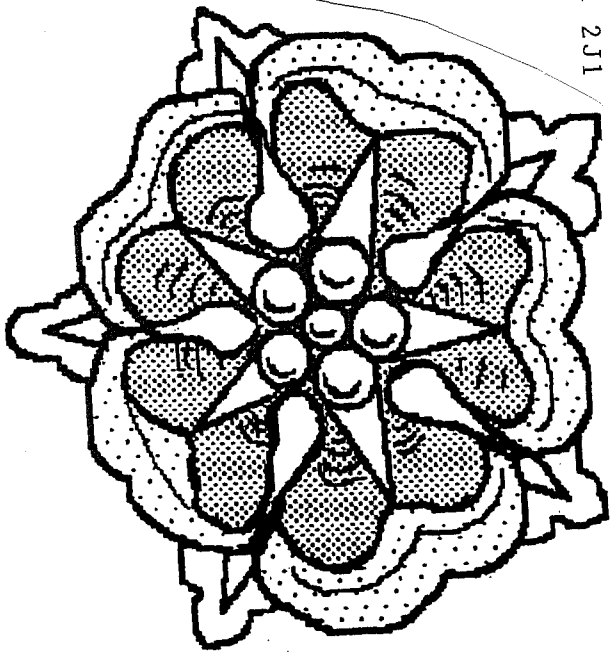




April/May A.S. XXVII

The AURORA Borealis  
10311 - 56th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6A 2J1



The AURORA is a publication of the Barony of Borealis, of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. This Newsletter is available from the Editor for \$16.00 per annum (12 issues). All cheques and money orders are to be made payable to "ASCA - Barony of Borealis". This is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.

The AURORA Deadline for Event Copy, Art and Articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for printing in the following month's issue. Please send all submissions to the editor.

VerAquilon Calendar

May

- 1 Fighting Seminar & Tavern
- 5 Dance & Contest
- 8 Baronial Vote Confirmation
- 12 Business, Dance Contest Prize
- 19 Cavalier Symposium
- 26 Artist Symposium & Heraldry

Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm, in SUB 034 at the University of Alberta. All Gentles attending meetings are requested to wear Period Attire (or a reasonable attempt at hiding Mundane Clothes) with the exception being Council Meetings.

Fighter Practice is held every Sunday STARTING AT NOON, in the Dinwoody Lounge, second floor of SUB, at the U of A. Contact Master of Stables, Sgt. Colin Ironwolf (mka Larry Sutherland) at 432-0908 for more information.

There is also a Thursday night Fighter Practice at 7:00 pm, held at Austin O'Brian Catholic High School. 6110 95 Ave., Edmonton. Call the Lady Eowyn (mka Tasha Gruber) at 469-1873 first to confirm.

The Blacksheep (fiber workers guild) meet every Sunday afternoon at HL Erna Kajadottor's. Call Karen at 499-1593 for more info and directions to her place in Sherwood Park.

*Ceol na Gaoth* invites any and all interested in making sweet period music to our weekly practice Monday Nights at 7510 106 St. (basement). Except, of course, on Holidays.

We welcome all instruments, voices, and music to join us and if you're tone deaf, well heck, so are we. We offer instruction to beginners in woodwind, rhythm, and voice from 7:30 to 8:30 and a jam session usually follows.

For more information please call either

Eowyn Cenek 489-5121  
or Penny Slonowski 439-0007 (days)  
(Lady Pionnula Nioclas) 431-0657 (evenings and messages)

The Roger de Cote School of Fence meets at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays at the Holyrood School. For more information call HL Roger de Cote at 499-1593.

CHATELAINE the Lady Dagmar  
Shelley Ann Jensen Ph 465-7344  
10311 - 56 St., Edmonton, AB T6A 2J1

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and EDITOR Edwina of Loxley  
Maxwell Garrison & Linda Yoner  
Ph 923-2864  
General Delivery, Gibbons, AB T0A 1N0

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7307 - 86 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6B 0K6

MISTRESS OF the Lady Isolde  
THE LISTS Melonie Craigen Ph 472-1647  
#69, Hyndman Cres.,  
Edmonton, AB T5A 4S3

HEAD Freya of Ardmore  
WATERBEARER Christine Gruber Ph 469-1873  
7307 - 86 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6B 0K6

SENESHALATES OF THE BARONY OF BOREALIS

CANTON OF VERAQUILON

Lord Eadwulf macRuthven (acting)  
Robert Reader Ph (403) 920-2054  
4308 - 48 St. Beaumont, AB T4X 1G3

CANTON OF NORTH KEEP

Matsuda Takashi  
Greg Dorrington Ph (403) 594-2510  
#38 5612 - 53 Ave., Grand Centre, AB T0A 1T1

OFFICERS OF THE BARONY OF BOREALIS

BARON AND BARONESS Their Exelencies, Baron Conrad Von  
Graz and Baroness Cristiona of Ulidia.  
Wilf and Christine Backhaus  
Ph 672-3795  
6607 Enevold Drive, Camrose, AB T4V 3J9

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EXCHEQUER Lord Ma Gah Ming  
Karvin Ma Ph 436-4819  
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MASTER OF STABLES Sergeant Colin Ironwolf  
Larry Sutherland Ph 432-0908  
9554 - 73 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6C 3C6

MINISTER OF ARTS & SCIENCES Sergeant Stefan von Lubeke  
Dean Schieve Ph 487-1595  
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ARCHER & CHIRUGEN Lady Yeoman Joan the Just  
Joan Reader Ph 929-2054  
4308 - 48 St., Beaumont, AB T4X 1G3

CONSTABLE Yeoman Eadwulf macRuthven  
Robert Reader (see ARCHER)

April 17, 1993

Greetings and Best Wishes to the People of Borealis,

This is likely to be my last official letter to be submitted to the Aurora for a while. Now before you start cheering, I have a few reminders and announcements. Officers your next reports are due July 1st, no exceptions. For those of you that have to report twice a year to your CP or Kingdom superiors, this is the time. Two different reports are not necessary, courtesy copies of one report will be sufficient. For Baronial Officers and Canton Seneschals you will report to my temporary replacement, Sjt. Stefan von Lubbeke, who will be in charge of you unruly lot from May Crown to September Crown. His deputy will be Lady Adeline from North Keep, and I encourage you all to support and assist them as much as you can.

I would like to thank all of those people that submitted responses to the 'opinion poll'. Your comments were helpful, insightful, and show more depth than perhaps you give yourselves credit for. I feel that the 'opinion poll' was a very necessary part of the process of selecting a new Baron and Baroness, and by your responses, so do most of you. I will continue to bring along blank copies of the census form, as I see many of you have not yet completed one. I am pleased to see that with a refined designation of memberships the Barony has increased in numbers. Do not forget to renew, because of January 1st, 1994, SCA, Inc memberships will be required for participation in any combat related activity.

The affirmation vote will be held May 8th at Local Union 488 Dispatch hall at 16214 118 Ave, Edmonton. This is the same venue that I held the January Baronial Meeting in. I still require non-qualifying individuals to help me with the vote, if you are interested please see me right away. Qualified out-of-towners, I will contact you with your voting procedure. If anyone is not able to attend and they wish to have someone else cast their ballot, you must make arrangements with me in advance, as my signature must be on it. I will not accept any proxies or absentee ballots the day of the vote. Please bring proof of valid SCA membership to speed up the process.

Their Royal Majesties, have confirmed that they will be travelling to Borealis to attend an investiture ceremony the weekend of June 4, 5, and 6th. They will make an announcement of Their decision at May Crown, and I am working to have an early announcement made here as well.

I would like to see support from Borealis for the event we are sponsoring in Cold Keep (Prince George). Their group is extremely active, and we should extend to them the same support we show other local groups. The event they will be running is on the weekend of August 21st and encourage everyone who can to attend. I think that if you can, take out a subscription to their newsletter, the Porticulis, it's very good.

Two changes to the baronial officer list is Gold Key Fiona Nioclas has stepped down due to inability to attend events. Her deputy, Eowyn the Charmer has taken over the position. I would like to thank Fiona for her energetic and excellent service to the

# Marketplace:

office. Its from her efforts that the Gold Key has expanded and become so organized. I hope that she will continue to assist Gold Key whenever she can. Our Chronicler, Freydis, has also left her office due to personal reasons. Her replacements, Valgard and Edwina, will try to fill her shoes. However, if anyone should be interested in the office, please feel free to approach them or myself. I wish Freydis good luck, and I am sorry to see her talents leave the office of Chronicler. The Aurora of the last few months has been a pleasure to read. In the future, once my time is less restricted, I will endeavour to provide a least of vacant offices and deputy positions.

To the folks that organized and worked so hard to pull off the Provincial Museum feast and Demo, a huge round of applause. The efforts of everyone to make it happen was wonderful to see. Congratulations to Erna and the cooking staff for an excellent feast.

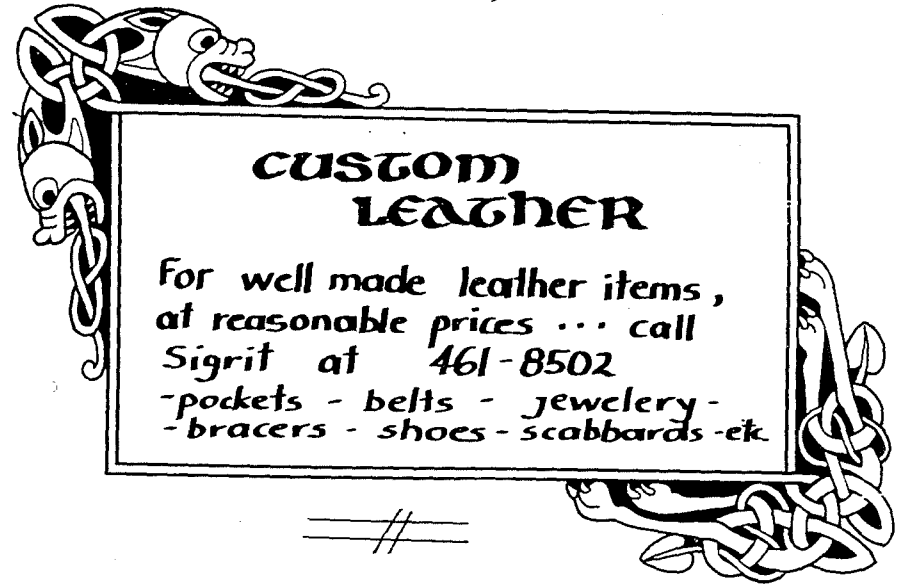
I would also like to apologize to Erna and Edward for my remarks at the last Veraquilon Canton meeting. They were made in poor judgement, and I regret any inconvenience this may have caused them. It is well known that all candidates have respect for the regalia of the Barony, and anything else that I may have inadvertently implied was erroneous.

I think that this must cover all that I have to say. (You can start cheering now.) I am looking forward to my time in Washington State, and I hope to see some of you at Windwardshire in June for the Festival of St. Hildegard. I hope that I will have the opportunity to write often, and to submit regular letters to the Aurora. I am looking to put together a 'Bragg Boke' of activities and items that can be found in Borealis, if you have any pictures that you would like me to take with me, please bring them to a meeting.

With Respect,

Lady Elizabeth Llandaff  
Baronial Seneschal, Borealis

P.S. The next Baronial Meeting is scheduled for June 5, at the Sergeants and Yeomen event.



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EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
T5N 1P5

TEL: (403) 488-9873

From the Baronial Constable

Greetings of goodwill to the people of Borealis. I would like to begin by announcing the appointment of the new Constable for Veraquilon, Rowena of Tregelles. Any lost & found items within the canton should be directed towards her to deal with.

Second, as a baronial officer I am looking for a deputy that I can train for taking over the office eventually later this year. If there are any volunteers you will be received with all due gratitude.

Third, at all outdoor events this spring & summer in the Barony I will be trying to set up a 24 hour patrol, therefore, I will need as many volunteers as possible for this. Remember, security at events is everyone's business.

Thank you for your attention  
In service

Eadwulf macRuthven

# Crown Principality of Avacal

July 1<sup>ST</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup>

## Champion's Tourney and Wargames

The Avacal Champion's Tourney and Wargames will be held in Waldsea Lake Regional Park in Saskatchewan on the July long weekend. The site is 2 miles west and 5 miles north of the town of Humboldt. The site has showers, a beautiful beach, flush privies and shaded sites. Humboldt has all services and is easily accessible. Site fees will be \$5.00 per vehicle, \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children under 12.

THURSDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>

NOON - SITE OPENS

SUNDAY, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 A.M. - CLOSING COURT  
5 P.M. - SITE CLOSÉS

FRIDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>

11:00 A.M. - INSPECTIONS  
12:00 A.M. - WARGAMES

5 P.M. - PEERAGE MEETINGS  
CURIA

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>

9:00 A.M. - Opening  
Court

Invocation  
Lists  
Challenges  
Tourney  
Investiture

The Sword & Ladle Tavern will be serving stew and bread \$2.00 evenings; coffee/tea and muffins or danish \$2.00 mornings, on both Friday and Saturday.

Fighters bring your Tourney Tiles!

Unsupervised water reservoir and beach.

Merchants and entertainers welcome.

The Park is advertising this event, so try to stay in period. Turnout of mundanes should be light.

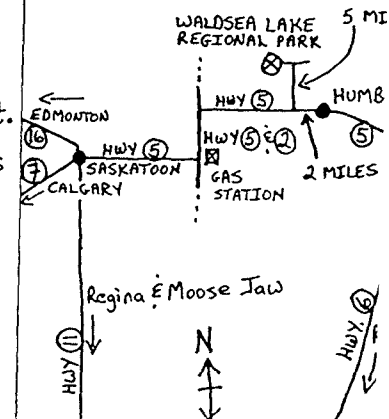
The site is approximately 1 hour & 15 minutes east of Saskatoon on Hwy. 5

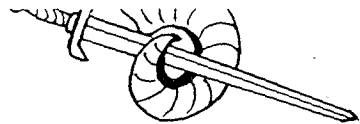
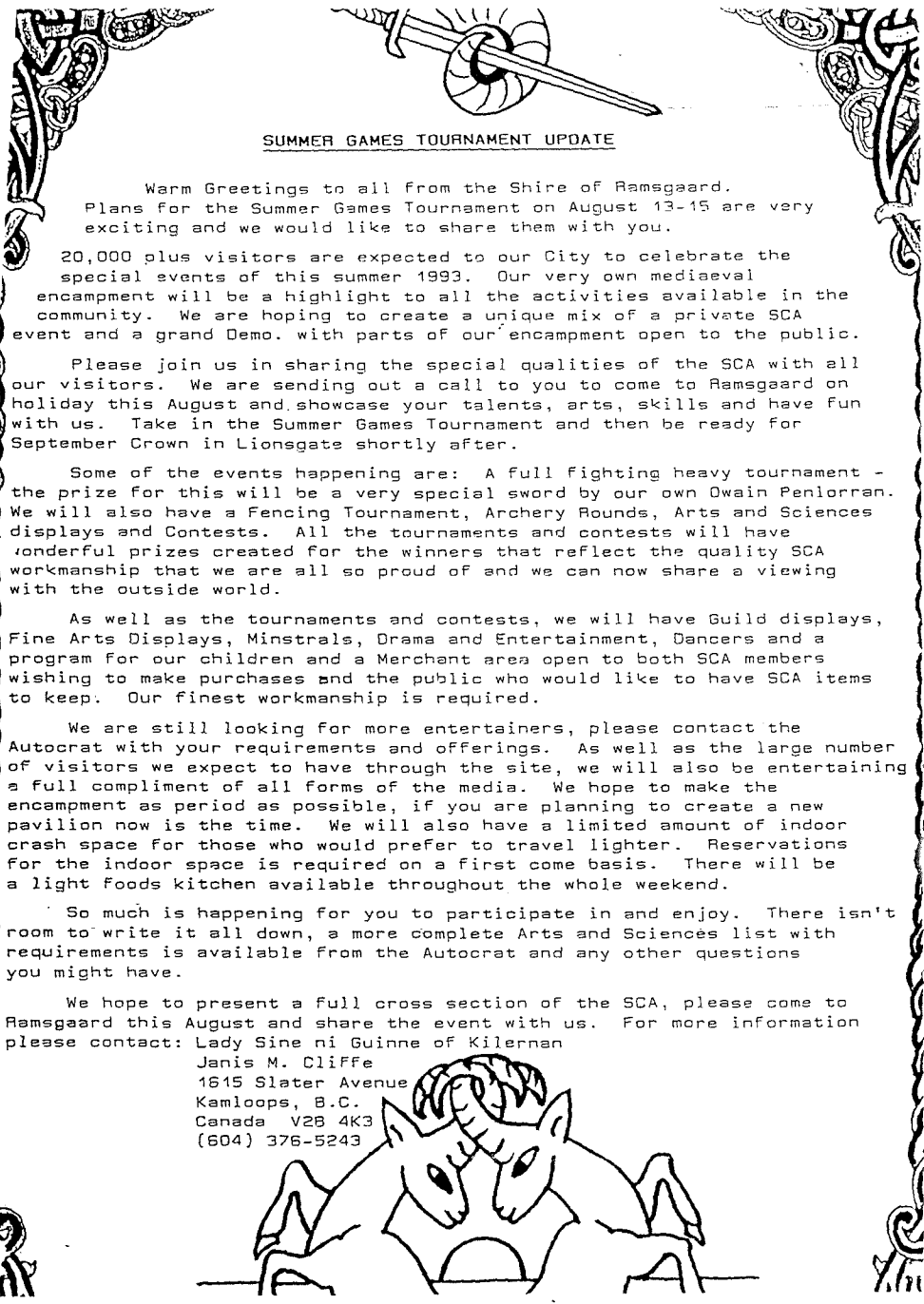
Contest for best use of old rattan!!

AUTOCRAT: Lord Squire Taras of Kiev  
441 Avenue P North; Saskatoon, Sask.  
(306) 384-6905 57L-2V8  
(MKA. Max Stadyk)

(AN TIR LEASH LAW IN EFFECT)

NOT EVEN REMOTELY TO SCAI





SUMMER GAMES TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Warm Greetings to all from the Shire of Ramsgaard. Plans for the Summer Games Tournament on August 13-15 are very exciting and we would like to share them with you.

20,000 plus visitors are expected to our City to celebrate the special events of this summer 1993. Our very own mediaeval encampment will be a highlight to all the activities available in the community. We are hoping to create a unique mix of a private SCA event and a grand Demo. with parts of our encampment open to the public.

Please join us in sharing the special qualities of the SCA with all our visitors. We are sending out a call to you to come to Ramsgaard on holiday this August and showcase your talents, arts, skills and have fun with us. Take in the Summer Games Tournament and then be ready for September Crown in Lionsgate shortly after.

Some of the events happening are: A full fighting heavy tournament - the prize for this will be a very special sword by our own Owain Penlorran. We will also have a Fencing Tournament, Archery Rounds, Arts and Sciences displays and Contests. All the tournaments and contests will have wonderful prizes created for the winners that reflect the quality SCA workmanship that we are all so proud of and we can now share a viewing with the outside world.

As well as the tournaments and contests, we will have Guild displays, Fine Arts Displays, Minstrals, Drama and Entertainment, Dancers and a program for our children and a Merchant area open to both SCA members wishing to make purchases and the public who would like to have SCA items to keep. Our finest workmanship is required.

We are still looking for more entertainers, please contact the Autocrat with your requirements and offerings. As well as the large number of visitors we expect to have through the site, we will also be entertaining a full compliment of all forms of the media. We hope to make the encampment as period as possible, if you are planning to create a new pavilion now is the time. We will also have a limited amount of indoor crash space for those who would prefer to travel lighter. Reservations for the indoor space is required on a first come basis. There will be a light foods kitchen available throughout the whole weekend.

So much is happening for you to participate in and enjoy. There isn't room to write it all down, a more complete Arts and Sciences list with requirements is available from the Autocrat and any other questions you might have.

We hope to present a full cross section of the SCA, please come to Ramsgaard this August and share the event with us. For more information please contact: Lady Sine ni Guinne of Kilternan

Janis M. Cliffe  
1615 Slater Avenue  
Kamloops, B.C.  
Canada V2B 4K3  
(604) 376-5243



Greetings unto the populous of Borealis.

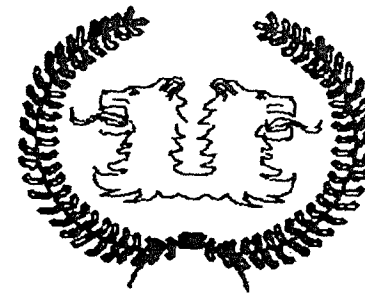
Please allow me to introduce myself; I am Valgard of hus Vendrer, the new co-editor and publisher of the Aurora Borealis.

Due to various difficulties, the April issue is coming out late enough that it ran right into the May issue, which is why your are holding a combined April/May issue. This issue counts as one, and all subscriptions will be extended accordingly.

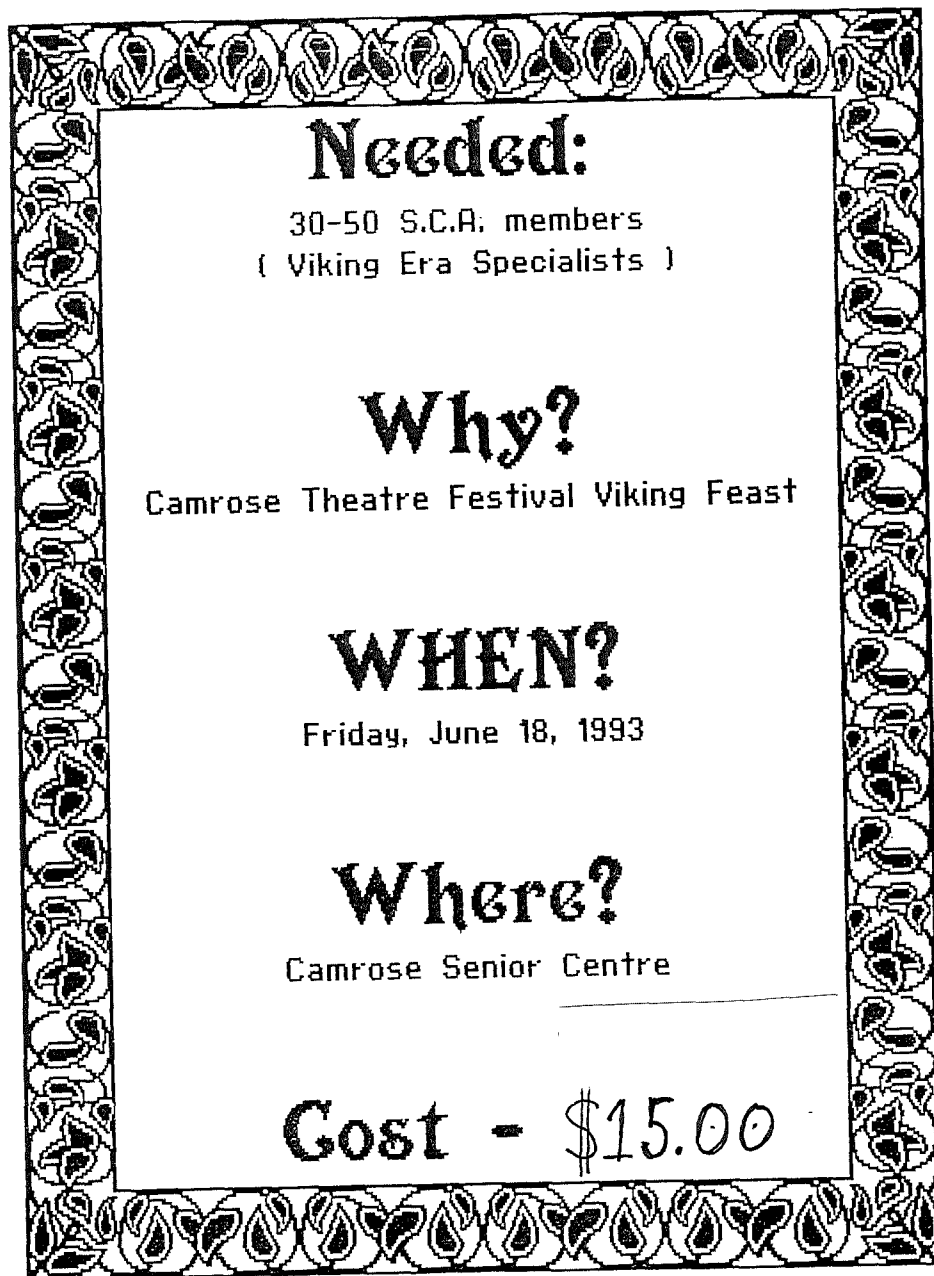
The Baronial Minutes in the March issue ended with a "Baronial Minutes - Part II in next issue" statement. I don't have them, so I didn't include them. This may be cleared up by next time.

Submissions for the Aurora can be delivered to me or my Lady, Edwina of Loxley, either at meetings, or mailed to our abode. Items delivered at events are subject to being misplaced or used as scrap paper by the mini-mongols who accompany us.

I am Edwina of Loxley. I will endeavor to recopy those articles given to us in handwriting without mis-spelling anything. Artwork is sorely needed for covers and inside. Our thanks to those who have already contributed several times.



**BOREALIS ARMS**



**Needed:**  
30-50 S.C.A. members  
( Viking Era Specialists )

**Why?**  
Camrose Theatre Festival Viking Feast

**WHEN?**  
Friday, June 18, 1993

**Where?**  
Camrose Senior Centre

**Cost - \$15.00**

Good Health and Best Wishes From Your Baronial Seneschal

By the time this letter reaches the press it is possibly going to be out of date. For this reason I would like to spend some time reiterating those issues that have been brought up in the past.

The people of Borealis are required to be consulted on the choice of a new Baron and Baroness, and it must be in writing. This is why your quick response to the opinion poll is so very important. The poll will be handed out at Spring Faire and for 10 days after. The deadline for returning them to me is April 15th. And by the end of April I hope to be able to have a consensus vote on the successors so that we may show our support for them.

In the last week I have been reminded many times of the monarchical structure of the Society. This is something very difficult to reconcile to the democratic system of our mundane lives. Do not forget that this is a game, and that as adults we should be able to play together, without conflict.

Unfortunately, as an officer, much as I may find many of your ideas interesting, I cannot possibly be able to satisfy all of you. This also applies to a Baron and to a King. If you have a problem, speak out, otherwise you will have no grounds for complaint later. Take responsibility for your actions and our choices, and always act honourably toward your fellows.

In times like these there are often threads of many issues, all of which must be dealt with on a Baronial level. Take a step back to see the larger canvas; the good of the whole Barony. And remember that the most important issue that we are trying to solve is the choice of a new Baron and Baroness.

In Respect

Lady Elizabeth Llandaff



### Dance Update:

Once again, starting on May 2 in Dinwoodie noon May 16, May 30, June 13, dance practice every 2 weeks unless other notification.

Mordecai

### Gold Key Update:

I have been the Gold key Officer for one year and even though I have enjoyed this position, I am unable to fulfill my duties (mundane work interferes).

As of April 14, 1993, my assistant, Eowyn the Charming, is acting Gold Key Officer. Pending any other applications, this will be ratified at the next baronial meeting.

Eowyn has been more than helpful in sewing costumes and assisting with the organization of Gold Key. I believe she can handle the job very well.

Thank you for your support & donations throughout the past year.

Lady Fionnuala Nioclas  
(Penny Slonowski)

New Gold Key Officer:  
Eowyn the Charming  
7307 - 86 Ave  
Edmonton, AB T6B 0K6  
ph: 469-1873

### SPRING WAR THINGY

Montengarde and Dragonwood invite you to a relaxed and informal weekend of bardic circles, archery, lying around, and naturally two days of assorted war manoeuvres.

OPENS: 1993 May 14 Friday at 6 p.m.  
COST: \$3 per person per day or per night.  
CLOSES: May 16 Sunday at 4 p.m.

The site is wet, and has a tavern run by Elenion and household.

### DIRECTIONS:

Find your way to Bowden, Alberta, on Highway 2 between Calgary and Red Deer.

Drive west on Highway 587 for 32 km, where you will cross a major bridge over the Red Deer River.

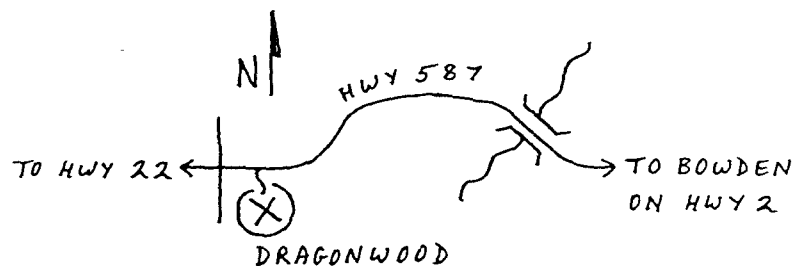
For final approach, refer to the map below.

From the bridge to the entrance gate is 2.1 km.

Note how the highway makes a broad curve to the right before returning to its original direction. The gate is on the left soon after the road straightens out. Look either for SCA signs or (more likely) a white diamond on a black and blue background.

If you get to the crossroads after the road straightens out, you have gone a short distance past. Turn around, and the gate is the first one on the right as you return eastbound from the crossroads.

AUTOCRAT: Thorvald Grimsson  
James Prescott  
4915 Carney Road NW  
Calgary Alberta T2L 1E6  
(403) 282-0541  
Internet: james@nucleus.cuc.ab.ca





# THE ORIGIN OF ELDRI THE HERALD SLAYER

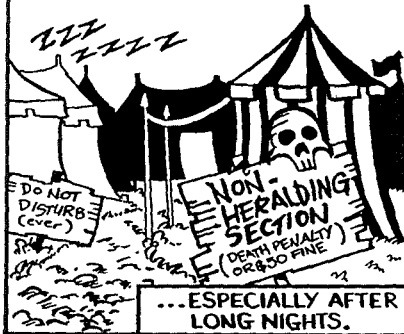
WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY  
RENFRED THE UNSTABLE

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER  
PART OF THE KINGDOM...



...LIVED A HERALD  
NAMED KNOBBE.

NOW IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT  
HERALDS, AS A SPECIES OF  
MAN, ARE NOT WELL RECEIVED...

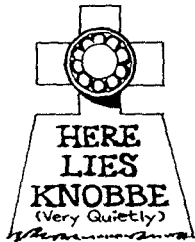


...ESPECIALLY AFTER  
LONG NIGHTS.

KNOBBE, BEING AN EXCELLENT  
HERALD AND HAVING A GREAT  
BOOMING VOICE,...



...MADE THE MISTAKE OF  
WAKING SOME BARBARIANS AT  
8 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING...



...AND WAS SUMMARILY  
PUNISHED.

**NEXT MONTH:**  
RELATIVES AND  
VENGEANCE !!!

Mistress of the Lists needs a Deputy!!!

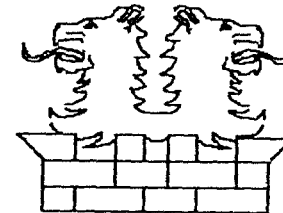
Please contact Isolde at 472-1647 (leave message if not at home) or write to #69 Wyndman Crescent, Edmonton, AB T5A 4S3.

Baronial Water-Bearer is looking for a Deputy. Please call Freya at 469-1873 if interested.

The Baronial Water-Bearer still needs equipment. Please donate water bottles, spray bottles, sturdy Blue & White fabric, etc. Call Freya at 469-1873 for more info.

Baronial T-Shirts for sale. Sizes sm to xlg. Only \$12. Wear your Baronial Pride on your chest. Call Freya at 469 1873 for more info or to place an order. Cash and cheques welcome. Also available some Snow Crown T-Shirts.

## BOREALIS BADGE

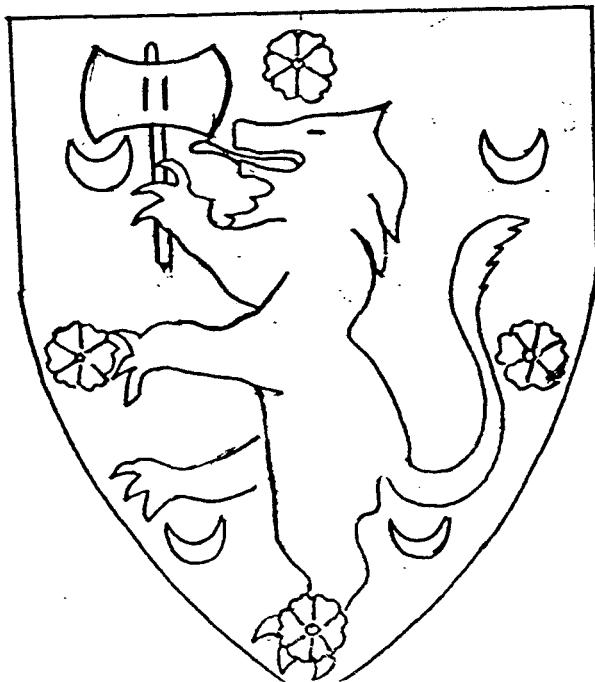


## HERALDIC PROFILES

The people of Borealis and their devices  
Lordship Mordecai Salzer, Herald and  
Yeoman of Borealis

Due to recent additional information based upon a updated kingdom Order of Precedence, there are gentles who now come to light as having higher award precedence than some of those already presented. The next few articles will cover these people before going further down the list.

His Lordship Edward de Wolfe  
Sergeant of Borealis



Azure, a wolf rampant Or maintaining in dexter forepaw a two headed war axe Or, overall four roses and four crescents alternating in orle Or.

4

Rapier and Dagger Swashbuckling in The Compleat Anachronist number 6, and a history of playing cards in period in the Elf Hill Times. He has published in his local newsletter, including his controversial article on "What is a (period) Nef?"

He has taught Ithra courses more than once on Ancient Card Games, Chivalry and Courtly Love, and once each on Swashbuckling Theory and Practice, and on the History of Swashbuckling. He has taught High Medieval Dining at a local baronial studium. He is qualified to teach in perhaps another half dozen areas.

He has willingly been the but of jokes in songs written by Thorvald Grimmson and Richard del Alaedo, including "Drinking Borealis Mead" which denigrates his cooking and accuses him of being a lush, and "Cristiona Goes Shopping" which again accuses him of being a lush and a layabout. He sings these songs louder than all others.

Always a champion and friend to outcasts, he recognized their contributions, as when he repeatedly championed Alphonse de Sagas, now called Alphonse de Lorraine to the group (up to a point) at the beginning period of the shire because Alphonse made costumes, mead, and generally tried to encourage the arts, and in spite of Alphonse's constant gaffes of courtesy, as when he called the noodles worms at a formal dinner given to the Seneschale of the Kingdom of the West. Conrad has always been a friend to the Household of Niveus Caelum, and its notorious head, Karl von Sachsen and a friend and encourager to other outcast groups and persons. He has attempted to mediate several disagreements between groups within and without his Barony, and has attempted to invent a period way of getting around the disagreement so that more fun could be had by all.

He has wanted to step down as Baron for some time now, but whenever he canvases the idea, the senior members of our Barony beg him to stay until someone can grow into enough maturity to be his successor.

Conrad von Graz's strengths lie in ideas, encouragement of others to run with his ideas and to add their own, his enthusiasm for the middle ages, for the society and its aims, and his loyalty to the Barony and to the kingdom.

YOURS IN SERVICE TO AN TIR  
AND TO THE SOCIETY,

CRISTIONA OF ULIDIA,  
BARONESS BOREALIS

decision making in the society and ones on Medieval Clerks and on Memorials! He is knowledgeable on things medieval.

Conrad became a Serjeant of Lion's Gate 22 August, 1982, A.S. XVII, along with Colin Ironwolf and Guy de Montferrat de la Meslaye and was the only one of those Serjeants from our group who attended the next year's tourney and assisted in the fighting and testing.

He was awarded the Goutte de Sang 12 June, 1982, A.S. XVII.

He assisted in the planning for becoming a Barony in 1984. He was installed the founding Baron of Borealis, and knighted by H.M. King Berek von Langenthal on the same day, 2 September, 1984, A.S. XIX at Montengarde. He has been Baron since that time.

Under his leadership, he experimented in An Tir with a form of Baronial government found in Septentria in the Kingdom of the Middle, which included a Barony stretched over many miles and containing Cantons all united by a royal representation in the Baron and by a common desire to play together.

He began the Canton of Schwanstein with Brian von Schwanstein.

Conrad thought up and named the rank of Yeoman. He enthusiastically reported his ideas to Baroness Amanda, who commissioned Master Thorvald to write the rules. It has now spread far and wide.

He has extended the concept of Serjeant and is planning to further extend the idea to service and the Arts and Sciences.

After the initial hesitation of a heavy fighter, he championed the use of lights in battle and claims to have won several battles using lights alone. He plans strategy for the combined light and heavy mercenaries in the Clinton War which has resulted in victory to his side in some of the recent mercenary battles. He now enthusiastically promotes the inclusion of lights in lesser enlightened areas of the knowne world.

His idea for the name of the region, Avacal, is the one that was eventually chosen, and provided period references to support the use of the name. He invented the name Olafson's Canard as the Avacal regional service award to honour Father Christopher Olafson, who unfortunately moved from the region at that time.

Conrad wrote the Avacal Code Duello, the regional swashbuckling rules, and won the title Bravo of Avacal as the swashbuckling champion. He has sent the Code to all who request it. He is the Avacal Principality Provost for Period Fence. He is presently working on the inclusion of period fence in the ranks likened to Serjeant.

As far as publishing is concerned, he published an article on

Order of the Goutte de Sang

15 Oct AS XVIII (1988)  
and 1 Apr AS XXIII (1989)  
Award of Arms 12 Jun AS XVII (1982)  
Serjeant of Arms 17 Aug AS XXI (1986)

His Lordship Wolfram Cordeau

No Device Submitted or of use known.

Order of the Jambe de Lion

Award of Arms 2 Aug AS XXII (1987)  
5 Sept AS XVII (1982)



### Skaldic Poetry

(part VI From Old Norse to English)

Right, so I've given the rules for Drottkvaett stanzas, some examples of kennings, and a general feeling towards the construction and intent of skaldic poetry. But it's in Old Norse! Who the heck speaks Old Norse, anyway?? So write one in English!! The rules have all been laid out, and all you need is inspiration (plus a good dictionary and thesaurus). Now the fun begins...

1. **F**looding o'er the floorboards
  2. **F**ur-tide stirs at first-light.
  3. In between tails twining
  4. **T**win-grey feasting besties.
- 
5. Fed on knee-plains kneading
  6. Knot-work-featured creature
  7. Squirms and wins a warm-spot
  8. Whiskers drooping, frisked-out.

If the alliteration is in **bold type**, all in-rhyme is underlined. Now, some further explanation: Yes, alliteration can occur on two consonants, such as lines 3-4 and lines 5-6, provided the consonant combination is a distinct sound, such as Tw- or Kn-. (Sk-, Sp- and St- are also common). If you choose to alliterate with a consonant combination, you must remain consistent for that pair of half-lines. (Ok, Ok, so I'm guilty of breaking that rule in lines 1-2 with Fl-, but I liked the Fur-tide image).


Secondly, in lines 4, 5 and 6, it looks like I've rhymed with too many vowels. Actually, the ea- combination in each line is a diphthong (like ea- in Old English), and therefore only count as one vowel.

One of the most important features of skaldic poetry that I haven't mentioned is the importance of stressed syllables. Before skaldic poems were written down, they were remembered orally for generations. One way to help remember the poems was to put the rhyme and alliteration on stressed syllables. Read through the poem again, deliberately overstressing the stressed syllables (i.e. **Flooding o'ar** the floorboards...). If you do this properly, you should begin to hear a pattern developing, like a rhythm, that makes the alliteration and rhyming easier to make out.

Lastly, an explanation of my kennings. Ok, so this is about the cats, fair enough. (Skaldic poems have been written about more mundane things...) The first two half-lines liken the hungry beasts to a grey furry tide washing about your ankles in the early morning. Knee-plains refers to my lap, and Knotwork-featured-creature is fairly self-explanatory if you've ever seen the positions that a cat will adopt to get comfy.

Well, armed with all this accumulated knowledge, get several sheets of clean paper and go to work. It shouldn't take you too long to accomplish a *thrott* (successful endeavor).

Next time... The long-awaited bibliography, for those who are *really* interested.

  
-Olafur Sigurdsson

recipients. His recipients of the Golden Spoon eventually gave it to him as well because of his excellent skills in medieval cooking.

He assisted in the design of the arms of the group, and promoted their registration at an early date, in August, 1981, A.S. XVI.

He settled on the name Conrad von Graz, a fifteenth century imperial administrator and lawyer working for the Imperial Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick III, and who is secretary for the Gibeling party in Milan, although he was born in what is now Austria. He and successfully challenged the Laurel King at Arms in the famous "Von Wars" in which he obtained, by long research and persuasion, permission for members to use the term "von" in certain period ways.

He chose unique arms, using the only fret of forks in all heraldry!

He was presented with his Award of Arms 27 June, 1981, A.S. XVI.

He travelled widely, fought in many Crown Tournaments, autocrated events without number, even cooking many feasts largely by himself. He invented several events which are still held today, some in modified forms, like St. Nicholas, the chief Baronial winter feast, Silverwolf Tournay which is the Baronial Championship, the Duck a l'Orange Tournay, and the indoor Winter War in Schwanstein. The Winter War, now becoming an annual viking indoor camping and heavy and lights fighting event, is a welcome respite to those who usually must keep indoors in cramped quarters during the long prairie winter. He developed the idea of the Spring Fair and Arts and Sciences Pentathlon with Lady Breanidh ni Naomin and Lady, now Mistress, Mordreth, who have now both returned to the Middle Kingdom. He entered the Annual Arts and Sciences Pentathlon events often, and once won the "Borealis Mead" championship and the Calligraphy championship, which later was judged by Countess Melissa Kendal.

He became an enthusiastic calligrapher, produced some Kingdom scrolls, and teaches it in the society and every fall and spring in the mundane world. He did the calligraphy for the Petition for Borealis to become a Barony.

He became a Deputy Kingdom Seneschal in 1981 and held office for two years. He became a Great Officer of State, Chancellor of An Tir in 1983 and held the position for seven years. He handled the negotiations in the trouble in Vulcanfeld and conducted an inquiry which resulted in a settlement of the matters to the Crown's satisfaction, and has advised various monarchs in diverse matters at other times. He has assisted the Board of Directors in their deliberations with regard to the liability of the Corporation in Canada, and with regard to insurance matters. He has written many Memorials for several of their Majesties, including one on Medieval Government in which he promotes the use of more medieval methods of

COPY

CONRAD'S HEIM  
CANTON OF SCHWANSTEIN  
BARONY OF BOREALIS

January 14, A.S. XXVII  
(1993)

UNTO THEIR MOST NOBLE MAJESTIES, BARAK AND LAO, RESPECTFUL  
GREETINGS AND A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR MOST COLD NORTH FROM  
CRISTIONA OF ULIDIA:

MY LIEGE AND LADY:

ABOUT: SIR CONRAD VON GRAZ, BARON VON UND ZU BOREALIS

Upon the request of previous royalty that I write a history of the  
above lord, I have done my best to recall the incidents in his life  
in the Society and pass it on to you for your information.

Wilf K. Backhaus attended a Science Fiction convention in Edmonton  
in 1977 or 1978 at which a certain Madronan named Yrsl of the Dark  
Wood, aka Herbie Fairbanks, held a meeting of all those conference  
attenders interested in hearing about the Society for Creative  
Anachronism.

Wilf became immediately interested and shortly obtained the  
corporate address and wrote the Steward about requirements to begin  
a group in Edmonton, Alberta. He was probably the first in Alberta  
to join the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and shortly  
afterward he began a group with some others in Edmonton, the first  
group in Alberta.

He originally called himself Conrad Silverwolf, and later Conrad  
Argentus Lupus, an early period German merchant of about the year  
1200.

Eventually, he gave up this idea as a personal name, since he could  
see the attraction of such a symbol to the group, and gave the name  
Silverwolf to the visual concept of the group, which resulted in  
the eventual adoption as the arms of the group of a double headed  
silver wolf, and to the eventual name for the group's champion, the  
Silverwolf Champion. He also thought of the name of the group,  
Borealis, and named its newsletter, the Aurora Borealis. He held  
all of the shire offices at various times, including Herald,  
Exchequer, Seneschal, Marshal, and Chronicler.

He enthusiastically promoted the society and the group, and  
attempted to have rival groups work together. He kept up  
communications with outcasts, and encouraged all persons to develop  
fighting, arts and sciences by inventing group awards such as the  
Order of the Golden Spoon, and the Order of the Decorated Letter,  
the Cup of Borealis and made sure that they were given to worthy

## The Dragon

A rhyme it breathes in  
the broad daylight.

The dragon lives in  
my darkest night.

My mind's his lair  
his greatest delight.

Flashing red scales,  
fiery breath so bright.

Tow'ring above at so  
high a height.

How can I control his  
awesome might?

I dream and he comes  
to me, to fight!

I live and now he I  
must invite.

In the clouds fly high  
circling tight.

Within my dreams  
to join tonight.

His beauty no longer  
gives me fright,

And he shall always  
be within my sight!

Myrialynn Krause

May Crown  
A.S. XXVIII  
May 21-23, 1993

The Shire of River's Bend would like to invite you to attend An Tir's May Crown Tournament.

The event will be held in the nascent Shire of Fire Mountain Keep at the Rainier N.A.C.O. Campground, 8 miles East of Randle, Washington.

The site fee will be \$10.00 (U.S.) or \$12.00 (Canadian) for ages 12 and over. There will be a reduction of \$1.00 for pre-registration prior to May 10, 1993. The site fee for 3-11 years old will be \$5.00 (U.S.) or \$7.00 (Canadian) with no reduction in this age group. Children under 3 are free. Send pre-registration forms with site fees to the Autocrat. We cannot accept Canadian coin as our banks won't accept them. Paper currency is good. Make checks payable to S.C.A., Inc. The Shire of River's Bend.

Anyone wishing to merchant at May Crown must write or call the Merchantcrat immediately to reserve your space. Your request must include the size of your merchant pavilion (including guy ropes) and the type of items you wish to sell. (No alcoholic beverages). If you do not receive a postcard within two weeks confirming your reservation, recontact the Merchantcrat as you must present this card at the gate to merchant. There is a separate Merchant's Fee of \$10.00 (U.S.) or \$12.00 (Canadian) extra.

The Merchantcrat is Lord Wilgar AEIlsige, 1420 N. Pacific Ave. #19, Kelso, WA., 98632; (206) 425-4570.

FOOD MERCHANTS ARE ENCOURAGED.

Anyone wishing to reserve space on the Eric for their PERIOD Pavilion must contact Master Cormac of Caermont (Max Slape) at (503)556-4048 or Lord Lazar Ulfing von Schwarzwald (Noah Hale) at (206)423-7633. (You must include the size including guy ropes). Available space is on a first come first served basis. As per His Majesty Barak, NO NON-PERIOD STRUCTURES within 100 Ft. of the Eric.

A reminder to all those fighters who wish to fight in the Crown Tournament, you and your consort must possess a current membership card, one must be a sustaining membership, and you must have a current fighters Authorization card to fight. By decree of His Majesty Barak, only center grip round shields and broadswords will be allowed. Broadswords must not have thrusting tips on them. For more information on this, consult your February Crier.

The Shire of River's Bend is planning to run a fundraiser raffle for the Kingdom of An Tir at this event. We are encouraging all Branches, Guilds and Merchants to donate an item to be raffled. Merchants who donate an item of at least a \$10.00 value will have their merchants fee waived. Members of the populace are also welcome to donate something if they wish. For more information on this, contact Lady Catriona of Briarsmede (Karna Sletten) at (206)578-3802 (before 9pm) or the Autocrat.

The An Tir College of Heraldry is sponsoring a FLAGS and BANNERS CONTEST. A prize of a shield blank to be painted to the winners specifications by the honorable Lord Torric inn Bjorn (the artist for the Champion of An Tir's cloak and the Kingdom Seneschal's cloak), will be given to the best flag or banner (including gonfannons, standards, pennants, etc.).

Documentation is strongly encouraged. Information to help with documentation is available from: Mistress Zenobia Naphtali, Black Stag Herald; c/o Leslie Schweitzer, 7645 S.W. Bonita Rd. #15, Tigard, Ore., 97224. Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope.

Armory used on flag must be registered or in submission to be accepted. For questions, write to Mistress Zenobia or Countess Elisabeth de Rossignol, AEtel Herald, c/o Lisa Mohr, P.O. Box 5982, Renton, WA., 98058.

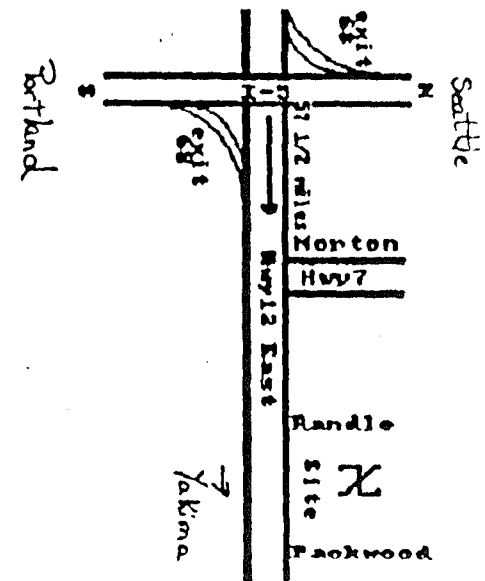
Anyone who wishes to sponsor a contest, requires special arrangements, or desires more information, should contact the Autocrat, Lord Togrul Guiscard (Dan Davis, Sr.), 2933 Hemlock St., Longview, WA., 98632, (206) 425-8354 (Be Warned- if you call past 10pm you may be conversing with my answering machine) or the Co-Autocrat, H.L.S. Edmund Godric Scrymgor (Tracy Kiger), 3276 Oak St., Longview, WA., 98632, (206) 425-3649 (He has one of these machines also).

DIRECTIONS:

From the North or South, take I-5 to exit 68, State highway 12, go east on hwy. 12 for 57 1/2 miles. The site will be on your left. The S.C.A. entrance is approximately 200 yards past the main N.A.C.O. entrance. Watch for signs.

From the East (Yakima): Take hwy. 12 over White Pass. The site will be approximately 8 miles West of Packwood, WA.

The site opens at 3pm, Friday, May 21 for the general populace and closes at 3pm, Sunday, May 21. Merchants will be allowed in at 12:00noon on Friday, May 21, for set-up.



MAY CROWN PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please return with your payment by May 10

MODERN NAME      SCA NAME      BRANCH      AGE IF MINOR

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Will you be merchandising? \_\_\_\_\_

Size needed for merchant pavillion \_\_\_\_\_

Any other requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

To reserve eric space, notify Master Cormac or Lord Lazar. (See event copy for info)

Estimated arrival (circle one) Friday. Sat. a.m., Sat. p.m., Sunday

Number of people 12 - over \_\_\_\_\_ X \$9.00 (US) \$11.00 (Can.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people 3 - 11 \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 5.00 (US) \$7.00 (Can.) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people under 3 \_\_\_\_\_ FREE

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name, address, phone of contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to SCA, Inc. - Shire of River's Bend and mail to Togrul Guiscard, C/O Dan Davis, Sr., 2933 Hemlock St., Longview, WA, 98632. For more information, call Togrul, (206) 425-8354. Include a self addressed stamped postcard and we will send confirmation of your registration.

MAY CROWN PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please return with your payment by May 10

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