

# The Dragon Flyre

NEWSLETTER FOR THE BARONY OF VATAVIA



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Fourth Quarter 2018

AS LII

[www.baronyofvatavia.org](http://www.baronyofvatavia.org)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Baronage, Officers & Champions   Credits .....	Page 1
Baronage & Officers Letters.....	Pages 2-5
Baronial Champions Event.....	Page 5
Officers' Meeting Minutes.....	Pages 5-6
TRM's Email.....	Page 7
Kingdom Events/Baronial Gatherings .....	Page 7
<i>The Hidden Middle Ages</i> .....	Page 8
Calendars.....	Pages 9-11

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Cover: The Limbourg brothers, *Les Très Riches Heures du duc de Berry Janvier* cropped, ca. 1412-1416, tempera on vellum, 8.9" x 5.4". Conde Museum, Chantilly, France (artwork in the public domain; Source/Photographer R-G Ojeda/RMN)  
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## BARONIAL CHAMPIONS

**Borec** (Armored Combat) Ld. Øyrik Radúlfsson

**Cut & Thrust Champion:** HL William Douglas

**Lucisnik:** (Archery) HL Jóhann Steinarsson

**Zpevak:** (Bardic) HE Zoe Mikre

**Estradni Umelec:** (Arts & Sciences) Ld. Angus Sinclair

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# Greetings

## Unto the Populace of Vatabia,

We do hope the new year is treating everyone well so far, and we look forward to new learning opportunities, events and wars, and the good company of our friends.

We are pleased to let you know that Baroness Zoe Mikre is our new Caltrop Pursuivant (Herald), haven taken over the office in Honorable Lord Jóhann Steinarsson's stead. Lady Eyfríðr Geirsdóttir is our new Minister of Arts and Sciences, stepping into the role after Lord Niall Mac a'Ghobhainn and Honorable Lady Maria Arosa de Santa Olalla.

A few offices are still in need of a deputy. Please consider volunteering to help your friends out, it is a wonderful way to learn more about how a particular office works and the day-to-day workings of the SCA. Remember that acting as a deputy does not mean that you have volunteered to be the next officer for that position when it comes open. (Unless you want to, than by all means apply for it!)

Congratulations to Moonstone, established as a Shire of Calontir during evening court at Kris Kinder.

This is exciting news! We seem to be on an upswing of growth in the Kingdom.

Keeping this in mind, as we head into the new year, we ask everyone to take a moment and reflect on your first experiences in the Society. At your first meeting or demo, or perhaps your first or second event, someone took the time to guide you and help you find a love of some of the things that we do. A love of chivalry, of creativity, of service, of pomp and circumstance, of companionship with the best of friends. This love was kindled and still burns in your heart.

We ask that should you encounter a wide-eyed newcomer, or if you should happen upon a gentle who has not been out for some time and seems out of place, please take a moment and sit with them, and talk with them. We are all the more richer for the presence of our friends, both new and old.

In ever faithful service,

Baron Uldin of Ravenscroft and Baroness Sung Sai-êrh

Baron@baronyofvatabia.org

Baroness@baronyofvatabia.org

## **FROM THE SENESCHAL**

Hey Vatavia!

It's the beginning of the year, time to start new projects, learn new tricks, and repair equipment for the coming season. We still have Arts and Sciences and other activities so don't forget to be social and share your projects with each other. Related Trivia? What would a person living in the time and location you most enjoy studying wear to keep warm when it is this cold?

Officers, remember that the domesdays are due soon so keep them in mind as you get through your reports. If I get all our reports in time to send mine in by eight pm on the due date, I will bring candy to our next meeting!

We need volunteers to help run Renfaire in the spring before Valor. If you have never run an event it is a decent way to get your toes wet. There isn't much of a budget to worry about, just people organizing and space.

Thanks everyone!

Lady Catlin Marie du Moretaine

## **FROM THE CASTELLAN**

Greetings unto the populace of Vatavia,

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a good and safe holiday season.

Valor is approaching! Be on the lookout for anyone who may want to come check out a local event and send them my way if they need garb. Our Gold Key garb is some of the best I've seen and we have recently had some donations come in.

Looking forward to working hard throughout the new year to expand our group. Come to me if you have any suggestions!

In service,

Lord Oyrik Randulfsson

## **FROM THE CALTROP PURSUIVANT**

Greetings Vatavia!

I am honored to be your new Caltrop Pursuivant, or baronial herald. I have very big shoes to fill! If you have interest in learning about heraldry or heralding, please let me know!

Yours in Love and Service

Zoe Mikre

## **FROM THE EXCHEQUER**

Good Day to all.

Here is where The Barony sits on available monies at the end of 4th quarter of 2017. We currently have a little over \$12,500 in the bank. We have not yet received the December bank statement as of the writing of this message to you all, so the balance is according to the register and the October and November bank statements. According to the October and November statements we do not have any outstanding checks. If you have any questions please feel free to message me through the Baronial website email [exchequer@baronyofvatavia.org](mailto:exchequer@baronyofvatavia.org).

YIS

Lady Margaret MacKenzie

## **FROM THE KNIGHT MARSHAL**

Greetings from the Knight Marshal of Vatavia.

With the cold weather months upon us, we have moved Baronial fighter practice indoors at The Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd.

Heavy armor and cut & thrust will begin at 12:00. Our location at EP is past the gift shop all the way to the end.

We hope you can join us.

Master Hanashi no Kagemoto

## **FROM THE ARCHER MARSHAL**

Happy Holidays Everyone,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Looking forward at the upcoming archery season I hope there are lots of plans to attend as many shooting events as possible. Practice will resume when we move things back outdoors in the spring and with that in mind, if there are any particular shoots you would like to see us practice more or something new you want to try please let me know and we can see what needs to be done for it. Hope to see you all in the spring.

Lord Konrad von Roth

Vatavia Archery Marshal

## FROM THE ARTS AND SCIENCES MINISTERS

Greetings good gentles! I hope that everyone's holiday season was warm and wonderful. Aaand maaybe productive?

We have a number of Arts and Sciences related events coming up in the Kingdom and encourage everyone to go if they can.

Clothiers is just around the corner and is a GREAT event for anyone that has any kind of interest in garb. It's an event full of classes, learning, teaching, and beautiful garb.

Of course, our neighbors in the Shire of Moonstone will be hosting Spring RUSH. I encourage everyone to show our neighbors as much support as possible through attendance and teaching. If you wish to teach a class at RUSH please contact Renee Armstrong through Facebook or email [chatelaine.moonstone@gmail.com](mailto:chatelaine.moonstone@gmail.com). All teachers must have their classes submitted no later than March 23, 2018.

Our Spring Ren Faire is approaching quickly. I hope to see as many of our local artisans out working on projects as possible. If you have any "high energy" projects such as spinning wheels, drop spindles, looms, wood working, metal working (ie anvil work, or coin making) please bring it out and join us under a shade fly! Any project you can sit and actively work on bring it! Let's show off our skills by doing all the things!

Valor will be upon us sooner than we know it. Our lovely Lady Eyfridr Geirsdottir is in charge of Valor A&S activities this year. If you wish to teach a class at Valor feel free to speak to her.

Valor will have two A&S competition, both judged by populace vote.

1st Competition- Bayeux Tapestry Theme: A submission that connects with the Bayeux Tapestry in some way. This connection must be pointed out! Examples could be a reproduction of a scene in embroidery or paint, creation of a depicted accessory, written analysis of a scene, reproduction of a garment, embroidery using the Bayeux stitch, cooking or brewing a Norman recipe from 1066, etc.

Notecard documentation required.

2nd Competition- Hiding in Plain Sight: There are some who question the intent of the makers of the Bayeux Tapestry. Was it truly a work of celebration of the Norman victory? Or is there a subversive anti-Norman message hidden throughout? (For more information on this theory, check out '1066' by Andrew Bridgeford)

This submission does not need to relate directly to 1066 or

the Norman conquest, but it DOES need to have a hidden meaning, extra purpose, or subversive message. Examples of this could be a chest with a false bottom, an illumination with a hidden message or cheeky character in the border, a piece of jewelry with secret compartment, etc.

Notecard documentarian required.

Finally, HL Maria Arosa de Santa Olalla, will be officially stepping down as Baronial A&S minister on January 31, 2018. Lady Eyfridr Geirsdottir will be stepping into the position. She is excited to promote any classes or group projects. If you wish to teach a class, have any projects ideas or need assistance and not sure who to turn to please don't hesitate to send us an email

at [artsandsciences@baronyofvatavia.org](mailto:artsandsciences@baronyofvatavia.org)

Yours in Service and in Craft,

HL Maria Arosa de Santa Olalla

Lord Niall Mac a'Ghobhainn

Lady Eyfridr Geirsdottir

## FROM THE DEMO COORDINATOR

Greetings fellow Vatavians.

May this missive find everyone enjoying the warmth of a good fire, family and good friends. Although the weather be frigid very soon it will once again be time to share what we do with the our good neighbors of the Wichita area at the Great Plains Renaissance Festival April 21-22, 2018. It may seem a long way off; but, plans are already starting. Once again the officers will be making the plans for this annual demonstration, one of our largest of the year. You will be hearing more about this in the near future. Consider volunteering and joining your fellow Vatavians. It can be a lot of work but also a great weekend. Unlike some other presentations we do it requires no special expertise or knowledge. Just share what you do and the group does in these current Middle Ages.

Before the Festival there are a couple presentations planned at Exploration Place. The first is January 28th on games. Anyone is welcome to come. No special experience or skill required. Just play games all afternoon from 1-4 pm. It will be held in the Grand Hall which is at the other end from the current location of the Sunday fighter practice there. The next March 11th will be on human interest in flight. Research is beginning to produce this new subject

theme. After the Festival on May 6th is the EP favorite subject, Arms, Armor and Archery. As has become tradition information on siege weapons will be included with Exploration Place's trebuchet chucking ice balls into the river.

The Castellan or Demonstration Coordinator can provide more details or information. Contact them or come by on Wednesday evening arts and sciences gatherings or the monthly populace meetings.

Marie CD

## **CHAMPIONS EVENT**

The Baronial Champions event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 28th. It is to be held at O. J. Watson park, at the far north end (same place as outdoor fighter and archery practices) There is no gate fee, however, in the past it often includes a pot luck and people are encouraged to bring a dish. (yet to be determined) Anyone can enter; they must be able to fulfill the duties of a Baronial champion should they win. People can enter simply by being on site and entering the tournament of choice as each one begins. Talk to the specific champion for specific rules. The theme for the bardic tournament is "No Vikings" while the Arts and Science theme is "Dragonfly in any medium".

Documentation (3x5 card) is recommended but not a requirement if contestants can verbally communicate the documentation. See page I of this publication for a list of current champions. Garb is required for this event.

## **OFFICERS' MEETING MINUTES**

### **OFFICERS' MEETING November 1, 2017**

Make ICT 1500 East Douglas, Wichita, Kansas

23 members and 2 children were present: 11 Baronage/ officers/deputies and 2-4 members participated in the meeting

The winter Calontir events Toys for tots and Kris Kinder are coming up. It was announced that the storage building for the Toys for Tots donations was broken into, six large containers stolen and the remaining items destroyed. Members attending the event or sending donations are asked to keep this in mind.

The Valor web site and Facebook pages are up. Staff contacts are available on the website. There will be Equestrian activities. The arts and sciences completions have

been decided and posted. Fliers are ready to be distributed. Several announcements at event courts have been scheduled. Their Highnesses have stated Their plans to attend. There will be a feast.

The October demos and presentations have been completed. The next presentation will be at Exploration Place December 17<sup>th</sup> on Heroes of the Middle Ages. Demos and demo requests for 2018 were announced.

Two more Vativian proposals have been forwarded to Laurel/national for registration. Voice heralds will be needed for the upcoming Toys for Tots event. The series of leatherworking classes has been scheduled for arts and sciences. There will be a repeat of the Leatherworking IOI the first weekend of this month. Their Excellencies are hosting a weekend of armoring and sewing at Their residence. The Honorable Lady Roise is coming down to help on sewing projects.

There was nothing new to report from the Chronicler or Web Minister. The signature card for the bank has been finalized. There is a balance of over \$14,000 currently.

The last outdoor fighter practice of the year October 29<sup>th</sup> was well attended with good weather also. Practice will resume at the indoor Exploration Place site December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the following 2 Sundays. There will be no practice December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. Archery is on hiatus. It will resume in the Spring.

Several bids are needed. Vativia's rotation for Coronation for the Spring of 2019 will be needed soon. Bids are also needed for the local Spring Renaissance Festival. If no bid/bids are received for the Festival each local officer will be responsible to organize his office's activities for this local event.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

### **OFFICERS' MEETING December 6, 2017**

Make ICT 1500 East Douglas, Wichita, Kansas

17 members were present: 11 officers/deputies/event stewards; 3 members participated in the meeting

Work and final planning for Valor in 2018 will start up after the first of the year. The Officer corps will be responsible for the organization and running of this Spring's Great Plains Renaissance Festival. It was announced that Westumbria has posted their Hibernatus Interruptis event for March 24, 2018.

The last Exploration Place demo for this year will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Preparations are being finalized for that presentation. Work on the March 11, 2018 themed presentation on flight will begin after that. A request to do a hands-on demo at a children's STEM engineering expo March 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> will be declined due to man power needs and a conflicting event. In 2018 is also the Scandinavian Society presentation October 13<sup>th</sup> on Scandinavian culture.

The deadline for the special on reduced heraldic fees is December 31<sup>st</sup>. Items with all paperwork and payment must be to the Kingdom Eyas Herald or a local herald by then. At December populace HL Jóhann will be stepping down as the Caltrop Pursuivant and HE Zoë Mikre assuming that office. The upcoming Arts and Sciences classes are Lief's series on leather working. It was announced that the Arts and Sciences Minister Maria will be stepping down January 31, 2018. The applicant will have her interview after this Officers' meeting. The deadline for officer letters for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter *Dragonflyre* is January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Artwork and articles need to be in as well, but will gladly be accepted earlier. Heraldry has been added to the local website.

As of the November bank statement the Exchequer reported a balance of approximately #12, 050. After inventorying the archery equipment recommendation will be made for funds for replacements and repairs.

Winter indoor fighter practice started at Exploration Place December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the new location in the Water Way Hall past the Explore Store. There will be practices the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Practice will resume January 7, 2018 after the Christmas and new Year's weekends. Archery continues on hiatus until Spring.

A bid was received for the Vataavian rotation for Coronation January 2019. The proposed site is the Ville at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Andover. General information was provided on site amenities, expenses, and gate fees.

The meeting adjourned.

The interview was conducted after Their Excellencies arrived.

## OFFICERS' MEETING January 3, 2018

Make ICT 1500 East Douglas, Wichita, Kansas

20 members and 2 children were present: 12 Baronage/officers/deputies/champions and 7 members attended the meeting.

The next presentations are both at Exploration Place January 28<sup>th</sup> on games and March 11<sup>th</sup> on flight. The invitation to their Mini Maker Faire in July will be declined due to it conflicting with Calon Con.

There are currently over ten Vataavian proposals in process for registration. The decision results should be received for 5 items by Spring. Due to the large response to the 12<sup>th</sup> Night gift fee rate several members proposals will not go out until the end of January letter. Contact Caltrop or the staff for specific information. Contact information for the new officers, arts and sciences and Caltrop Pursuivant, are already posted on the Baronial web site. The new Caltrop would like to encourage members to join her in learning about heraldry voice and book. Plans are in process for new fliers. Contact information for the group is to be distributed to local area 'hang outs'.

There is a little over \$12,500 currently in the account. The deposit for the Valor site, Whispering Winds, has already been made. The Domesday report is awaiting the December bank statement and any inventory lists and/or updates for property not stored in the property shed or held by an officer. Individuals were reminded to get these in.

Fighter practice will resume this Sunday January 7 at Exploration Place, Water Way Hall, past the gift shop. Archery is on winter hiatus. Marshals who wish to continue as marshals were reminded to get their reports in.

Their Excellencies have received two inquiries about activities at Lilies War. One was gate shifts. After a brief discussion it is the group preference to continue doing Sunday. Lady Vashti has requested snacks for the arts and sciences discussion hour she is responsible for at the War.

The Seneschal reminded all officers to get their quarterly reports in and Domesdays, if they have those as well. There has been no applications to organize the Spring Renaissance Festival in April. If there are none it will be planned by the officers. The Champions' made plans to meet after the Officers' meeting to discuss the plans for this year's Champions' event.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

## THEIR ROYAL MAJESTIES

### ASHIR & ASHLAND

[Falcon-Crown@calontir.org](mailto:Falcon-Crown@calontir.org)



## UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

### ••• January •••

- 6-7 Twelfth Night | Lonely Tower | Omaha, NE
- 13-14 Winter Coronation | Wyvern Cliffe | Jefferson City, MO
- 20-21 Winter Court | Three Rivers | St. Louis, MO
- 27-28 War Practice | Oakheart | Springfield, MO

### ••• February •••

- 3-4 Clothier's Seminar | Cum An Iolar | So. Johnson County, KS
- 17-18 Winter War Maneuvers | Mag Mor | Lincoln, NE
- 24-25 Chieftains | Three Rivers | St. Louis, MO

### ••• March •••

- 10-18 Gulf Wars | Gleann Abhann | Lumberton, MS
- 24-25 Hibernatus Interruptus | Westumbria | Great Bend KS
- 31-Apr I Spring Spears | Calanais Nuadh | Rolla MO
- 31-Apr I Spring RUSH | Moonstone | Emporia KS

## BARONIAL GATHERINGS

Populace Meeting Third Wednesday, 7-9 PM American Legion Post 256, 4301 W Pawnee St, Wichita, KS 67209

Fighter Practice (Armored Combat and Calon Steel) Sundays 12 PM | Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd, Wichita, KS 67203 For more information, contact: Master Hanashi no Kagemoto (Kage) [knightmarshal@baronyofvatavia.org](mailto:knightmarshal@baronyofvatavia.org)

Archery Practice *On hiatus until spring.*

Contact: Lord Konrad von Roth [archermarshal@baronyofvatavia.org](mailto:archermarshal@baronyofvatavia.org)

Officers Meeting & Finance Meeting

First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM. Open to the populace. Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214

Arts and Sciences Gathering 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-9 PM at Make ICT, 1500 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214

Baronial Demos:

**Great Plains Renaissance Festival**

Sedgwick County Park | 6501 W. 21st St. North, Wichita, KS 67212 | April 21-22, 2018

**Exploration Place**

January 28th, 2018 | Medieval Games  
March 11th, 2018 | Human Interest in Flight  
May 6th, 2018 | Arms, Armor and Archery

*Contact the Castellan or Demonstration Coordinator for more information concerning demos.*



TO GET A COPY OF THE  
*KNOWN WORLD HANDBOOK*

Contact His Lordship Friar Thomas | 316-685-1182  
Handbooks are \$23.00



# The Hidden Middle Ages

By HL Friar Thomas Bacon

## The Friar's Corner



During the holidays, while listening to the carol “Ding Dong Merrily on High” I realized that the tune was the dance Official Bransle. A little research showed that the words were of modern composition that purposely used the tune out of Arbeau. But in a way this was fitting as a carol was originally music to circle dances, dances now lost to time. But this led me to consider what other aspects of the Middle Ages hide in our modern world.

Not that the Middle Ages hidden in the world. From the imposing structures of cathedrals and castles to the tales of King Arthur and Robin Hood, the Middle Ages are still very much of our culture. Nor are the medieval origins of innovations and methods forgotten. But there are more subtle appearances of the Middle Ages in our ordinary living. It is these appearances I wish to consider.

Consider, most legal proceedings are known as hearings. This dates back to the Middle Ages when most people were illiterate, many nobles as well as peasants. Therefore all actions were done orally in order for all involved to be able to follow along. Decisions were announced, sentences are pronounced. Even today speeches are considered to carry more weight than a written report. In England, parliament opens with a speech of the ruling monarch. In the United States there is the State of the Union Address. And nearly all major policy changes are announced with a speech.

Also connected to this illiteracy, is the extensive use of allegory and symbolism, where an image can stand for an abstract concept. Such as the pelican for piety, the forget-me-not flower with love, and the sword for justice. The ideas is very old, but flourished in the Middle Ages. But we must be careful here as not all such associations date that far back, but the Victorian age as the Victorians extended the idea in their fascination with the period, the result of a backlash to the Industrial Revolution.

Another medieval concept that lurks in the modern world is the Great Chain of being. This is an idea that everything can be ordered in a hierarchical list with God at the top and dirt at the bottom. This is where we get the lion as the king of beasts (though some lists place the elephant there). Similarly, the diamond is the top gem. The Great Chain implies a static universe, and so underlies the resistance to the theory of evolution.

Most of our manners and social etiquette derives from the social handbooks of the Middle Ages. These were written to create a sense of refinement, and therefore a sense of superiority over the more common folk. Among the earliest is an 1190 poem. These came increasingly more common during the Renaissance, with Italy leading the way. Many of these were written in the form self-help or advice books. While royal etiquette became increasingly complex to the point of absurdity, books aimed at, what we now would call the middle class, would not be all out of place on a modern bookshelf.

Common phrases can have their roots in the Middle Ages. Such phrases as “red letter day” and “robbing Peter to pay Paul” refer to period events. Changes in word meanings can make some of these phrases obtuse. Such as “exception proves the rule”, where the verb “prove” use to mean “test” instead of now “valid”.

What is all demonstrates is that the present is a conglomeration of the past, both implicit as well as explicated. That the reasons why we do things, and the manner in which we do them, can lie in the deep past, that we are not aware of. That what seems illogical today may have had very logical reasons in the beginning.

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 pm Make ICT,	4	5	6
7 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	8	9	10 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm Make ICT,	11	12	13
14 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	15	16	17 Populace Gathering 7-9 pm American Legion Post 256	18	19	20
21 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	22	23	24 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm Make ICT,	25	26	27
28 Fighter Practice 12 PM Medieval Games Demo Exploration Place	29	30	31 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm Make ICT,			

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	5	6	7 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 pm Make ICT,	8	9	10
11 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	12	13	14 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm Make ICT,	15	16	17
18 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	19	20	21 Populace Gathering 7-9 pm American Legion Post 256	22	23	24
25 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	26	27	28 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm Make ICT,			

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	5	6	7 Officers & Finance Meeting 7-9 pm Make ICT,	8	9	10
11 Fighter Practice 12 PM Human Interest in Flight Demo Exploration Place	12	13	14 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm Make ICT,	15	16	17
18 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	19	20	21 Populace Gathering 7-9 pm American Legion Post 256	22	23	24
25 Fighter Practice 12 PM Exploration Place	26	27	28 A&S Gathering 7-9 pm Make ICT,	29	30	31