



AN AWARD CEREMONY TO REMEMBER

Last Sunday our annual Honour Awards ceremony took place. As every year, men and women from all over Rustica gathered in our glorious capital Viridi to jointly honour those fellow citizens who had shown themselves to be particularly honourable in the past twelve months.

At the beginning of the festivities, not a single soul expected this year’s ceremony to become the most memorable ever!. But everything in sequence: With thunderous applause and cheers, our much respected King Frederick V opened the ceremony. Accompanied by kettledrums and trumpets, His Majesty arrived in his carriage at noon in Viridi Square, where a large crowd of Commonfolk had already gathered. With his beautiful wife Regina at his side, he took his seat in the seats opposite the stage.

Around him were many well-known Rustican personalities from the ranks of the Peacekeepers from South and North Rustica in the stands. Caretakers from all over the country had taken their seats in the seats below. The Maids and Servants from the Commonfolk gathered in front of and around the stage after their enthusiastic reception of His Highness, every standing room in Viridi Square was filled. King Frederick V gave a wise and wonderful opening speech in which he thanked every single Rustican who contributes to our stable, secure and honourable community every day. Today was once again the day to pay special tribute to three people who, through their extraordinary services over the past year, had demonstrated the importance of their contribution to the unity of our society.

His Majesty’s words were greeted with roaring applause

and shouts of approval from all seats and from all ranks. The floor was then handed over to Sir Reginald, Chairman of the Annual Honour Awards Committee. „Today we are gathered here for the 177th time to honour people who, through their unprecedented actions, have set an example of what it means to be a truly honourable Rustic! As every year, citizens from all parts of the country were able to submit their nominations to the committee, together with their reasons why the person they nominated deserved an award. My colleagues and I have collected and evaluated all the entries, and today we are proud to announce who will be able to take home an award and the associated endowment. As always, we will present the honourable citizens in the order bronze, silver and gold.”

Applause resounded again. Sir Reginald, who himself had been awarded Peacekeeper of the Year many years ago, seemed a little more excited during his speech than one would normally expect from the usually very serious chairman. The next hour was to provide clarity for all spectators and guests.

First of all, the winner of the Bronze Honour Award was announced: Master Jacob, who, as an honourable caretaker of the village of Aula in the south-western Rustica, had ensured that the breweries of the farmsteads there were able to process larger quantities of barley in a shorter time using a new process. The winner of the Silver Honour Award was Sir Bartholomew, spiritual adviser and Peacekeeper to the north-eastern Duce, who had given guidance to his Caretakers and Commonfolk when a rare of pruripox appeared during the summer. Thanks to his honourable spiritual support, the sick were able to recover in the shortest possible time.

„And now, the winner of this year’s Honour Award in Gold, worth 500 Auri!“, Sir Reginald announced full of enthusiasm. „This generous gesture is due to a man who, over the past year, has done more than anyone else to help his fellow citizens and his community. His loyalty knows no bounds. Ladies and gentlemen, a big hand for Finnian from Flumen!“

A murmur went through the crowd. The winner of the Gold Honour Award was a young man from the Commonfolk - the last time this had happened was more than thirty years ago!

Finnian, a boat boy from the North, had lost his belongings during the last typhoon that had ravaged the coast of Flumen in September and then helped his neighbours, who had been badly affected by the winds, day and night. He had been on his feet around the clock, barely slept, barely ate, to stand by the Commonfolk of Flumen. As far as they could, they thanked him with a small bowl of soup or a fish sandwich - and now with the numerous nominations of Finnian for the Gold Honour Award.

He himself could hardly believe his luck when he stepped on the stage and accepted the award and the money amid roaring, cheering and celebration. The enthusiasm of the audience grew even bigger and louder as His Majesty the King and Queen rose from their seats and applauded the young winner. „Thank you, thank you so much, thank you!“, was all he managed to say.

When The Honour Chronicles later asked what Finnian was planning on doing with his win of 500 Auri, we received the following answer: „That I was given this honor is indescribable. I would like to share this award with the people from Flumen who gave me food and shelter when I needed it. I want to keep helping them rebuild their own homes. I want to send my mother some of the money to South Rustica, where I am originally from, so that she can keep sending my sister to school. I myself would like to buy some new fishing gear so that I can give my Caretaker, Sir Lawrence, an even better hand.“

The Honour Chroncles and the people of Rustica are overwhelmed with so much unselfishness. Finnian is a trueRustican who lives his life true to our motto: family, country, honour!

BY NORA BERGER

VISIT HAGUEVAR MANOR

Good news for the visitors of South Rustica. Haguevar Manor in Hagar opens its doors as a museum. From December 22 on, you will be able to learn about the life of Sir Edward or better known as The Sleepy Sir, and his many daughters and sons.

The doors were closed to the public until now but inside the long uninhabited manor you will get a unique insight into the life of Sir Edward who died 150 years ago. Sir Edward or ‘The Sleepy Sir’ passed away in his sleep. It took a while before his servants knew he was dead because he was sleeping all the time and he didn’t like to be bothered. After skipping his 17th meal they went to check on him and they found him dead in his bed. Some people made ghost stories about it. Maybe you even heard the stories going around that his spirit still lingers there. His bedroom is, according to the stories, the most haunted room of the Haguevar Manor. To commemorate Sir Edward, the village of Hagar opens the old manor’s doors. Nobody lived there after his death and after some needed cleaning and painting, the manor is finally open for the public. Even though nobody lived there, the castle was a popular attraction for young Rusticans to hang out. The manor is located on the mountain Quedar and has 11 bedrooms and 4 kitchens. It also has a beautiful view on the village of Hagar. Put on your hiking boots because it is a difficult task to climb this mountain.

Sir Edward - or The Sleepy Sir - was known for his lazy attitude and being tired. He has had 6 different women in his life of which he had had 7 children. In this museum you will learn all about his love affairs. Especially about his first wife Katherine, that he was married to for 5 years. Katherine died tragically during the birth of the twins, Elisabeth and Joanne.

A guided tour of the castle will cost you 50 Auri. If you want to take a look around on your own initiative, it will only cost you 20 Auri. You can visit Haguevar Manor between 10 am and 7 pm.

BY MARIE HANTSON

