Save the date...

President General COL Charles C. Lucas, Jr.

and the General Officers of the
Order of the Merovingian Dynasty
request the pleasure of your company at the
Order’s Annual Meeting and Luncheon on
Wednesday, the eleventh of April Two thousand twelve at the
The City Tavern Club
(Courtesy of Barry C. Howard)
3206 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-8770

Speaker: Professor C. Brian Rose

Meeting of the Officers and Council 11:00 A.M.
Welcome Reception 12:00 P.M.
Luncheon 1:00 pm
Use of cell phones is prohibited in the Club.
Coat and tie required.

Reservations must be received by April 6, 2012

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(Registration is required in order to attend)

2012 Speaker…

C. Brian Rose (Ph.D. Columbia University) is James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania and Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section of the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. He has been excavating at Troy since 1988, where he has been Head of Post-Bronze Age Excavations at the site for more than a decade, and he excavated at Aphrodisias for five years. Brian’s new survey project in the Granicus River Valley focuses on recording and mapping the Greco-Persian tombs that dominate the area.

Brian is President of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), and a Trustee of both the American Research Institute in Turkey and the American Academy in Rome. Courses he has recently taught have included Roman Topography; the Archaeology of Troy; Augustan Rome; and Roman Republican sculpture, architecture, and coinage. Brian is the English language editor of Studia Troica, the annual journal of the Troy excavations, and is currently finishing the final publication of the architecture and architectural decoration of the Roman houses at Troy.

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Col. McCarty has completed graduate studies in Archaeology at George Washington University. McCarty is currently a consultant in management and foreign trade matters.


Saying our Goodbyes...
The chronicler comments smugly, "if from the sea-monster or the king, I do not know. In any case the son who was born was no less than the heros eponymous of the Merovingian family: Merovech."

The chronicler places the story in the fifth century where the name of Merovech’s father Chlodio is mentioned by contemporary sources as the name of a Frankish king in the North-East of modern France. It must have been around this time when the Merovingian family started out. In the second half of the fifth century we hear of Childeric who ruled as Frankish king, but also as Roman officer over the territory of the Roman province of the Belgica secunda, roughly between the Rhine and the Northeastern border of modern France. The chronicles from the Merovingian period mention him as son and successor Merovech. He was clearly a very successful general who managed to defend and extend the territory of his rule and to maintain law and order within the former Roman province. But as the chronicle tells us, his uncontrolled sexual behavior brought him into trouble. He abused the daughters of the Franks until finally his own men expelled him, and he had to flee to the neighboring country of Thuringia. In Thuringia he had an affair with the wife of the Thuringian king. But she was so impressed by her Merovingian lover that she followed him into his kingdom after he had been reconciled with the Franks a few years later.

Clovis Founded the Merovingian Kingdom

The son of this couple was Clovis, who is usually regarded as the founder of the Merovingian kingdom in Gaul. Not only did he extend his rule over the former provinces of Gaul, roughly modern France, he was the first Christian king of the Franks, and he converted to what most of the Roman population of Gaul believed was the right king of Christianity – Catholicism. Although there are ambivalent and slightly different portrayals of Clovis in the extant sources, no one criticizes him for excessive sexuality. He had three sons from his marriage with the Burgundian princess Chlothild, and another from a concubine whose name has not been transmitted. Most kings before the ninth century had several wives at the same time, even Charlemagne. But in Clovis’ case the sources suggest fairly well ordered relationships and that the Burgundian princess Chlothild was his only wife after he married her.

When Clovis died his kingdom was divided among four sons: three by Chlothild and one before his marriage with Chlothild. With this next generation we are back in the Dark Ages. Accounts provide a number of stories about sexually hyperactive Merovingians who established their rule through cunning and violence and asserted themselves against one another in fierce competition. One of my favorite stories is about Clothar I, who outlived the other sons of Clovis and united the kingdom for a few years around the middle of the sixth century.

Clothar was unusually vain, and when he was dying he could not understand why God should be calling such an outstanding person as him out of the world. We also learn that he had a number of wives at the same time. Gregory of Tours, a younger contemporary of Clothar who gives us the oldest report on the matter, presents a long list and tells about one wife named Aregund. She asked Clothar for support in finding a suitable man for her sister. Chlothar gave us the oldest report on the matter, presents a long list and tells about one wife named Aregund. She asked Clothar for support in finding a suitable man for her sister. Chlothar gave us the oldest report on the matter, presents a long list and tells about one wife named Aregund. She asked Clothar for support in finding a suitable man for her sister. Chlothar gave us the oldest report on the matter, presents a long list and tells about one wife named Aregund. She asked Clothar for support in finding a suitable man for her sister. Chlothar gave us the oldest report on the matter, presents a long list and tells about one wife named Aregund. She asked Clothar for support in finding a suitable man for her sister. Chlothar gave us the oldest report on the matter, presents a long list and tells about one wife named Aregund. She asked Clothar for support in finding a suitable man for her sister. Chlothar gave us the oldest report on the matter, presents a long list and tells about one wife named Aregund. She asked Clothar for support in finding a suitable man for her sister.

Such stories from the different sources have contributed to the image of the Merovingian kings as urge-driven, uncontrollable and
brutal – real Dark Age barbarians. And it is still present in many superficial remarks on the Merovingians, even in college-level textbooks. But such a view raises a crucial question: how did these truly barbarian rulers manage to establish the legitimacy of the family as kings for such a long time? In the early Middle Ages no royal family ruled for such a long stretch – about 300 years if we include Chlodio, father of Merovech.

**Dynastic Succession Not The Norm**

For a long time, no one asked this question. Scholars generally assumed that dynastic succession was the norm among the Germanic peoples, and history of the Merovingian kings was seen as an opportunity to explore long standing Germanic traditions of kingship and rule. But more recent research on Germanic and barbarian societies in the first centuries AD shows that for a long time the social organization of Germanic groups and peoples was more fluid and flexible than we have assumed. Encounters between barbarian tribes, groups and armies changed not only the Roman empire but also the barbarian societies living outside or along the periphery of it. There might have been a tradition of dynastic succession among some of the Germanic groups, but it seems to have been one pattern among others.

This becomes obvious in the history of some of the successor states of the Empire in the West, such as the Merovingian kingdom. After some Germanic generals and kings had established their rule over the former Roman provinces, dynastic succession does not seem to have been so deeply rooted anywhere that it could not be abandoned. A dramatic example is the Visigothic kingdom in Spain where kings were continuously deposed, sent to monasteries or even killed and replaced by other members of the aristocracy. The historians of the Merovingian kingdoms clearly looked down on them. Many of the extant chronicles from the Merovingian kingdoms transmit dismissive remarks on the habits of the Visigoths, saying that they exchanged their kings whenever they liked. To stabilize the political situation, the Visigoths eventually introduced the practice of election and confirmation of kings at church councils. The nominees did not have to come from a royal family, but at least had to be of Visigothic descent.

In the Lombard kingdom in Italy we also see that dynastic succession was an idea that could be interpreted in different ways. In difficult situations it was the widows of the deceased kings who would determine the next king by choosing which noble to marry. Thus, it seems that the continuity of the Merovingian family in the sixth and seventh centuries was more the exception than the rule, and the political success of the Merovingians established it as a model for medieval Europe.

The powerful establishment of dynastic succession in the Middle Ages sometimes makes it difficult to comprehend the historical contingency of such influential processes. But we must remember that our understanding of what a kingdom is, is a product of its long history in Europe. People living in the successor kingdoms of the Roman empire and even their rulers did not have this knowledge. They learned of kingdoms long gone, such as those of the biblical kings, and they also had some ideas about what their kingdom should look like in the future. But for people in the sixth century a kingdom – a regnum in the political language of the time – was an ongoing social and political experiment in a quickly and constantly changing world.

To Be Continued….
Scholarship...
The Cornelia “Nellie” Smith Isenhour Memorial Scholarship was founded in 2009 by Dianne A. Robinson to honor her grandmother and with contributions by other members to continue the growth of the scholarship. It is awarded each year to two students majoring in Archaeology and recommended by Dr. Brian Rose, James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania; Deputy Director, Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Anyone interested in making a tax-deductible donation may send a check, payable to OMD Scholarship, to:

Dianne Robinson
18602 Balmore Pines Lane
Cornelius, NC 28031-5208

Dianne Robinson, Justin Leidwanger, Hardwick Johnson, Jr.

Justin’s research focuses primarily on Roman maritime commerce, and the subject of his dissertation is entitled "Maritime Archaeology as Economic History: Long-Term Trends of Roman Commerce in the Northeast Mediterranean.” He holds a B.A. Classics from Loyola University Chicago, and an M.A. in archaeology from Texas A&M University. Most recently, he has been working to develop a long-term survey, excavation and cultural heritage program at the site of several shipwrecks off the coast of Sicily. Over the past few years, he has served as ceramicist for research and field projects in Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Greece and Italy, including most recently with Dokuz Eylul University’s survey off the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts of Turkey. Alongside his current research in the field and laboratory, Justin has been publishing the results of a 2003-2009 maritime landscape archaeology project off the Cypriot coast that included both intensive shallow-water investigations and remote sensing farther offshore. His concern for underwater cultural heritage extends to issues of ethical stewardship, responsible management, and collaboration in maritime investigations, a topic on which he has published several recent articles and co-organized a two-part workshop and conference.

Dianne Robinson, Emerson Avery, Hardwick Johnson, Jr.

Emerson Avery graduated in 2005 with a B.A. in Ancient Greek from Haverford College and Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology from Bryn Mawr College, where his senior thesis examined the expression of a nascent Greek ethnic identity at the colony of Empuries, Spain, during the Iron Age. He spent the 2005 academic year developing this research as a Fulbright Fellow at the German Archaeological Institute in Madrid before joining AAMW in the fall of 2006. His interest in the construction of identity led him to the study of Late Antiquity and the intersection of a variety of peripheral Western Mediterranean places with the Imperial center. His thesis explores the development of settlement and communication dynamics in the hinterland of Marsala, Sicily during the period 300-900 A.D. Emerson has worked on projects in Spain, Italy, and France.

Changes/Corrections to Roster/Directory...
Please notify the Secretary General and the Registrar General of any changes:

Dianne A. Robinson, Secretary General
18602 Balmore Pines Lane
Cornelius, NC 28031-5208
704-892-0442
diannebobr@att.net
and
John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar General
2112 White Oak Road
Raleigh, NC 27608-1452
jrharman1@gmail.com

New Members...
We welcome the following new members who have joined our society since the publication of the 2011-2013 Roster:

#287-Mrs. Alvin A. Abbott (Cora)
#288-Douglass M. Mabee
#289-Mrs. Stanley A. Millan (Mary)
Minutes of the Seventh Annual Meeting...

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty was held 13 April 2011 at the City Tavern Club in Washington, DC at 10:30 a.m. President General Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., EdD called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Dr. Albert Clinton Walling II.

Officers in attendance were: Dr. Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr. EdD, President General; Dr. Charles Clement Lucas, MD, First Vice President General, Mr. Charles William Neuhauser, Second Vice President General; Ms. Juanita Sue Pierce Augustus, Third Vice President General; Mr. Timothy Field Beard, Genealogist General; Barry Christopher Howard, Treasurer General; Dr. Linda Corinne Mistler, PhD, Secretary General; Dr. Albert Clinton Walling II, Chaplain General; Mrs. Peter Irving Channing Knowles II, Curator General; Mr. George James Hill, MD, DLitt, Surgeon General; and, Mrs. Joel Strauch, Assistant Treasurer. Members of the Advisory Council in attendance were Shari Worrell and Philip Livingston; the Nominating Committee Chairman Anna Duff; and Scholarship Committee Chairman Dianne Robinson. Richard A. Gregory, Honorary President General, was also in attendance. John Harmon, incoming Registrar General; Eva Gray Harding, incoming Curator General and Craig Metz, Esq, incoming Chancellor General, were invited to attend the meeting by the President General.

The minutes of the Sixth Annual Meeting of 14 April 2010 were approved as distributed.

Officer Reports:
The following officers gave reports, which were filed:
President General, Dr. Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr. EdD; Linda Corinne Mistler, PhD, Secretary General; Barry Christopher Howard, Treasurer General (reflecting total assets of $47,394.41); J. Michael Phelps, Counselor General; and Brantley Knowles, Curator General.

Unfinished Business:
None

New Business:
Dr. Johnson asked Dianne Robinson to present the Scholarship Committee report. Dianne announced that the scholarship recipients for 2011 would be presented to the membership at the luncheon following the meeting. She also announced that OMD would transfer the $2270.00 donated to the fund by members, (making no interest) to the additional contribution of 12,730.00 by Dianne, totaling $15,000.00. This $15,000 would be added to the existing VA HSG bond making the Scholarship Fund worth $50,000.00.

These additions to the Scholarship escrow account would allow the order to give two $1000 awards annually. A copy of her report was filed.

The Order “offered its highest appreciation to Mrs. Robinson for her efforts in establishing the Scholarship Fund and continuing to support it”.

Blazer patches were presented and it was announced that the cost was $35 each.

Mrs. Stephen W. Duff, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the proposed slate of officers for 2011-2013 to be voted on and accepted by the members:

President General: Col. Charles Clement Lucas, Jr., MD
1st Vice President General: Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles
2nd Vice President General: Charles William Neuhauser
3rd Vice President General: Juanita Sue Augustus
4th Vice President General: Anna Boykin Ferguson Duff
Genealogist General: Timothy Field Beard, FASG
Registrar General: Philip Robert Livingston
Chaplain General: John Harman, Jr.
Curator General: To be appointed by President General
Senior Curator General: Dianne Robinson
Registrar General: Jane Wootten Walker
Chancellor General: The Rev. Dr. Albert Clinton Walling, II
Director General: Barry Christopher Howard
Asst. Registrar General: Catherine McCready Strauch
Asst. Secretary General: John Mauk Hill
Registrar General: Eva Gray Harding
Asst. Treasurer General: Craig Huseman Metz, Esq.
Treasurer General: Dr. George James Hill
Chancellor General: J. Michael Phelps, Esq.
Curator General: Caroline Bowen
Registrar General: Karen Mandeville Cardullo
Asst. Registrar General: Alan Stratton Hammock, Jr.
Registrar General: John Hallberg Jones
Registrar General: Russell Cecil Scott
Registrar General: Shari Kelley Worrell

Mrs. Peter I. C. Knowles, II, Bylaws Committee Chairman, presented her report to the Council. After discussion, the Bylaws were approved by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board approved the producing of a Past President General OMD medal from Don Ross of CityPride.

As there was no further business to be brought before the Executive Board, Dr. Johnson recessed the meeting at 11:15 a.m. for the cocktail reception and luncheon meeting.

At the luncheon meeting the scholarship recipients, Emerson Avery and Justin Leidwanger, were presented their awards.

The Bylaws, as approved by the Executive Board, were presented to the membership and approved.

Dr. Johnson then introduced our speaker, Doug Richardson, who spoke on The Merovingian Era.

The 2011 – 2013 Slate of Officers was presented to the membership and voted upon. The newly elected officers were installed.

Richard Gregory made a motion that Hardwick Smith Johnson, Jr., EdD be named Honorary President General. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned by the newly elected President General, Dr. Charles C. Lucas, at 1:30 p.m.

Linda Corinne Mistler, PhD
Secretary General
Memories of Washington, D.C....

Anna Duff, Charles Lucas

President General Hardwick Johnson, Jr.

Barry Howard, John Harman

The speaker, Doug Richardson

President General Charles Lucas and Honorary Presidents General Richard Gregory and Hardwick Johnson, Jr.

Richard Gregory, Philip Livingston

Tim Beard, Brantley Knowles

Installation of new officers

Tom Leland

Jack Early, George Hill

Laura and Michael Schenk
The Order of the Merovingian Dynasty is manufactured in Sterling Silver, (925 parts in 1,000 pure silver), and then 24ct gold plated (prices for silver and gold are approximate and will vary based on market fluctuations).”

The Medal consists of an eight pointed star, alternating four gold plated fluted rays and four silver bright cut rays. The star rays are bound by a circle of purple vitreous enamel with the title Order of the Merovingian Dynasty. A gold plated Merovingian decorative wreath encloses a white enamel disk, upon which is the title Sanguinarius Regum (Blood of Kings) Symbolism includes period Eagles heads and the Royal Bee. The centre disk is in purple enamel and contains the gold plated silver portrait of Childeric, taken from the Ring of Childeric.

The link to view the insignia on the website is http://www.merovingiandynasty.com/Medals.htm

ORDER FORM:

_____ Large Neck Medallion for Gentlemen @ $1100 = $ _______

_____ Bow and Tails for Ladies @ $1100 = $ _______

_____ Miniature Medal S/G @ $ 85 = $ _______

_____ Miniature Medal 14K @ Market = $ _______

_____ Recognition/Lapel Pin @ $ 40 = $ _______

_____ Blazer Patch-Cipher @ $ 35 = $ _______

_____ Blazer Patch-Star @ $ 35 = $ _______

Shipping and handling $ 8.50

TOTAL $ _______

Send Order to:
Order of the Merovingian Dynasty
John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar
2112 White Oak Road
Raleigh, NC 27608-1452

Questions?