

The Black Star

Order of the Mark

Special Edition



Vincenti da Murano / Colleen O'Kelly / Romanus Vesperianus

January 2026

A.S. LX



This is the January, 2026, Order of the Mark Special Edition of the Black Star, the official newsletter of the Kingdom of Ansteorra. Ansteorra is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and the Black Star is published as a service to the SCA's membership. Subscriptions are available only to members

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Welcome!

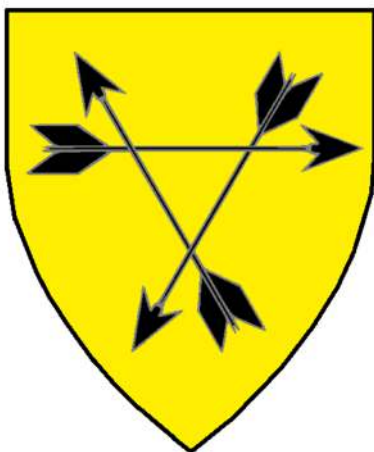
I am Honorable Lord Jonathan of York, Ansteorra Kingdom Thrown Weapons Marshal and editor of this Special Edition Black Star. Before we dive in, I want to take a moment and thank all of the individuals that took time to help with this project. This could not have been completed without the help each and everyone you (over 40 plus SCHdians).

I found my family in the SCH Jan 14th, 2023 when my baroness asked if I wanted to learn how to throw a knife. I was enjoying my 3rd SCH event, the Coronation of Gabriel III and Sonja III, and thought sure that sounded fun. (I had learning to throw a knife on my bucket list so whoot.) Meeting this giant of a man who called himself Lord Hki, I unknowingly took my first step of my missile journey. Truth be told I wasn't sold on the SCH until I heard that first thwack of a good stick. I walked onto that range a newcomer and walked off a SCHdian for life.

While these were my first steps, I saw quiet quickly that I was not a trail blazer. The path I walked was well made and long used. Long before that day 3 years ago, others paved this road the only way they knew how. Knives, axes, spears, bows, arrows, trebuchets, and ballistas formed the bricks of this path while teamwork, community building, and hard work was used to mortar everything in place. Maybe not the most original metaphor but the people in this Black Star truly made it possible for me to even be here.

Now I see the path ahead of me as well as the road behind. This Black Star is my way of giving back to those that came before and a promise to those yet to come. I want to share with the known world what I see and feel when I think of the missile community of Ansteorra. Originally, the scope of was the stories behind each of the 11 individuals that were elevated to the Order of the Mark during the premier reign. But as the Black Star starting taking form, I realized this Special Edition had the potential to be so much more. I changed the scope half way through to paint a larger picture of the missile community as a whole and shed light on everyone from newcomers to our new minted Order of the Marks.

With that in mind, in addition to the articles on each of these amazing Masters and Mistresses of the Mark, there are articles from the latest recipients of each of our kingdom level missile awards plus words from the king and queen (at the time), and the president of the SCH. Please sit back and enjoy the epic tales from our missile community and think on what new adventures and stories are to come and how you can join us. I can't wait to see you on the range (hopefully throwing at a new spinning target or two).



Thank you and until next time

Yeet On!

In your Service,

Honorable Lord Jonathan of York
Kingdom Thrown Weapons Marshall
thrown@marshal.ansteorra.org



Credits and Acknowledgements



Jonathan of York Editor

Baron Isaac Bane, coeditor

Baroness Beatrix Funteyn, coeditor

Estienne de Bretagne Chronicler, Ansteorra

Articles and Additional Elements:

Duke Jason Drysdale III & Duchess Margherita III- The Creation of the Order

Master of Defense Martin Malone- Receiving the King's Archer

Lady Aurora of Weisenfeuer- Receiving a Sable Talon in Archery

Honorable Lord. Grimolfr at Brytarauki, CHO- Being Elevated to the Order of the Arc d'Or

Lord Johann Klaus von Heidelberg- interviewing Colleen O'Kelly

Honorable Lady Orlaith inghean Uí hUallachain- interviewing Vincent da Murano

Honorable Lord Captain Savage- interviewing Romanus Vesperianus

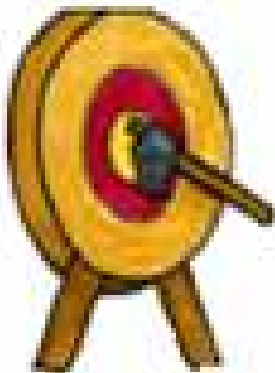
Baroness Emma O'Ruairc- interviewing Kajira Camber

Baron Isaac Bane- interviewing Cera ingen fhaelain

Honorable Lady Agnes Olympe Fort de Nice- interviewing Leofwine of Sumersaetum

Lady Cadhgán mac Briain- interviewing Nikolai Vladislav

Honorable Lord Jonathan of York- multiple interviews/ pictures/ editing



Credits and Acknowledgements:

Photography and Digital art Elements:

Honorable Lord. Grimolfr at Brytarauki, CHO—drawing his own device
Honorable Lady Jessimond of Emerickeskepe— digital devices for multiple people
Lady Alexandra Lunette Arundel—photo of Colleen and her Ballista
Duchess Margherita de Mantua— photo of her husband Master Vincenti
Honorable Lord Jonathan of York— multiple photos, device, and illumination throughout
Lady Melodie de Ryes— photo of Mistress Kajira in armor at Gulf Wars
Baroness Silvana Corwin— Cover photo of Vincenti / Colleen / Romanus
Mistress Cera ingen fhaelain-photos
Baroness Ciarnat of Firethorn-photo of her husband Master Leofwine Sumersaetum
Honorable Lord Stephen Paul Blakeley— photo of Master Nikolai Vladislav
Honorable Lady Zubeydah Al-Badawiyah— photo of Caterina on her Trubuchet
Baroness Alexandria Doyle— group photo Vincenti / Colleen / Nikolai / Caterina / Cera (Wolf) / Donnchadh
Mistress Osaan Van der Linden— Vincenti and Kyrus sorting arrows
H. L. Koia Karasova—photo of Romanus at GW 2022 Ravine Battle
Eleanor of Grey— lineart throughout the newsletter: missile weapons and archer
Ellen DeLacey-Lineart rabbits



Award of the King's Archer of Ansteorra



Awarded Received 11/01/2025

Master Martin Malone

30 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony Bjornborgs



Why did you receive this award?

Outstanding marksmanship during the Royal Hunter tournament on 11/1/2025

What brought you to the missile community:

Used to shoot as a teenager, missed archery, and wanted something lower key and more zen than fencing.

What do you like to participate in the most and what would you like to try next?

I enjoy Target Archery. I am split between trying Thrown Weapons and Combat Archery next.

What does the missile community mean to you?

There is something relaxed and calming about the missile community. I think in part because their activities have to live "away" from the center of excitement at events or because the nature of the activity is far more self-sufficient, from hospitality, to running their activities the Missile community is almost its own "event" at an event and I love that... I also love how (at least for me) Target activities are not directly adversarial. I draw my bow, I anchor, follow my shot cycle and my outcome is mine alone. Coming from years of direct competition there is something wonderful about a community where everyone's outcomes are their own... Its very Zen and calming to just be and do.

What does the creation of the Order of the Mark mean to you?

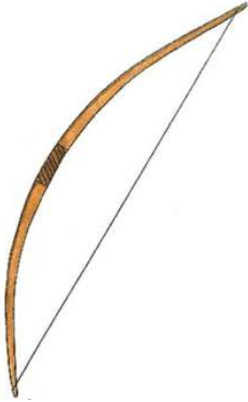
Over the last 3ish years I have been playing on and off with the missile community I have learned it has a rich and unique culture, all of its activities require significant time, energy, skill, and leadership. The Mark brings the community forward and recognizes the value they bring to the SCH. I look forward to seeing how the Mark creates their own traditions and continue to enrich the known world with what this community brings to our game.

How will you lean on the new members of the Order as walk your missile path?

They were already "doing the job" as Arc's so I would say keep on keeping on. This also means keep building out your order, keep being inviting, keep teaching, keep growing your art

If you have been looking for a space to come, just hang out, do a little shooting, judgment free with a ton of friendly folks find your local archery community. Seriously if you haven't spent time in this space please come by please ask to pickup a bow and get shooting!

Sable Talon of Ansteorra



Award Received 12/06/2025

Lady Aurora of Weisenfeuer

1.5 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Weisenfeuer



Why did you receive this award?

Displays of Continual skills in target archery and community building in the missile community.

What brought you to the missile community?

I first learned archery when I was... maybe eight years old? My dad taught me. I grew up reading a lot of books where the heroes were archers, notably *Rangers Apprentice* and various Robin Hood retellings. I did archery on and off until I got to college, when I didn't have access to either a backyard or a good range. For some reason, the dorm RH's don't like it when you set up targets in the common areas! When I graduated, I started looking for some place I could shoot recurve, and found the Weisenfeuer missile practice, and with it, the SCH.

What do you like to participate in the most and what would you like to try next?

I love target archery, especially when we get to use unusual targets. Night shoots and water balloons are especially fun. I also have a blast teaching; I recently got to teach a four-year-old how to shoot and she did awesome. As for what's next for me, I'm already authorized for rapier archery, and I'm looking forward to trying to shoot all the white scarves!

What does the missile community mean to you?

The missile community are my people. I love having a group I can shoot with, and I love how everyone is so eager to show everyone else how to do whatever their discipline is. When I first found the missile practice, I didn't anticipate learning how to throw spears and use a trebuchet, but that's what's so wonderful about the missile community. Even when we're making fun of each other (and we do that a lot!), and even though we compete against each other, it still feels like we're a team.

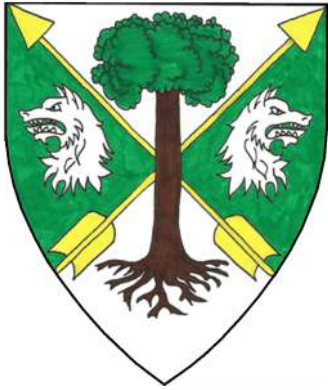
What does the creation of the Order of the Mark mean to you?

I'm fairly new to the SCH, and maybe don't have as much context as some people do for the creation of the Mark. But I'm glad to see that the society as a whole recognizes how awesome the missile disciplines are, and how much they add to the game.

How will you lean on the new members of the Order as walk your missile path?

The Marks that I know are already people that I looked up to and would have gone to with questions on their various missile disciplines, and that hasn't changed. But as we're always hearing at peerage ceremonies, peers are recognized rather than made.

The Order of the Arc d'Or of Ansteorra



Award Received 11/01/25
H. L. Grimolfr at Brytarauki, CAO
26 years in the SCH
Local Group Stronghold of Hellsgate



Why did you receive this award?

The order and CRM felt that my journey in my missile had reached the point where I was now an active pillar in the community. This long time goal started at WotR in 2019 shortly before a heart attack and Covid (the plague of 2020) and was achieved this year.

What brought you to the missile community?

Because my brother-in-law is a Duke, I always thought I should be a fighter but I never felt like I was truly advancing. After buying a couple of wooden long bows at Renfair and showing up to Bryn Gwlad archery practices... it started to just click and my wife and I were hooked. I felt like I could see the improvements practice after practice. Also, I loved having an SCH activity that my wife and I could do side by side.

What do you like to participate in the most and what would you like to try next?

The most? That's hard, I love target archery, I've enjoyed combat Archery, and I have a ballista kit on the workbench in my shop. I am looking forward to designing a couple of tournaments for next year. I've started working with my lady Elena MacEwan, an Arcarius, to get better at thrown weapons. Honestly, I want to do all the things!

What does the missile community mean to you?

I'm here for the people and the comradery... I found a place within the SCH where I fit better than I ever have before. I've found that I love to surround myself with smart, wonderful, and creative people as it enriches my life.

What does the creation of the Order of the Mark mean to you?

Honestly...not sure and as a newbie Arc, I need to figure out what my new role looks like before I try worry about the new peerage. I'm going to focus on shooting the arrow that I have nocked, and worry about the next arrow in it's own time.

How will you lean on the new members of the Order as walk your missile path?

My wife's Arc, was the first one to be called forward, and later in the day my Arc, Grand Arc, and fellow brethren from the Company of St. Sebastian were all invited to join (after they had their vigils). I have the same great access to their knowledge and help as before and consider them family and close friends. All I need to do is ask. Honestly, I can't imagine any Mark, or Arc that wouldn't be willing to help if asked.

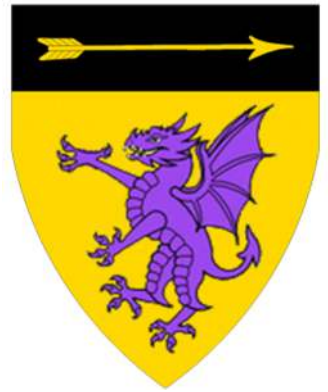
The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



The Creation of the Order of the Mark

Jason III & Margherita IIII

83rd King and Queen of Ansteorra



When Jason and I won the Crown Tournament, we thought the Order of the Mark would be created by our predecessors, and we were excited to see what was going to happen. We speculated about how it should be done, who the Premiers would be and how everything would be done. After it was delayed, we realized that we would be the ones who would have the honor of creating the Order of the Mark. Our speculations and discussions of how things might be done and who would be in it were no longer idle musing. We had to develop a plan!

Creating a this new Order was not just an honor; it was a major responsibility. What we did would affect the Order and the Missile Community for many years. We put a lot of thought into what should be done and who the Premiers should be. We received many recommendations and had many discussions with people from across the Kingdom and in all communities, not just the Missile Community. We looked to the creation of the Order of Defense to see what worked well and what did not.

Ansteorra has a strong Missile Community and awards that have been used for years. The King's Archer, which is an non-armigerous award, the award of the Sable Talon which is our HOA level award and can be given multiple times for different areas, and the Arc d'Or, which is a Grant Level award for the Missile Community. A wrinkle that was being added to the new Peerage was the Missile activities within the Equestrian Community.

We put a lot of thought into the selection of the Premiers and of how the initial elevations would be done and the holding of the first circle. There were certain restrictions placed on us by the Board of Directors, which included how many could be made on the first day, what the first eligible date was, and what had to be done before a Circle could be held. We could only make 3 Premiers; once all 3 had been elevated, we could hold a circle, but no more could be made that day.

The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

The Creation of the Order of the Mark

Based on those restrictions, discussions, and the history of Ansteorra, we made our decisions. Each Premier had to be someone that had been an active member in the missile community for a number of years, be a member of the Order of the Arc d'Or, and have made a positive impact on the community. We struggle with the first 3, we wanted to make sure we included all missile activities, not just one area. As we worked on selecting our final 3 Premiers we knew that there were more than just people worthy of this Peerage.

We did things a little differently in Ansteorra. Even though we could "announce" the premiere on May 1st and elevate beginning on June 7th, we chose to wait until June 7th to make the announcement / elevation of our premiers. We then held the first Mark circle that same afternoon and announced 4 more candidates in evening court. Jason and I wanted to make sure that the Order was established during our Reign. We planned to announce and make 10 members to get it started. We accomplished that and were able to elevate 11 people to the Order of the Mark during our time as Crown.

It was a great honor to be able to be the crown who was able to start the Order of the Mark and look forward to seeing how it grows and expands in the future.

Jason III and Margherita III

83rd King and Queen of Ansteorra



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Colleen O'Kelly

32 years in the SCA

Local Group Canton of Glaslyn

Elevated to Order of the Mark 06/07/2025

Interviewed by Lord Johann Klaus von Heidelberg



What brought you to the missile community?

I was at one of my first events and someone asked me if I wanted to do archery. I did archery in High School so I thought yea this would be fun. I did target archery for a few years and decided to go on a different path.

What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

Siege weapons by far are my favorite. I did archery first and after doing that for a few years wanted to try something different. I was with a friend at another event and they dragged me to a siege class. It was during this class that I found the love that I have for siege weapons. During this class we had the opportunity to fire both ballistas and trebuchets. Once I had the chance to be involved with the siege weapons, I knew that is what I wanted to do.

What does the missile community mean to you?

I have friends not just in this Kingdom but in other Kingdoms as well all due to being part of the missile community. We would not only sit and visit about the missile community but about all aspects of the Dream. We are a tight knit group that is welcoming, warm, and inviting. We are a collective group of people that enjoy several different aspects of the missile community. We have target archery, combat archery, siege weapons, and thrown weapons that include knives, axes, spears, plumbattas, and now slings. We are more like a family than just another facet of a larger organization.



The three premier Order of the Marks: Master Vinciti / Mistress Colleen / Master Romanus

The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Colleen O'Kelly

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

This peerage means to me that finally there is a recognition to not just me but to all of those who were or are now a part of the missile community and for all of the hard work, time, resources and talent that goes into making this community what it is. It is acknowledging all of those individuals that have taught, supported and spent time developing the missile community to make this aspect of the Dream come alive and grow into what it is today.

I plan to continue to be myself.

fun mundane facts

For all of my natural life I have had a very chocolatey name. For years, I spent correcting my friends and those around me on how to pronounce my name and in the end giving up and just dealing with being called whatever. When I joined the SCA and found out that I could pick my own name I wanted something very vanilla and plain. So I chose Colleen and was told to research it. I did and now Colleen O' Kelly is registered to me.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Vincenti da Murano

18 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Namron

Elevated to Order of the Mark 06/07/2025



What brought you to the missile community?

Margherita and I were members of the Royal Court as volunteers for OÜ at the Medieval fair in Norman. We enjoyed doing medieval stuff but we were sad that we only got to do it a few days a year. A couple of our friends said hey there is a group we could go to and do archery and stuff and they have events year round. So we started going to it and enjoyed going because it was something we could do together, our son enjoyed doing archery as well and would go with us. There was no Thrown Weapons Marshal for Namron and no equipment to speak of. I asked about getting it going and was told to write up an estimate for getting for some weapons and targets. I did and put in for TWM Marshal. We went to GW that first year and have not missed one since. I ran the TWM range for most of our first GW. All 3 of us continued to shoot archery and do thrown weapons for several years. The competition and the fun of ribbing and harassing all our friends and we shot and threw was a lot of fun.

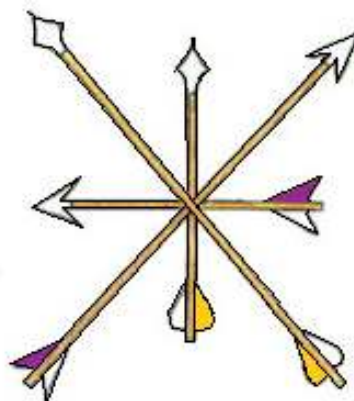
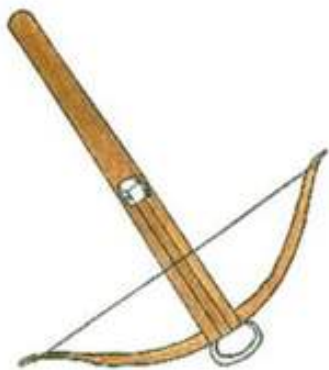
What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

I have done all but Equestrian Archery and I am an authorizing marshal in all of them as well. My current favorite is TH. I want to get back to doing more TWM and TH and maybe go for RH again. Early memories: Baron Alf smoking his pipe while shooting or singing bardic while we were shooting. The first time I got all 6 of my arrows on the 20 yard target - not all were scoring, but they were on the target!

What does the missile community mean to you?

I like that the missile community has always been a very welcoming community and is always so relaxed. They help each other, encourage each other, and joke with each other, even when competing.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Vincenti da Murano

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

It is a great honor, I have spent 15 years writing letters, having discussions, debates, and pushing for this to become a peerage. I am happy that it has finally come to pass. I am also a little sad as I feel that there were others that are no longer with us or no longer playing that were instrumental in keeping missile going for many years that are not here to see this.

Now that it is here, I want to help it grow from "that thing that happens way over there somewhere" to something that is more recognized and is seen as ONE COMMUNITY. Archery will dominate this order for some time because there are more archers.

One of the things that I think will need to be done is to have A Champion for the Kingdom. This will not be easy as the community has worked for years to get recognition and build all of the areas. I believe that we now need to consolidate and show a united front. There is A Rapier Champion, A Chivalric Champion - they do not have a spear champion, a 2 weapon champion, a dagger champion . . . they have ONE. Laurels are the same way - ONE champion! We need to be seen the same way.

The Mark Circle is getting established very quickly, other Kingdoms are envious of what we have done already. We have been talking about what to call our students, what to use as regalia, what we feel candidates should be like - Offices held, leadership in the community, teaching, running ranges, travel, marshal status, and skill. This is not just skill (which is important), everything needs to be considered.

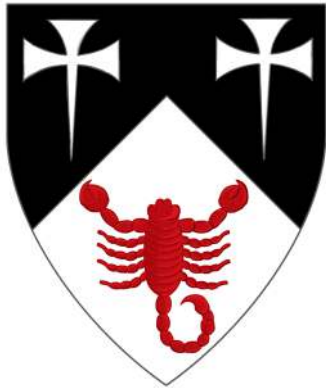
fun mundane facts

I have been in more prisons and jails than anyone I know. I have competed in a number of Chess and Duplicate Bridge Tournaments. I played competitive Table Tennis (Ping Pong) for many years as a youth and continued for a few years in the military. I won some military tournaments in Europe and was recruited and joined a German team while in Germany.

I was born on February 29th so I only have a birthday every 4 years.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Romanus Vesperianus

34 years in the SCH

Local Group Shire of Brad Leah

Elevated to Order of the Mark 06/07/2025

Interviewed by HL Captain Savage



What brought you to the missile community?

I was in the missile community while I lived in the Kingdom of Meridies. It only consisted of archery and combat archery at the time. When I moved to Ansteorra, the first event I came to had thrown weapons knife, ax, spear, and I participated in that. That would have been in 96.

What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

So I do combat archery, throwing weapons, and regular archery. I need to work more on my target archery. My favorite is going to be throwing weapons properly.

What does the missile community mean to you?

It means an awful lot to me. When newcomers come to a demo or an event, they are going to watch all of the things. When seeing the rapier fighting or chiv fighting, many will think they need to try it out but there is so much gear they have to get. But with archery and throne weapons having such a low barrier of entry, you can always borrow knives, axes, or bows and arrows. It's not the same thing to putt on somebody's sweaty, stinky helmet.

When I first became really involved it was an insular community back in say 2004. When I first started, there were the same five people at every event. They would always be off of the corner by themselves, and I sort of had to force my way into that group by beating them. When I was acknowledged as being part of thrown weapons group, I leveraged my position as a knight and became the spokesman to get more people involved.

I won Crown in 2007. As part of our reign, I made spreading thrown weapons one of my main goals which got even more people involved after I stepped down. I eventually became Kingdom from weapons Marshall. At the time that I took over, it was myself and one other person authorized to marshal thrown weapons for the entire Kingdom. I made 37 Authorizing Marshals during the period of time with every region having at least five. And so it then blew up after that.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Romanus Vesperianus

What does the missile community mean to you? (cont...)

So the thrown weapons community means an awful lot to me because I was able to help guide this community from something that was basically just a few people doing a thing to what it is today. I cannot take full credit because our community is the culmination of years of work and effort from an awful lot of people, but I was able to kind of move it that direction so that people would be able to enjoy it as much as I do.

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

When I first started back in 1990, two areas of the society felt marginalized— archery and thrown weapons. The creation of the Missile Peerage means that these communities (thrown weapons and archery) are finally getting the recognition that they deserve for all the time, effort, energy, and skill shown over the years. To me, the archery and throwing weapons are just as valid martial activities as Rapier or chiv fighting. To me, it shows that the society has expanded its boundaries as to what is important to the people playing in it.



Fun facts :

I'm a licensed Auctioneer and at Gulf wars I am the only person to have thrown perfect scores on the T range 3 years in a row.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



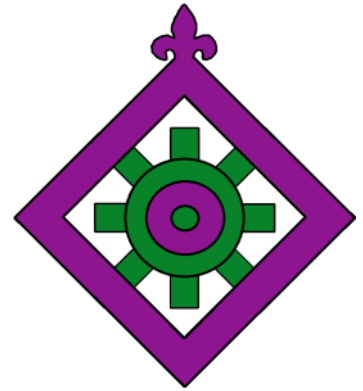
Kajira Camber

25 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Wiesenfeuer

Elevated to Order of the Mark 06/14/2025

Interviewed by Baroness Emma O'Ruairc



What brought you to the missile community?

I started doing combat archery around the year 2003 due to the fun my brothers and sisters in House Wolfstar appeared to be having on the rattan melee field and I wanted to be a part. Their excitement to be fighting was contagious and glad I caught the disease :P I have only shot on the range a handful of times and never really felt the pull to make it part of my event routine, although I am trying to get more involved in that space.

What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

Definitely combat archery is my love. I have had fun with the new slings and enjoy playing with atlatl. Would like to get more atlatl activities going in the Kingdom, although my follow-through with that has been poor.

What does the missile community mean to you?

My involvement in combat archery makes the community a lot larger than just the missile community. I have my fellow knights, squires, unbelted, fresh faces, royal peers, marshals, water bearers...The biggest connection I get with others in the missile community is during initial inspection at inspection point or the random chit chat during ammo inspection after the battle. It is a good community and lots of smartassery all around :P



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

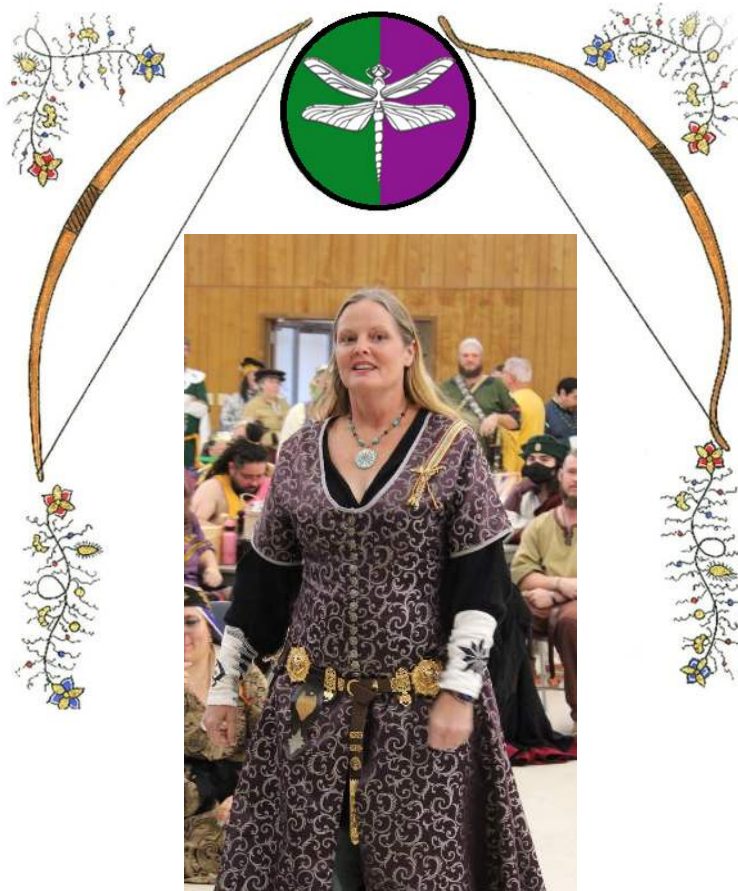
Kajira Camber

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

The missile peerage is a way to allow people to be recognized for their skill in a space that has previously been poorly identified or always pushed off to a range on the other side of the world. We are already seeing an increase in activities in the areas impacted and it is awesome! I hope to become less introverted and have the ability to speak to those new people that I see taking an interest on the range or on the melee field. Helping them find their place and find their gear and find a new activity to help them feel a part of our organization

fun mundane facts

I was an ICU registered nurse who now works in IT programming nursing and ancillary documentation and making tools for patient safety. I have 3 cats and 2 doggos and 1 rabbit :p



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Kyrus Logisson

40 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Wiesenfeuer

Elevated to Order of the Mark 06/14/2025



What brought you to the missile community?

I was getting shot at Gulf Wars while using a spear and decided that Combat Archery was better

What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

I mainly do combat archery and have done some target archery with my bow. I have started throwing axes and knives this year after being coached by Count Romanus and have bought my own axes and steel to make throwing knives. I will start with my new sling next. My first memory in the missile community is my first kill at Gulf War with my crossbow when i learned that it was so easy to kill a spearman from 20 feet away.

What does the missile community mean to you?

It is a great place to meet new folks to see their enjoyment in a different aspect of the SCH than the normal tourney field.

How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

It is a marshal peerage that anyone can work within and towards without gatekeeping and lot of trash talk.



Fun mundane facts



I make pottery and knives and swords and coronets and crowns and carve metal and repousse' metal and to leatherwork and most things except for weaving as weaving sucks and weavers are amazing people.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



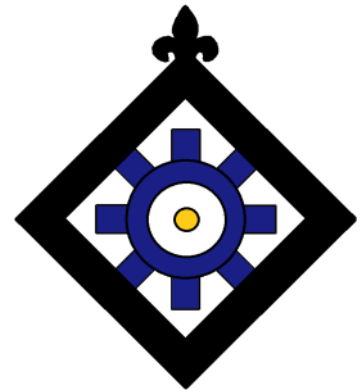
Cera ingen fhaeláin

18 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Wiesenfeuer

Elevated to Order of the Mark 06/28/2025

Interviewed by Baron Isaac Bane



What brought you to the missile community?

I shot competitive archery during my youth and wanted to get back into it. I heard that Mooneschadowe did archery so I initially joined because of that. Soon after I started archery hunting. Then at a fighter practice, I got a crossbow put in my hands and a helmet on my head. I was let loose on the field and was told to shoot people and DID!!! I was hooked, been here ever since.

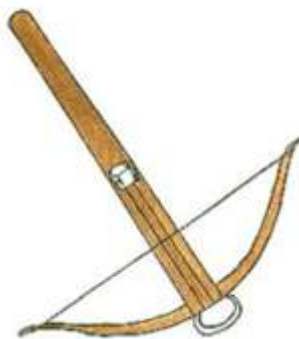
What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

I do target and combat archery mostly. I am still learning thrown weapons. I have done a little siege, but I prefer to be mobile, actively shooting and dodging shots, and seeing the whites of my victims eyes. I would LOVE to do equestrian archery, but that requires a horse... It's definitely what I want to do next given the chance.

What does the missile community mean to you?

Family. Shenanigans. A way to pass on not only a historic and fun activity but one that can help folks survive if they need to feed themselves (hunting)... or zombies. It's a chill sport with many applications and multiple ways to enjoy it. It's an activity that doesn't expire, doesn't require crazy equipment only the occasional arrow sacrifice to the archery gods. AND you can make all your own equipment too which is fun. The missile community is a way to get your fingers into all the pies; martial field through shooting fighters, H&S by creating lovely equipment and research, physical by challenging one's self, and mundane applications. Win win.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Cera ingen fhaeláin

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

The missile peerage means being a leader and example in the community in whatever you may specialize. For me that's target & combat archery, hunting, and making equipment. It means sharing your knowledge with no reserve and encouraging folks new and old to join and enjoy themselves. It is also to challenges folks to step out of their comfort zone and better themselves.

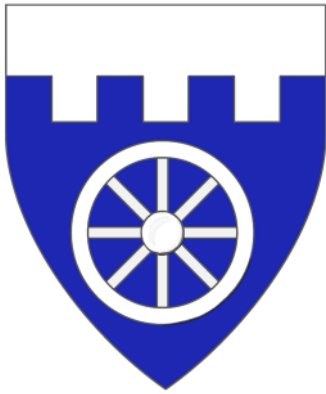
I intend to help inspire folks to try that thing they've always wanted to, improve CA training tactics, and try to inspire our current community members to be part of the team, authorize as marshal and share the load of watching ranges so the few die hards can take a breather and enjoy throwing and shooting too. I also aim to encourage hunting because it is a huge part of my lifestyle and a huge part of history, and sustainable, responsible hunting should be and remain part of our culture, even as city folk. Plus wild game is tasty.

Fun mundane facts

Hard one to answer given that what's is weird/interesting for mundane folks is normal with scadians. My lifestyle goal is to have a bunch of land to home-stead on, be self sufficient for food/water/etc, have a giant pack of dogs, and run a community of classes on my land for skills long forgotten such as brain tanning, parchment creation, hunting, foraging, natural dyeing, etc. Living as part of a commune with other like minded folks might be cool, maybe.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Leofwine of Summersaetum

29 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Stargate

Elevated to Order of the Mark 09/20/2025

Interviewed by HL Agnes Olympe Fort de Nice



What brought you to the missile community?

I started playing in earnest in Meridies (before it became Glenn Abhann). I was looking for a niche that I would enjoy. I attended an event, and they had archery. So I borrowed a bow and tried it out. I did terrible, but I wanted to try. So, I purchased a bow on eBay and practiced with it. I went to an event in Middleford and felt included and knew that Archery was going to be my niche.

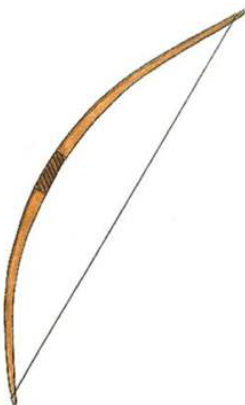
What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

First memory. I do target archery, combat archery, throwing knife, ax, and spear. The next thing to try is ballista and trebuchet, but do not have the capability to carry the equipment. It is more reasonable to try the sling, plumbata, and atlatl. The first memory is told in the first question.

What does the missile community mean to you?

The missile community is a group that helps each other to get better at whatever activity they are trying, and we encourage one another to try new things. No matter which activity you wish to try, there is always someone willing to give you tips to improve. Because missile activities are located away from everything else, we are a close-knit group that encourages each other to do better through friendly competition.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Leofwine of Summersaetum

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

The missile peerage is a recognition of persons for their skill, knowledge, and service to the missile community. They should be approachable and willing to help others on their path - from beginners to seasoned SCA persona. I intend to help guide others to help develop them into someone that is deemed worthy of the peerage. I will encourage people to find their area in the missile community that brings them joy. Recognition is great, but you shouldn't do everything for recognition. If it doesn't bring you joy, then it isn't worth the effort. If you are recognized for it, then it will always be expected of you, and if it is not your passion, you will not enjoy the game.

fun mundane facts

I have been retired since 2016 and enjoy the ability to play SCA without the worries of work deadlines. It has freed up my time to do the things I enjoy. I have dabbled in sewing, calligraphy, painting banners, and leatherwork. I have a love for mathematics (specifically algebra and trigonometry). I have been known to watch YouTube videos on the subject. For exercise, I take walks in my neighborhood while listening to audio books. I have also been known to lead singing at my local church.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



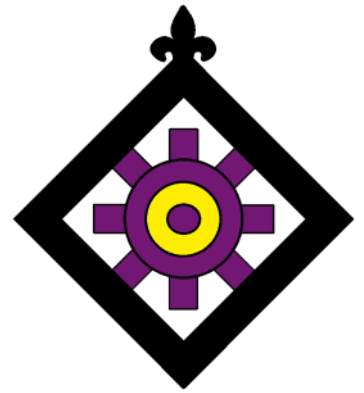
Nikolai Vladislav

29 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Bordermarch

Elevated to Order of the Mark 09/20/2025

Interviewed by Cadhgan mac Briain



What brought you to the missile community?

After fighting in the rapier community for 19 years, I was feeling stagnant and was at a crossroads in my path. I wasn't sure if I wanted to leave the SCH or not, until I met Jean-Paul D'Calmont, who told me to check out the archery community. He became my original Arc d'Or.

What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

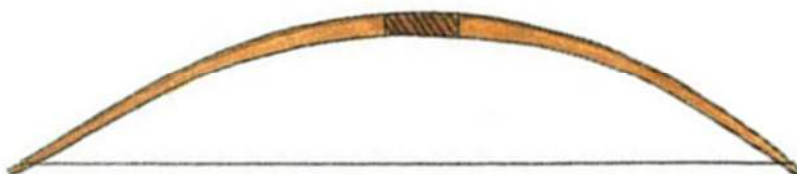
Combat archery and target archery, with combat as the favorite. I would like to get more time with T&A. My first memory of the archery community was the feeling of abundant welcome at my first archery tournament.

What does the missile community mean to you?

Everything.

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

When my name was called and I was announced as a member of the Order of the Mark, I felt a wave of emotions that are hard to put into words. Humbled. Honored. Grateful. Overwhelmed....It is no small thing to be seen, to be truly recognized by your peers and by your community for service, for presence, for effort that often goes on quietly behind the scenes. Honestly I feel more comfortable behind the scenes in the shadows.



Nikolai with Tessa of the Gardens

The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Nikolai Vladislav

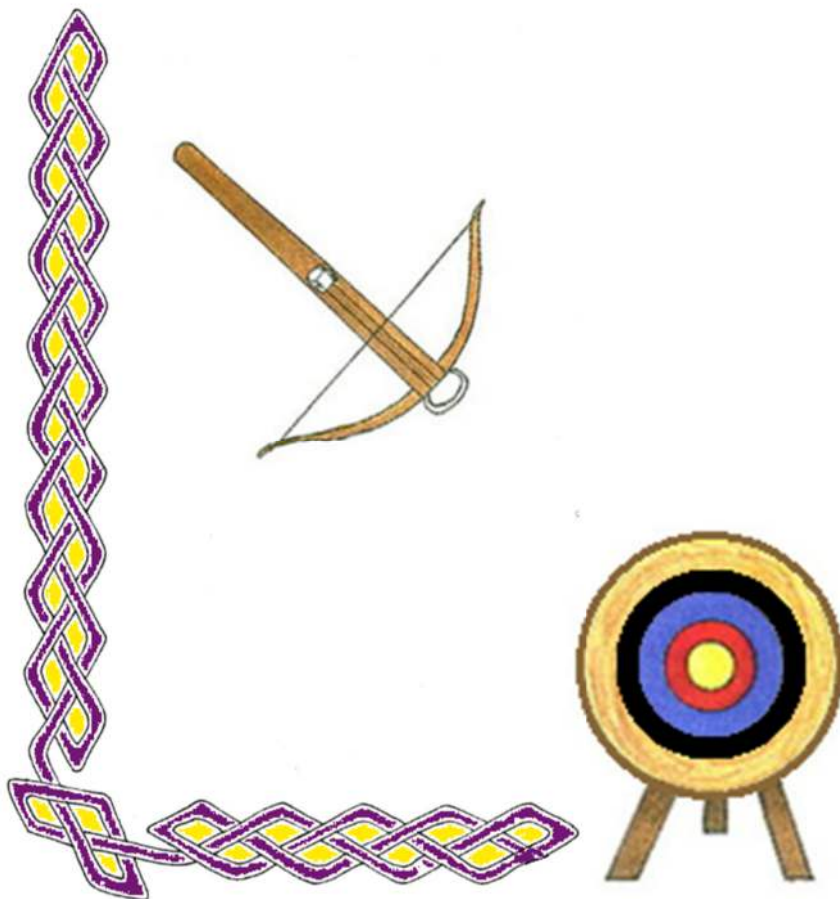
What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers? (continued..)

The Order of the Mark represents something deeply meaningful to me. It honors not just deeds, but impact—those moments where you help carry the dream forward, where your actions leave a mark on others, and where your passion and dedication help others shine. To be counted among those who bear that mark is to be trusted with the weight of the Dream itself.

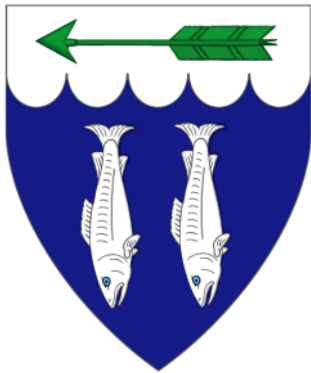
This recognition is not the end of a path for me, but a call to keep going—to serve even more deeply, to support those around me with greater intention, and to lift up others the way I have been lifted.

Fun mundane facts

I play bass and have recorded three albums with my band. My uncle was the the creator of Chuck & Cheese and I was able to spend time in the animatronics factory as a kid. I also have a Masters Degree in Hospital Administration.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Padraic of Kilkenny

27 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Stargate

Elevated to Order of the Mark 09/20/2025



What brought you to the missile community?

It was Baron Calman. I've always been interested in archery, and we started talking about archery. I was in Gates Edge. I wanted to start shooting archery. I swear our first archery practice there are still arrows in the trees out there because we did not know what we were doing.

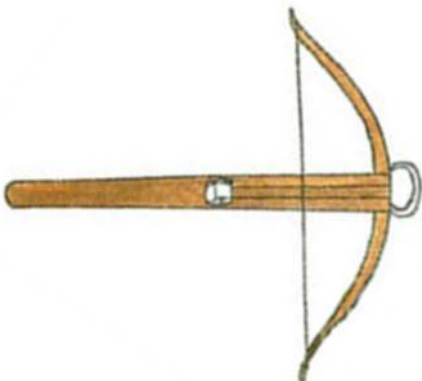
What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

I've done the knife, ax, and spear because two of my arcarii are throwing weapons people so I got into that. I do combat archery and that's pretty much all I do right now. I want to get into siege, and I do have a partial ballista in my attic that someday we'll get finished. I've got some RBG match locks I've made for the list of community. I have a cannon.

What does the missile community mean to you?

The missile community is where people go when they are tired of the cliques and the politics found within the other disciplines. It's easy to come to the missile community. We're like, hey, come on over here. We don't care who or what is going on, we don't play those games. I don't want to say we are a bunch of misfits or outcasts, but we're a different group of people. We just have fun with everyone. The comradery may sound like harassment and yelling and making fun of people. But it's all in love. That's all we look to do. That's the missile community.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Padraic of Kilkenny

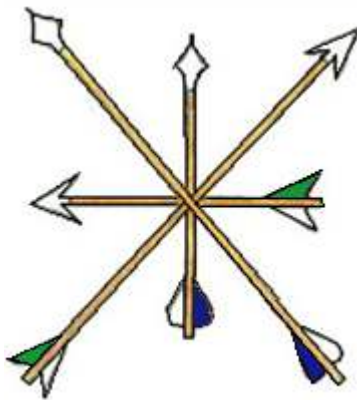
What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

I'm finally happy that the missile community has a peerage and has a voice that we never had before. I like to see that keep going. And we're still developing the peerage itself. It's brand new. I've talked to a lot of other peers that just came up before I was elevated telling us what we need not to do where they made the mistakes. So, we need to take all that information and include them so that we don't make those same mistakes.

That's the first step and then its how do you become a Mark. To me a candidate for the Order of the Mark is someone that's really gone above and beyond this service and archery in the community. This will help distinguishment between just really good archers and people that are there for more than just themselves. People that benefit the community and the society as a whole, not just in archery or missing and everything, those long-term impacters.

Fun mundane facts

I'm an electrical engineer. I didn't start out like that. I started out wanting to be a marine biologist or a forest ranger. And, You know, got a girlfriend and realized that that wasn't going to pay bills if I wanted to get married, so I had to pick a profession that I could actually survive on.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

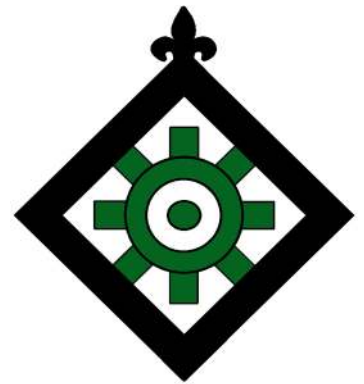


Caterina Giovanni

22 years in the SCH

Local Group Barony of Namron

Elevated to Order of the Mark 10/4/2025



What brought you to the missile community?

I started doing siege when I stepped up as Baroness of Namron as a way to get on the field with my populace. I started target archery and combat archery a little while after that because so many of my friends were participating and it looked like fun.

What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

I am a target archer, combat archer, and a siege engineer. Siege was my favorite at first and I still love it, but I think combat archery has surpassed it as my favorite. One of my earliest memories is taking the field with the all female siege team we had put together in the Barony of Namron. We had a lot of fun training together and shooting together at wars.

What does the missile community mean to you?

The missile community is an amazingly supportive group of people. I love that we all root for each other when we are shooting together even though we are shooting against each other. I call all my friends in the SCH chosen family, but I definitely feel that my missile friends are some of the most supportive people in my SCH career. They have helped me learn and grow so much.



Order of the Marks: Vincenti / Colleen / Nikolai / Caterina / Cera (Wolf) / Donnchadh

The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Caterina Giovanni

What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

The missile peerage has been such a long time coming! It is just such a relief to have one now and to see so many deserving people be recognized. All of the first 10 Marks that CRM Jason and Margherita the IVth have announced have been participating in the missile community in their areas for decades (or longer in some cases!) I know because I have seen them at the ranges myself and I started in the missile community in 2010. I can't wait to see what the future holds for this Order. I am honored to be one of the first 10, and I plan to continue to support the missile community and to help the Order grow. Right now, I am planning to have some community building events, such as unofficial shoots and cookouts and discussions at events.

fun mundane facts

I enjoy traveling mundanely and recently took a trip to New York to tour some museums and relax. I love summer! It is my favorite season as I love to swim in my pool. And I am obsessed with my cats, Boop and Mira and will happily spam all of your Facebook feeds with videos and photos of them.



Caterina Riding her trebuchet out of elevation court

The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Donnchadh Beag mac Grigair

30 years in the SCA

Local Group Barony of Namron

Elevated to Order of the Mark 10/04/2025



What brought you to the missile community?

I got into the missile community when I first joined the SCA, it was something I've always had interest in. I went out to a local pawn shop and bought myself a bow and started going to local practice. I am still shooting that same bow.

What activities in the missile community do you participate in and do any of them stand out as your favorite?

What would you like to try next? What is your first memory in the missile community?

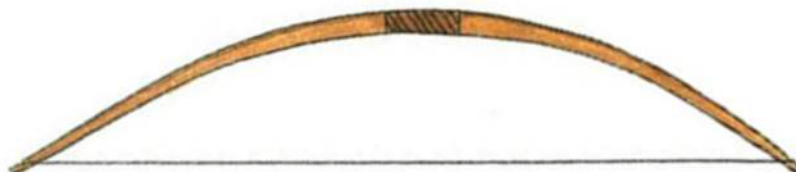
I have at least dabbled in all of the different forms, target archery is what got me in. Combat archery is probably my favorite and what I'm best at and most known for. That is how I won my first Royal Hunter. The final round was a big melee of all the combatants in combat archery and managed to win that one.

I don't know, I definitely want to get better in different aspects of it. I've dabbled in all the different forms. I want to get more into Target Crossbow. My Thrown Weapons is best described as humorous. I've even done mounted archery, unfortunately there just aren't a lot of opportunities for that. I've done siege and I'd like to get more on the ballista, most of what I've done is trebuchet.

The earliest I can remember is going out and getting that recurve bow from the pawn shop and then practicing with Master Alf, he and I heckling each other constantly as we are shooting, and it got to the point where if someone wasn't heckling me, I had a hard time shooting, because it just caused me to zone out everything else and focus very well.

What does the missile community mean to you?

The missile community for me has been a way to engage in the marshal aspect of the SCA, despite my body shape and other physical limitations, I guess you could say. It's one of the reasons I really love combat archery, getting out on the field and having that band of brothers feeling, being able to participate where I might not be able to participate otherwise.



The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra

Donnchadh Beag mac Grigair

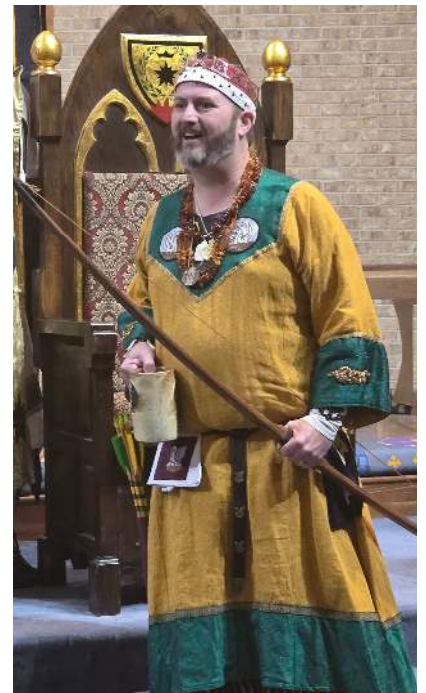
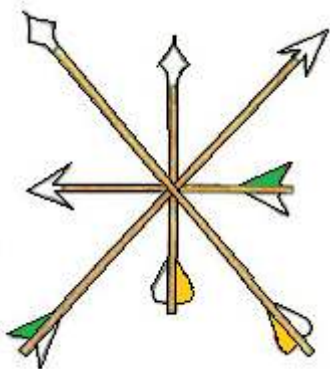
What does the missile peerage mean to you? How do you intend to guide the missile community as one of the first peers?

It's one of the things I think is important for any one in the SCH to have a path to peerage in whatever activities that they are involved in. you know in the broad categories we have that for service, the arts and sciences, and we had it for specific martial endeavours. Opening that up to the missile community, opens up that same opportunity to those that participate in the missile activities.

So it's interesting for us, because we had the Arc D'or previously that was the leadership of the missile community, so in that respect I don't foresee my role changing that much, so much as taking it back to the status quo. I do feel I need to get back out more with the missile community. I'd love to get our local practice going again, on a more regular basis, and I'd love to see more target combat archery. We already have the format, we already have the standard targets, I know we are looking at getting thrown and siege, doing more of those, to help get people time to practice those things. Especially siege and combat archery since there are not a lot of opportunities to do those aspects, mellees don't happen all that often. Giving people a chance to practice on a regular basis, will let them get better, so that is something, i'd like to see us develop more.

Fun mundane facts

As far as mundane facts, I'm an Eagle Scout, that's what originally got me into camping, which led me into the SCH when I was no longer involved in Scouts. I think I also did archery back in scouts. I am a big computer nerd, I have been dealing with computers since i was programming in basic at age 9 on a commodore bit 20 and recording it to cassette tape.



Donnchadh singing in court

The Stellar Kingdom of Ansteorra



Words from the President of the SCA



The SCA is built on dreams. It is a place to chase your goals and ambitions; often, the pursuit is one of mastery. The creation of the Order of the Mark creates opportunity in the SCA, where one can become proficient with ranged weapons and become recognized as a master by their peers.

When the Board of Directors made the decision to proceed with the ranged peerage, I was tasked with facilitating that process. Working with the Society Herald, Unni Leino, the Communications Officer at the time, Brigid Costello, and the Directors, the goal of the Society was to move forward with the creation of the peerage. There were challenges along the way, but there were two main priorities for Corporate: creating the peerage and making sure that the membership had a voice in the creation of the peerage.

I know a lot of people in the ranged community. Communities that my friends and scores of other ranged weapon wielders had a hand in building. It was important that this was their choice. It should be noted that long before stepping into office, many pushed this desire for a peerage to the Society level, and worked to bring this to the forefront of the Society's attention.

It is an honor and privilege to have been able to work through this process with the membership, Officers, and Directors to see this peerage come to pass. Many fought over the years to make this dream possible, and now that has become a reality. A new chapter has been opened by the Society. The premiers chosen by Their Majesties are set to make their mark on these unwritten pages of history. There is a story yet to be told, and I am excited for what the future holds for the Order of the Mark and Ansteorra.



Bao Pham yeeting knives



Bao Pham
President of the Society of Creative
Anachronisms