

Vox Borzealis

Supplemental Newsletter for the Kingdom of Caldormere
presents:

The Order of the Mark : “Right on Target” Edition

November 2025

Anno Societatis LV



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SCA Homepage



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QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS <https://www.sca.org/board-meetings/>

- Mid Quarter Conference calls: September 15
- October 17 & 18 2025 (hybrid) Barony of Three Rivers, Kingdom of Calontir,
 Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Louis-St. Charles, Two Convention Center Plaza, Saint Charles, MO, 63303
[Click here to register to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom.](#)

All meetings start at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted. Attendees are asked wear modern clothing to Board meetings. Agenda submissions by the first of the month of meeting.

Board Meetings





From The Kingdom Chronicler

Greetings to the Good Citizens of Ealdormere,

Welcome to the Order of the Mark : “Right on Target! “ edition of Vox Borealis.

Congratulations to all three founding members, Master Daniel of Whitby, Master John Spooner and Magistra Nika Dmitrieva doch’Zvezdina, and a big thank you for them taking the time during this busy time of being elevated to answer interview questions.

Cheerfully in Service,
Duchess Kaylah, Kingdom Chronicler

From The Society



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Peerage Order Named | **APRIL 16, 2025** |

SCA COMMUNICATIONS

On April 12, 2025 at the Quarterly Meeting, the SCA Inc. Board of Directors voted to approve name, badge and regalia for the new peerage order celebrating those who have achieved a standard of excellence in prowess for ranged martial pursuits.

The Board approved ‘the Order of the Mark’ as the name for the new ranged peerage with badge is *(Tinctureless) A set of nesting scale weights within and conjoined to a mascle fleury at the upper point.*

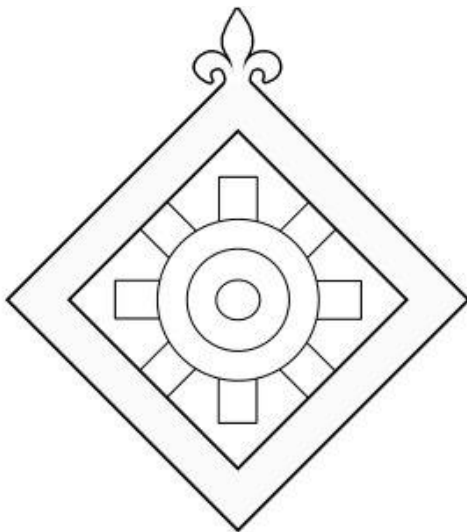
The regalia of the Order will be two white vambraces or bracers.

The College of Arms will now finalise its registration processes with potential options having been previously pended in November 2024.

Writs for the new peerage may be issued for 3 principals in each kingdom from 1 May 2025 with the Board having provided a variance to Corpora regarding the consultation as there is not yet an order to consult with.

From 7 June 2025, the Crowns of the Known World may commence elevations to the Order of the Mark.

The three principal members of the new order will be the Order with whom the Crown must consult, per Corpora. In other words, once those three Principals are elevated, no other writs will be issued without proper consultation with the Order.



Those three Principals are the deliberative body that will, in consultation with the Crown and in compliance with Corpora, be the foundation by which all future inductees into the Order will be considered. They are the bedrock on which the Order will be built and should not be considered lightly.

Let the celebrations commence!

Ealdormere
Homepage



www.ealdormere.ca



Order of the Mark: Oath of Fealty



I here swear fealty to the Crown of Ealdormere.
In hope and fortitude,
I pledge my hand and eye,
To guard the North at the Crown's command.
To share Ealdormere's bounty.
My heart shall be loyal.
My aim shall be true.
Thus swear I, (name)



Master Daniel of Whitby



Master Iohn Spooner



Magistra Nika Dmitriyeva doch' Zvezdina



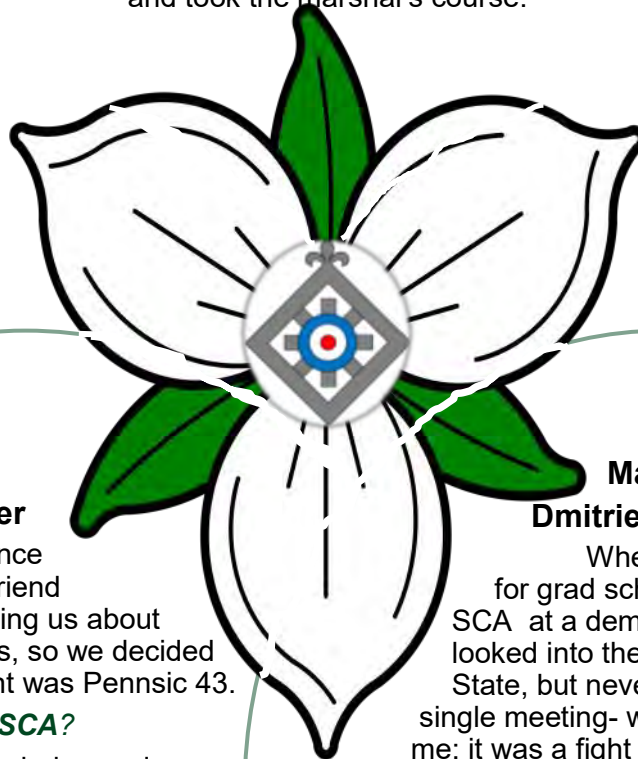
Meet the Members of the Order of the Mark

Master Daniel of Whitby:

Attending events since 1997, when his daughter Dwynwen invited him to a Greenehith event.

What drew you to join the SCA?

Thrown weapons was the draw to the SCA. I went to my first Pennsic in 2002 and took the marshal's course.



Master John Spooner

Attending events since 2015. A woodworking friend from Rochester kept telling us about how much fun Pennsic was, so we decided to try it out. So our first event was Pennsic 43.

What drew you to join the SCA?

The breadth and depth of knowledge and experience that we saw at our first event was inspiring. And the way people shared everything they knew about a subject made it feel like we were welcome and appreciated.

We knew we would be going to more and more events so becoming members was an easy choice.



Magistra Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina

When I moved to Toronto for grad school in 1990, I found the SCA at a demo at U of T Day. I had briefly looked into the SCA while I was at Ohio State, but never got beyond attending a single meeting- where just one person talked to me; it was a fight practice and everyone was busy with that. The folks from Eoforwic were super friendly, and I attended my first meeting the following Tuesday.

What drew you to join the SCA?

It'll be 35 years this fall (eek!).....

Being a medieval history grad student, of course I was interested in the history, but I really wanted to make the clothing and bring the history to life.

I've been doing various creative things my entire life, and this gave me an outlet.



A Passion Ignites!

What sparked your passion for the Middle ages?

Daniel: Movies about Robinhood and the story of William Tell created the interest.

Iohn: The BBC series “Tales of The Green Valley” is one that we re-watch regularly. A show like that can only scratch the surface of so many aspects of Medieval life, and it makes me want to learn more.

Nika: Several things did. When I was in Grade 6, we had a “Shakespeare in the Schools” program where we got to dress up and do bits from Shakespeare’s plays. I was Hamlet. That got me interested in Shakespeare, and coming to the Stratford Festival to see plays during my high school years kept that going.

And then I found Monty Python (say no more!).

When I went for my undergrad, I started off in genetics, but switched to classics—specifically ancient Rome, for the most part—and then I drifted into late antiquity. When I started in the SCA I had an Ostrogothic persona. I’m still a Theoderic the Great fangirl.

I switched to 13th century England when I started my PhD.



Who is your favourite historical figure from the medieval period?

Daniel: Richard the Lion Heart is one of my favourite people. He stood up for his people.

Iohn: Not a particular individual, but the crafts people who built the homes and barns and furnishings. They did so with the barest of technical education and modest tools. I try to emulate their work.

Nikka: I have a few. I spent most of my SCA life as a 13th century Anglo Norman, and Simon de Montfort is my favourite figure from that period—really interesting life, and very much crucial in starting to move England towards a parliamentary model of governance. His wife Eleanor (who was Henry III’s sister) left some absolutely fascinating household accounts including details of food, fabric, and other interesting stuff.

I already mentioned the Ostrogothic ruler Theoderic the Great, who ruled not long after Rome’s official “fall” in the West but whose kingdom leaned heavily on Roman administrators and structure.

On the Rus’ side, there’s always St. Olga of Kyiv, who notoriously gave no effs. She was absolutely ruthless towards the tribe (the Drevlians) that had killed her husband Igor. She had become regent for their young son after his death, and the Drevlians tried to force her to marry their prince. That did not go well, to say the least. Her efforts helped consolidate the Rurikid Dynasty’s hold on power and to expand their territories, and once her son was old enough she usually stayed in Kyiv while he was on campaign and ran things.



Is there any particular time period you wish to explore more deeply in the future?

Nika: I’m now into my third SCA persona (13th century Rus’), and I’m still learning about it.

A Range of Friendships

Can you describe the camaraderie among folks on the range.

Daniel: There is excitement when people stick for the first time and want to take pictures. Everyone cheers for them.

It can be very tense at sometimes especially during tournaments. It can also be humorous when someone sticks a weapon in a strange place like on top of the target or in the leg of a stand.

Iohn: The people on the Archery and Throwing ranges are there mostly to have fun. There is some competitive spirit, especially when there is a tournament, but even then everyone cheers for each other.

Nika: Archers (in this kingdom and in most other kingdoms I've run across) are incredibly generous and kind people. We enjoy friendly competition and a good challenge, but as I've said before, we're usually competing more against ourselves to keep improving our scores. Those of us who have been doing this for awhile are also always eager to help new shooters.

Are there any traditions or rituals unique to the Range?

Nika: You never pull someone else's arrows in the target (unless asked). You help others look for lost arrows. You understand that arrows are ammo and they're going to eventually go missing, break, or be shot so many times they turn to pool noodles. If your arrows break and they are cedar arrows, your one consolation is that you get to sniff the cedar.

You never dry fire a bow. You never put an arrow on the string unless the range is open.

And most importantly, you respect the weapons and what they can do. No marshal ever, ever wants to file paperwork.



Competitive Spirit!

What events and competitions are your favourite?

Daniel:

Any event with thrown weapons!
I won the Known World Championship at Pennsic. I have won the knife tournament 10 times and the axes tournament 6 times at Pennsic as well. My name appears numerous times on the Lady Mary trophy. There was a tournament called Tournament of Reknown which I won. Yeoman of the Wolf is a yearly tournament which I participate in and have won a couple of times.

Iohn:

Pennsic Thrown Weapons War Point, Pennsic A&S Display, and Kingdom A&S are my favourites. You get to see and compete and share your knowledge and skills with the very best.
I've competed in 4 Pennsic TW war points and I won a couple of rounds in those. I feel that competing against that caliber of opponent inspires me to try to do better.

Nika:

I love Huntsman's Harvest. As an archer, I love having a dedicated archery range! And the event as a whole has always been lovely, and since I've been in Stoney Creek it is less than a 20 minute drive.
Outside of events where I can shoot, I am also a big fan of QPT and the Icelandic Althing events.
Most recently I won the Archer Champions' tourney for TRM Gann and Maegwyn. I've also been the Yeomen of the Wolf champion for archery for the past four years, and overall champion for two of those years. Those are based on cumulative scores doing the same shoot at multiple events.
I think the thing I am most proud of was when I was able to serve on the archer champions' team at Pennsic, which I did five times.



Home Sweet Home on the Range

Describe how you feel when you are on the range?

Daniel: I feel I can actually teach when I get someone to stick a knife or axe for the first time.

Iohn: I have fun on the ranges, both Thrown and Archery.

Nika: I love every chance I get to shoot, and I also love being able to get others excited about it.

What is the best thing about being on the range?

Daniel: Teaching people to throw. Working with children and getting them to stick.

Iohn: The best thing is when you teach a new thrower and they not only succeed but they surpass everyone's expectations.

Nika: The best thing? Having an arrow go "thwack" into a target, right where you aimed it. I really like roving range shoots (where you're not just shooting at standard targets) and clout shoots. We don't do enough of them in Ealdormere these days. I remember the fabulous woods shoots we used to do at Ealdormere War Practice/Trillium War and at some other events.

I really love putting together interesting archery tourney formats—they tend to suit my own shooting style better than just the classic circle targets, and it's a chance to be creative!

What is the most challenging about being on the range?

Daniel: It is when I teach people to throw and they can't stick and axe. There can also be bounce backs which can be dangerous.

Iohn: The biggest challenge is when you have an eager young person who just can't make things work. I want them to succeed and have fun and come back again.

Nika: Equipment issues. Arrows getting old and losing their spine from being shot so much. Having your string catch on your clothing and mess up your shot. Inexplicable off days. Knowing exactly what you did wrong the half second after you loosed the arrow. Also, getting rusty over the winter because of not being able to shoot. Most of my challenges come when I'm out of practice. I don't live in a rural area so I definitely do not get to practice as much as I'd like.

What is the one thing you'd like everyone to know about the range?

Daniel: Everyone is welcome, all ages.

Iohn: The Archery and Throwing ranges are open to all, and we usually have loaner gear. It's a slower paced martial activity that anyone can try.

Nika: We always, always welcome new folks to come try things out. If I'm running a range, I always have loaner equipment for people to try. And we can provide guidance on buying equipment if you want to take the next step. Also, we're always looking for places to shoot—we have the most challenging requirements for running our activity of any of the martial disciplines because we can't just do it in a backyard or park. We need space, we need butts, and local regulations need to allow for archery, which is why most of the practices I know of are on private rural property (we are also trying to avoid charging people to participate—most public ranges are pricey).

Building an Arsenal

What resources do you find most helpful in learning about Range Activities or creating your own equipment?

Daniel : None that I can think of. I make my knives by experimenting with size and shape.

Iohn: I've seen some online material about late-period archery practices, but practically nothing about Thrown Weapons. The culture and practice of archery in England is a fascinating topic.

Nika: We always, always welcome new folks to come try things out. If I'm running a range, I always have loaner equipment for people to try. And we can provide guidance on buying equipment if you want to take the next step. Also, we're always looking for places to shoot—we have the most challenging requirements for running our activity of any of the martial disciplines because we can't just do it in a backyard or park. We need space, we need butts, and local regulations need to allow for archery, which is why most of the practices I know of are on private rural property (we are also trying to avoid charging people to participate—most public ranges are pricey).

Nika: I've been fletching my own arrows for over a decade now—I am thinking that Master Dafydd initially taught me how to do it. *He's* my favourite archery resource, but I also have a copy of *Before the Mast*, which is about the Mary Rose and all the amazing stuff they found on it, including a lot of archery equipment. I also have *Blood Red Roses*, which takes a similar approach to archaeology of the 15th century Battle of Towton.

I've also been looking into Rus' archery and have benefited by a couple of articles on Ivan Rezansky's website (rezansky.com) – he translates all kinds of articles in Russian for SCA purposes, including a ton on embroidery and illumination, and—as I've just found out—some cool resources for Rus' archery equipment.



Have Bow ~ Will Travel

If you could step back in time to any moment in medieval history, which would you choose?

Iohn: I would love to step into the Field of the Cloth of Gold. There are very few pieces of extant portable furniture from period, and that camp would have had so much of that type of clever and useful thing. It wouldn't be the pageantry and magnificence of the Court and competitions that would attract my attention, it would be the relatively mundane artifacts and furniture I would be looking at.

Nika: I'm glad you said "medieval" because that cuts out all the Roman stuff (yes, I'd love to see the eruption of Pompeii from a safe distance) and the modern stuff (please put me in the audience for the premiere of Shostakovich's 5th symphony). I'm thinking—and it's really just on the cusp of our period and more Renaissance than medieval—I'd like to see one of Shakespeare's plays premiered, probably *Hamlet*. And to get to the Globe Theatre, I'd want to cross London Bridge in all its building-lined glory.

Beyond the Range

Are there any other areas of the SCA in which you are active?

Daniel: I make knives. The only A&S I do is lucet. I have embroidered a key hole for one of my tunics. I help the Royals when I can by doing entourage and helping set up for court. I am involved in the planning of FOOLS.

Iohn: I like period woodworking, and trying to use period-appropriate tools and techniques to recreate a piece is a particular passion of mine.

Nika: I'm a Laurel for research, but love making clothing, calligraphy and illumination, and embroidery. I'm a Pelican (originally for work as a Chronicler, all the way to Society level) and have been a Kingdom greater officer three times (once as Chronicler, twice as Trillium Herald) plus done the Kingdom Archery Marshal job. Right now, other than being group archery marshal for Rising Waters, I don't have an office, but I have been event steward twice this year already (for Known World Heraldic Symposium—the virtual one, back in January, and for Eoforwic's 50th). And I continue to do a lot of scrolls, which means I get to be creative AND do service at the same time!

Are there any other interesting thoughts about the range or your experiences in the SCA that you wish to share?

Daniel: Always make sure your range is safe.
I feel so honoured to be the first member of the Order of the Mark. Hopeful the order will grow.

Iohn: Here in Ealdormere we mostly throw axes and knives. I've been trying to promote spear throwing by sponsoring tournaments specifically for spears. With spears as prizes, of course.

Nika: What keeps me coming back after 35 years to the SCA in general are the people and the community who have a shared history and fellowship, but at the same time that there's always something new to learn and someone new to meet with ideas and enthusiasm. I am an unabashed nerd and love that I'm in a club that has me making stuff, researching, and shooting pointy things with like-minded people.

And yes, it's 50 hobbies in a trenchcoat.

Baby Got Axe

"Baby Got Axe" by Master Flings-a-Lot

(a filk by Duchess Kaylah based on Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back")

Oh my Liege... Look at that butt!
It's so big, like a perfect bullseye.
I mean that butt, ooh! that's a target!

.....
I like big butts and I cannot lie,
You other throwers can't deny,
When you step to the line, wind up with grace,
And your axe flies into the face...
You get flung!
Wanna hurl that blade
'Cause you're springing this ambushade.
Deep in the grain she's sticking
I'm hooked and my wrist is flicking.

So throwers! (yeah!) Throwers! (yeah!)
Did you bark that bole like a Mark! (heck yeah!)
Well fling it! (fling it) Stick it! (stick it!)
The marshal says "you nicked it!"
Baby's got axe
(target butt and a blade that bites!)
Baby's got axe!
(hot off the line and aim ignites!)

I like axe maidens in linen kirtle,
Axes in the bullseye like a miracle
Ladies and dames with perfect aims
And names Like "Lady Axe-a-Lot"
Take the shot!
Wanna split the knot
Unrack that axe and "whack" the heart!
Ealdormere has Northern aim,
We throw like the Wolf ain't tame.

So gentles! (Yeah!) Good Gentles! (Yeah!)
Did you arc that shot like a bard? (oyez!)
Then chuck it! (chuck it) Stick it! (stick it!)
Show that wolfish spirit!
Baby's got axe
(Wolfpack aim and a bardic beat!)
Baby's got axe
(she throws sharp and she looks sweet)

This ain't no southern tourney
We are Ealdormere's furies.
Knives, spears, axes in targets ached,
The true North is the strongest place
Mark my words -
Wanna mark that pine -
We're pretty and we're deadly fine.
Ealdormere's got pride, got bite!
And we hit that butt just right!

If your blade spins straight
and your aim won't wait,
you might just hear your fate...

[Spoken]
"Let it be known by mark and deed - this thrower
stands with the wolfish breed"

[Final Chorus]
Baby got axe!
(Throwin' steel from dusk to dark!)
Baby got axe!
(Wolfpack skills—set a spark!)
Baby got axe!
(Recognized by the Monarchs)
Baby got axe!
(Her axe don't drop!)



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Axe outline <https://www.onlygfx.com/vintage-axe-png-transparent-svg-vector/>
Trillium https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Trillium_flower.svg

The Vox Borealis Supplemental Newsletter for the Kingdom of Ealdormere



Boilerplate: A few things we're required to say...

This is the November 2025 AS 60 issue of The Vox Borealis, supplementing The Tidings, the official newsletter of the Kingdom of Ealdormere. Ealdormere is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., . The Vox Borealis is published as a service to their membership. This newsletter is available online at <http://enewsletter.sca.org/>

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