

AVANTGARDE

KINGDOM OF AVACAL'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



AS LVIII(58) Vol. II
JUNE 2023

CHRONICLER'S DESK



Happy New Year! Technically last month's issue was our New Year issue, but due to the publishing schedule, I am writing this on our actual new year, which is May 1st! Pondering new things has me thinking about new members, so I am going to take this issue to talk to new and prospectively new members and offer some advice for anyone interested in joining in our game!

First and foremost, attending an SCA event is the best way to get a feel for the organization and what it has to offer. You'll be surrounded by people dressed in medieval clothing, participating in tournaments, and engaging in a variety of arts and crafts. It's a chance to meet new friends and learn new skills, as well as participate in games, feasts, and other activities. You can find a list of upcoming events on the avacal.org website, or reach out to your local group to see if they have any events planned. Also, most groups have an officer, the Chatelaine, who's job is helping new people! Our Kingdom Chatelaine is Richard D'Hauke and you can reach him at Chatelaine@avacal.org, he can help you find a local group and a local Chatelaine!

Your local group is a great way to get involved in the SCA community and meet people who share your interests. The SCA has kingdoms, baronies, and shires. Contact your local group to find out more about meetings, practices, and other events in your area. By joining a local group, you'll have access to local events and practices, as well as a network of experienced members who can help you get started. A good resource is this free booklet: [A Newcomers Guide to the SCA.](#)

Finally, it's important to explore your interests and find out what you enjoy doing. The SCA offers a wide range of activities, from heavy fighting and archery to calligraphy and embroidery. Take the time to attend workshops and classes, talk to experienced members, and try new things. The SCA is a welcoming and supportive community, and there's something for everyone. You don't have to do everything at once - take your time and find your niche.

The SCA is a wonderful organization that offers a unique and fulfilling experience for those who are interested in history prior to 1600. By attending events, joining a local group, and exploring your interests, you'll be well on your way to enjoying all that the SCA has to offer. The key is to take your time and not feel overwhelmed by all the different options available to you. The SCA is a supportive community that welcomes newcomers, so don't hesitate to reach out and get involved. Welcome to the Society for Creative Anachronism, and have fun exploring the past!

See you next issue friends!
Hamelin LArchier

AVANTGARDE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an event? A story, news, recipe or a research article that needs to be shared? The Avantgarde has room for your submission! If you would like to submit content, please email chronicler@avacal.org and include your SCA name with you submission. Also, linked below are the release forms that may need to accompany it. Deadline for submissions is the 7th of each month.

SCA MODEL RELEASE FORM:

<https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Release-Model.pdf>

SCA CREATIVE WORK COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT/ GRANT OF USE FORM:

<https://www.sca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/ReleaseCreativeFillable.pdf>

In this issue:

Kingdom & Court	3
Champions & Events	4
Event Postings	5
Event Postings	6
Avacal Contacts	7
Pennsic Information	8
Open Officer Positions	10
Court Report	11
Featured Columns	12
SCA News	14
Merchants of Avacal	14
Merchants of Avacal	15

KINGDOM AND COURT



nto the Mighty Kingdom of Avacal,

We are honored and humbled to have been selected to serve as your new King and Queen. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our predecessors, Their Graces Duke Kvigr and Duchess Svava, for their hard work and dedication to the Kingdom during their reign. We hope to continue building on the foundations they have laid and serve the Kingdom to the best of our abilities. We would also like to thank all those who have stepped forward with offers of service or words of encouragement. Avacal is blessed to have such a talented and enthusiastic populace!

We understand the responsibilities that come with the Crown and are committed to upholding the ideals of chivalry, honor, and service that are the hallmarks of the SCA. We look forward to working with all of you to make Avacal an even better place, where all members can find their place and contribute to the game we love.

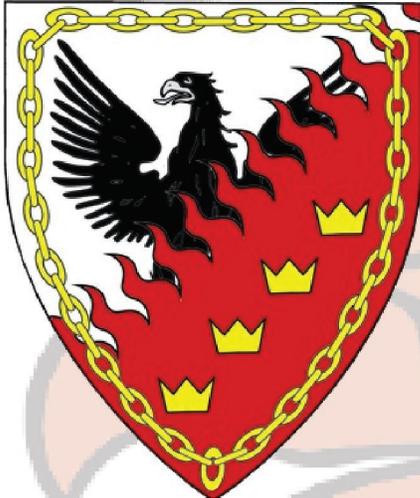
We hope that you will join us in celebrating the rich history and traditions of our game, as well as the wonderful community of people who make it all possible. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to serving as your King and Queen.

Yours in service,
Gunther, King
Eyoddi, Queen

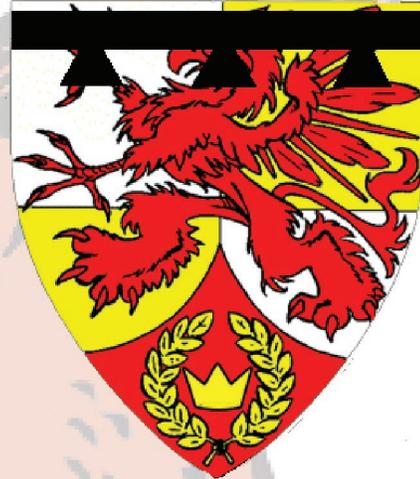


KINGDOM AND COURT

ROYALTY, AVACAL



GUNTHER RORIKSON
KING



EYODDI LOKADOTTIR
QUEEN

CHAMPIONS OF AVACAL:

Champion of Sword	Edward Vikingsson
Champion of Arts & Science	Tova Asketill
Champion of Arrow	Ayame Houjou
Champion of Bardic	Aran of Ayresgarde
Champion of Rapier	Robert of Clan Gunn
Champion of Youth	Njord Swordbreaker

COMING EVENTS

Silverwolf - June 9 - 11, 2023, Barony of Borealis

Dragon Slayer - June 16-18, 2023, Barony of Montengarde

Quad War - June 30 - July 4, 2023 - Shire of Bordergate

Summer Champions - July 7-9, 2023, Barony of Myrgan Wood

Pillage Practice - July 14-16, 2023, Shire of Sigelhundas

Midsummer Mischief - July 21-23, 2023, Shire of Ayresgarde

<https://newavacalwebtttwo.avacal.org/calendar/>

OFFICIAL EVENT POSTINGS

SILVERWOLF

When: June 9 - 11, 2023

Where:

Warburg Arena & Ball Diamonds
5339 50a Ave, Warburg, AB,
T0C2T0

Site Hours: Noon to Noon

Price: \$25 (\$20 with membership)
17 and under free.

Event Stewards:

Robert of Clan Gunn (Robert
Simpson, rms210@mail.usask.ca)

Samuel of Borealis (Samuel Fe-
doruk, samf@outcastarms.ca)

Join Borealis as we celebrate the
reign of Jean and Guillaine and
welcome the new coronets of Aman
& Sarah! Also, Borealis will be
hosting their Championships for
Archery and Rapier, followed by a
feast.

DRAGON SLAYER

WHEN: June 16 to 18, 2023

Event site opens on Friday at Noon and
closes Sunday at 11:00am.

WHERE: Emerson Bridge Park Camp-
ground (Overflow Area)

225042 HWY36, Duchess/Newell County
No. 4, AB, T1R 1B2

(Off Hwy 36, North of Hwy 1, on the Red
Deer River)

Event Co-Stewards: Lucrezia Iseppa Con-
stantina di Arborea & Bliath the Red

Contact the Stewards:

events@montengarde.org

Event Page: Pending

Baronial Page: <https://www.montengarde.org/Welcome/dragonslayer/>

Kingdom Page: <https://newavacalwebttwo.avacal.org/calendar/?event=2461>

Registration Page: <https://forms.gle/o5TR8qU7sNnvQ4CAA>

Prices:

Adult Non-Member: \$25

Adult Member: \$20

Youth (under 18): Free

Dragonslayer & Dragonblinder Champi-

onship information to be posted on
event page on April 30, 2023. Our brave
Scout's have provided reports showing an
increasing series of hostile dragon raids
here in Avacal, including the discovery
of many a Dragon nests!!! Their Excel-
lencies of Montengarde are gathering the
armies, and the our brave champions call
out for those who would seek to join us
on our quest to slay them! The Dragons
themselves are rising in number, and many
scouts were lost gaining this crucial in-
formation for us. The feral Dragons have
been hoarding all the CHEESES!! For the
sake of all that is holey (like swiss or gou-
da), we must save the Cheese & put down
these hostile Dragons who would seek do
our lands & peoples harm!!!

There is no feast or canteen on site! - Fire
Pit information pending: As per the Alber-
ta Wildfire group (restrictions and bans)
& campground requirements/assessment.
Alberta Firebans website: www.albertafirebans.ca

Merchants are Welcome - No merchant
fee! Activities & Classes to be announced
on the event page.

If you wish to teach a class, or run an
activity, please contact the Stewards at
events@montengarde.org

Further details and schedule TBA - com-
ing soon. For those with trailers and RV's
who will be joining us on site, there will be
no power or water available to attach to,
and we are not allowing generators to be
used on the event site. Those who wish
to use generators, or pay for power and/
or water connection will have to arrange
a separate site in the campground proper
with the campsite authorities. Costs for
these sites are not covered by the event,
and will be up to each owner to cover for
those services. Reservations are rec-
ommend for the private sites. Site
contact information is above.

** For persons with disabilities requiring
a generator, you & your generator will be
allowed and accommodated on the event
site **

QUAD WAR

When: June 30 - July 4, 2023

Where:

Quad War Site

52°53'02.7"N 109°53'56.1"W

Site Hours: Noon to Noon

Price: \$30 (\$25 with membership)
17 and under free.

Event Stewards:

Volchok Vikingsson (viking1162@
gmail.com) & Strio Smior (quin-
nW@mcsnet.ca)

Within the borders of the fair King-
dom of Avacal, there are whispers
of an epic battle years in the mak-
ing. Whispers become roars, and
build the anticipation. The Shire of
Bordergate would like to invite one
and all to participate in the quintes-
sential medieval event, Quad War,
and celebrate with our Avacal &
visiting kingdom friends.

SUMMER CHAMPIONS

When: July 7-9, 2023

Where:

Quad War Site

52°53'02.7"N 109°53'56.1"W

Site Hours: Noon to Noon

Price: \$25 (\$20 with membership)
17 and under free.

Event Stewards:

Robert Boniface: Matthew_fur-
long@hotmail.com

Astrid Arnsbjornsdottir: Audrey.
folster@gmail.com

Hrogn Guntherson: Dave.tarry@
gmail.com

Thorgunn Hrognsbur

Join the Barony of Myrgan Wood at
our Summer Champions event to
find our next Champions of Arrow
and Rapier!

There will be many other activities

EVENTS

-- Continued from page 5
(Summer Champions)
on the schedule that aren't normally run at events because Myrg likes to keep it weird!

- 3 Truths and 1 Lie: Breakable Shields Tournament with actual breakable shields!
 - Friday night Team Torchlight Tourney for both Rapier and Armoured Combined! We've always wanted to see them fight at the same time right?
 - Bardic Bingo! Oil up those walkers and get your dabbers and wind-pipes ready!!
 - Target Archery Competition with real arrows and live peasants!
- Myrg Summer Champs is a fun event. Come have fun.

PILLAGE PRACTICE

When: July 14 - 16, 2023
Where:
White City Acreage

Site Hours: 4pm Friday to Noon Sunday
Price: \$25 (\$20 with membership) 17 and under free.
Event Stewards:
Myghchaell Loughlin(chatelaine@sigelhundas.org) & Philipp of the Lakes (grissom12@gmail.com)
Join the Shire of Sigelhundas for a day of fantastic fun, bardic balderdash, slinging steel, pointy projectiles, crazy combat, and delightful dancing, among other things! Something for everyone! Camping possible.

MIDSUMMER MISCHIEF

When: July 21-23, 2023
Where:

Mountainview Girl Guide Camp
8055 Wycliffe Road, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 7C6
Site Hours: 4pm Friday to 4pm Sunday
Price: \$20 (\$15 with membership) 17 and under free.
Event Steward:
Christina Moore (tinamoore9@gmail.com)
All the frivolous fun you know and love, and now featuring our armoured, rapier, and archery defendership tournaments! Plus classes, merchants, the ever popular Mischief Games and MUCH MORE! What are you waiting for?

Out of Kingdom Event: Ducal War North VIII

When: June 23-25, 2023 Where: Northwood Lodge, Lac la Hache, BC
What: The Shire of Coill Mhor in Tir Righ cordially invites you to war, camping alongside a beautiful lake. Bring your own Ducal Household or come for hire, or just come and hang out for the fun of it! Competitions for: Brewing (Meads, Ales, Wines), Siege Cooking, Bardic etc. The best bardic anywhere near here happens at the Bardic Slam. Steward: Hamelin L'Archier (Kevin Lavoie, hamelin1066@gmail.com) Gate is \$30 (\$25 with membership discount), free from 17 and under. See [here](#) for more details
- Registered Ducal Households get an allotement of cabins for rent.



Ducal War is at Northwood Lodge, right on Timothy Lake in the beautiful Cariboo region of British Columbia. Camping right on the lake, power and water available to most sites.

Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to try to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.



AVACAL CONTACTS

Royalty

King

crownprince@avacal.org

Gunther Rorikson
(Damon Steadman)

Queen

crownprincess@avacal.org

Eyoddi Lokadottir
(Jody Steadman)

Baronets of Avacal

Borealis

(Edmonton, Alberta)
<http://borealis.avacal.net>

Baron: Jean de Chauillac
(Jeffery Payne)

Baroness: Guillaîne de Gaulle
(Kimberly Payne)

baron.baroness@borealis.avacal.net

Montengarde

(Calgary, AB)
www.montengarde.org

Baron: Refr Bjarnarson
(David Laney)

Baroness: Adis Ulfsdottir
(Suzanne Laney)

excellencies@montengarde.org

Myrgan Wood

(Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

<http://sites.avacal.org/Myrganwood>

Baron: Alexios Mavros
(Cody Redekop)

Baroness: Amya Mavros
(Terri Redekop)

BandB@myrganwood.org

Baronial & Branch

Seneschals

Ayresgarde

(Cranbrook BC, Kimberly BC)
Medb Polestripper

(Amanda Gueguen)

ayresgarde.seneschal@avacal.org

Bitter End

(Red Deer, AB - Shire)

Marcus Artorius (Brad Smith)
bitterendseneschal@gmail.com

Bordergate

(Cold Lake, AB - Shire)
Volchok Vikingsson

(Clint Zajic)

bordergate.seneschal@avacal.org

Borealis

(Edmonton, AB - Barony)

Philippe de St. Denis

(Anne Harwood)

borealis.seneschal@avacal.org

Montengarde

(Calgary, AB - Barony)

Kathryn inghean ui mhaunaigh

(Carrie Mooney)

montengarde.seneschal@avacal.org

Myrgan Wood

(Saskatoon, SK - Barony)

Signe Smidja

(Samantha Chimko)

seneschal@myrganwood.org

Sigelhundas

(Regina, SK - Shire)

Gwenyfer of Sigelhundas

(Jenifer Ulriksen)

sigelhundas.seneschal@avacal.org

Valleywold

(Moose Jaw, SK - Shire)

Geoffrey Lawrence

(Jeff McKibben)

valleywold.seneschal@avacal.org

Vinjar

(Grande Prairie, AB - Shire)

Adamar di Donadei di Pietro

(Craig Cruikshank)

vinjar.seneschal@avacal.org

Windwyrn

(Lethbridge, AB - Shire)

Freydis Birthesdottir

(Sonja Hunter)

Windwyrn.Seneschal@avacal.org

Incipient Shire of Myrgardr

(Fort Saint John & Dawson's
Creek, BC)

Lady Aurora of the Feast

(Loranne Shields)

loranneshields@gmail.com

Kingdom Officers

Seneschal Contacts

Seneschal

Renee Carr

(Wanda Edel)

seneschal@avacal.org

Contingency Deputy

Roxanne Delaroche

(Tracy Walker)

seneschal@avacal.org

Calendar

Medb Pollstripper

(Amanda Gueguen)

calendar@avacal.org

Exchequer Contacts

Exchequer

Ellisif Snorraddóttir

(Stacy Bieberstein)

exchequer@avacal.org

Herald Contacts

Sanguinaris Herald

(Kingdom Herald)

Sadb Jófreysdóttir

(Vicki Feyrer-Foster)

herald@avacal.org

Scribes & Illuminators Con- tacts

Gules Signet Scribe

(Kingdom Scribe)

A'isha Rayhana al-Karim

(Lisa Bealy)

scribe@avacal.org

Earl Marshal Contacts

Earl Marshal

Fergus of Carlisle

(Murray MacGregor)

earlmarshal@avacal.org

Arts and Sciences Contacts

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Morrigan

(Jude Harrison)

artsci@avacal.org

Web Team Contacts

Web Minister

Roya Khuvö Tavilan

(Nicole Roth)

web@avacal.org

Web Team

webteam@avacal.org

University of Avacal (TUA)

Regent

Philippe de St-Denis

(Anne Harwood)

tua-regent@avacal.org

Chatelaine Contacts

Chatelaine

Richard D'Hauke (Brad Sparks)

chatelaine@avacal.org

Chronicler Contacts

Chronicler

Hamelin L'Archier

(Kevin Lavoie)

chronicler@avacal.org



SCA Information:

Society Seneschal/ Vice-President for Operations:

Lis Schraer
(Elasait ingen Diarmata)
314-941-0831

seneschal@sca.org

Next Board Meeting:

Third Quarter July 23, 2023
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1989 East Calaveras, Milpitas,
California, 95035.

QUARTERLY BOARD

MEETINGS

All quarterly board meetings
have a 10:00 am start time unless
otherwise stated.

Depending on "safer-in-place"
regulations in effect, meetings
may be handled by VoIP rather
than in person.

50 AT 50 - PENNSIC INFO

Pennsic - What Can I do?

Q&A with Arwyn, Avacal Pennsic Coordinator

This Month's focus is about the activities that are available. Much more happens at Pennsic than just the war point scenarios. Just understand that you can't do everything (some things I've taken like 15 pennsics to get to). We will focus on the "big" things and some of the resources to help out. The "thing" is the main schedule at <http://thing.pennsicuniversity.org/calendars>.

Q: It's war right. I'm an armored combat or rapier fighter. When's the best time to go?

A: SWIM on Saturday (Aug 5) is an all day pickup with the order of chivalry and the order of defense holding the field. War Points for champions start on middle Sunday (Aug 6) with specialized tourneys with the major war points starting war week Monday. Only one scenario is on war week Friday AM (Aug 11). Almost all of the war points allow you to participate in both armored and rapier scenarios. Cool Armored Tourneys include so far: Be Sinister, Left-handed Tourney Celebrates 50!; Dwarves vs. Giants; Heavy Weapons Graybeard Tournament; Kamikaze Battle; and Known World Baronial Armored Champions Tournament. Rapier has an even longer list and some cool ones include: The Tadcaster Militia Gauntlet Arcade Extravaganza; Æthelmearc Rapier Novice Tourney; Æthelmearc's Ladies' Rapier Tourney; Best of the Knowne Worlde Rapier Tourney; Known World Baronial Rapier Champions Tournament; and Known World Rapier Cadet Tournament. Check out the "thing" for the schedule.

Q: I'm a combat archer. Or I'm a target archer. How about Thrown Weapons? Do we get to play too?

A: A lot of the battles allow combat archery and Wednesday battles typically focus on combat archery/missile and siege big time. For target archers, the range is open for war point shootings starting Sunday and tournaments start the middle Friday as well. Target Archery shoots tend to be the deciding factor for who wins the war so almost everyone shoots! For Thrown Weapons, a bit more shorter focus is from basically Saturday (Aug 5) until Tuesday (Aug 8) for their tournaments but the war point still goes until Thursday night (Aug 10).

Q: I love TUA (The University of Avacal) and classes. How does that work?

A: Classes are held in many areas with the majority of them at University Commons near the food court (which includes 19 classroom tents, the games and dance tents) . Additional classrooms have also been set up at the Bog University (down where the parties are) and Runestone Campus with another 3 more classrooms (near the bathhouse ½ way down Runestone). This doesn't include personal camps and on the battlefield. Check out the "Thing" for the already posted classes that will be updated online until July 23.

Q: A&S beyond classes? Dance tent? Middle Eastern Tent? Games Tent? Herald's Point?

A: An Arts & Science Display will happen on Sunday Aug 6 in the Great Hall where at 11:30AM artisans will set up their entries and from 1-5pm the displays will be open for the public. A&S has a war point and one individual from Avacal may be selected to participate for the allies portion. This competition and their entries on display will also happen in the Great Hall on Thursday Aug 10.

European Dance Tent? At the corner of Chandler's Road and Dragon's Trace across from the Great Hall is a very large tent with shade, ice water, a wood floor and of course dancing! You can come dance, learn to dance in classes held from the morning until dinnertime or just appreciate and watch. Once the evening rolls around, dance balls are held. Check out pennsiccandance.aands.org for more info.

50 AT 50 - PENNSIC INFO

We also have a focussed tent for Middle Eastern arts and dance! Over the years, the Middle Eastern Community has put a lot of effort into their space at the top of runestone hill. Although classes happen as part of the university in other areas, this tent has a floor, banners and decorations that reflect the culture. Come learn dance, music, singing, and other aspects of this diverse community. They have a Facebook group, Pennsic Middle Eastern Activities.

Games Tent? Modern Gaming Tent? Two tents are set up. Modern gaming tent has things like D&D, Magic the Gathering, etc and provides a “modern game” break from Pennsic. Games tent beside the European Dance Tent provides both classes (informal and formal on the schedule of the thing) and tournaments on period games. Nice place to stop, get out of the sun or rain and learn some medieval ways to pass the time.

Heralds Point? Come get help with your SCA name and armory (device or badge). Senior heralds of the Known World will help you with your registration. Avacal will be accepting submissions which will be routed back to our kingdom via email. Volunteer artists draw up the heraldry and colour it for you! Best place for complicated submissions, cultural specific submissions (like non-european) to help get it through the system.

Q: Shopping? Midnight Madness?

A: Shopping at Pennsic is probably the best in the Known World and even some years it's a War Point! Two main merchant areas exist with one around the camp store and one across from Troll Booth near the two food courts. Almost anything you want in the SCA can be found here including armor, scribal supplies, pottery, garb of all types, shoes, T-shirts, jewelry and coronets. Most merchants have moved to major credit cards for transactions but cash is still cool. Don't miss midnight madness (Wed Night night of War Week) where the merchants are open until 1AM. Also wonderful entertainers are dotted along the way.

Q: Bardic, Entertainment? Stages, Plays, Concerts?

A: The entertainment stages (yes I did say stages) have concerts, plays, and practices. Some of the practice all war until Wednesday to Friday and then perform. The Children Choir (with the smallest at 5 with her stuffed bunny) and the youth instrumental ensemble (yes band camp) did a phenomenal job last year.

Known World Players is doing Romeo and Juliet on Friday night (last major performance) and they will then do auditions for next year. Other plays and drama include comedies, improv and a reading play as well.

Bardic Concerts include Duke Moonwolf and Marion of Heatherdale (Heather Dale) and Friends just to name a few. Official Bardic circles include the one on Runestone hill focused on newcomers for a low key atmosphere along with other bardic circles at personal camps. Some are by invite and some are open. Ask at the camp entrance if the circle is open.

Q: How to wind down after the day? Parties?

A: Parties are epic at Pennsic (or so I've been told - I'm not a party person). I have attended a few of them with friends and when I was retinue but I generally hang around my camp. I have known people who only party at Pennsic (get up around 4pm and party until sunrise). Most parties start Thursday of peace week until Thursday night of war week). Check out the UNofficial Pennsic Party Calendar – Alternative Party Calendar for Pennsic 50. Some are very popular and normally alcohol is free or by donation. Bring your ID (everyone cards) and some cash for donations. Have fun and don't forget to rehydrate.

OPEN OFFICER POSITIONS

Q: Cool Things not to Miss?

Take a bus tour. Best way to see “most” of pennsic. A bus app has been developed that will tell you where the bus is so you can plan to be at the closest stop. With Pennsic at more than 450 acres, it’s almost impossible to see all of it by foot in a week. Try to take it early after you arrive to get your bearings on where things are.

Pennsic 50 History Display will be at the Great Hall on Monday and Tuesday of War Week. Historical items, pictures and some people telling stories. We have some people who have never missed a Pennsic and still come! My knight, Duke Hasdrubal, remembers his two Pennsics as King of the East and fighting on Runestone hill. Find out the “real” story on how Pennsic started versus the urban legend. I challenge you to find out!

A somber event is the Boat Burning down on the lake. A viking long ship is created each year and the organizers will sell little shields on the side to be placed for those we lost in the year. Last year, the Thursday version of the Pennsic Independent (the onsite newsletter) did a memorial page on this day as well.

Next month: Nuts and Bolts. How to survive day to day at Pennsic.



Kingdom Office - Principal Herald of Avacal

We are seeking applications for the Office of Principal Herald of Avacal. My term as Sanguinaris Herald is ending at the end of July 2023.

The Officer is both challenging and rewarding. You will coordinate and work with a great team of Heralds inside and outside our Kingdom.

The responsibilities of this office include:

*Kingdom officers are required to have active membership status with the Society.

*File Quarterly Reports from your officers and report to Avacal Curia and the Society Herald, known as Laurel.

*Give good counsel to their Majesties

and court regarding heraldic matters. This includes Kingdom awards, devices, precedence, ceremonial, information about cultural aspects of the Society and heraldic advice.

*Attend monthly decision meetings to determine the status of heraldic submissions.

*Recruiting and training new heralds is a way to grow the college and build a more significant knowledge base.

*Maintain a welcoming environment and abide by Society and Kingdom, laws and customs.

You are only expected to know and answer some questions but understand what resources are available and how to

seek them out.

Please have a look at the Society Herald Admin Handbook for more questions.

<https://heraldry.sca.org/admin.html#X.A>

If you are interested in this challenging and rewarding job, please send an Email to

herald@avacal.org and crown@avacal.org



COURT REPORT / AVACAL ON VIGIL

The Court of the Majesties King Kvigr Ivarsson and Queen Svava Suanhuita Ferret's Feast, April 15, AS LVII

Michael of Sigelhundas (Sigelhundas)
Kaeli of Sigelhunda (Sigelhundas)
Astin of Sigelhundas (Sigelhundas)

Award of Arms
Award of Arms
Award of Arms

Avacal Grand TUA (The University of Avacal) April 22, AS LVII

Halvor Roriksson (Borealis)
Grace of Borealis (Borealis)
Sarah of Borealis (Borealis)
Jehannette de Brie (Borealis)
Allert Pierson (Montengarde)
Hamelin L'Archier (Borealis)
Aran Adamas (Ayresgarde)
Thisbe Elysande La Blanchette (Ayresgarde)
Fionnghuala ingen Chellaig (Borealis)
Tova Asketill (Montengarde)
Li Xia (Montengarde)

Award of Arms
Griffins Agate
Award of Arms
Sable Flame
Sable Glove
Sable Flame
Avacal Champion of Bardic
Elder
Iron Skull
Avacal Champion of Arts and Science
Iron Quill

AVACAL ON VIGIL



FEATURE COLUMNS

Period Cooking & You: How to Get Started

By Jonker Allert Pierson

In the imagination of the uninitiated, pre-17th century food is often characterized as a blasted hellscape of flavorless brown sludge, bread, and beer. This is simply not the case! The study and recreation of pre-17th century recipes is as fun and rewarding as any other A&S project, and most of what you need is already in your kitchen! The added bonus is that you get to eat what you make, unlike a new silk cotehardie (unless you're doing something very, very wrong.)

Sourcing Your Recipes:

When it comes to sourcing a period recipe, there are three different kinds of sources you might like to consult to get started:

Period cookbooks: Get out there and find yourself a period cookbook! There are loads available in the English language from the extreme end of period, and I find this is a pretty good place to start if you want to give cooking from a primary source a try. This takes some research, but some mild Googling should get you pointed in the right direction.

Period recipes are nothing like modern ones. You will only very rarely find any mention of proportional measurement, amounts, or even cooking method. Modern cooking experience comes in handy, since you'll know when something might work better roasted or boiled. Don't be afraid to ask for advice from the chefs in your life!

You are also dealing with English which is very, very old. Elizabethan cookbooks aren't so bad, but as you start going backwards in time, the language and grammar become more obscure. They may use words for things that we don't, or refer to ingredients we can't get – such as “codlings,” “alexanders,” or “pehennes.” (A kind of small sour apple, a very versatile edible flowering plant, and female peacock, respectively.) You'll need to sit down with your recipe and try to translate it into a usable form (redaction) before you can

proceed. Sometimes, your period cookbook will be in another language entirely.

Florilegium.org It seems kind of strange to list a single website, but Stefan's Florilegium Archive is the most comprehensive source of SCA food knowledge. Despite the fact that Stefan himself sadly passed in 2022, his friends and household members have maintained the archive for our use. It hosts decades worth of conversations, educational articles, and debates among interested individuals in the SCA. You can find everything from discussions on the eating of raw vegetables, to the period use of crabapples, to fried cheese recipes there. It also hosts loads of “redactions” – that is, recipes which have been taken from their original form and translated into a usable format.

Websites, interpretive cookbooks, YouTubers, etc. You really don't have to be a scholar to give period flavors and techniques a try. There are a very wide range of websites, YouTubers and cookbooks with tried, tested and true versions of period recipes which may have been altered slightly to achieve the best flavor profile. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this! Cooking is a living, cultural art. Reviving period recipes in a way that will encourage you to cook them regularly is a success, in my opinion, even if they are a little bit altered.

Tasting History with Max Miller ([youtube.com/tastinghistory](https://www.youtube.com/tastinghistory)) Max Miller is an excellent popular food historian who releases a new video every week redacting recipes from a huge range of historical periods. He also recently released a cookbook!

Godecookery.com This simple site hosts a number of very accurate redactions. If you just want a good, tested recipe, this is a great resource.

Medievalcookery.com This older site is well-sourced and cited, but the recipes are definitely adapted somewhat. I love

that the recipes are sorted by country, so if you're trying to design a feast with a regional menu, this will really help. This website also has full menus that you can recreate for your next feast endeavor.

Many SCA cooking groups have their own websites and Facebook groups, which are awesome resources especially if you want to try cooking a feast yourself. They often feature menus, recipes, and tips and tricks. These are not always strictly accurate reproductions, but they are usually pretty tasty.

Powders and Seasonings:

We recognize certain seasonings as the “fingerprint” of different modern cuisines (dashi, kombu, miso, shoyu, sake and mirin for Japanese cuisine, for example).

Pre-17th century cooking is no different, and various cultures through history had spices, herbs and seasonings that they used extensively to create the unique “fingerprint” of their cuisine. In ancient Roman recipes, you'll frequently find garum (a fermented fish sauce), saba (a thick grape syrup), silphium (which we replace with asofoetida now), and vinegar.

Before you try to cook any high-status medieval recipe from Europe (especially a French or English one) you'll notice that they used spices differently than we do. You may also notice that they reference spice mixes (“powders”) but don't tell you what goes in them. Like most spice mixes today, these don't seem to have been standardized. Every cook would probably have a slightly different variation.

These are the three mixes that come up most often in those recipes, plus my recommendations for component spices:

Powder Fort (as in “strong”): Cinnamon, ginger, ground cloves, black pepper, and grains of paradise (if you can get them)

Powder Douce (as in “sweet”): Cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, ground cloves, and sugar

FEATURE COLUMNS

Powder Fine: Cinnamon, ginger, black pepper, ground cloves, and saffron

“No-no” ingredients?

You may have heard phrases like “potatoes aren’t period!” or “you can’t use tomatoes!” in your cooking journey. I used to think that way, too, when I was just getting started!

While it’s true that a lot of the delicious dishes we enjoy today are products of colonial invasion and expansion - that is, they use ingredients not available in certain regions of the world pre-1600 - that does not mean you shouldn’t explore the use of those ingredients pre-1600!

Try to establish how the cultures which had access to that ingredient were using it at the time and work from there. Look at how our produce has changed through the centuries as our ability to manipulate growing conditions and selectively plant for different traits developed. Trace the evolution of popular dishes like macaroni and cheese, coffee, and chocolate. It can be really rewarding to learn more about another culture and time period through their foodways. Remember, the SCA covers the whole world!

Testing

Often, you will make something edible and even quite delicious when you try a recipe! However, sometimes what you make will be really, really bad.



Don’t give up on a recipe if it doesn’t work right the first time. Most recipes have no proportions listed, it’s very important to try and try again. It might take you three or four tests, changing the amount of each ingredient and adjusting the method, before you’re happy with what you have. It’s all part of the process.

Happy cooking!

Beltane, what is it?

By Raginmund Foxroe

Short answer is it is one of the four major Gaelic festivals, specifically regarding the beginning of summer and its associated activities. Livestock is sent to pasture but before it is sent, there is a veritable litany of practices carried out to ensure a bountiful season.

A Brief History:

According to the early medieval text *Sanas Cormaic & Tochmarc Emire*, Beltane was held at the beginning of May, known in Irish as “Bealtaine” hence where the name is derived from, and marked the beginning of summer. The texts say that to protect cattle from disease Druids would make two fires and drive the cattle between them.

Other methods were practiced to protect the cattle and ensure a bountiful season such as the yellow and white flowers of primrose, rowan, hawthorn, gorse, hazel and marsh marigold would be tied to the cattle and the equipment used in the milking and butter making processes. This is likely due to these plants being used during the fire blessing ceremony.

Keeping with Irish folklore, appeasement of the fairies as an act of spiritual insurance was of major importance. Many Beltane practices were designed to ward off the fairies to prevent them from stealing dairy products. Such examples include placing three black coals under a butter churn to ensure the fairies did not steal the butter and May Boughs were tied to milk pails. The tails of cattle were hung in barns to ensure the cattle’s milk was not stolen.

A Hearty Dish

What does a young dairy farmer eat to ensure they can carry out the daily duties as well as a seasoned veteran? Depending on the sources you examine, you may find Frumenty listed as one of the items commonly eaten during this time period.

What’s Frumenty you may be asking yourself. Frumenty is a popular dish in Western European cuisine for the period. It is a porridge and the name derives from

the Latin word *frumentum* which means ‘grain’ and what serves as the bulk ingredient of the dish. Frumenty can either be made sweet or savoury depending on the ingredients available among other factors. For this preparation, the focus will be on the savoury preparation. Meat, while being a luxury in the period, could be added to the Frumenty to provide a calorie and protein dense bonus.

Meats common to savoury Frumenty would have been pork and interestingly, venison. Stated below is a preparation method commonly used.

“Take clean wheat and bray it (beat it into small pieces) in a mortar cleaning the hulls away. Seethe (boil) the wheat until it bursts, drain and let it cool. Take fresh broth (vegetable broth in this case) and sweet cow’s milk, temper it all (bring up to temperature slowly to prevent curdling) and add egg yolks. Boil gently and mess it forth (plate the dish. This is where the naval term “Mess” comes from for Mess Hall) with fat venison and fresh mutton”.

It is worth noting here that venison tends to be a very lean meat. Therefore combining it with alternative fat sources such as pork or butter would be necessary to ensure that the meat is not dry. In preparing the meat, you can go for period cooking styles of parboiling then roasting the meat over open flame or a number of other preparation methods.

Personally, my favourite is to sear the meat first and butter baste in a mixture of herbs then roast the meat over a bed of onions, celery, and garlic. One could also go for a mixing of flavours and prepare a creamed cabbage with sauteed onions and season with chives.

For plating, start with your Frumenty as the bed of the dish and layer on the plate directly. Next, with your meat sliced down to manageable portions, layer atop the Frumenty. Finish with the vegetable mixture and/or the creamed cabbage mixture and enjoy.

Slàinte Mhaith!

Society Officer Opening - Marshall

The Marshal of the Society's area of authority is all martial and related activities practiced in the Society, both those described by the handbooks approved for the office and proposed as additions to those handbooks (experimental activities). The Marshal will work to encourage the participation of all in the Society's martial activities, and strive to expand and improve those activities for the benefit of the Society and its members.

The duties of the office include:

- Directing the Earl Marshals of the Kingdoms in matters concerning the supervision of martial and related activities at Society events
 - Overseeing the manner and conduct of duties of all marshals throughout the Society
 - Working to promote and improve the safety of the Society's martial activities
- Working with the Minister of Arts and Sciences to encourage research in armor, weapons, and the practice of historical martial arts
- Day-to-day work of the position entails administering the marshallate activities of the Society and coordinating the activities of the Kingdom Earl Marshals, and of all Deputy Society Marshals for the individual

disciplines. Reports are required to be filed quarterly to the Board summarizing the martial activities of the Society. The Society Marshal is also responsible for maintaining communications with the Kingdom Earl Marshals. These activities specifically include:

- Warranting (with the Crown) Earl Marshals for twenty kingdoms
- Warranting (with the Board) Deputy Society Marshals for Armored, Rapier, and Youth Combat, Combat Archery, Siege Weapons, Equestrian, Rebated Steel, and Target Archery and Thrown Weapons, and other deputies as needed
- Supporting the Earl Marshals when they have questions, and advising them as necessary
- Resolving disputes among marshals, and between marshals and the Crown
- Serving as the point of appeal for sanctions applied by the Earl Marshals
- Encouraging the expansion of martial activities in the Society by the wise revision of the marshallate's documents and by conducting experiments with new materials and activities

The successful candidate must be well versed in administrative techniques, prob-

lem solving, and interpersonal communications. The successful candidate will possess:

- Knowledge of marshallate policy, rules, and procedures
 - Knowledge of the traditions of the Society
 - Extensive negotiation skills and experience in resolving differences
 - The ability to set aside all preferences and biases for the betterment of all
 - Patience in the face of emotion, advocacy and provocation
 - Expertise in the use of modern communications media, messaging, e-mail and telephone
 - The ability and availability to travel as necessary
- Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, together with modern and SCA qualifications, hardcopy to:

Louise Du Cray, P.O. Box 611928 San Jose, CA 95161

with courtesy copies to resumes@sca.org.

The deadline for applications is June 15, 2023 and is open to members of SCA Inc and all affiliates

MERCHANTS OF AVACAL



Plasticsmith Armoury

makers of
high quality
vacuum-formed
high density polyethylene
armour

PLASTICSMITHARMOURY.COM

Fáelán's Armoury

Gord Daley
780-565-2121

faelan.armoury@gmail.com

Phone to book viewing appointments

<https://www.facebook.com/Faelans-Armour-Page-1673805666218676>



BANNERS
— OF WAR —

- Kingdom Populace Pennants
- Populace Badge Pins
- Encampment walls

Contact:
Baron Hamelin LArcher
hamelin1066@gmail.com

MERCHANTS OF AVACAL



KINGDOM OF AVACAL ARMY
CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

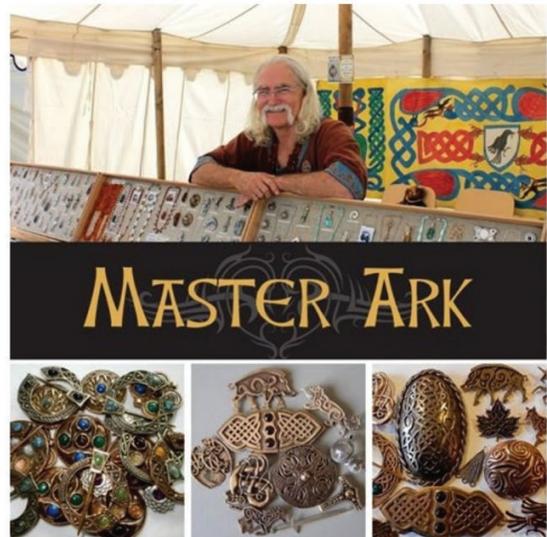
<https://sir-gunther.creator-spring.com>



With the sun shining and summer in full bloom, have you been eager to set up your encampment but can't seem to find all of your tent pegs or S hooks? Has your spouse been saying they'll get around to making you a trivet but keeps going a Viking or chasing the goats in the field? Or are you looking for a new tripod to give your fire that special something? Well look no further because here at Iron Sunset Forge lady Thora Volundsdottir is here to help with all your iron needs. We even make flint strikers to get your fire going. Feel free to contact us at ironsunsetforge@gmail.com (fb:iron sunset forge)

Schmett Yrlynska
Blacksmith,
Chokecherry Forge.

www.chokecherryforge.com



Master Ark - Providing the Known World with
Cloak Clasps and Fine Jewelry for over 35 years.

You can find a full selection in his Etsy shop -
<https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/MasterArks>

Free shipping in Canada!

PUBLISHED BY THE KINGDOM OF AVACAL

Copyright ©2023

This issue of the Avantgarde is the official newsletter of the Kingdom of Avacal. Avacal is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism Inc., and the Avantgarde is published as a service to the SCA's membership. Monthly circulation is approximately 500. This newsletter is available online at <https://members.sca.org/apps/#Newsletters>. Membership is available from the Member Services Office, SCA Inc., P.O. Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789 or online at <https://membership.sca.org>. Send changes of address or questions about subscriptions to the Milpitas address. U.S. and international SCA membership forms are available online at sca.org.

Copyright ©2022-2023 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles or artwork from this publication, please contact the Kingdom Chronicler, who will help you contact the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. Forms, waivers and checklists appearing in the Avantgarde may be reprinted by any group for its members. Local branch chroniclers may reproduce, for use in their newsletters, the Kingdom Calendar and all event announcements. Neither the Avantgarde, its staff, nor the SCA Inc. assume any responsibility for any products advertised herein. Articles and letters in the Avantgarde are the opinion/research of the author/artist and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Avantgarde staff.

Editor in Chief: Baron Hamelin L'Archier, chronicler@avacal.org



AVACAL, AS LVIII(58) Vol. II JUNE 2023

COVER: Stained Glass Window from the village of Pennal, Gwynedd, North Wales. St Tannwg and St Eithrias Church. Royal Chapel of the Prince Owain Glyndŵr depicting the Green Man, a traditional symbol of renewal associated with Beltane.-