

## SPRING FAIR - APRIL 4th, 1992 - VERAQUILON, BOREALIS

Happy New Year! As many have already heard, there will be many new and exciting things this year at Veraquilon's Spring Fair. This year Spring Fair will be the host event for the first ever Avacal Crown Principality Arts & Sciences Pentathlon and Swashbuckling Championship. As autocrat of such an unusual event, I felt that perhaps some brief words about the event might be in order.

First, please be aware that because it is a Crown Principality level event, SCA, Inc. memberships will be required to participate in contests. If you do not have a membership and you wish to participate, this would be a good time to get one. This will be enforced, so bring your membership card. Also, consider that memberships help to keep the SCA able to provide so many activities to us.

The Swashbuckling is tournament-style, and if you are interested, please contact one of the autocrats or your local SCA Fencing Dean (for Veraquilon, it's Magnus - 469-9052).

The Pentathlon is of course the highlight this year, and we are encouraging everyone to partici-

pate. The categories and judging will be basically the same as last year. A list is available (as well as judging criteria) from the Arts & Sciences officer (Canton, Baronial or Principality) and the autocrats. We are preparing for a large number of entrants, and hope to see entries from all over Borealis and Avacal. Please note that any entries from last year's Spring Fair, and any other high-level A & S contest will not be eligible.

As the autocrats, we are also very pleased to announce the attendance of Their Royal Majesties, Gunnarr and Gabriell. They will be present for the whole days festivities, including the feast, so please come join us in welcoming them to Borealis. This will be the first visit of our Crown Prince and Princess to our area, so it will be fun.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the autocrats, and watch for the Spring Fair event copy that will soon be available.

In Service,  
Elizabeth Llandaff

The Autocrats are:  
Elizabeth Llandaff (mka  
Lisa Townsend) 429-3574

Eldred ap Evesham (mka  
Gary McIntyre) 425-8971  
Ulf Ingbransson (mka Daryl  
Haaland) 476-6468

Pentathlon:  
Stefan von Lubeke (mka  
Dean Schieve) 488-2107

Feastocrat:  
Bjarne (mka Keith Norrena)  
988-8362

## SENESCHAL'S GRIPE

January already! My baby has two teeth! Time flies when you're having fun(?). First, I would like to remind everyone THAT REPORTS ARE DUE APRIL 15. (Spring Fair would be a great time to get it in my hands, and off your conscience). Remember, you saw it here - NO EXCUSES. Baronial officers - please take this opportunity to do something that none of you did (okay, the Exchequer did) for your last report, in spite of my request: GET THE NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND PHONE NUMBERS OF THE CANTON OFFICERS SERVING UNDER YOU. In addition, PLEASE check the Crier and make sure that the officers listed for your Branch are current. If they aren't, don't just comment on it - WRITE THE

continued on page 2



## CANTON SENESCHALS

**Aquilon** - Eldred (Gary McIntyre) Bl - 1 0355 - 93 St. Edmonton, AB T5J 1X2 ph 425-8971

**Bordergate** - William the Boisterous (Mark Henry) 3021 - 3007 - 56 Ave., Lloydminster, AB T9V1Z6 ph 875-4785

**Lakeland** - Massuke-No-Takashi (Greg Dorrington) #38, 5612 - 53 Ave., Grand Centre, AB T0A1T1 ph 594-2510

**Schwanstein** - Brian von Schwanstein (Brian L. Nelson) R.R. #1, Ohaton, AB T0B3P0 ph 672-6374

seneschal's gripe

continued from page 1

CRIER AND GET IT CORRECTED. Honestly, people! With upcoming September Crown, there may be more people trying to contact local officers, and I hate it when even I don't know who should be there! I am pleased to see a new contributor to the Aurora - Alexander-Philippe de Bergerac wrote a very fine article on armour. Just think, if more of you did that, the Aurora would be a Baronial newsletter and not just a soap-box for the mouthy Baronial Seneschal! Wouldn't that be fun! (Not that I will be quiet, but perhaps not as

## OFFICER'S LIST

**BARON AND BARONESS** His Excellency, Baron Sir Conrad von Graz and Her Excellency, Baroness Christiona of Ulidia. Wilf and Christine Backhaus 6607 - Enevold Drive Camrose, AB T4V3J7 Phone: 672 - 3795

**BARONIAL SENESCHAL** Her Ladyship, Erna Kajadotter.. Karin Thirlwell 9340 - 85 ST EDMONTON, AB T6C3C8 469-9052

**BARONIAL HERALD** Yeoman Mordecai Richard M. Slansky #1, 10325 - 115 st Edmonton, AB T5K1T9 Phone: 482-2535

**EXCHEQUER** Lady Sunni va Ragnvald. Kym Banks #1 10173 - 117 St. Edmonton, AB T5X1X5 Phone: 482-1884

**MASTER OF STABLES** His Lordship, Sargent Colin Ironwolf.. Larry Sutherland 9017 A - 85 St. T6C 3C6 Phone: 466-6848

**BARONIAL ARCHER** Lady Yeoman, Joan the Just Joan Reader Box 765, 4308 - 48 St. Beaumont, AB T0C 0H0 Phone: 929-2054

**MASTER OF ARTS & SCIENCES** Lord, Sgt. Stefan von Lubeke aka Dean Schieve Phone: 488-2107

**CHIRURGEON** (See Baronial Archer)

**CONSTABLE** Lord Eadwulf macRuthven. Robert Reeder Box 765 Beaumont, AB. T0C 0H0 Phone: 929-2054

### MASTER (MISTRESS) OF THE LISTS

**GOLD KEY** Eowyn Cenek 15011-86 Ave Edmonton, AB T5R4B9 Phone: 489-5121

**CHATELAINE** Her Ladyship, Sigrit Rabenfelds Chris Argall 6352 - 10 Ave. Edmonton, AB T6L5S2 Phone: 461-8502

noticeable).

NOTE: there is info on Spring Fair this month - please give it a shot - make something and enter it! Quit being bashful! If you start now, you might just finish it in time. Don't forget - these contests require documentation for top points. When you get your books out of the library to determine how to make a ninth century Scandi navi an snore-preventer, take some notes, write down the reference, do a bit of photocopying. There is a contest for everything that can be documented.

Well, it's time to go scrape pablum off the walls, so I must sign off  
ERNA THE HAG



## CROWN PLANNING UPDATE:

Borealis, September

Crown 1992

This report is to inform the populace of the present status of plans for September Crown.

The committee has met three times since September Crown, 1991. Our co-autocrat from Kingdom level is to be Gwilym Moore de Montfort (Kingdom Seneschal). He has made himself available for questions that come up (but please remember that Colin Ironwolf is the Autocrat - Erna)

We have established a set of books for crown expenses and income, which will be managed by our Baronial Exchequer, Sunniva. Any group or person who wishes to donate to this fund, or who PROMISED cash, please contact Sunniva (see officer list, Aurora). Please get on your Exchequer to pay up. We will be needing cash for mailouts, etc very soon.

Letters have gone out to those people who promised to volunteer specific services to assist at Crown (you know who you are). Please return the forms as indicated, to confirm that you will still be able to help out. If you haven't heard yet, don't panic - as September draws near, the list of needed volunteers for general duties

The AURORA, 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 cheque 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 SCAPolicies.

Weekly Meetings in Aquilon are held on Wednesdays 8:00pm in room #034, in the Student's Union Building at the University of Alberta.

Send all news and information for the AURORA to:

MAGNUS

9340 - 85 st.

Edmonton, Alberta

T6C 3C8

Deadline for  
March Issue:

February 15, 1991

will grow. I guarantee that we will need everyone in the Barony to help somehow. Please contact me if there is something that you would like to do in particular - I will publish a list later of tasks.

We are planning to have buttons and T-shirts on sale at Crown, to celebrate our first Crown event. There are many other things in the works right now, including fund-raising, transportation to/from various sites, publicity for the event, site meetings, camp layout,

## CALENDER

February 1

Feast of the Evergreens  
Lakeland

February 15, 16

Winter War  
Schwanstien

March 8 - Weasel Bob  
Myrgan Wood

April 4 - Spring Fair  
Aquilon

volunteer commitment,  
etc.

If you have any questions, concerns, promises of service, or suggestions, please contact me. If you wish for me to discuss anything with the committee, please do so in writing, and we will answer. Til next month -  
Adieu

HL Colin Ironwolf (mka  
Larry Sutherland, 9017A  
- 85 St., Edmonton, AB  
T6C 3C6 (403) 466-6848)

# Fighting Armour

Armour, an integral part of the current middle ages: a badge of those who are brave (read suicidal) enough to accept the challenge to war. Increasingly in Borealis many people have been constructing armour, and a number have been completely confused about the basics of armour, down to the basic materials needed to construct this fighting gear.

Before starting construction of armour, you should refer to local kingdom armour standards, or at the very least to the known world handbook. Some of the things you should consider are your particular aptitudes; If you are good at sewing then consider leather and cloth armour. If you are skilled with carpentry, then plastic armour may be your style (but be sure to cover it with something!)

If you have decided to use a plastic for armour, be sure to test it before use. I would suggest using a five or ten pound sledge hammer on a firm, but not hard surface (like grass for example) if it shatters, **DO NOT USE IT!** Steel armour is (arguably) the hardest armour to properly construct, especially the articulation of joints. Mistress Hilary of Serendip has a very good article on articulation (cited later) **USE THIS SOURCE!** If you are planning to build fighting armour, count on spending at least \$60.<sup>00</sup> on materials. A helm will cost about \$15-\$20 above the cost of armour; table 1.1 has low to very expensive costs for armour: low cost is below \$50 for a full harness (less helm of course) moderate cost is below \$100 (helm included for metal harnesses) high cost is between \$100 and \$200, very high cost (eg. hockey gear) is probably between \$150-\$300, a price range at which you can have decent armour built for you!

The materials used to construct armour can be as simple as deep pile carpet, or as complex as fluted stainless steel. The following table shows many of the common (and not so common) materials used in constructing armour, showing their relative costs, difficulty of working and "esthetic" looks. It should be noted that I am a proponent of metal armour: I think that nothing says "Knight" more than a large expanse of polished steel, but this is my personal view; if a person is an exemplary craftsman, and puts the time, effort and money into the construction of armour they will get equal recompense. I would be the last to say that intricately worked leather armour is less esthetically pleasing than a simple steel harness, but the work involved is of a completely different magnitude. You should remember



## INDOOR WAR V

Getting a little tired of practicing your fighting skills against the same crowd all the time? Are you looking for a good old-fashioned war to relieve the boredom of the winter months? Well--here's your chance! The mercenary armies of Bitter End and their allies are once again gathering to assault the castle Schwanstein. Both sides are calling in their allies and hiring mercenaries for the third annual indoor war to be held in Camrose on February 22, 1992. Both heavy and light troops and swashbucklers are being called to arms as there is plenty of room for full scale field battles. As several points of honour need to be settled between the two factions, there will be war points awarded for the winners of a castle battle, field battle, etc.

**SPONSOR:** CANTON OF SCHWANSTEIN, BARONY OF BOREALIS

**EVENT:** INDOOR WAR WITH WAR ARCHERY - FEAST IN THE EVENING

**PLACE:** DRILL HALL - 53 STREET AND 44 AVENUE, CAMROSE, AB

**DATE:** SATURDAY, February 22, 1992  
SUNDAY, February 23, 1992

**TIMES:** Feburary 22,1992  
SITE OPENS NO EARLIER THAN: 12:00 noon  
ARMOUR INSPECTION: 1:00 p.m.  
WAR BEGINS: 2:00 p.m.  
FEAST AND DANCING: 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.  
February 23, 1992  
More fighting  
Clean up

**COST:** SITE FEE: \$5.00;  
FEAST: \$10.00; NO-HOST BAR.

**RESERVATIONS:** Advance reservations are a must. Crash/tenting space in Drill Hall unlimited bring freestanding tent etc. If you have never been at the Indoor War ask someone who has.

**AUTOCRATS:** CONRAD VON GRAZ, 6607 Enevold Drive, Camrose,  
AB T4V 3J9, Res.(403)672-3795, Bus.(403)672-1121,  
and  
BRIAN VON SCHWANSTEIN, R.R. 1, Ohaton, AB T0B 3P0,  
Res. - 672-6374

# Weasel Bob Rides Again !!!



going on.

On March 8th, A.S. XXVI in the fair and sunny Shire of Myrgan Wood, the reincarnation of Robert Giscard (AKA Weasel Bob) rides once more from the murky mists of time. Come and celebrate the joy of medieval life with a tourney and a bountiful feast; there will be much jocularly, plus all sorts of neat things



A double-elimination tourney, contests for the best functional piece of armor, the most beauteous banner, and the bestest subtlety, edible or no, a standard assortment of games, and to top it all off, a five remove whirl wind feast touching down in England, Wales, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, and a few other fun locales.



Now, while this may not be the first event in the New Crown Principality of Avacal, it will be the first opportunity their Soon-to-be-Majesties Gunnar and Gabriel will have visit this latest outgrowth of their Realm. So please, pack your wagons, outfit your horses and yourselves, freshen up your favors and get your finest finery in fine fashion and join us for this celebration.

The entire wonderful event will take place at the Ukrainian Federation Hall, 228 Avenue G South, opening at 9:00 am, armor inspection at 11:30 am, tourney at 12:30 pm, feast followed by court or court followed by feast at 7:00 pm, and remember to bring your tankards from 6:30 pm - 12:00 am.

Fees are as follows:

Site/Feast: \$15.00 SCA Members \$12.00  
After Feb. 24, add \$5.00 \*\*\*\*\*

Site only: \$10.00 SCA Members \$7.00

12 & Under \$8.00

\*\*\*\*\* Myrgan Wooders booking after March 1st, \$30.00

Autocrat: Ehrmann Heinrich Alois vonSpeyer  
MKA Kelly Ries  
2333 William Avenue  
Saskatoon, Sask S7J 1A7  
(306) 343-8089 (24 hour Golem on Duty)

## Come and tourney with us At Myrgan Wood ! ! ! !



that this is an article on Fighting armour. While it is true that we are considered to be fighting in a chain halburk and leather arms and legs, this type of armour is flexible and designed to turn the edge of cutting weapons, not to spread the impact of crushing weapons: as all weapons used in SCA fighting are effectively glorified clubs (even our missile weapons) chain armour does nothing but add about thirty-five pounds of "dead weight" that will greatly add to fatigue on the field while adding protection somewhat inferior to a well built gambeson. There is one place that I do like to see (and wear) chainmail: a camail or coif, where there is space for the weight of the mail to disperse the force of a blow. This is the only place where chain is effective armour. Chain looks very good, and is an excellent way to hold together pieces of armour where leather is just not strong enough.

Sources of information about armour that should be considered are the various guilds that operate in An Tir. The Armourers Guild should be especially useful. (contact extracted from the crier)

The Armourers Guild:

Contact Wilhelm the Far Traveller (Bill Gruner 411 Wickersham Road, Yakima, WA 98908)

Further, I would suggest the following articles in **The Known World Handbook:**

**A Thirteenth Century Barrel Helm** (pp 189-191)

Written by Sir Polidar Haraldsson (1977)

**An Open-Faced Spangenhelm** (pp 192-193)

Written by Baron Alail Horsefriend (1985)

**A Fourteenth Century Coat of Plates**<sup>1</sup> (pp 194-195)

Written by Lord Brian Dritar an Con (1978)

**Articulation Articulated**<sup>2</sup> (pp 198-200)

Written by Mistress Hilary of Serindip (1982)

1 Some Caveats concerning this article: plastic plates are far better than metal plates (which need be only 18 gauge) and from the harness that I have seen Ulf Ingbranson (mka. Darryl Haaland) preforms as well or better than its metal counterpart. Ulf constructed his coat of plates from a Pickle barrel and heavy cloth (much like canvas) my estimate of the cost of this type of coat of plates is about \$45 including rivets, cloth and a barrel that will have enough plastic left to build much of the rest of a harness. Also, I would suggest external pauldrons in place of the internal spaulders (for shoulder protection)

2 one of THE best articles I have read, this is clear, concise, and so simple that even a moron like me could follow the instructions and make articulated armour!

While I have just started in the field of fighting seriously, and thus armoring for fighting, I have been doing Chainmail for more than seven years. This does not make me particularly apt at building other forms of armour, but has exposed me to many of the different forms of armour available to be used. If you would like more information about armour, I would suggest that you contact your local master of stables, or the local kingdom armourers guild given above, or contact me (Scott Martin, 9015-120 St. Edmonton, Alberta T6G-1X8) and I can get you in touch with someone that knows what they're doing

Armour					
Armour Type	Cost	Difficulty Level	Esthetics	Other	Weight/Bulk
Leather	High	Moderate	Good looking	Note 1.	Low/mid
Plastic	Moderate	Low	Ugly	Note 1.	Low/mid
Steel	Moderate	High	Good looking	Note 2.	high/low
Stainless	High	Very High	<b>WOW!</b>	Note 2.	Mid/low
Aluminum	High	High	Fake looking		high/high
Hvy Cloth	Low	Low	Ugly to Good	Note 3.	Low/high
Hockey Gear	Very High	Non-Existent	Really Ugly	Note 4.	Very low/mid

Note 1. These are the preferred fighting armours of the region, for their flexibility, protection and light weight.

Note 2. Helmets must be made of steel of at least 14 gauge top (dished) and 16 gauge for the rest.

Note 3. Cloth armour offers very limited protection in SCA heavy fighting, The armours I have seen constructed out of laminated deep pile carpet/epoxy resin are bulky, heavy and uncomfortable to wear: they do have the advantage that they are very inexpensive.

Note 4. In my opinion, hockey gear should be used as groin protection, and as padding for joints etc. if a gambeson is not used.