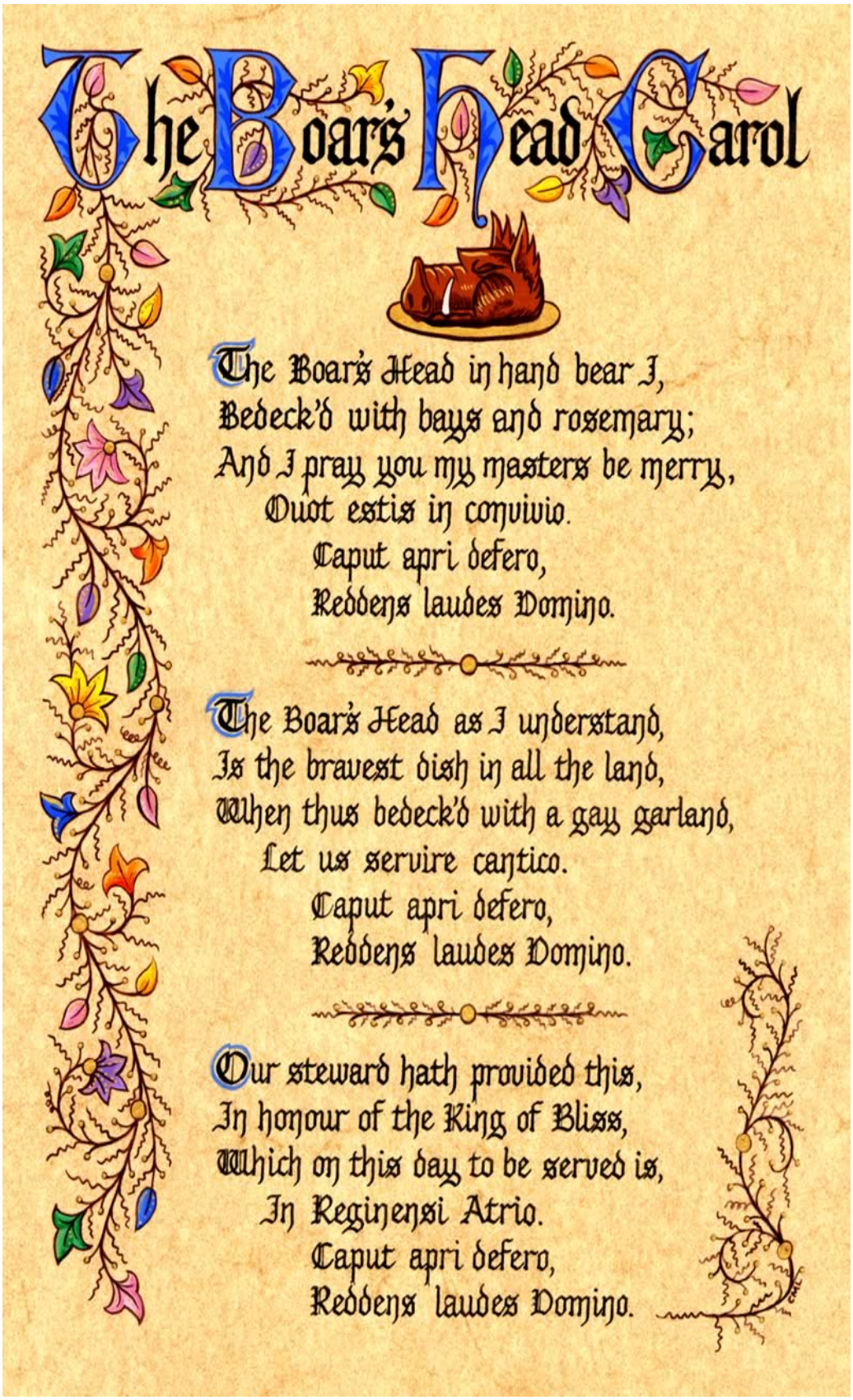
Boar's Head Festival
Palo Verde College
December 12 at 6 p.m.



(The card depicted here is on sale at Queens College, Oxford University. http://www.queens.ox.ac.uk)

The Story behind the Boars Head Festival

In ancient mythologies, the wild boar represented everything from a terrifying foe to the forces of evil. When hunted, a wild boar would turn on its attacker. Those training for army service often were forced to confront this fierce beast.

The Boar's Head Festival is rooted in times when people sang throughout the dark days of winter, praying the sun might return to their land. In those ancient times, the boar was sovereign of the forest. The Festival has long symbolized the triumph of light over darkness. Versions of the story date back to 1340: a scholar at Queens College, Oxford University, walked through the forest while studying Aristotle's Logic. A wild boar suddenly charged him.

Having no other weapon, the scholar rammed his metal-bound book down the throat of the beast, saying, "Graecum est" (compliments of the Greeks).

In some versions, the boar cried out, "It is Greek! I cannot digest it!" and *the savage was choked by the sage*. That night, cooks roasted the boar's head, garnished it with bay, rosemary, and holly, processed to the dining room, accompanied by trumpets, carols, and a large pot of mustard. The Boar's Head Festival, still celebrated at Oxford, migrated to America in the 1600s.

Desert Learning Center, Palo Verde College Consort, Captain McLeod (the Bagpiper of Palm Springs), and local performers present this Festival as a gift to the people of our community.

Our Boar's Head Festival blends rich instrumental melodies and simple songs that celebrate bringing light into the season of darkness. All proceeds from this performance will be donated to promote children's education in Performing Arts at Palo Verde College.

Best wishes for a joyous season.