

## National Officers

2017—2020

### PRESIDENT GENERAL

Deborah L. Wilhite  
dwilhite179@gmail.com

### 1st VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL

The Rev. Dr. Lynne A. Kogel

### 2nd VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL

Edward C. Horton, C.P.A.

### 3rd VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL

Michael P. Schenk

### REGISTRAR / GENEALOGIST GENERAL

Karen E. McClendon

### TREASURER GENERAL

M. Paulette Lollar

### SECRETARY GENERAL

Laurie A. Aldinger

### CHANCELLOR GENERAL

Patricia P. Kryder, Esq.

### PRELATE GENERAL

Eric J. Nielsen, M.D.

### HISTORIAN GENERAL

COL Charles C. Lucas, M.D.



## Order of Medieval Women: Women of Consequence

### INAUGURAL MEETING

Army Navy Club, Washington D.C.

April 10, 2018

8:30—11:00 a.m.

Welcome ..... Debby Wilhite, President-General

Pledge to the American Flag ..... Michael Schenk, 3rd Vice President-General

Blessing ..... Eric Nielsen, Prelate-General

Breakfast

Introduction of the speaker ..... Lynne Kogel, 1st Vice President-General

Guest Speaker ..... Dr. Katherine Jensen

“Catherine of Sienna: A Woman for All Seasons”

Officers Reports

Presentation of President’s Award ..... Debby Wilhite, President-General

Could Gwenllian have been the author? ... Debby Wilhite, President-General

Lagniappe ..... Paulette Lollar, Treasurer-General

“Women of Consequence” Roll Call ..... Laurie Aldinger, Secretary-General

Toast ..... Eric Nelson, Prelate-General

Closing remarks ..... Debby Wilhite, President-General

Benediction ..... Eric Nelson, Prelate-General

## QUAICH ?



Initial 'V', monk-cellarer tasting wine from a barrel while filling a jug, *Li Livres dou Santé*, Aldobrandino of Siena, late 13th century, France, held by British Library manuscript Sloane 2435, f. 44v.

Drinking vessels of the Medieval period included a variety of bowls, cups, beakers, and bottles besides the stunning drinking horns which were the ceremonial drinking vessel for those of high status. Drinking horns are portrayed in manuscripts, art, and objects such as the a feasting scene in the 11th century Bayeux Tapestry before Harold Godwinson embarks for Normandy; 5 figures sitting at a table, 3 holding drinking horns. A later example is the 1474/5 "Oldenburg horn," made by German artisans in silver and gilt for Christian I of Denmark and consort Dorchthea of Brandenburg to be given as a gift during their visit to Cologne to reconcile with Charles the Bold of Burgundy.

During the 11th - 16th centuries the wooden mazer was a very popular drinking vessel, it's size only restricted by the size of the maple tree "spot" or knot, burlled wood, which was preferred because of its beauty and density. A shallow bowl without handles, mazers were often ornamented with silver or silver-gilt metalwork and very popular in north European countries, especially Germany.

Another type wooden bowl emerged in the Scottish Highlands. Derived from the Gaelic word "Cuach" meaning "shallow cup" the Quaich became the favorite drinking cup throughout Scotland. Often referred to as the "Scottish Cup of Friendship" or the "Loving Cup" the shallow, two-lug (handled) drinking bowl would be passed to your partner as a mark of friendship while providing a safeguard your "friend" was not holding any weapons while your guard was down, sometimes a glass bottom was added for extra insurance! A more romantic version included a double glass bottom containing a lock of the hair of a loved one so he could drink from his Quaich to his lady love. In 1589, King James VI of Scotland (2nd g-grandson of Margaret Beaufort, and a direct descendant of Gwennllian ferch Gruffydd), gave his bride Anne of Denmark (2nd great-granddaughter of Dorchthea of Brandenburg) a Quaich as a wedding gift. The Highland Quaich didn't become popular thru-out Scotland until the 1740's when the northern Jacobite armies of Bonnie Prince Charles carried them as an addition to their canteens as they moved south to Edinburgh. One of the most famous of these Scottish drinking cups is the "Waterloo Tree Quaich," made with silver gilt and elm wood cut from a tree on the 1824 Waterloo battlefield, owned by Sir Walter Scott it bears his motto "Watch Well."

The Quaich remains an integral part of Scottish heritage as evidenced in 2005 during the Highland Games with a delightful picture of Prince Charles and Camilla laughing as they shared a Quaich. Theresa May, during her visit to D.C., presented Donald Trump a Quaich in recognition of his Scottish ancestry and on August 16, 2017, Prince William made headlines at the Edinburgh Tatoo as a photographer captured his expression before drinking a dram of whiskey from a Quaich with his father. For centuries these small drinking vessels have remained a Scottish tradition signifying trust and friendship.

Mead is believed to go back more than 20,000 years under many names including Ambrosia, or as the ancient Greeks knew it, "nectar of the gods." The Greeks believed mead descended from the Heavens as the dew before being gathered by the bees who were the messengers of the gods. They thought mead would prolong life, bestow health, strength, virility, re-creative powers, wit and poetry. Taliesin, a 6th-century bard, wrote the "Song of Mead" and in Anglo-Saxon and Celtic literature including Beowulf and Mabinogion mead was the drink of kings and thanes. Chaucer's 14th century miller drank mead as did the Germanic tribes and Danish warriors in Northern Europe. Enjoyed by paupers, princes, and pirates, mead was the first known alcoholic beverage and a very common and popular drink during the Middle Ages.



A group of peasants sharing a simple meal of bread and drink, *Livre du roi Modus et de la reine Ratio*, 14th century. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, Département des manuscrits, Français 22545 fol. 72.