

Hail Lymphad

The Meridian hills, our home
Since Madoc quit the ocean's foam,
Abandoned the shore
For where mountains soar;
Never more would he roam.

Scoffed-at by history lovers
And forgotten by all others.
"The legend is true!"
Said the proud but few,
Madoc's crew, dream brothers.

Five comrades did pledge to enact
In neo-chivalric compact.
Ancient depiction,
With modern diction –
Some fiction, and some fact.

Some thirty years have wandered by
Since lymphad banner rose to fly.
We've garnered renown
From free-folk and crown.
Look around, testify.

The fire of youth is at its heart,
With wisdom hard-learned from the start.
Ideas old and new,
Resourcefulness, too,
Madoc grew, breed apart.

Ask any of us who were there,
With Madoc no others compare.
For many's the peer
Who began their career
Standing here, Madoc fair.

Though fame is oft gained with a sword,
In Madoc no arts are ignored;
For things penned and hammered
The folk also clamored
Enamored, they explored.

Honor what past kings commended:
Barony Bryn Madoc, splendid.
Let each lass and lad
Praise the purple-clad;
Hail lymphad! Verse ended.

Style: *Clogyrnach*, a Welsh measure used prior to the 13th century. In the form below, each letter is a syllable:

x x x x x x a

x x x x x x a

x x x x b

x x x x b

x x b x x a

Yes, it sounds like a limerick, until the end.

Notes:

Stanza 1 and 2-According to folklore, Madoc ap Owain sailed to the Americas in 1170 to avoid some lethal family squabbles. His followers are said to have landed in Mobile Bay, and traveled northeast, eventually settling for a time around Fort Mountain in northern Georgia. This version of the legend suggests that conflict with the native peoples drove them from the mountains, where they eventually settled and intermingled with the Mandan tribe. There is considerable skepticism as to the veracity of the legend, but it makes a fine tale.

Stanza 2-The five founders of Bryn Madoc – Dylan ab Aneirin, Margala of Dovedale, Brother Edward (later known as Ædward of Glastonburh), Domini Farnese (later known as Domenica Farnese), and Lionel Hildebrand – took the Madoc legend as the basis for their SCA group’s name. *Bryn Madoc* means “Hill of Madoc.” When the SCA originally rejected the submission as nonsense, Dylan wrote a mini-dissertation compiling all the published evidence for Prince Madoc’s existence in the Southeast. Impressed with the scholarship, the SCA gave in.

Stanza 5- The fire of enthusiastic students, when combined with the knowledge and wisdom of longstanding SCAdians, is a potent mix indeed.

Stanza 6- Set in a university town, it is natural that many students discover the SCA in Bryn Madoc. When they leave to begin their careers elsewhere, many take with them their love of the SCA and passion for artistic, martial, or service endeavors.

Stanza 7- Bryn Madoc is famed for nurturing the artistic talents and interests.