

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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Contact email: afa@lanset.com

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MORE AFA WEB SITE ADDITIONS!

We've added four more articles to the AFA website:

"A Code for the Fearless and Fair" is a re-write of a piece on "drengskapr," or the code of behavior that evolved in the environment of the Germanic war band. I reworked it to broaden its applicability beyond the Viking Age - after all, bravery, loyalty, and a cheerful attitude in time of stress are timeless qualities we should all strive to develop!

"Twelve Traits to Nourish" broadens the Nine Noble Virtues that have been a pillar of Asatru/Odinism since the 1970's. The NNV are great, and we're not suggesting abandoning them, but these twelve traits - first given to the Folk (as the "Twelve Thews") by Eric Wodening, in his highly recommended *We Are Our Deeds*, are in some ways more balanced and thus more appealing.

"The Eight Great Festivals of Asatru" are designed to give the neophyte a quick look at Asatru's holy days. These ones we have chosen to highlight are the ones traditionally used by the AFA since the 1980's

"The Nature of Folk Religion" is a short essay marking the difference between folk religions that spring from the soul of a people on one hand, and belief systems that consider themselves a faith for all of humanity, on the other.

More additions and changes are on the way! Drop in and visit us at <http://www.runestone.org> and click on "Articles" to see the latest.

SACRED GROVE DEDICATED IN DENMARK

According to the Copenhagen Post, Asatruar in Denmark have acquired property near the town of Silkeborg for use as a sacred grove.

The grove, about 12 square kilometers in area, will become the first site in the country consecrated to our deities.

The woodland was purchased by seven members of the Asatru-affiliated Yggdrasil congregation. Group spokesman Ivan Schultz told a daily newspaper that members of Yggdrasil were in the process of clearing up the woodland in preparation for rites.

"Although the forest will be officially dedicated in May, we needed to commemorate it as a holy place right away. So we made some sacrificial offerings and buried them in order to make contact with the gods and protect this holy place," Schultz told the newspaper.

Congratulations to our co-religionists in the land of the Danes!

ODIN LIVES! SPONSORS CONCERT IN OHIO!

Odin Lives! Radio is please to announce that Väsen will be appearing in the Holland Theater, Bellefontaine, Ohio, on Monday, September 20th, 2004 at 7pm EDT.

Väsen is *the* premier Swedish folk music ensemble. Featuring Olov Johansson playing the Swedish keyed fiddle (nyckelharpa), Roger Tallroth on guitar, Mikael Marin, viola and percussionist André Ferarri, Väsen helped launch the Nordic Roots revival in Scandinavia and the United States.

Tickets are only \$15 in advance, and can be purchased directly from *Odin Lives!* Radio by visiting the events page at:

<http://www.odinlives.org/events.html>

HILL OF TARA THREATENED

Tara, seat of the kings of Ireland and the veritable soul of Ireland itself, is threatened by plans to build a major motorway through the area. A large number of archeological sites will be immediately impacted by this decision, and a floodlit 34-acre highway interchange will be placed half a mile from the sacred hill itself.

You can do something about this really bad idea by going to <http://www.taraskryne.org/indexmain.html>, run by the Tara-Skryne Valley Campaign.

The next item in this AFA Update is all the more interesting in light of this news...

BOOK CLAIMS IRELAND WAS ATLANTIS

A new book says Ireland and Atlantis were one and the same.

The claim is made by geologist Ulf Erlingsson in his book 'Atlantis from a Geographer's Perspective: Mapping the Fairy Land', who is to visit Ireland on August 11 to 13.

In his book Erlingsson bases his evidence on Plato's description of Atlantis which, he says, matches Ireland perfectly. Statistically, the scientist claims, the probability is over 99.98% that Plato was describing Ireland.

Erlingsson says: "Just like Atlantis, Ireland is 300 miles long, 200 miles wide, and widest over the middle. They both feature a central plain that is open to the sea, but fringed by mountains. No other island on earth even comes close to this description."

“What has led most students astray is that Atlantis sank in the sea”, says Dr Erlingsson.

“It is an ‘Atlantic myth’ all right – but a myth from, not about, Atlantis”.

"The island that sank was Dogger Bank. It was struck by a disastrous flood-wave around 6,100 BC, and now rests deep under the waves of the North Sea."

In the book, Dr Erlingsson shows how the Atlantic Empire probably can be associated with the megalithic monuments of Europe and Northern Africa. Their geographic distribution matches the extent of the Atlantic Empire as Plato described it.

The Atlantean capital can be connected with Tara, the legendary seat of the high king of Ireland.

The temples of Poseidon and the ancestors match up well with the so-called passage tombs of Newgrange and Knowth, in the Boyne valley.

They are the oldest roofed buildings anywhere in the world.

Erlingsson has a Ph.D. in Physical Geography from Uppsala University.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 21 (approximately) - Freyfaxi. Late August was the time for a harvest-related holy day celebrated in some parts of Viking Age Scandinavia. In modern Asatru, this date has been named Freyfaxi, after the horse of the Vanic deity, Frey. Freyfaxi centers around the stallion as a symbol of fertility for the coming harvest.

September 9 - Day of Remembrance for Herman of the Cherusci. Herman learned the art of war under the Romans, then deserted the Imperial eagles to lead his tribe in revolt against the Mediterranean intruders. In the fall of the year 9 CE, he annihilated three legions in the Teutobergerwald, a victory which saved Germania from Roman occupation. Plant an oak tree, eat in a German restaurant, and remember Herman with a glass of fine beer from the Fatherland!

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen
Asatru Folk Assembly

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