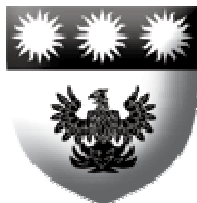
# The First Volume of The History and Chronicle Of Lord Cyriac Grymsdale

Written By:

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Chronicler of the Canton ycleped Charlesbury Crossing

Man at Arms to Count Valharic Caligua Aurelius, Knight of Atlantia  
(2005)



## **S**acren Stone's Nouyce Tourneyment at Elchenburg

**O**n hir way to the Baronage ydeped Windmaster's Hill, the Baroness of Sacren Stone stops at Elchenburg Castle.

**B**ok I, ch. II. The Baroness Kisyia Zingara went to Elchenburg Castle, marche to the baronage ydeped Blak Dyamand, where she held hir court, and esed with tourneys of nouys and archery in the woods.

**D**uring the dwellen of the baroness at Elchenburg, a dede of arms was ter performed by a premier squier apart to Hotel de Byrum, called Lord William Thomas, and a squier apart to Clan Ebonwoulfe, called Lord Bjorn Samsson. This duel made a gret bere forth Sacren Stone, and in neighboring baronages; and it was fauht for azreo passes with William armyd with swerde and scheld and Bjorn armed with hawbert.

**T**he squiers, being wel armyd, took the field in the presence of the barouns and baronesses, knights, and a gret concourse of people. They began their first pass wightly, William charging forward to bear down vpon Bjorn, a-last striken a blow to the helme. Vppon the second pass, William wightly streyt, until he to-dunet his opponent so styf a blow vpon the helme, to the aseth of the baroness and the crowde.



## **A** Dede of Arms at Elchenburg

**D**uring the tourneyment that saw William Thomas blasen victor, the champion of Sacren Stone answare Sir Bryce de Byrum's challenge.

**B**ok I, ch. III. We will now speak of certus knyght bachelor, who this year, had presented a challenge to all noble men of cote blasen Lady Melisent la Ruse as alre-best ladies. Vppon the doos of the nouyce tourney, Lord Cyriac Grymsdale, champion of Baroness Kisyia Zingara, did request that fife passes be made with swerde and scheld in honour of the Baroness and the Lady Melisent.

**W**hen they were both armyd, they spendyd their swerdes, tretis with Bordeaux steel and each took the propre setten to begin their pass with their helmes clos. They then advanced, and, when they costey near, threw gaillard blow vppon blow, until they fulfild their fife passes sans mischief and retired to repose themselves. At the end fife blows were struck by Sir Bryce to Lord Cyriac's azreo. Sir Bryce said, "Lord Cyriac, aoure baroness is a gracious and frely womman. Please present this rose to hir on myn behalf. Once you have taken aoure ease, please enditen in my journal and leave words for us to remember this dede."

**T**his dede of arms finished, each retired to their pauilon.



## **Sacred Stone's Novice Tournament at Elchenburg**

**On her way to the Barony of Windmaster's Hill, the Baroness of Sacred Stone stops at Elchenburg Castle.**

**Book I, ch. II.** The Baroness Kisyia Zingara went to Elchenburg Castle, borders on the barony of Black Diamond, where she held her court, and entertained with tournaments of novices and archery in the woods.

During the residence of the baroness at Elchenburg, a deed of arms was there performed by a premier squire attached to Hotel de Byrum, called William Thomas, and a Norse squire attached to Clan Ebonwoulfe, called Bjorn Samsson. This duel made a great noise throughout Sacred Stone, and in neighboring baronies; and it was fought for best of three passes with William armed with sword and shield and Bjorn armed with polearm.

The squires, being well armed, took the field in the presence of the barons and baronesses, knights, and a great concourse of people. They began their first pass swiftly, William charging forward to bear down upon Bjorn at last striking a blow to the helm. Upon the second pass, William swiftly pressed, until he struck with a sounding blow his opponent so violent a blow upon the helm, to the satisfaction of the baroness and the crowd.

## **A Deed of Arms at Elchenburg**

**During the tournament that saw William Thomas proclaimed victor, the champion of Sacred Stone answers Sir Bryce de Byrum's challenge.**

**Book I, ch. III.** We will now speak of certain knight bachelor, who this year, had presented a challenge to all noble men of cote proclaiming Lady Melisent la Ruse as best of all ladies. Upon the close of the novice tourney, Lord Cyriac Grymsdale, champion of Baroness Kisyia Zingara, did request that five passes be made with sword and shield in honor of the Baroness and Lady Melisent.

When they were both armed, they grasped their swords, well made with Bordeaux steel and each took the proper position to begin their course with their helms closed. They then advanced, and, when they approached near, threw vigorous blow upon blow, until they finished their five passes without mischief and retired to repose themselves. At the end five blows were struck by Sir Bryce to Lord Cyriac's three. Sir Bryce said, "Lord Cyriac, your baroness is a gracious and noble woman. Please present this rose to her on my behalf. Once you have taken your ease, please sign my journal and leave words for us to remember this deed."

This deed of arm finished, each retired to their pavilion.

## Documentation Notes for Grymsdale Chronicles

### Background

The Middle English language was the descendent from Old English and the vernacular was spoken and written during the time from about 1150 to 1500. Middle English developed following the Norman Conquest of England borrowing great numbers of words from the Norman French of the conquerors and eventually developed into modern English.

During the late fourteenth to the fifteenth century there was evidence of writers recording the history of tournaments, deeds of arms, and other events of that were found noteworthy. This is evidenced by the work of Jean Froissart. Froissart devoted his life to literature and is most known for his *Chronicles* in French that publicized chivalric feats and deeds of arms. The writings of Froissart also provide an important source of events that occurred during his era, particularly during the first half of the Hundred Years' War.

### History

The majority of writings in England would have been found written in Italian or Latin, which meant that the writings were only available to the wealthy educated class. In order to reach a wider populace and gain popularity, writings needed to be written in Middle English. It was due to *The Canterbury Tales* written by Geoffrey Chaucer around the late fourteenth century, that Middle English became a common language.

The writings in Middle English contain word forms very different from those in modern English and today's readers may not be able to understand the language of these works without study. However, some dialects of Middle English resemble modern English and the meaning of something written in them can be understood.

### Method

In writing the account of the Elchenburg Novice Tournament, I chose to write the story in a structure that mirrored an excerpt from chapter 117, Book 3 of Froissart's chronicles. Instead of writing the excerpt in French, I decided to use Middle English, as my persona is that of a traveling English 15<sup>th</sup> century writer.

For the account of the bout fought in regards to Sir Bryce's Challenge I chose to write the story based on various excerpts of Froissart, but without a specific excerpt being used as a model. As with the Elchenburg Novice Tournament, I chose to not write the story in French, but in Middle English as my persona would have done.

In order to maintain the ease of readability of both writings, I decided to not try and write the stories completely in Middle English. The writings do contain facts that would make them historically inaccurate, such as a Viking engaging in a deed of arms with an Englishman, therefore some leeway is requested, since the event the writing about concerns a modern day SCA tournament.

Froissart's writings composed his Chronicles into four books and when read; a modern convention was applied to indicate the book and chapter that excerpts are from. I decided to follow this convention and number the pieces as the second and third item in a book. To date I have only written one previous tournament account and consider these entries to be added to the first.

Following the tradition of scholars, I decided to include a copy of the account written in Modern English instead of a glossary, so that it could be used as a reference for those words that might not be able to be inferred from the reading.

### **Observations**

This is my second attempt to write accounts of tournaments and deed of arms in a period style in line with my persona. Although French and Latin are not languages in which I am knowledgeable, as I continue my study of period tournament accounts, I will develop my ability to write more tournament accounts in a structure that mimics the original writings more closely.

## Translated Excerpt of Froissart's Chronicles

### A Deed of Arms at Montereau sur Yonne

On his way to the low countries, the King of France stops at Montereau sur Yonne.

Book III, ch. 117. The king went to Montereau sur Yonne, on the borders of Brie and the Gatinois, where he held his court, and frequently amused himself with hunting stags and other animals in the adjacent forests.

During the residence of the king at Montereau, a deed of arms was there performed by an English knight attached to the duke of Ireland, called sir Thomas Hapurgan, and sir John des Barres. This duel had made a great noise throughout France, and in other countries; and it was to be fought with five courses of the lance on horseback, five thrusts with swords, the same number of strokes with daggers and battle-axes; and, should their armour fail, they were to be supplied anew, until it were perfect.

The knights, being well armed, mounted their coursers to perform their duel, in the presence of the king, his barons and knights, and a great concourse of people. They tilted on horseback four courses very stiffly, and kept their seats well. It was then the custom, I believe, to lace on the helmets with a slight thong, that they might not make too great resistance to the blow of the lance. At the fifth course, John des Barres struck his opponent so violent a blow on the shield, that he knocked him over the crupper of his horse to the ground. Sir Thomas was stupified by the fall, and it was with much difficulty he could be raised: however he recovered well enough to perform his other courses with the different arms, to the satisfaction of the king and his lords.

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