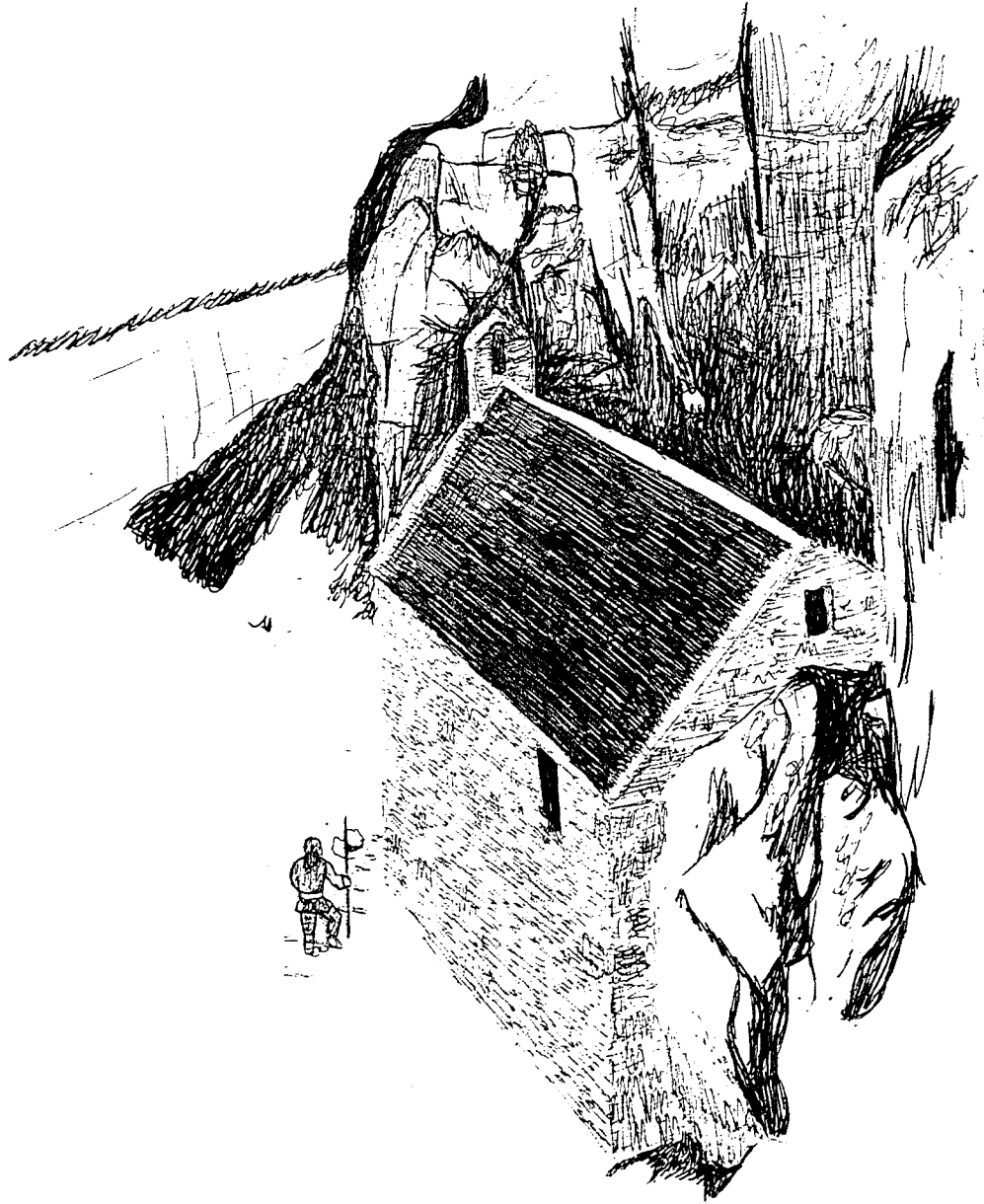


# Aurora

March A.S. XXVIII



The Aurora Borealis  
Box 159  
Gibbons, AB T0A 1N0

This is the Aurora, a publication of the Barony of Borealis of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Aurora is available from Valgard af hus Vendrer or Edwina of Loxley, P.O. Box 159, Gibbons, AB T0A 1N0. It 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 15th of every month for printing in the following month's issue. Please send all submissions to the editor.*

Baronial Calendar

**MARCH**

- 2 Dance at Capilano Hall Veraquilon  
Tudor History Lakelands (N&M) \*
- 9 Business Veraquilon  
Irish History Lakelands (LSV) \*
- 12 Avacal Spring Championship Veraquilon
- 16 Pierced Metalwork Veraquilon  
Armouring & Costuming Lakelands (A&A) \*
- 23 Favours Veraquilon  
Summer events Lakelands (LSV) \*
- 30 Feast Train for Museum Veraquilon  
Crusades I, II, III Lakelands (N&M) \*

**APRIL**

- 7 Capilano Hall Dance Veraquilon
- 14 Business Veraquilon
- \* LSV - Leisure Sports Village  
A&A - Adelaine & Alfheim (594-1083)  
N&M - Nancy & Mark (594-5637)

The submission deadline for the April issue of the Aurora is March 15th. The publishing and distribution date will be March 30th.

The Aurora is available for \$16 per annum (12 issues). All cheques and money orders are to be made payable to:

**"ASCA - Barony of Borealis"**

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and EDITOR Edwina of Loxley  
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7307 - 86 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6B 0K6

MISTRESS OF Isolde the Irritating  
THE LISTS Melanie Craigen Ph 433-6803  
#206, 10512 - 83 Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T6E 2C9

HEAD

WATERBEARER This position is currently vacant.

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Conal Fitz Allen  
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Shelley Ann Jensen Ph 465-7344  
10311 - 56 St., Edmonton, AB T6A 2J1

Canton of Veraquilon Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 pm in the SUB function room at the U of A. All Gentles attending meetings are requested to wear Period Attire (or reasonable attempt thereof) with the exception being Council Meetings.

Canton of Lakelands Fight Practices each Tuesday evening, 7:00pm at Assumption High School. Contact Alfheim 594-1083  
Classes on various topics take place each Wednesday evening, 7:00pm. see calender for topics and locations.

The Blacksheep Guild (fibreworkers guild) meets every Teusday night at 7pm at HL Erna Kajadottor's. Call HL Erna at 449-1593 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 bi-weekly practice Monday Nights at 7510 106 St. (basement). Except, of course, on holidays. We welcome all voices, instruments, 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 8:00 and a jam session usually follows.

For more information please call:  
Penny Slonowski 439-0007 (days)  
(Lady Fionnuala Nioclas) 431-0657 (evenings and messages)

The Roger de Cote School of Fence Meets at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays. For more info call HL Roger de Cote at 449-1593.

Canton of VerAquilon Fighter Practice Is held every Sunday STARTING AT NOON, in Dinwoodie Lounge, second floor SUB at U of A. Contact Otto Gruber at 468-6783 for more info.

Dance Practise Held every 2nd Monday night, U of A Fine Arts Building room 1-29. Contact Mordecai Salzer (Rick Slansky) at 435-2051 for more info.

Guild of the Groaning Board GREETINGS UNTO THE POPULOUS OF BOREALIS  
Are you interested in eating fabulous and exotic dishes? Perhaps you are interested in learning how to cook said dishes. Want to attend some small feasts and learn how to run a feast for larger groups? If any of these things appeal to you then the Guild of the Groaning Board is for you. The Guild meets once a month to prepare (and eat) new and exciting dishes that you would expect to find at any feast. For more info and when the next meeting is please contact Leeanna Ryan at 449-6834.

February 1994

Warm Greetings!!!

While the rather frigid temperatures have been less than conducive to out of door activities, I am glad to see the expanse of indoor ones that have come about. I regret that circumstance kept me from visiting Lakeland for Feast of the Evergreens, I was looking forward to attending, finally.

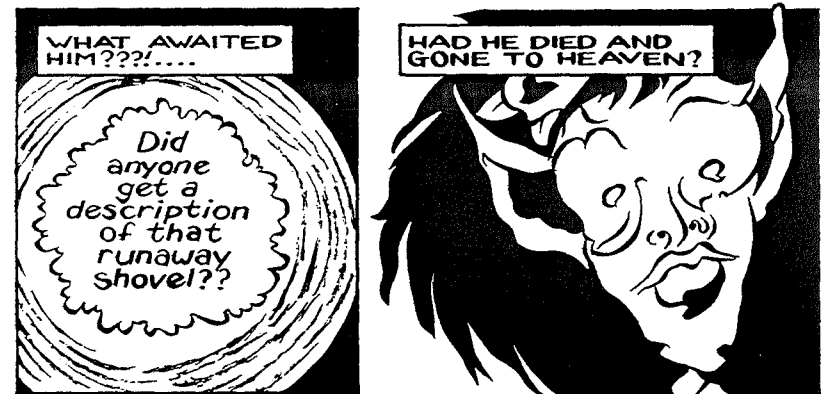
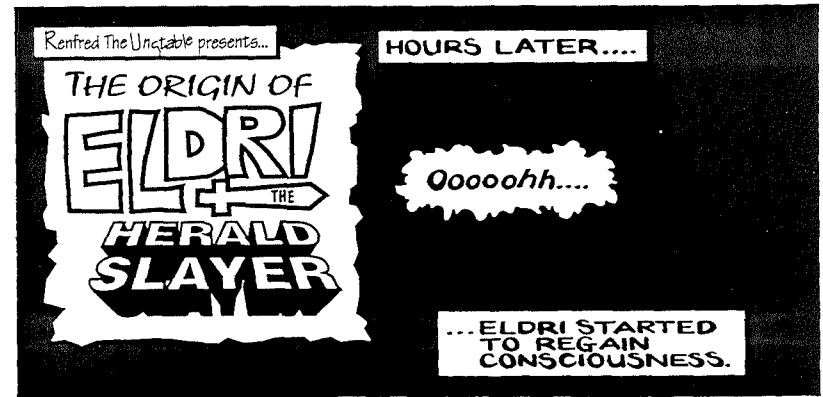
I really wish to speak now about the issue of what has recently come down from the Board of Directors. All the information that I have received is sketchy at best, but I have enclosed the letter that was sent to me from the Kingdom Seneschal's office. Their Majesties, ask that you respond to Them in writing ASAP, so that they have the means with which to proceed. I also suggest copies to the Board.

The real point I wish to make is that we have yet to see what the actual policy is going to be, and therefore it makes it very hard to criticize it. Right now if you write to the Board you will have less ammunition, to fight or uphold this policy. I disagree with the manner in which the Board has taken this action, and must be realistic about the impact to our local groups. I value your input, so please speak or write to me if you feel that I can answer questions or assist your efforts.

For now then, I hope to see many of you at Winter War and Spring Fair, and especially for the Provincial Museum demo and Feast. Thanks to all those people that have volunteered their time for the many events we have done, and have yet to do.

Best Wishes for a Kind Future,

Elizabeth Llandaff  
Seneschal of Borealis.



SCA, Inc.  
1994 Budget

**Revenues**

**Memberships**

<i>Sustaining - 17,602 x \$35</i>	\$616,070	
<i>Foreign/International 600 X \$15</i>	9,000	
<i>Associate/Student - 1,859 X \$20</i>	37,180	
<i>Family of sustaining - 5,060 X \$10</i>	50,600	\$712,850

<b>Additional Contributions/Subscript.</b>	60,000	
<b>Stock Clerk</b>	175,000	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	31,200	
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<u>979,050</u>

**Expenditures**

**Publications**

<i>Kingdom</i>	172,888	
<i>Tournaments Illuminated</i>	110,135	
<i>Complete Anachronist</i>	36,300	319,323

<b>Stock Clerk</b>	95,000	
<b>Board, Officers &amp; Meetings</b>	94,975	
<b>Corporate Office Expenses</b>		
<i>Salaries, benefits, &amp; taxes</i>	162,411	
<i>General &amp; Administrative</i>	153,600	
<i>Professional Services</i>	100,000	416,011

<b>Capital Equipment</b>	25,000	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<u>950,309</u>

<b>Revenue over Expenditures</b>		<u>\$28,741</u>
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**Avacal Spring Championship**  
**Saturday March 12th, 1994**

The Populace of Veraquilon invites all of Avacal to participate in this year's Avacal Spring Championship! Both the new Arts and Sciences Champion and the Swashbuckling Champion will be chosen at this event, so enter one and all!

The Swashbuckling Championship begins at noon with armour inspection with the tournament to begin at 12:30. Don't forget your new fighter cards! For further information, contact the autocrat or your local schools of fence.

The Arts and Sciences Championship is open for entrants from noon until four o'clock. Judging will begin promptly at four so be sure to get your entries in on time. Information on the categories and judging standards are available from the Avacal Minister of Arts and Sciences (see the Avant Garde for address), your local M of A&S, or your local seneschal. The autocrat will send information to any interested parties.

To keep all busy and happy during the day, five Ithra classes are being offered. Duchess Hludwige will be attending to teach two courses on Barbarian Cultures and Kingdom Charters. Each class is two hours long, beginning at noon and two. Further information is available from your local seneschal. To sign up, contact the autocrat.

Sausages on bread and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for sale throughout the day. The cost of the feast is \$15 per adult/\$5 per child. Only 175 feast tickets are available so reserve early! Off-site fee is \$5 per adult/\$3 per child. The feast will begin promptly at 5:30 pm in order to give all the chance to dance and revel afterwards. This is a WET EVENT, but beverages are available from the bar only. The bar will be open until midnight and the event will close at 1:00. Make all cheques payable to ASCA Canton of Veraquilon.

The event is being held at Highland Community League (11333-62nd St., Edmonton, AB, Canada). To get there from the south, take Highway 2 North to 23rd Ave. Turn right onto 23rd Ave, and then left onto 66 St. Follow 66th St. (it will turn into 75th St. and then into the Capilano Freeway) until you get to the 112th Ave. turnoff. Take the turnoff right until you get to 62nd St. and turn left. The Hall is one block down on the right. From the west, take Highway 16X, follow the Yellowhead Freeway, turn left on 66th St., left on 118 Ave., and right on 62 St. From the east, take Highway 16x, turn right on 66 St., left on 118 Ave., and right on 62nd St.

Autocrat: Eldred of Evesham (Gary McIntyre) #204, 9904-90th Ave., Edmonton, AB T6E 2T3 (H): (403)433-8721.

**GENERAL RULES FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES PENTATHLON AND  
NOVICE TRIATHLON (as of Jan. 1994)**

1. All entries must be within the time period 500 to 1600 A.D., and be of European culture or of a culture which had contact with Europe at that time.
2. All entries must be accompanied by documentation. Minimum documentation should consist of an explanation of what the piece is and what time period it is from.
3. Individuals may enter as many of as few categories as they wish, with a maximum of three entries in each category.
4. Competitors must have entries in five categories in order to be eligible for the overall Pentathlon (or three categories for the Triathlon). Prizes in individual categories may be awarded to contestants with fewer entries.
5. Each entry must not have won in a similar competition in the past, and must have been made in the previous eighteen months. The sole exception: all entries which have been entered into the Kingdom Arts and Sciences Championship can also be entered in the Avacal Arts and Sciences Championship.
6. Each entry will be given a point score out of twenty-five. Judging is based on Documentation, Authenticity, Complexity, Workmanship, Originality, and Overall Impression.
7. Only the contestants top five scores, from five separate categories, will be totalled to determine the Pentathlon (hence the Avacal Arts and Sciences) Champion.
8. Only the top three scores from three separate categories will be totalled to determine the Triathlon (or Novice) winner.
9. There will be no minimum number of entries necessary in order to keep a category open, but the judges reserve the right to withhold prizes in any category where entries do not receive higher than a predetermined point score.
10. Performing, literature, and dance competitions may be subject to length and time restrictions.

**CATEGORIES:**

Costuming - to 1250 A.D.	Leatherwork
Costuming - after 1250 A.D.	Wood Embellishment
Needlework	Literature
Calligraphy	Research Papers
Illumination	Dancing (Solo)
Cooking	Dancing (Groups)
Music Composition	Poetry (Written)
Armouring	Poetry (Reading)
Brewing	Vocals (Solo)
Practical Tools and Utensils	Vocals (Groups)
Decorative Metalwork	Miscellaneous

More complete information is available from the Avacal Arts and Sciences Minister, your Local Minister of Arts and Sciences, your local seneschal, or from the Avacal Arts and Sciences Champion. For names and addresses, consult your local newsletter, or the Avante Garde.

Officers expenses have continued to rise with the increases in membership and responsibilities.

Corporate Office Expenses -- This area of the budget will experience significant increases in 1994.

1. Salaries, benefits and taxes includes the addition of a much needed full time staff person, while deferring the addition of a new bookkeeper until 1995. Also, the 1994 budget includes the employment of a full time executive director, as the chief administrative officer for the SCA, directing the operations of and available at the SCA Corporate Office.

2. General & Administrative costs reflect increases in rent, utilities and moving costs. Also included are expected increases for insurance coverage for 1994. The new corporate office space, necessary for an expanding organization, also provides ample storage facilities for files, archives and stock clerk inventory. Increases for 1994 are expected to be approximately 25% over 1993.

3. Professional Services are expected to increase significantly in 1994 due to the use of legal services to review governance documents and procedures and to provide ongoing legal consultation. Also, accounting and bookkeeping services will be increasing in 1994 to complete the installation and modification of accounting programs, procedures and reports. Other consulting services include management consulting and an interim executive director's services provided for a portion of 1994 by a contracting firm. Finally, a computer consultant has been selected to convert the SCA Registry database system to a FoxPro based system and to install a local area network. This last project is one that has been long overdue and must be completed soon to preserve the integrity of the data currently in jeopardy of exceeding storage space and design limitations.

Capital Equipment expenditures for 1994 include the purchase of much needed furniture and computer equipment to complete the establishment of a fully networked computer system and workstations.

**Conclusion**

The budget for 1994 contains little room for error or unexpected emergencies. The SCA does not maintain large reserves and although it is our goal to build reserves of at least 50% of operating expenses, the Board decided that, at least for 1994, no significant amounts would be added to our existing meager reserves.

We invite you to contact us with any questions or concerns about SCA's budget or financial situation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Victoria Tisdale*  
Victoria Tisdale  
Treasurer and Director

*Tony Provine*  
Tony Provine  
Executive Director

Attachments

Of course, newcomers and prospective members will always be welcome to attend and participate. An introductory period of several months is planned to allow anyone interested an opportunity to try out the SCA and to make a decision about joining. A plan to implement a guest pass system for the introductory period is being developed and details of the plan will be forthcoming soon.

Stock Clerk -- The Stock Clerk area (now called the SCA Marketplace) will increase efforts to produce a higher volume of sales of desirable SCA-related books and merchandise. In 1993, this area produced revenues of \$107,000, and close to \$2 in income for every \$1 spent. While it may take a while to realize a significant return on efforts we are beginning in 1994, we are hopeful that we can achieve the forecasted amount of \$175,000 in 1994.

Miscellaneous -- includes advertising income, interest earned on accounts, and is an area which we hope will also grow to expected levels in 1994.

#### Expenses

Publications -- A major function of the SCA is the production of SCA's magazine, kingdom newsletters, and research series. Over one-third of the budget is devoted to this area and goes towards direct costs of producing these publications. Other costs associated with support services and administration of these publications are included in the corporate office area of the budget. If all publication related costs (direct and overhead) were compiled, the total amount would average at least \$22 per member.

1. Kingdom Newsletters. In 1994, we expect the kingdom newsletter stipends to be similar to the amount, \$174,378, actually spent in 1993. We will attempt to work with kingdom chroniclers to manage these costs.

2. Tournaments Illuminated changed its publication schedule in 1993, resulting in only three issues charged to expenses in 1993. The 1994 budget reflects a full schedule of 4 issues and added printing costs for more pages and better quality paper stock. The additional pages will allow for more advertising space and, hopefully, more advertising income, as well as more interesting content.

3. Expenses for the Complete Anachronist are expected to be about the same for 1994.

In general, we also are projecting postage costs will be similar, however, we could experience higher rates for our special permit in mid-year, if Congressional proposals to revise these permit rules and rates are passed.

Stock Clerk -- Included in this area is a projected increase of approximately \$30,000 over 1993 to cover increased costs and to implement a marketing program which will identify, select and aggressively market a wider range of materials to members and non-members, offering discounts to SCA members. As previously mentioned, prior experience indicates a nearly 2 to 1 return on investment.

Board, Officers & Meetings -- In 1994, Board meeting expenses will continue to increase as in past years, due to increases in travel expenses and other meeting expenses. Also, Board and Corporate

## UNIVERSITY OF ITHRA

AT THE AVACAL SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Five Ithra courses will be held at the Avacal Spring Championship. Three courses will be held from noon until two o'clock and two courses will be held from two until four o'clock. Each participant can join two courses only.

AT TWELVE O'CLOCK

BARBARIAN CULTURES (DUCHESS HLUDWIGE): Her Grace will be lecturing on all aspects of barbarian cultures, from dress to manners. Included in her lecture are a series of handouts on the topics which will be discussed. (2 Hrs.) Max. 30 students. Cost: \$3.00.

BOOK HERALDRY (Mordecai Saltzer): HL Mordecai will be teaching a basic course in SCA Book Heraldry, from rules of submission for the College of Heralds to personal advice on your personal submissions. Handouts will be provided. (2 Hrs.) Max. 20 students. Cost: \$3.00.

MEDIEVAL DRAWING AND PAINTING TECHNIQUES FOR SCA CRAFTSMEN (Elayne Walais of Cawdor): This is a two-part course (1 hr. each part) on reproducing medieval art into all forms of SCA arts and sciences. Elayne will teach how to look at period sources and how to duplicate them with modern materials. Good for all craftsmen. Painting portion is directed towards scribes and illuminators. Handouts will be provided. Students must bring their own pencils, erasers and paper for the drawing portion. Those interested in the painting portion are asked to bring a size 0 or 1 paintbrush (sable or synthetic) and a palette. Basic paints will be provided. Elayne Walais of Cawdor was the Chief Scribe of Aldermere for two years previous to moving to Veraquilon. (2 Hrs. total) No maximum on students. Drawing cost: \$1.00 Painting cost: \$3.00.

AT TWO O'CLOCK

KINGDOM CHARTERS (Duchess Hludwige): Her Grace will teach the ways to create proper Kingdom charters for the Kingdom of An Tir, including layout design, and important hints from a seasoned scribe. Handouts will be provided. (2 Hrs.) Max. 20 students. Cost: \$3.00

MEDIEVAL DANCE (Mordecai Saltzer): His Lordship will lead all who are interested in the steps of medieval dance. Good for all, regardless of how little or how much they have danced in the past. A great way to work up an appetite. A few handouts of dance steps will be provided. (2 Hrs.) Max. 30 students.

Cost: \$1.00

Students must reserve their places as soon as possible. Fees are due with your reservation form. If a reserved student is absent for the class, that reservation will be given to someone else. Make all cheques payable to ASCA Canton of Veraquilon. The site waiver which you sign as you come on site covers these Ithra courses.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION. Return to Lord Eldred of Evesham (Gary McIntyre) #204, 9904-90th Ave., Edmonton, AB T6E 2T3 (403)433-8721.

NAME (MUNDANE): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SCA PERSONA (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

To register for classes, consult the schedule above. If you are eliminated from a class because of cancellation or being full, you will receive a refund cheque.

COURSE TITLE	FEE
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
	=====
TOTAL FEES DUE:	_____

ALL FEES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS REGISTRATION FORM OR IT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ASCA CANTON OF VERAQUILON.

Thank you for your cooperation, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Lord Eldred of Evesham  
(Gary McIntyre)  
#204, 9904-90th Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T6E 2T3 (H): (403)433-8721

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, INC.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (JAN. 1994)

A REPORT FROM THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING REGARDING THE 1994 BUDGET

Overview

Over the course of the last 2-3 years, the SCA Board of Directors recognized that the SCA was having difficulties keeping pace with the rapid growth of membership and the formation of new groups and branches. Managing this growing administrative workload involved the ability to: track membership, produce and mail publications, update and produce mailing labels, offer insurance coverage and certificates, etc. All of these administrative tasks enable everyone to enjoy participation in activities at every level within the SCA, and for members to have their membership privileges recognized when traveling anywhere within the Known World.

Professional legal, accounting and management consultants clearly identified what some Board members and corporate officers within the SCA had already realized: that a tremendous amount of volunteer effort was necessary to manage the operations of the SCA and that most, if not all, of the operating systems needed an overhaul. Some of the costly work that is necessary involves an overdue and much needed conversion of the SCA Registry system; better financial management and accountability through a central accounting system located in the SCA office; careful attention to legal requirements needed to maintain the SCA's nonprofit tax status; providing adequate insurance and protection for all members and non-members, particularly those whose service to their kingdom or group may place them at risk; and an adequately staffed corporate office that can be responsive to all members and support all the Inter-kingdom officers serving the Known World.

Attached is the 1994 SCA Budget. This report presents important information regarding the budget, how it was developed, and what is included in it.

Revenues

The Board of Directors, faced with various options for raising money, considered several alternatives. Some of these alternatives included collecting fees at every group's events. Another was to discontinue the kingdom newsletter stipends and require the kingdoms to bear the entire cost of their newsletters. Instead of these impositions, the Board decided to raise membership fees to cover expenses and balance the budget. The Board chose to adopt the smallest possible increases necessary to meet essential expenses, trimming these expenses wherever possible. The new fees, to be implemented as soon as possible, are: \$35 for sustaining membership; \$20 for associate and student membership; \$15 for foreign and international membership; and \$10 for family memberships.

Membership -- Membership forecasts are based on a generous increase in membership of 10% for each category. To avoid larger membership fee increases to members of the SCA and to meet the financial pressures of operating the SCA, the requirement for membership was expanded to all who regularly participate in SCA events.



### DANCE PRACTISE

Dance practise is held in Fine Arts Building Rm 1-29, from 7pm until 10pm. Those wishing more information are requested to contact Mordecai Saltzer at 435-2051. Practise is held on the following dates:

February 28                      March 14,28  
April 11,25

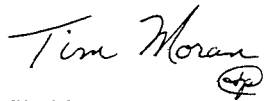
Our responsibility to the future required laying the firm foundation of membership requirements for participation.

Our responsibility to you, SCA supporters and members, demanded that the choice not be made lightly or flippantly. Directors made the choice with heavy hearts. We knew it marked a turning point in the SCA's shared history - a turning point which the Board hopes we will all progress to a strong, stable and growing Society both now and in the future.

With honor to all, with love for our participants, and with gratitude to those who founded and nourished the SCA through early challenges, I close this letter on behalf of the Board of Directors.

We hope that this letter and the enclosed information is helpful in understanding our actions. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time.

Sincerely,



Tim Moran  
President and Chairman of the Board

Enclosures

### VerAquilon MOS Weekly Fighter Practices

MOS: Lord Otto Gruber

Location: Dimwodie Lounge, Students Union Building (SUB) 2nd Floor, U of A

Time: Noon - 4:00 pm

Layout: Armored Fighters

Noon                      - Out of Armor  
- 1:00pm - Stretching & Slow Work

1:00                      - Concepts & single  
- 2:00pm                Instruction  
- Armor Inspection

2:00                      - Announcements  
- 2:10pm - Style of Drillwork is  
                              decided

2:10                      - Drillwork  
- 3:00pm - Fighter Group Instruction &  
                              Workout

3:00                      - Options  
- End                    - Team Battles  
                              - Mock Tourneys  
                              - Specialty Battles (Bridge,  
                              Gate, Light Weaponry)

Winter War  
February 26-27

The site opens at noon on Saturday and closes at 3pm on Sunday.  
Site Fee \$5.00 even if you are not spending the night. Children 6 and under free.  
The site is at the Edmonton Heritage Aviation Society, 11410 Kingsway Ave. (the "Hanger" on Kingsway)  
There will be a pot luck feast on Saturday.

Autocrat - Isolde the Irritating  
mka Melanie Craigen 433-6803

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As BrewMeister of the (UN)Official Brewers Guild of Borealis I, Ragnall the Reticent, have deemed it time to defend my title. I challenge the populace to bring their produce to be judged this mid-summer. Place and time of the competition will be announced at Spring Faire. Samples will be judged by participants, and hopefully, their Excellencies Jarl Rorik and Jarla Helena will assist in the judging (love that casa BooBoo wine). Best of luck to all.

Ragnall the Reticent

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professional consultation recommended) or even \$40 (which was recommended as a bare minimum).

The only "frill" in the budget is this: We've agreed with the editor of Tournaments Illuminated that members need something more and something better. T.I. is going to have four extra pages each issue to carry your work or articles of interest to you. It's going to have better paper, too. T.I. is one of the most valued and most visible of the Society's benefits to its membership. It might be your article which appears in its pages, or it might be your project built with knowledge gained from T.I. which ends up making you proud. Getting enough funding together to support the magazine was tough in this year's budget.

That's why it burns so much when the SCA ends up having to spend its scarce resources to deal with something like the "banishment" of a non-member. When somebody who doesn't support your organization, but plays around in it, causes so much trouble for SCA supporters that the Kingdom and then the Board must become involved, it costs everybody their money.

It's easy to see why we're attractive to occasional troublemakers, too. They don't have to make any investment at all in the "game," and people pay lots of nice attention to them, too. And what can you do to stop them? Take away their membership?

It might gally you as much as it has galled me to know that non-members in just such a situation have referred to the SCA in courtroom testimony as a "front for child pornography" and as the "Society for Consenting Adults." Can you hear the sound of potential event sites closing their doors to us all, based on that kind of statement? How much does it cost in time and effort to clear a reputation tarnished? Guess what -- we can't even say that person isn't one of us, because we haven't required "membership" for participation. Requiring membership for participation will help us all when such a problem occurs. It puts a bite into banishment - and it raises a barrier to the gadfly.

Directors know that, for a number of people, the concept of requiring membership is one which debases service. But what of the people, yourself included, who pay membership fees and serve? Is your service less valuable?

And for those who fear that in requiring membership the Board has removed the opportunity for prospective SCA participants to "try out" the organization before paying, it must be made absolutely clear that the Board has mandated that a trial period shall exist, tentatively one of half a year or more, during which a new SCA participant will be considered a guest. At the end of the period, if they wish to stay and pay, fine. We believe that most will find the SCA is worth the candle.

When the Board was forced to look at the finances; at the tremendous good the SCA, Inc., has done in the past and its needs for the future; and at the liability and trouble our wide-open participation has brought to us in the recent past it was clear what our overall responsibility to the Society demanded.

## AVACAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNEY

Why is it, for instance, that you as an SCA participant won't be called on to bear the risk of your house, car and other personal assets being absorbed by a judgement against the local medieval group if something truly hideous happens at an event? One service of the SCA is to bear the liability and the risk - an immensely complex service in the litigation-happy 1990's.

Why is it that your SCA experience can be had nationwide and in many foreign countries, in a format that is mostly understandable and familiar? In part it is because dedicated SCA participants carried the culture to those areas and that hard-working volunteer hands painstakingly built the SCA "settlements" far afield. But it is also because those dedicated people adhered to a national standard of reporting, publishing, combat rules, banking, heraldry and other expectations. It is in part because the creative energy of sovereign kingdoms, so important to growth and enjoyment within a region, has been tempered with an over-arching support structure allowing for diversity while keeping the potential for hurtful damage in check.

That support system has become more critical as our growth both nationally and internationally has ballooned. I just spoke, after the Board meeting, with a Lady whose own membership card carries a number in the 1,300 range. Her husband, who joined the SCA after their marriage, has a membership number in the 15,000 range. Their eight-year-old has a number in the 37,000 range. And their two-year-old has a number in the 75,000 range.

Think about an organization which has 22,000 members flow in and out over less than eight years! The work merely of tracking that many members is impressive, but providing the publications, the insurance, the accurate accounting of their monies, and the representation which each member of the Known World receives makes the feat phenomenal.

For many years, the Society has done the nearly impossible with funding which has been barely adequate. In recent years, that funding has been less than adequate -- we have survived based on the fanatic dedication of underpaid staff, and the willingness of excellent volunteers to sacrifice their leisure and their professional time while paying their own expenses and membership fees to the Society for the privilege.

Would you take on a national leadership position for which you received no training, limited support -- and in which, if you worked your hardest, the ultimate result you could expect would be that nothing went noticeably wrong? Welcome to the life of our Corporate Officers. Guess what -- most of them have been donating all of their office expenses and travel expenses and postage expenses and the phone calls they make to you.

This year, the budget for publishing, insurance, data handling, employment and support systems for the SCA is heavy. It's more than \$900,000. Even with full implementation of membership, and with the membership rate increase to \$35 for sustaining, \$20 for associates and students, \$15 for international and \$10 for family, our margin of money at the end of the year is projected to be less than \$30,000. Our fund balance, the money that must be kept on hand in case of disaster, ideally should be 100 percent of a year's operating costs. Realistically, it should be at least 50 percent of such costs. In actuality, our fund reserve for the SCA is less than 20 percent. The budget this year won't grow that reserve much -- but the directors felt they had to hold the line for you, the members, and not increase membership fees to \$50 (which

This year the Avacal Championship Tourney will be held June 24-26, 1994. The site is a new one on Upper Mann Lake with a stone castle being constructed there. We are currently looking for volunteers to go out when the ground is clear for site set-up. This will no doubt be sometime in April or May. Further details as to time site opens, fees, etc. will be published later.

Anyone interested in helping put this site together (such as digging privies, clearing trails, and other such duties - think of it as similar to Clinton but on a lake) please contact the autocrat;

Valgard af Hus Vendrer

mka Maxwell Garrison

or his lady at (403) 923-2864, an auto-troll is on duty. As this is a new site, we would like to have as many volunteers as possible so that there is no possibility of burn-out.

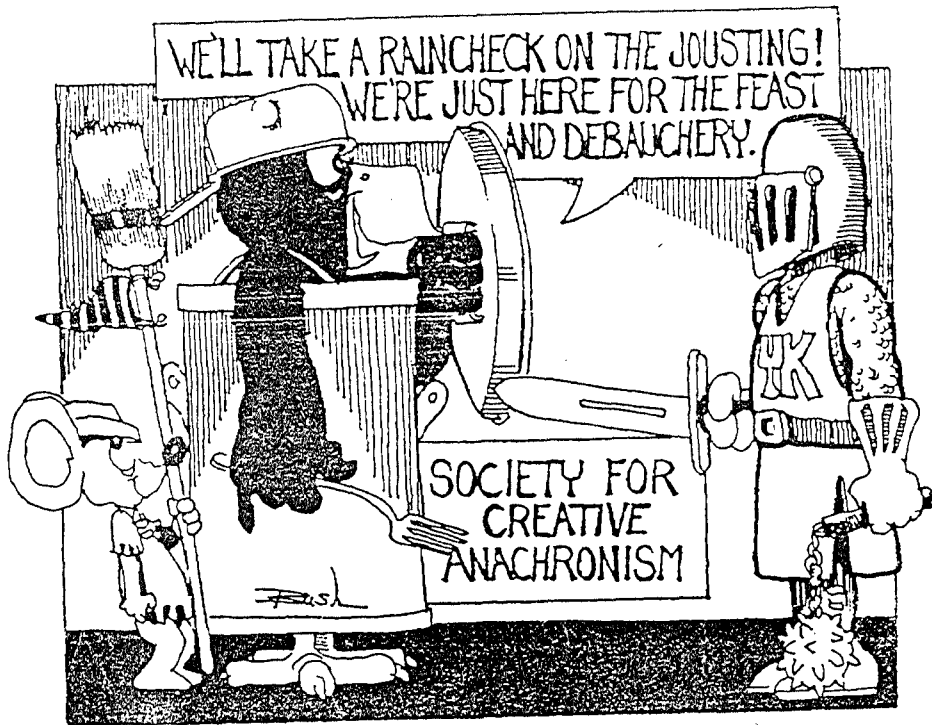
One nice thing about the place, or rather one of the nice things about it, is few mosquitos due to a large swallow population, unlike some places I've been to.

The site is secluded and well back from the road. It is 70 acres, and triangle shaped, with a fence along the highway side and surrounded by water on the other sides. There is a single entrance from the highway.

As this is a new site, some site preparation is necessary. Brush will have to be cleared, and trails will have to be marked. We will be drawing maps, so if anyone has a suggestion as to trail names, we welcome them. Imagine camping in English Meadow, or swimming off the shore of France.

Please volunteer and help develop a war/tourney site that is only about 2 hours from Edmonton and is within our Barony.

YELLOWKNIFER, Friday, June 11, 1993 7



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June 11, 1993 Yellowknifer  
Northern News Services



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January 27, 1994

Dear Society for Creative Anachronism supporter:

I write to you with mixed feelings of sadness and eagerness, of nostalgia and hope. Those feelings are caused by action taken at the recent Board of Directors meeting held January 22 in Milpitas, home of the SCA headquarters and close to the SCA's birthplace of Berkeley, California.

At that meeting, the Board made policy decisions which will be pivotal to the Society's future. Each decision, though, also represents a break with the SCA's past customs and ways of thinking about itself. One was to require all participants in SCA activities to be members, and to increase membership fees.

Another was to provide all members with a report from the Board on actions taken at each Board meeting, ceasing to offer the official meeting minutes of Board of Directors meetings on a paid subscription basis. Instead, all sustaining members will get the information through an article in *Tournaments Illuminated* or, when necessary, through a separate mailing. The minutes of Board meetings are the official record of the SCA and will be much briefer in the future. However, each member is entitled to receive information behind the Board's actions and deliberations and we are taking this step to increase our communications.

In a matter of weeks, the Board expects to have implementation plans presented to it so that the policy decisions may be followed up with action. In passing the motions which make the changes, the Board did so with the intent that they be implemented during this calendar year - as soon as practicable. Meanwhile, though, the directors knew that you, the loyal supporters and builders of the SCA and its true reason for existence, needed to know why these momentous decisions had been made.

Many people have cherished the statement "You don't have to be a 'member' to play." It has been one of the SCA's coziest ideas about itself, that it was somehow a better, purer and more honorable organization because nobody had to join to participate. And for a time our cherished openness may have been one of our best recruiting tools.

An important thing to remember, however, is that our SCA has grown at an amazing rate in the past 28 years from a back yard organization to one that now has 23,000 members. Its participants have grown to expect increasingly sophisticated levels of service, without stopping to think about what that service might be -- or might cost.