



# the AURORA



**Illuminated Edition AS XXXIV**

(December 1999/January 2000)

## Greetings to Our Populace



**W**ell, the VERY busy camping and war season is behind us and we can look forward to the feasting season (food is a good thing sometimes too much of a good thing) a time for wonderfully fancy clothing, music and bards. We hope that lots of music will be present at the Feast of La Befana. Somehow nothing quite adds to the atmosphere at events like musicians playing. It is what I remember most

when I first joined, and still makes me close my eyes and for a moment, truly believe that we have traveled back in time. We hope that if you know of anyone who plays an even faintly period instrument, that you will encourage them to talk with others in the group. Everyone starts somewhere and nobody expects perfection, just fun!!!

Just a small thought to leave with you:

**Two men look out through the same bars:**

**One sees the mud, and one the stars.**

(from A Cluster of Quiet Thoughts-Frederick Langbridge)

Please take care of each other.

**JOHN AND KIRSTIN  
BARON AND BARONESS OF BOREALIS**



Grape Stomping at Vin Fest I, Vingaard

## vin fest i

**D**uring the last quarter of the Harvest Moon, Vingaard hosted her first event, Vin Fest, the celebration of harvest. Many gentles came from afar to welcome Vingaard into the realms of Borealis and Avacal. Indeed, that such is the repute of Vingaard's hospitality that hath proceeded her to even include Montengarde in the curious to attend Vin Fest. Most memorable of the attendance was Our Excellencies, Baron John MacLeod the Black and Baroness Kirsten MacBheath, with Our Royal Highnesses of Avacal, Prince Angar and Princess Valeria. Most gentles arrived during the night previous to the festivities to participate in various Ithra classes and competed in the prize rapier tourney held during the day. Vin Fest's evening commenced with the arrival of the Roy-



alty to the head table. Our Excellencies were properly escorted by Scottish Highland bagpipes to the head table for the Feast. After a most wondrous feast supervised by our feastocrat, Salem, court was held. One of Vingaard's members, and only Viking, was honored for his service. Magnus the Hunter was given an Award of Arms and made an honorable member of the Lost Vikings. After court, the festivities escalated. The Herald-ing Trumpet ushered in the freshly harvested grapes and legions of Vingaardians hauled grapes to the vat to be pressed. After the vat was full, the bagpipes were again ignited to escort Princess Valeria to be first to press the grapes into wine. Her Royal Highness

opened the flood of people wanting to take part in the stomping of Vingaard's grapes and a tapestry was made to record all gentles who had participated in Vingaard's first harvest. Merrymaking lasted late into the night. All gentles reluctantly left the next day, fulfilled, full and happy.

## Coronet Results

**Tanist & Tanista:**

Master Eric the Trespasser & Cailleach Aine



# the history of TEMARI ["HAND BALL"]

by Lady Sidonia Dokianos

The precise origins of Temari are not known. It is a craft believed to have begun during the 7th century when a game called "Kemari" was imported to Japan from China. There is a Chinese legend that tells of mythical Lions that could give milk from their paws. Stories tell of how brightly decorated hollow balls were left for the lions to play with so they might leave them full of their magical milk. Statues of male lions with one paw resting on a patterned ball can be found at gate entrances even today.

Kemari (kick ball) is one of the oldest known sports of Japan. It was played by teams of four to eight men who kicked a deerskin ball in the air amongst themselves. The object was to prevent the ball from touching the ground by kicking it high in the air. Points were given for the number of kicks, however, emphasis was on the elegance, skill and grace of the kicks. It was a game played in the Emperor's Court between the 11th and 13th centuries and skill in Kemari was regarded as a requisite for Noblemen of the time. Kemari no longer exists in Japan today but "hacky sack" might be viewed as a modern equivalent of this lost pastime.

Tossing games during AD 898-1185 were known as "Goten-Mari". Court ladies of noble families used beautiful silk threads to decorate the "mari" balls for their lords. Female servants of the ladies of the Samurais would compete to embroider beautiful designs on the treasured balls. Translated, Temari means hand ball. It is thought that young boys and girls of wealthy families played hand ball similar to children's bean bags games of today.

Temari is said to have become beautiful during the Edo period (17th to 19th centuries) following the introduction of cotton to Japan in the 15th century. Temari were made from scrap materials. The "mari-base" consisted of rice hulls or fabric scraps wrapped in paper. The base was then tightly wound with recycled yarns and threads from garments or blankets to make it round. Silk strands unraveled from Kimonos or Obis were used to stitch or wrap intricate geometric designs on the woven structure of the mari bases.

Designs and techniques were handed down through the generations from mother to daughter. Each geographical region of Japan developed its own distinct style and color patterns. Inspiration for Temari usually came from nature and included designs entitled Chrysanthemum, Peach Blossom, Pine Bough, Stream, Star and Rose. It is thought that the introduction of rubber (1868-1912) brought about the demise of Temari.

Today, Temari is considered an ancient craft of elegant needle art. It is considered an auspicious gift that is given unconditionally from the heart on special occasions. Temari are symbols of deep friendship, loyalty, love or joy. One tradition is that a mother makes a special Temari for her daughter to find by her bedside when she opens her eyes on New Years Day. A Temari Association has been created in Japan to honor and foster excellence in the art of Temari.

## Bibliography:

-Temari-how to make Japanese Thread Balls by D. Vandervoort  
ISBN 0-87040-881-X

-Temari Traditions-More Techniques by Diana Vandervoort ISBN 0-87040-949-2

-The Craft of Temari by Mary Wood ISBN 0-85532-653-0

-Temari, Graceful Globes by Mary Black.

Piecework Nov/December 1993 pg. 72-77

-Japanese Temari Association-Temari Museum in Tokyo

<http://www.idsi.net/~ginnyt/temari/temarihistory.htm>

-The "Art of Temari" by Pam Stettinisch

<http://www.nwanet.com/temari/temair15.htm>

# Theme Feast

By Lady Sidonia Dokianos, Roving Reporter

Valhalla revisited, was the theme of Stonewolf's Theme Feast in October. Baroness Adeline hosted her third Bop 'n Die tournament with the largest showing of fighters in the list ever. Despite the bitter cold, the tournament was most entertaining with some classic kills and shows of skill on the field.

After a double elimination by arms, the participants tested their skills at dice. The Norse dice were cruel to some and generous to others as the plays progressed.

The two battles continued until Duke Sir Rorik emerged victorious on the field and Prince Angar came out on top of the dicing. In a final toss of the dice to determine the overall victor, the score tied and in a valiant show of respect, Duke Sir Rorik conceded victory to his Prince.

In the choosing of prizes, His Highness honored his most worthy opponent with a gift of leather body armor. In turn, the rest of the prizes were then chosen by the victors and many of them were given away.

The tests of skill did not end with tournament. A siege had produced an abundance of dreaded flying cabbages. The populous was challenged to spear them from the air while at the same time, avoiding being pummeled in the face by them. It was no simple feat and those who survived, gnawed on their cabbage victims to prove they were of Viking blood.

A wonderful feast was organized by Caitlyn and Cerid of Montengarde who were later asked to join the Order of the Golden Spoon of Borealis for excellence in feast-o-crafting.

During court, HE Adeline was presented with a Gilded Griffin award, Fessic the unspeakable and Therin Guhl were both given Awards of Arms.

The organized events of the evening concluded with the Norse Wrestling competition in which we were treated to a mini version of WWF. It became clear that strength was not the only requirement of success. Skill and trickery were valuable assets to this event as stepping from the ring resulted in sudden death. As the cheering subsided, it was Olaf who won over Bjorn for the right to wear the much sought after, wrestling belt.

At the conclusion of the event, all were well fed, well entertained and ready to return to the festivities next year.

## TEMARI SAMPLES



Lady Sidonia Dokianos



# BOREALIS STANDING CALENDAR

	Veraquilon	Stonewolf	Vingaard
<b>Monday</b>	7 -10 pm Fighter and Rapier Practice every week. Dance Practice/Music rehearsal on 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the Bonnie Doon Community Hall 9240-93 Street. A contribution of \$2 would be appreciated to offset the costs for the Hall		
<b>Tuesday</b>		Arts & Science Classes 7:00 – 9:00 PM Cold Lake South Library	Fighter Practice (heavy/rapier) Grande Prairie Regional College room L106. 8:00 pm until we drop. For more info contact Cyriac at 539-7388.
<b>Wednesday</b>	1st Wednesday of Month Capilano Community Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business meeting @ 7:30 PM</li> <li>• Tavern Night @ 8:30 PM</li> </ul>		
<b>Thursday</b>		Fighter (Heavy and Rapier) Practice Grand Centre Elementary School 5:00 – 8:00 PM	
<b>Saturday</b>			Feasts – Generally the 2nd Saturday of each month, location varies. Contact Melisant de Alemanyne at: Dpearcy@telusplanet.net
<b>Sunday</b>			Arts & Sciences gathering almost every afternoon at Sidonia & Magnus's house in Beaverlodge. Call (780)354-8733

Borealis Webpage: <http://www.tnc.com/~sca/>

## There are several groups in the Barony dedicated to various activities:

- The Groaning Board is a cooking guild who puts on theme feasts throughout the year. You can contact Edwina of Loxley at MGARRISO@epsb.edmonton.ab.ca
- Our Medieval Dance troupe rehearses every two weeks and performs at various demos and events. Contact Mordecai Salzer at rms@cha.ab.ca or Catherine of the Rowan Tree at cjackel@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca
- We have a Fibre Arts guild called the Black Sheep Guild who get together to spin, weave, dye etc. You can contact Alyne of Kendal at lgottesf@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca
- There is a fighting household in Veraquilon known as the Lost Vikings. See them at:

<http://www.shades-of-night.com/lostvikings/>

## Veraquilon Practice

Due to the Christmas season approaching, please note the following time schedule for practice (at Bonny Doon Community Center) in the canton of Veraquilon:

**Dec 13** - Heavy Fighting, Rapier Fighting, Medieval Dancing  
**Dec 20** - Heavy Fighting, Rapier Fighting, Belly Dancing  
**Jan 10** - Heavy Fighting, Rapier Fighting, Medieval Dancing  
**Jan 17** - Heavy Fighting, Rapier Fighting, Belly Dancing  
**Jan 24** - Heavy Fighting, Rapier Fighting, Medieval Dancing  
**Jan 31** - Heavy Fighting, Rapier Fighting, Belly Dancing

Also, please remember Business Meeting (7:30-8:30) with Tavern following (autocated by Yoshi) on January 5 at the Capilano Community Center.

### In service

**Asha Delgejin**

**Seneschal of Veraquilon**

# AVACAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December 1999

04-05	Yule Feast	Veraquilon
11	Misteltoe Cailleach	Cold Keep

## January 2000

08-09	Kingdom Coronation	TBA (An Tir)
15-16	12th Night Tavern	Sigelehundas
22-23	Twelfth Night	Montengarde

## February 2000

5	Feast of The Evergreens	Stonewolf
19-20	A Day at the Hunting Lodge	Myrgan Wood
26-27	Avacal Investiture	Sigelehundas

### Rise Up, O Avacal!

Lyrics: Sine Peregrina

Tune: The Barley Mow - traditional

#### Chorus

Rise up and hear the Gryphon Song, rise up oh Avacal!  
Rise up and hear the Gryphon Song, rise up oh Avacal!  
Oh, the Gryphon Song, it echoes long, o'er mountains, lakes and plains  
Rise up and hear the Gryphon Song, rise up oh Avacal!

Give honour to your parent, oh Jewel of all An Tir  
Give honour to your parent, oh Jewel of all An Tir  
So forever be true, forever be strong, forever without fear  
Give honour to your parent, oh Jewel of all An Tir

#### Chorus

Follow your noble Princes, stalwart as they be  
Follow your noble Princes, stalwart as they be  
Princes Angar, Shamus, Vik and Gunther, Albrecht,  
Vik and Rorik who did start  
Follow your noble Princes, stalwart as they be.

#### Chorus

The Children of the Gryphon are loyal, proud and free  
The Children of the Gryphon are loyal, proud and free  
Oh, the Wolf, the Tree, the Minotaur see! The Dog,  
the Star, the Gate, the Worm, the Tower and the Key.  
The Children of the Gryphon, proud and free!

#### Chorus

The Gryphon of Artemesia sounds Fury loud and clear  
The Gryphon of Artemesia sounds Fury loud and clear  
Under sky of blue, with grass so green, comes steel  
and drum, death and dust and laughter, love and tears...  
The Gryphon of Artemesia sounds Fury loud and clear

Chorus (Twice)

## March 2000

04-05	Kingdom A&S	TBA (An Tir)
11-12	TBA	Willowmere
18	Dockside Grog House	Montengarde
25-26	Winter War	Borealis

## April 2000

01	Borealis Ithra	Borealis
08	Spring Faire	Veraquilon
15	Silver Arrow	Bitter End
22-23	Easter Ithra	Loch Dorr
29	Beltane	Montengarde

## May 2000

06-07	Culture Shock	Valley Wold
13-14	Pillage Practice & Spring Tea	Sigelehundas
20-21	May Crown	TBA (An Tir)
27	May Day Campout	Windwurm

## The Gryphon Shield

Lyrics: Sine Peregrina

Tune: variation on Rolling Down to Old Maui

Oh Avacal, come stand with me, come stand by the Gryphon Shield  
Bring your sword and bring your spear, your courage never to yield.  
Oh the foeman laughs and mocks us and calls us "outland churls"  
But stand with me and he shall learn, to fear the sound of the Gryphon call  
And to flee from these Northern Lands.

From the Sable Breast comes a fearsome beast, half lion and half eagle  
With beak and claw to lay the law, that claims this land as our own.  
And our warriors fierce who guard us, our mountains and our plains,  
Together stand with one accord, voices raise to the enemy horde,  
Cry "Avacal conquers all!"



# MISTELTOE CAILLEACH

## Shire of Cold Keep

Dec. 11th, 1999

Hark the Heralds do sing.....the air be filled with the scent of fresh mulled cider, the sweet smell of pine boughs. Voices Fill the air with joy and laughter, carols drift through the air. Come one, come all, join Cold Keep and all her good Neighbors in celebrating the season!

A Rapier Tourney. Inspection & list 2:30, Tourney 3:00  
Prizes

Needlework competition- 1st and 2nd , for information  
contact Lady Cerridwen (250) 963-9648 or  
valkyrie@direct.ca

Gaming competition to be held after dinner, for more in-  
formation Contact Lord Ogedei. (250)963-9648 or  
ogedei@hotmail.com

Dancing, come learn some new steps.

Poetry and storytelling competition. Max 5 minutes,  
theme to be Yule, and humourous, concerning your per-  
sonna.

Potluck supper, bring along a Yule type dish that your  
personna would have contributed.

Table decorating competition. Prize for the best table.

Site fee \$10.00, under 13 free.

Site: Ferndale community hall. If coming from the East  
on HWY 16, turn right just past Tabor Mtn Ski Hill,  
(approx 15 km from Pr. Geo.) at Upper Fraser. If from  
elsewhere go thru Pr. Geo. to Hwy 16 and go east to-  
wards Jasper. Turn Left onto Upper Fraser, (base of Ta-  
bor Mtn.). Ferndale Hall is at 3595 Upper Fraser  
(approx. 4 km. down rd on the left side).

For more information

Autocrat: Lord Gowan (250)962-6575  
Email: draco@netbistro.com

Or Lady Cerridwen (250) 963-9648  
Email valkyrie@direct.ca

Some Crash space, please call in advance.

# MONTENGARDE 12TH NIGHT

## Barony of Montengarde

January 22nd Calgary, AB

Oyez! Oyez! Come one, come all to join their Excellencies  
Montengarde in celebrating the passing of the Yule Tide!  
Their will be feasting, fighting, gaming, and merriment for  
all! More than 20 dishes in this sumptuos feast! Lunch &  
snacks available during the day. The event will feature  
Montengarde's Dragon-Blade Tourney to choose the next  
Baronial Rapier Champion... This is also a prize tourney  
open to all!

There will also be prizes for the Ice-Blade (Armoured  
combat) and Ice-Arrow (Archery) Tournaments! An A&S  
competition will be held, bring a winter or Yule theme  
centerpiece to grace your table. As well there will be  
prizes for a "floating" costume contest (nothing formal,  
just come out and look good!). Odli's "Traveller's Rest"  
competition... a free bottle of wine to the individual who  
travelled furthest for the event. There will also be a  
"Promise Tree" gift exchange for any who are interested...  
just write out a gift, service, craft, etc. on a card that will  
be hung from the tree and all participants will take some-  
one else's card from the tree after the feast!

Autocrat Team- Cadet Odli Goodwater & Christine the  
Good (E-Mail: TheGood@Sprint.CA ) Phone #: (403)  
934-9216

Feastocrat Team- Viridis Solari & Isabelle the Flaming (E-  
Mail: Viridis@Cadvision.Com )

Site Fee- Pre-Paid prior to January 12th- \$13.00 (Site &  
Feast) \$6.00 Site only. At the door \$18.00 (Site & Feast)  
\$8.00 Site only. Please Pre-pay via cash or cheque(made  
out to MSCA) hand delivered or mailed to Odli at: 917  
Briarwood Crescent Strahmore, AB T1P 1E7. Payment is  
the only form of Registration!

Site: Marlborough Community Hall- 626 Marlborough  
Way, NE

Directions: Take you best route to Memorial Drive, turn  
North (left if coming from West) at your 1st Intersection  
East of 36th Street (you will be driving behind Marlbor-  
ough Mall) Hall will be ahead on the right, look for signs,  
plenty of parking.



# Stonewolf's Feast of the Evergreen

February 5, 2000  
Cherry Grove Hall, Cold Lake, AB

Come one and all to the traditional Feast of the Evergreen! Again, the event will feature fun competition for those interested in vying for the Champion of the evergreens. This tournament is intended for all adults to partake in friendly, silly games, and is the title of Champion goes to the most "skilled" (or lucky) gentle. It originated numerous years ago to give anyone, not just fighters, the chance to be a champion! There will be a separate category for smalls, but they will not carry the title. This year, the event also features the Barony of Borealis Arts and Sciences competition! (the competition in a triathlon -- see the Avacal rules for A&S for categories and further rule clarification,)

The feast, as usual, will be mouth-watering and filling, continuing the Canton's long-standing reputation for GREAT feasts! You will not be disappointed! (ask around!)

## Schedule:

- 12:00 p.m. - Hall opens
- Arts and Sciences Lists open
- 1:00 p.m. - Champion of the Evergreen competitions commence
- Lists close, judging of A & S commences
- 5:00 p.m. - Games finish
- judging of A & S complete; scores to be tallied
- 6:00 p.m. - First remove
- 6:30 p.m. - Baronial Court
- 7:30 p.m. - Second remove
- 8:00 p.m. - Third remove and dessert continued merriment and ...!

(while pre-approved, this schedule can be changed at any time by the Baron and Baroness of Borealis)

Crash space will be available in the hall Friday and Saturday night. Limited crash space in available off site. Food allergies can be accommodated (please speak with the autocrat for any of the proceeding)

**Cost:** Feast (site included) \$13 adults; \$7 12 - 16 years of age site only; \$5 adults ; \$3 for 12 - 16 years of age

Current Baronial Champion of Arts and Sciences: Fredis the Far-travelled (for questions concerning the competition)

Autocrats: Alexander Wallace (Mat Wallace 594-8087)  
or email Adeline (gail.hiar@portagec.ab.ca)

reserve by February 1, 2000

# AVACAL FEBRUARY investiture

Shire of Sigelhundas (Regina, Saskatchewan)  
February 26-27, 2000

Come one and all to the Investiture of Avacal's 8th Prince and Princess to be hosted in the Shire of Sigelhundas. Along with the investing of the new Prince and Princess, the Champions Tourney for both Rapier and Arts and Science will also be held. As well as the Tourneys, we are working on holding various classes geared towards Heavy fighters. More information on classes forthcoming.

Arts and Science - Single entries, novice triathlon or full pentathlon entries are welcome. Entries are to be taken between noon and 1 p.m. (nothing will be accepted past that time unless pre-arranged); judges' meeting at 1:30; and judging to take place from 2 - 4. Anyone interested in judging should contact Mistress Fabienne ASAP with any credentials or experience in the category areas they would like to judge.

For more information on the Rapier Tournament, please contact Raoul delaroche Bravo Champion.

## Agenda (Subject to their Highnesses approval)

- 10:00 Hall opens
- 11:30 All Lists open
- 12:30 Final Court of their Highnesses Angar and Valaria
- 1:00 Rapier Tourney begins
- 1:30 Arts and Science Tourney begins
- 6:00 Hall closes to set-up for feast
- 6:30 Bar opens; hall open to all
- 7:00 Feast begins, Bardic Activity between removes
- 8:00 Opening Court of their Highnesses
- 12:00 Bar closes
- Hall clean-up

Where: All Saints Anglican Church Hall, 142 Massy Rd Regina, SK.

Cost: \$15.00 for 13 to adult Pre-reserved - \$18.00 at the door (if available);  
\$7.00 for 6 - 12, Pre-reserved - \$9.00 at the door (if available);  
\$7.00 off board; Five and under free.

There are only 100 feast tickets available so please reserve early!  
ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 18TH 2000. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Directions: Best route to Regina. From the North, Hwy. 11 & 6 turns into Albert Street. Continue south down Albert Street until you reach Gordon Road (about 15 - 20 minutes) turn Left (east). For those coming in on the #1 Hwy., take the Albert street approach and your second set of lights is Gordon Road, turn right (east). You'll come to a three way stop at Grant road, turn left (north). Continue north on Grant road. Past the strip-mall, Grant Rd turns right, but if you keep driving north, Grant turns into Massy Rd. There will be signs posted.

Contact info: Co-Autocrat: Thyre systir Ivars (Tracey Fehr)  
ph: (306) 522-1572 email - tyral@cableregina.com

Co-Feastocrat: Ippolita Giachetta Castiglioni d' Alessandria (Barb Tomporowski)  
ph: (306) 352-3368 - email - btompor@rocketmail.com.

Arts and Science Champion: Mistress Fabienne l'Accussee (306) 244-0215 celts2@home.com

Bravo Champion: Raoul delaroche (306) 651-2599  
duane.walker@sk.sympatico.ca  
Please no phone calls after 10:00 p.m. Saskatchewan time

A list of hotels is available upon request  
Crash space is available but limited, so again please reserve early!



# Minutes of the Barony of Borealis meeting held on Saturday, September 16, 1999 at Silverwolf Tournament and Feast in Holborn Hall, Spruce Grove.

Chair: Gwynnaeth o Coedaneu  
Acting secretary: Dagmar af Hjorring

Attendance: Kirstin Macbheath, John MacLeod the Black, Alis Talairan de Perigord, Valgard af Hus Vandrér, Aethelstan aet Karlioli, Mordecai Salzer, Rowena of Tregelles, Dmitri Nikolai Bronslav, Alys Sylfrelloc, Nineveh, Magnus Fayrhair, Dirk. Late arrivals: Joan the Just, Cennet ap Llangollen, Dante.

Meeting called to order at 6:55 P.M.

No minutes from any previous meetings available to be read.

## Officers' Reports

Exchequer: Current account balance \$2,524.45.

Herald: Badges for previous barons & baronesses, decorated letter, brewmeister (cannot use term like master) and baron & baroness's favour returned. Other group submissions have been sent on to Laurel. Baron and Baroness must append their approval. Vingard to file.

Chronicler: Aurora schedule to change to every second month in winter. No submissions received. Few subscriptions. No more freebies to be given out. What about free classifieds and selling ad space? Barony would like chronicler to propose rates for approval. Thank you to officers for this chance.

Chatelaine: On tourney field, report deferred.

Master of Stables: Concerned about Cold Lake not having an MOS. Alfheim might volunteer.

Arts and Sciences: Will sponsor competition at Jul/St. Nicholas. Need patrons. No letters of recommendation received for forwarding. Baroness would like people to approach her, too, and start a photographic record of the work done by artisans in the barony.

Constable: Have three volunteers for the position.

Chiurgen: Not warranted although papers were submitted. Look into getting oxygen. Authorized restocking up to \$50.00.

Scribe: Absent.

Mistress of the Lists: Absent.

Seneschal: Need chatelaine, constable and MOS in Cold Lake. Their herald is behind in reporting.

Baron/Baroness: Not being notified about things before they are being publicly discussed.

Any projects in progress from previous administration should be brought up. Don't bypass them or seneschal who are the group's legal representatives. For donations to Kingdom and Principality do we need a Baronial meeting? (Minimum of a quorum of officers would be required; however, very few donations from baronial funds have occurred during current treasurer's tenure so there hasn't been any problem with arranging authorization.) New baronial banners are needed. Price quotes to be obtained from Dante's lady. Provost to resign. Resumes to be solicited for replacement. Vingard need instructors for some Ithra classes to be held at Vinfest. (Joan and Cennet volunteered.) Dante wants to run Spring Faire. Lost Vikings would do the cooking.

## New Business

Alis de Perigord advises that we should petition for an Ithra Chancellor. A Grand Ithra is possible in February or March. Mistress Kendal will come and do a constabulary course. Contacting U of A regarding space. Calendar dates will be a problem if the Ithra is not at an already scheduled event.

Aethelstan would like to run a Poisoner's Feast with the Groaning Board. He is to bring a proposal with more details back to the barony after checking things out.

Mordecai reports that the Baronial Web Master can post information. The site is getting 20 hits per day now.

Dante advised that the rapier tournament was over and he provided his chatelaine's report. Two demos have been requested, one in Slave Lake and the other at Bisset School in Edmonton. The latter is scheduled for the daytime during the third week of October. John Barry was in attendance today and the pictures of the event might get national broadcast. A New Year's party demo may be in the works and the West Edmonton Mall demo is likely to happen in spring.

It is suggested that we purchase a portable garage from Costco for \$315.00 to use as a Baronial pavilion and revive the dagging project.

Erik the Cursed proposes to make 30 minute training videos for all forms of fighting to be filmed in the spring. Will donate a set to the barony and sell copies.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.





# SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, INC. (SCA) international membership application

ENCLOSE YOUR PAYMENT OR COMPLETE CREDIT CARD INSTRUCTIONS AND SEND FORM TO:

The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. • Office of the Registry

P.O. Box 360789 • Milpitas, California 95036-0789, U.S.A.

Tel (408) 263-9305, (800) 789-7486 • Fax (408) 263-0641

CREDIT CARD INSTRUCTIONS ARE ACCEPTED BY FAX



## MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

• **International Membership:** \$25.00 - Subscribing membership not served by U.S. Postal Service. International members receive either their *Kingdom Newsletter* or *Tournaments Illuminated*.

Subscriptions to all other publications are an additional \$15.00.

If you do not indicate which publication you wish to receive with the basic International Membership, the Kingdom newsletter will be automatically assigned. International members are eligible to hold office and any other privileges designated. Please send U.S. funds only.

• **Contributing:** Subscribing members may add to the basic donation to help in the general operation of the Society.

Suggested U.S. tax-deductible amounts: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

• **Associate:** \$20.00 - Non-subscribing membership. Associate members are eligible to hold office and any other privileges designated, except where other membership categories are required by Corpora or the Bylaws. Associate membership does not include subscriptions to any publications. Receives Membership card only.

• **Family:** \$10.00 - per non-subscribing membership for immediate family of a Subscribing or International member residing at the same address. Family members are extended the privileges of associate membership. A maximum of \$60 will be collected from families with one Sustaining and three or more family members (\$35 + \$25). A maximum of \$50 will be collected from families with one International and three or more family members (\$25 + \$25).

NOTE: A separate application form must be completed and signed for each family member.

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# Chroniclers Scrawl

## Greetings Friends,

Producing this issue has been a most enjoyable as well as an exasperating experience. I had been thinking a long while about a color edition of *THE AURORA* and the opportunity arose when a travelling scribe fell off his horse and broke his leg near my dwelling. In exchange for my hospitality in nursing him back to health, he illuminated the outer and inner covers in full, beautiful color.

Excited about the final result, I sent my courier to the local monastery to copy the rest of the issue. Tragically, during his journey, highwaymen from the Gates clan plundered his belongings, taking my manuscript with them. Thus, the manuscript had to be redone resulting in this issue being late. For that I apologize.

I was very pleased to receive several submissions for this release. Many thanks to Lady Sidonia Dokianos, Lord Dante, and Kazimierz. Kazimierz has indicated he will be a regular contributor with his "View from the Pole." For those who have not heard of Kazimierz, he was the feastocrat for Vin Fest.

I wish to make available free space for any gentle's announcements and SCA based merchants. Please contact me for more information.

I hope you've enjoyed this issue of *THE AURORA* and I am always looking for submissions!

LORD FINN O'NEILL  
BOREALIS CHRONICLER



## February/March Issue Deadline

*January 15, 2000*

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The Editors wish it known that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors.

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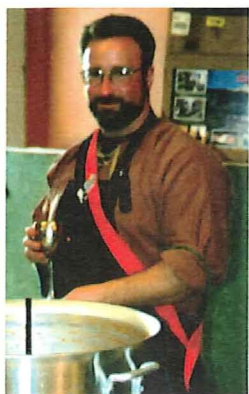
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# THE VIEW FROM THE POLE

## WIGILIA: CELEBRATION AND CEREMONY

BY KAZIMIERZ



Wigilia is a holiday that the Polish people have celebrated in one form or another for many centuries. Although many of its traditions have a definitely Christian flair, its origins come from the shadows of history, predating the 966c.e. political conversion of the Polish State under Mieszko I. Considered by many to be the most important of all Polish traditions, for all its age it is a celebration of new beginnings. It was a time when old grudges and past slights are forgiven and forgotten, and a time when family ties were strengthened and friendships renewed. It was also a time of magic and of prophesying.

Wigilia began shortly after midnight on Dec. 24. The family awoke and began to prepare the household for the feast. No breakfast was eaten, as the people fasted prior to the commencement of the Wigilia feast. The home was thoroughly cleaned that day, as the belief was that Evil would take up residence in anything left unclean that day. Traditional dishes were cooked and laid out beside the table. Decorations were placed around the home, including mistletoe and fir boughs, and, by the 15th century, Christmas trees. The table was covered with a thin layer of straw over which a white tablecloth was laid. Often the top of a fir tree, decorated with apples and candles, was hung upside-down over the table. As night approached and the sky darkened, a child was sent outside to await the appearance of the night's first star. Upon its arrival, the feast began.

The feast began with prayer, sharing, and well wishing. A prayer for a good year was said, and each person around the table shared a portion of the Oplatek, a consecrated Christmas wafer. Wishes for good health, happiness, and fortune were offered by each to the others attending. After this, everyone was seated.

Tradition extended into the seating arrangements. In custom, it was held that an even number at the table meant that some of those attending would not live to see another Wigilia. Thus measures were taken to ensure that there would be an odd number. Friends and even strangers were invited to ensure the requisite number of bodies. In keeping with their traditions of hospitality and the Polish adage "A guest in the home is God in the home", one extra place was always set at the table for an unexpected guest - in hope that Christ would visit in the form of a stranger.

The traditional meal consisted of at least 12 courses. The most popular numbers were 12-13, 12 representing either the number of months in a year or the number of apostles, and 13 being the attendance at the Last Supper. There were no meat dishes other than fish prepared, for religious reasons, and those dishes that were made were traditional. Beyond that, there were no universally fixed customs on the dishes served or the order of them, as these varied from place to place and were subject to availability. While usually simple, the dishes were deeply ingrained with meaning and memories. It was required that each dish be sampled, and that no presents would be opened until the food was gone. It is doubtful that this was a problem, as custom held that your future happiness was proportional to the amount you consumed.

There were dishes that were included in most Wigilia celebrations. The Oplatek was a requisite, and was shared before the meal commenced. Similarly, many feasts often started or ended with Kutia, a dish made with hulled barley or wheat, and honey. The meal almost always included fish. In fact, they expected fish at Wigilia the way we expect turkey at Thanksgiving. Barszcz, sauerkraut, pierogi, dumplings, soup, and dried fruit compote (due to the lack of fresh fruit) were also main staples.

That evening after the meal, after the presents were opened, was a time of magic. It was believed that this was the time that spirits walked the earth, animals spoke with human voices, and the future could be foretold. A maiden could foretell the profession of her future husband by reaching into a river and withdrawing the first thing she laid her hand on (wood -

carpenter, leather - shoemaker, etc.). The direction of the smoke from a candle could portend a good harvest (toward a window), a marriage (toward the stove), or a death (toward a door). Even the number of stars to be seen that night were of importance - the number of stars seen in the heavens were equivalent to the number of sheaves of grain that would be harvested that year.

Wigilia is a tradition that has been celebrated for centuries uncounted. Signifying both a beginning and an ending, it is a day reverence and merriment, fast and feast, mundanity and magic. A celebration of balance, it was - and still is - a day in which the celebrant is urged to move his sight from the unfinished events of his past, and focus his attention on the untapped potential of his future.

### Some traditional Wigilia Dishes:

#### Barszcz Wigilijny (Christmas Eve Barszcz)

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 2 medium size onions<br>(Preferably baked)                   | 1 Bay leaf (optional)     |
| 1 oz. Dried mushrooms  | 6 Peppercorns             |
| 2 Carrots  | 1 tsp. Salt               |
| 2 Celery stalks  | 3-4 C Water               |
| 1 Parsnip  | 3 C Pickled Beets liquid  |
| 2 Medium leeks   | 1 Tbsp Browned flour      |
| 1 Celery root  | 1 heaping teaspoon butter |
| 1 small bunch of parsley, or parsley and fresh dill combined | 3-4 Beets                 |

Cut up all vegetables except beets and mushrooms, which go in whole. Let simmer with bay leaf and peppercorns in 3-4 Cups salted water for about an hour. Strain vegetables if desired, or serve in soup. In the latter case, cut mushrooms into strips and slice beets matchstick-thin. Return to pot. Combine stock with pickled beet liquid, and thicken with paste made from flour and butter, stirring constantly to prevent lumps. Serves 6.  
(Source: <http://www.cs.put.poznan.pl/polhome/xmas.html>)

#### Kutia Wigilijna (Christmas Eve Kutia)

- |                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 cup cracked wheat or bulgur | 2 cups water    |
| 2 cups hot water              | 1 tsp salt      |
| 1/2 cup poppy seeds           | festive spirits |
| 1 cup honey                   |                 |

Soak wheat in 2 cups of hot water for 30 minutes. Bring to a boil and cook covered until tender. Mix in poppy seed. Cook honey with remaining 2 cups of water for 20 minutes. Cool and serve with wheat and poppy seed mixture. For added enjoyment a liberal amount of festive spirits may be added. In Poland the festive spirit is usually called Spiritus, which is grain alcohol. Serves 4-6.

(Source: John Roebuck - The Original Unix Cookbook  
<http://mort.level5.net/johnr/recipes/wigilia-6.txt>)

### Sources:

Christmas Polish Traditions from the Polish American Journal  
<http://www.polamjournal.com/library/christmas.html>

Polish Arts and Customs from The Polish Geneological Society of America  
[http://www.pgsa.org/traditions.htm#Polish Traditions](http://www.pgsa.org/traditions.htm#Polish%20Traditions)

Polish Christmas Customs - Wigilia from The Polish American Center  
<http://www.polishamericancenter.org/Wigilia.htm>

Christmas in Poland from PolishWorld  
<http://www.polishworld.com/christmas/>

Christmas with PSN from Polish Suburban News  
<http://www.polishnews.com/fulltext/christmas/menu.html>

Gwiazdka - The Little Star - Polish Yule Celbrations from  
<http://okanasweb.net/folkcust.html>



# The Proper Attitude

By Lord Dante

Proper attitude for Rapier in the SCA has had little encouragement in the past and no guidelines for the uninitiated to our craft. The following is my opinion regarding the attitude and behavior of the honorable Swordsman in the SCA.

We should always respect our teachers and our colleagues. Here we honor our foundations. In the fighting circle, we must never forget to salute our opponents and shake hands after bouting. In tournament, we show respect for those who officiate our bouts for without them the competition would be chaos.

To me the swordsman who intimidates their opponents with brutality of blade movement or downright, knock-down fencing, or who attempts to side track an adversary through obnoxious, argumentative behavior, is an ignorant amateur, a thoroughly bad swordsman showing little regard for their learning or the institution of the SCA. Beat your opponent with superior blade movement, timing, distance and strategy. Entering the field with malicious intent is positively repugnant and will not be tolerated by anyone.

We acknowledge good hits. When we cheat, we cheat not only our opponents but ourselves, because we rob ourselves of the truth of the sword and cease to grow as swordsmen. We engage against anyone who asks us to a friendly crossing of blades. We can always learn from both good and bad swordsmen. We admire the expert touch and look with tolerance on the less than adequate swordsmen. Everyone starts in the same place, awkward and unknowing.

To act in any way but the above mentioned manner would denigrate the art of the sword. We maintain a sense of good will, we persevere, we are patient, we always strive to do our best and we take pride in the fact that we can do something very unique in our modern day society. We express our respect constantly for the art of the rapier and, therefore, demonstrate through our unflagging loyalty, our own personal honor. Such sentiments are often looked upon with cynicism in today's world. But the rapier attempts to ground us, give us a sense of accomplishment and purpose.

No matter what anyone else tells you, standards count.

Ever your servant,  
**Lord Dante**



# CANDIDS



**His Highness Angar  
Ninefingers**



**Dancing In The Grapes**



**Pick-up Fight At Vinfest**