

NORTHWATCH

VOL. 21 NO. 11 AUGUST AS LX

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KINGDOM OF NORTHSHIELD

DUCERE

MINISTRARE

ILLUMINARE



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Northshield Event Calendar

NOTICE: All events are subject to being canceled if, at the time the event is to be held, modern civil authorities have issued restrictive orders related to public gatherings pursuant to their COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws 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.

July 2025 (AS LX)

- 10-13 **Warriors & Warlords XXX**, Barony of Jararvellir (Tomah, WI) 🏰 🏰 🏰 🏰
 20 **Deadline for September 2025 Northwatch (Fibercrafts)**
 25-Aug.10 **Pennsic War 52**, Kingdom of the East (Slippery Rock, PA) 🏰 🏰 🏰 🏰
 26 **Hero's Feast**, Shire of Coldebornhale (Pierre, SD)

August 2025 (AS LX)

- 3 **Western Regional Rapier Practice**, Shire of Trewint (Watertown, SD)
 15-17 **BYOM (Bring Your Own Marshal) XXI**, Shire of Vilku Urvas (Deer River, MN)
 15-17 **Poor Man's Pennsic**, Shire of Falcon's Keep (Wisconsin Rapids, WI) 🏰 🏰
 20 **Deadline for October 2025 Northwatch (Science!)**
 21-24 **St. Radekund's Faire**, Shire of Rivenwood Tower (Mankato, MN) 🏰
 22-24 **Pirate for a Day**, Shire of Inner Sea (Makinen, MN)
 22-24 **Smiða Árferð (Makers' Harvest)**, Shire of Skerjatrond (Pelkie, MI) 🏰 🏰
 29-Sept.1 .**Sorry Caesar, Britannia is Closed**, Barony of Castel Rouge (Gimli, MB) 🏰 🏰

September 2025 (AS LX)

- 5-6 **Griffin Needle Challenge**, Barony of Jararvellir (Waterloo, WI) 🏰
 13 **Northshield Fall Coronation**, Barony of Nordskogen (Ramsey, MN) 🏰 🏰 🏰 🏰
 19-21 **Haustblot III: Jorvik, Sweet Jorvik**, Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr (Valders, WI)
 19-21 **Hrothgar's Hall**, Shire of Trewint (Cavour, SD)
 20 **Deadline for November 2025 Northwatch (TBD)**
 26-28 **Feathers & Steel**, Shire of Schattentor (Sturgis, SD)



👑 Sovereign will attend 👑 Sovereign's Consort will attend 🏰 Royal Heir will attend 🏰 Royal Heir's Consort will attend
 🌐 Laurel Meeting 🌐 Pelican Meeting 🌐 Defense Meeting 🌐 Chivalry Meeting ✨ Stallari Meeting

Listing your event on the calendar does not place an ad in the *Northwatch*. To submit your event advertisement for publication in the *Northwatch*, submit the required information to the Event Information Officer (calendar@northshield.org) before the 15th of the month before the month of publication (i.e., May 15th for the July issue). To contact the Northshield Event Information Officer, send a message to calendar@northshield.org.

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Friedrich von Augsburg (*Windhaven*) and Osric of Fayrehope (*Castel Rouge*). Nameplate by Brynjolf Hrafnsson (*Orlova Dolina*). Cover image is Their Majesties and the Premiers of the Order of the Mark, Aine ingen MaelPatraic, Vidi Hovdestad, and Moira nicConnell the Strongbow, courtesy of Arnbjorn Karlsson (Wesley Adams). Image on p. 2 by Hara Hana (*formerly of Svaty Šebesta*). "Dear Abbess" image on p. 11 from the Lucca Codex of the 'Liber divinum operum' courtesy of Biblioteca Statale (Italy). All other images are open-source or as credited.

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For more information about the Society for Creative Anachronism and the Kingdom of Northshield, please visit our websites:

Northshield: www.northshield.org

SCA: www.sca.org

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Advertising rates: \$50 for 1/2 page, \$30 for 1/4 page, \$25 for 1/8 page. All advertising is on a pre-paid space-available basis. Checks should be payable to "SCA, Inc. – Kingdom of Northshield."

For details, contact the *Northwatch* Editor at northwatch@northshield.org or visit <http://northshield.org/Posts/Display.aspx?ID=2477>.

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QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings start at 10:00 am. Note: Attendees are asked to wear modern clothing to Board meetings. (Agenda deadlines are first of month of meeting.) **Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the following locations; however, depending on "safer-in-place" regulations in effect, meetings may be handled by VoIP.

October 2025 meeting: Hybrid. January 2026 meeting: TBD. April 2026 meeting: TBD.



Their Royal Majesties

Greetings from Pennsic!

The heat from Æthelmarc beats down upon Our army, but Northshield maintains its reputation as one of the most reliable in the Known World. We serve the Society in combat, service, and the arts.

We understand that this was a year of change and a year of challenges. We miss Our noble siblings who reside in Canada and offer Our full support. Hopefully, We will all be reunited soon. His Majesty and I will embrace those of the far north at Gimli.

The end of Our reign is approaching, but there are still some great events at which We would love to see the populace. Please consider attending the events at the end of Our reign and during the first part of Our heirs'.

Vivat!

Skio & Aelina

Their Royal Highnesses

No missive this month.

Wu & Tom



Kingdom Seneschal

Dearest Northshield,

Fall is right around the corner! How does time fly? I hope you are spending your summer doing well, reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones! With fall I wish you all a bountiful harvest and joy all around.

As always, we are looking for officers all the way to the kingdom level and kingdom event bids. If you are interested, please consider putting in

a bid. All of them are reviewed. Also, please don't be a stranger: come say howdy if you see me at an event.

Truly it is great to be Northshield,

Morgaine



Kingdom Polaris Herald

No missive this month.

Calamus



Chancellor of the Exchequer

Greetings, fellow Exchequers.

My name is Lachlann del Glen and I am stepping up to be the next Exchequer for Northshield. First, I'd like to thank Æsa for her service, and for extending her warrant until a replacement could be found. My first goal is to bring the forms we use for reporting up to date, as many of them do not reflect the current needs of our office. I hope this will make reporting easier to both understand and accomplish in time frames set forth by both the Kingdom and Society. I look forward to making our experiences in the SCA more enjoyable, both for ourselves and for our fellow officers and members of the populace.

Yours in Service,

Lachlann



Kingdom Minister of Arts & Sciences

Greetings, Northshield!

I recently received the quarterly reports from your local MOAS officers, and was completely blown away by the number of A&S meetings and classes, and by all of the descriptions of your individual projects! Northshield has always been at the forefront of arts and science creation and investigation. I'm so looking forward to learning more about what you are doing.

Looking forward, please start thinking about the Stellar University of Northshield – SUN – on Nov. 1 in Silfren Mere. You can submit to lead a class or discussion group on the SUN website, Sun-ns.org/sun-2025.

If there's something you'd like to see offered, please reach out on one of our social media channels, to the SUN Chancellor (sun@northshield.org), or myself. We'll see if we can make that happen. And I hope to see you there!

Neave



Kingdom Chronicler

Greetings unto Northshield,

I am Sarra Romney, the new Kingdom Chronicler. I want to thank Magister Arnbjörn Karlsson for his outstanding service for the past three years in this office. He has been an invaluable resource, and I look forward to continuing to work with him and the incredible team of Kingdom Officers and Deputies. Additionally, all of the hard-working local chroniclers, webministers, social media officers, and any who contribute to communicating news, events, and history are an integral part of keeping Northshield moving forward. Your service is recognized and appreciated.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge Baroness Ceolwen ingen Adam who has served as the Kingdom Social Media Officer since 2021 and will be stepping down in July. We greatly appreciate Baroness Ceolwen for her service. I hope to have an update regarding this position in the next missive.

Lastly, one of my favorite aspects of being a member of our Society is getting to share a mutual fascination for pre-17th-century history and experience it in such a unique way through the creation, participation, and sharing of knowledge in the Current Middle Ages. To that end, I would love to see more articles, recipes, book reviews, event reports, and more in the pages of the *Northwatch* from the talented people of Northshield. Please feel free to reach out if you have ideas to share or if there are ways that this office can better support the populace.

Yours in Service,

Sarra



Northwatch Editor

Cén scéal? What's the news?

I am looking again for a successor for the post of *Northwatch* Editor! We need

to fill this post ASAP so I can arrange time for training.

This issue, please enjoy some poetical offerings from both entrants into Maestra Margalit's competition and some other creative members of the populace. Vivant to the Northshield Premiers of the Order of the Mark decorating this month's cover! Deadlines for our upcoming newsletter themes are as follows, but please submit art and articles about anything at all for the edification of the kingdom.

- July 20 – Fibercrafts – Spinning, weaving, needlework? Share!
- August 20 – Science! – What new (pre-1600) discoveries would you like to celebrate?

Please send all questions or submissions to northwatch@northshield.org.

Grainne



Kingdom Earl Marshal

No missive this month.

Armond

HELP WANTED

See the Kingdom website at <http://northshield.org/Posts/Display.aspx?ID=5722> or email the contact below for complete descriptions of the following positions. Email addresses on page 2. See Kingdom Directory for other current vacancies.

- Northwatch Editor: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.
- Kingdom Signet Herald: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Polaris Herald.
- Kingdom Blawhorn Herald: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Polaris Herald.
- Lakes Regional Deputy Seneschal: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Kingdom Seneschal. Open until filled.
- Transitions and New Groups Deputy: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Kingdom Seneschal. Open until filled.
- Woodlands A&S Regional Deputy: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.
- Kingdom Youth Officer: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Kingdom Seneschal. Open until filled.
- Emergency Deputy Kingdom Exchequer: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Kingdom Exchequer. Open until filled.
- Kingdom Social Media Officer: Inquiries & applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.



MEDALLION WITH ARCHER SHOOTING
BIRD, FRANCE,
CA. 1240-1260 CE
MET MUSEUM (NY)



SCA Corporate Announcements

SCA 60th Memorial Display

As the Society's 60th year dawns, we are reminded of those who have walked before us and live on in our memories, and to that end, we wish to represent them within the hall of history at the 60th Year Anniversary. Send in those we've known and loved, those whose spirits honored the SCA and whom we will now honor in return. The submission process

is simple, you will simply need to fill out the following Google form <<https://forms.gle/YNfPe5PbuDkGbzzq7>> and include some basic information about the person. (Their name, heraldry, a little about them, etc.) Do not worry overmuch about submitting someone who may have also been submitted by someone else, as we will be thoroughly reviewing submissions to make sure we don't end up with duplicates in the end display.



Courts of TRM Skio & Aelina

War Practice at the Roost

Here follows the report of the Court of Their Royal Majesties Skio and Aelina, held at War Practice at the Roost on June 14, 2025, in the Barony of Caer Antherth Mawr.

Herald of Record: Svena Gandalfsdottir.

RECIPIENT

Takeda Shinjiro Shin

HONOR

Vigilant for the Order of Chivalry

SCRIBES



Kingdom Arts & Sciences Competition

Here follows the Court Report of the Court of Skio and Aelina, King and Queen of Northshield, from Kingdom A&S held on June 7, 2025, in the Barony of Nordskogen.

Herald of Record: Gabriel Kjotvason; Additional Herald: Elteber Yehudah ben Yitzhak; Signets: Aleksander Valahul, Tatiana Marana Melville; Seneschal of Record: Liadan inghean Cheallaigh.

RECIPIENT

Kateryn of Roseberry Topping (Khadijah)

HONOR

Order of the Pelican

SCRIBES

Falco Gravine de Marsico	Award of Arms	Judith Krahe vom Schwarzwald
Eadgyth	Award of the Black Flame	Margaret Malise de Kyrkyntolaghe & Deonysia of Rye
Barbat Silvius	Award of the Cygnus	Judith Krahe vom Schwarzwald
Lachlann del Glen	Award of the Black Bolt	Geirráðr hersir Kolbeinsson
Muirenn ingen Fhairchellaig	Order of the Hand of Tyr	Marguerite Larchier
Ceolwen ingen Adaim	Order of the Hand of Tyr	Margaret Malise de Kyrkyntolaghe & Una Duckfoot
Dagrún Björnsdóttir	Award of the Black Bolt	Geirráðr hersir Kolbeinsson
Wynne MacGillbride	Award of the Cygnus	Eysteinn meinfretr
Amary Fairamay	Vigilant for the Order of the Laurel	
Moirá nicConnell the Strongbow	Order of the Mark	Kaydian Bladebreaker
Aine ingen MaelPatraic	Order of the Mark	Kaydian Bladebreaker
Viði Hovdestad	Order of the Mark	Kaydian Bladebreaker



Maestra Margalit's Poetry Challenge

Margalit Medicus <feldmo10@umn.edu>

Two teams braved Maestra Margalit's Poetry Challenge, and submitted breathtaking works of literary art. Lord Aelfwine ("Winter's Lament"—initial challenge) and THL Eadmund sweordhwita ("Spring's Coming"—response), responded to Challenge 3 with a matched set of Anglo Saxon poems on the Theme of Spring/Seasons. Their work evokes the death and renewal of the seasons, and notes the differences between Norse and Anglo Saxon word play.

Her Excellency Helesius ("A Frisian in Ortegal"—initial challenge) and Lady Kersteken ("Donde Vuelven los Caminos"—response) responded to Challenge 3, but with bonus points. Both poems are done in 14th-century Spanish Seranilla style, written entirely in Spanish, with English translation provided. The chosen theme is Love, but so much more.

The full poems and their accompanying materials were on display at Kingdom A&S.

Vivat to the Poets who rose to the Challenge!

Maestra Margalit Medicus

Winters Lament By Lord Aelfwine

Winters-weed weaves the wilds of the world
The storm-driven sea dreams in its depths
Stars give gifts, wonders in the sky, water turned to bone
Made gem-bright by heaven's candle.

I hear the cuckoo's mournful cry¹
Herald of the brim-men, wandering over the wide whale-home
Of the never-resting sea as ever-foaming billows roll
Up to the silent hall.

On wild-winds, driven far from hall-joy
The proud prince and bright-eyed youth
Fate-shaped by the Scyppend²
To lie amidst the works of crafty men.

As I sit alone in the mirth-less house
The veins of the deep-moving waters wash the feet
The far-wandering bone-house, assailed by western winds³
I hear the shaped sound of the spirit-king.

In my life-house, I am not a one-dweller
The spirit-mysteries, my shoulder-companions
As winters chains held fast the hoar-mantled⁴ earth
I wrought glad-given gifts for the glory-king.

I hear the cuckoo's mournful sigh
Whispered on wailing western winds,
To be forgotten in barrows unremembered
The True Measurer's glad-given gifts.

1 The cuckoo was traditionally viewed as the first bird of spring, carrying with it changes and the passing of the year.

2 Scyppend, or Creator (God), meaning "one who shapes", comes from the same root as scop, the Anglo-Saxon name for a poet.

3 The western winds were generally held to be the winds that herald spring, bringing life into the world.

4 Hoar (frost) is rooted in the same word as grey, bringing with it connotations of age and decay. The use of frost-covered build-

ings as a metaphor for a grim and decaying world shows up heavily in the poems *The Seafarer* and *The Wanderer*.

Historical Notes: Anglo-Saxon poetry was not overly fixed on a particular meter or rhyming rules (contrast to haiku or Shakespearean sonnets). Instead, it relied heavily on alliteration and meter internal to particular lines. For example, during the funeral of Beowulf, it has the line "helmum behongen, hildebordum" or 'hung with helmets, heavy war-shields' which relies on an internal meter and alliteration to create a sense of weight and doom.

Kennings are also extremely common in Anglo-Saxon poetry, just like Norse poetry. However, while Norse kennings tended to rely on allusions to past events, Anglo-Saxon kennings seemed to have a bit more "free association" about them. See, for example, "Winters-weeds" as a kenning for snow. Like weeds, it chokes the land from growing and you have the interplay of opposed concepts of weeds as growing things and snow as not-growing.

Spring's coming By THL Eadmund sweordhwita A Response to Aelfwine

In the great sky-ocean,
God's golden chariot,
Pulled over my head,
Burning blisteringly Bright,
Reflecting off the world-mirror.
Where have the Winter-weeds gone?
Where is the Ice-wind?
Dead crop and cattle,
Companion and kinsman,
have gone to join our Lord.
My head heavy hangs,
Shoulders wrought by weight,
Placed by sorrows past,
My legs fettered to the green,
But no longer by frost.

The days are gone,
Of the hardship once faced,
Yet now I can only lament,
What I had before,
But I am now bereft.
But what is to await them,
Heavenly hearth-homes,
Wrought with gold treasure,
Friend and joy to all,
Life is eternal and full.
So is this my truest fate?
Lament in the newborn-grass?
Spring is the regrowth,
The rebirth of the world,
And the fostering of new beauty.

Amen

Poetry Competition, cont.

A Frisian in Ortegá

By HE Heliseus Morte d'Arbor

Por los montes la miré
con su tizón y su esquivéz
ojos despecho como mal viento
risa libre, sin lamento

Mujer del norte peligrosa
Cruza mi alma y espada rota

Pasos cortos, firmes, y picados abajo
Rodando por pizarra como guijarro
Una cabra de paso seguro
Sin pensar nunca en el futuro

Mujer del norte peligrosa
Cruza mi alma y espada rota

“No busco la paz”, dijo con amplíe.
“Navego donde el destino me guíe.”
Me guiñar brillantemente al pasar
Cabello fiero con del Frisia el mar

Mujer del norte peligrosa
Cruza mi alma y espada rota

Un chaval le dio mantequilla y pan,
Ella sonrió y le ofreció champán.
pero su acero brilló al sol
Él corrió con su vacío de bol

Mujer del norte peligrosa
Cruza mi alma y espada rota

Tiene la misión para tierra perdida
Bajo las olas sin salida
Aunque un tulipán dejó el borde de monte
Alabar las ojos buscar horizonte

Mujer del norte peligrosa
Cruza mi alma y espada rota

Translation

From the mountains I saw her
With her blade and subtle nature
Eyes with spite like biting wind
Laughter free, without regret

Dangerous woman of the north
She crosses my soul and breaks my sword

Her short paces jump and dance
Down the mountain, like a pebble on shale
A sure footed caprid
Whose future steps need no thought

Dangerous woman of the north
She crosses my soul and breaks my sword

“I’m not looking for peace,” she said
sweepingly
“I sail where fate may guide me.”
She winked with a twinkle as she passed
Hair wild from the Frisian sea

Dangerous woman of the north
She crosses my soul and breaks my sword

A fine youth gave her butter and bread
She smiled and brought out champagne
But her steel flashed in the sun
So he ran away with an empty bowl

Dangerous woman of the north
She crosses my soul and breaks my sword

She quests for a land lost
Gone beneath the waves
And though I leave a tulip on the cliff,
I praise eyes that seek the horizon

Dangerous woman of the north
She crosses my soul and breaks my sword

Done in a Spanish 14th-century style, evocative of the *Seranilla*, which is verse poetry in short lines with rhyming consistency/meter within each stanza, written in the form of *arte menor*. “Low art” typically has short lines, with one stressed syllable for rhyming, either the penultimate syllable or assonantal. The *Seranilla* is also often characterized by the use of an *estribillo* repeated as a refrain following each stanza.

Themes that match the historical form are: Pastoralism/rustic setting, a female protagonist that the poet reflects upon, broad concepts, and some sort of melancholia or yearning. Some are humorous, with occasional gender based wit/sexism, often manifested as disparaging remarks.

In this poem, our subject is a Frisian travelling through the mountains of Ortegá, towards the Bay of Biscay. The poet has Basque roots, writing to a subject with a Frisian background, so the setting seemed appropriate and easily relevant.

Our first stanza sets the stage in the mountains, and introduces the female subject as a spiteful, sword-wielding rustic, who laughs easily.

Our chorus is a bit tongue-in-cheek. Instead of crossing swords and breaking souls, as one might expect in more dramatic, courtly poetry, the author’s soul is crossed, and sword is broken. This ties in the historical concept of a crossed soul, a religious reference both to having and protecting faith. Whether this is a request for some faith that might be needed to protect the author from this wild woman, or faith in the inherent purity of purpose one finds in such rustic subject matter during this period, or simply, as an affirmation that faith allows appreciation, is something left for the reader to interpret. The broken sword as a loss of power, intent, and purpose, implies the author being at the mercy of the subject, further playing with the concept of protection in the face of the described force.

Our second stanza calls out our subject’s short stature, but complements the surety of her steps, taking the opportunity for a subtle dig at the rustication of the woman, by calling her a caprid (a cloven-hoofed animal, possibly goat or ibex,) implying a reckless confidence, which is also admired.

Our third stanza allows for more displays of rustic braggadocio. It references a certain unkempt visage, with the mention of wild hair. It also specifies this northern woman’s nationality.

Our fourth stanza brings in some allegory, with the earthy bread and butter contrasted with effervescent champagne, and the flashing sword as a stand in for our subject’s strong charac-

Poetry Competition, cont.

ter. The man leaves with an empty bowl, because not only was he frightened off, but leaves his offerings, as almost an homage to our subject. Additionally, "chaval" is chosen as the word to represent our "fine youth," as a 14th-century Spanish term with strong ties to the root word for "chevallier," and is intended as a fun turnabout of the traditional male to female sexism typically seen in this style of poem.

Our fifth and final stanza brings the melancholic aspect of this style into the verse, using heavyhanded imagery, with yearning and compliments saturating the prose. It also allows for a bit of a "groan" at the poet, who uses the image of an actual flower to achieve "flowery" language, in a poem that is inherently rustic, direct, and lacking in the subtleties of the more courtly French styles more well known during this time.

Donde Vuelven los Caminos

By Lady Kersteken Arends

Cuando me fui al oeste
Dije que volvería
pero tú preguntaste ¿Por qué?
Esto es lo que mi alma diría:

En pinos susurra la brisa callada,
cinco diamantes relucen en su mano,
brillan perlas y ojos de dulce avellano,
mujer de cabello de luna plateada.

Pequeña parece, de andar delicado,
pero cruzó mares, ríos sin medida.
vivió en el desierto, de sol abrazado,
y vivió en la costa su historia florida.

"Olvida al chaval del bigote torcido,"
dice entre risas, con firmeza y destreza,
tiene pan y mantequilla, mas no la fineza
del queso verdoso que nunca ha probado."

Mejor brinda con champán bajo el cielo brillante,
y abraza los montes, los pinos, la brisa.
Deja en él una parte, suave y vibrante,
llevándote el eco de su alma sin prisa.

Luego vuelve, y vuelve, como el río al sendero,
pues al fin nos buscamos en lo que entregamos,
en trozos de alma que juntos dejamos,
dispersos en otros, como un fiel lucero.

Ve sin temor hacia el horizonte,
sigue los ríos, navega los mares.
Pero vuelve, regresa al monte,
a los pinos antiguos y sus cantares

Al desierto dorado y la costa extendida,
a la ciudad donde vuelan las mariposas,
a la tierra del agua, serena y florida,
donde el cielo se espeja en lagos y rosas.

No temas la pena que deja la partida,
la sal da al melón su dulzura secreta.

Así me habló ella, con risa encendida,
con voz de montaña, serena y completa.

Noventa y cinco veces volví a su asiento,
a beber su hidromiel bajo el cielo profundo,
y otras noventa y cinco, sin final ni lamento,
volveré hacia ti con uvas del mundo.

Where Paths Return

When I left into the west
I said I would return
but you asked Why?
here is what my soul would say

In pines the silent breeze whispers,
Five diamonds glitter in her hand,
pearls shine and eyes of sweet hazel,
Silver moon hair woman.

She seems small, with a delicate walk,
but has crossed seas, rivers without measure.
She lived in the desert, embracing the sun,
and lived a flowery history on the coast.

"Forget the guy with the crooked moustache,"
she says with laughter, with firmness and skill,
"He has bread and butter, but not the finesse
of the green cheese that he has never tasted."

Better to toast with champagne under the bright sky,
and embrace the mountains, the pines, the breeze.
Leave a part of you in him, soft and vibrant,
taking the echo of his soul without hurry

Then come back, and come back, like the river to the path,
for in the end we seek ourselves in what we give,
in pieces of our souls that we leave together,
scattered in others, like a faithful star.

Go fearlessly to the horizon,
Follow the rivers, sail the seas.
But come back, go back to the mountain,
to the ancient pines and their songs

To the golden desert and the wide coast,
to the city where butterflies fly,
to the land of water, serene and flowery,
where the sky is mirrored in lakes and roses.

Do not fear the sorrow that leaving leaves
Salt gives melon its secret sweetness.
This is how she spoke to me, with a glowing laugh
with a mountain voice, serene and complete.

Ninety-five times I went back to her place,
to drink her mead under the deep sky,
and another ninety-five, without end or lament,
I'll come back to you with grapes from the world.



Other Poetry

A Debate Poem

Scroll text by Katerinka Lvovicha

This text was one of my first forays out of Norse poetics. Debate poetry was popular in the 12th century. The most well-known example of this poetry is *the Owl and the Nightengale*, upon which this piece is based. Kudrun Pilegrim has since passed away, yet this remains one of my favorite pieces of poetry to date. She was a fine inspiration and a lovely human being, and I miss her. Written in August 2014.

Dawn broke o'er cliffs in Northshield fair
to find two creatures chatting there
For Siegfried, King, and Elizabeth, Queen,
Asked "what does being a Laurel mean?"

The griffin to the falcon said,
"I think Laurels should be well-read,
and books and stories often find.
Be rich of soul, and stout of mind!"

The falcon cried, "of course they should!
And also teach for common good!
Their knowledge spread throughout the land,
be generous with heart and hand."

The griffin grinned, and said, "that's true,
and espouse these qualities too:
Prowess, honor, and courtesy,
courage, and generosity."

The pair agreed on all these things,
And so they told the queen and king,
"Kudrun Pilegrim, it's been alluded,
this lady soon shall be included

in the Order of the Laurel.
For skills researchical and choral.
By our thought and estimation,
She is worthy of elevation."

The sovereigns smiled, their thoughts confirmed
by griffin just and clever bird.
They said to Kudrun, "it is clear
by all accounts, you are a peer.

Acknowledged as a Laurel now,
we set this wreath upon your brow,
This moment forth, 'til end of days,
You'll guide, and serve, and light the way.

So closeth the tale, it is done
Though Kudrun's story's just begun.
A compass for our people, she
will be a light for all to see.

KUDRUN'S LAUREL SCROLL

LAYOUT & ILLUMINATION BY OUYANG YINGZHAO
CALLIGRAPHY & GOLDWORK BY KATERINKA
LVOVICH

COURTESY OF KATERINKA LVOVICH

A Response to Saigyō

By Margalit Medicus

I was inspired to do the poetry challenge by remembering a set of poems I had come across in a book about Saigyō (1118 – 1190 BCE), a Japanese poet and monk of the late Heian period. Like many of the period, he wrote tanka (a subtype of waka) consisting of five lines (ku; literally "phrases") of 5-7-5-7-7 on or syllabic units. During his travels, Saigyō stopped at inn. Upon being denied a room, he wrote:

It is hard, perhaps,
To hate and part with the world;
But you are stingy
Even with the night I ask of you,
A place in your soon-left inn

A "woman of pleasure" from the inn replied:
It's because I heard
You're no longer bound to life
As a householder
That I'm loath to let you get attached
To this inn of brief, bought stays.

(from: *Mirror for the Moon* by Saigyō, William R. LaFleur
Translator/Introduction, 1978).

Some years later, I wrote this tanka, a response to Saigyō, or some other poet traveler.

Hot and slick, summer's
Kisses torment without rest.
Artless wanderer,
What cool hope drove you to this
Unfortunate oasis?



DEAR ABBESS:

A LADY FRIEND HAS BEGUN COMPOSING SONGS AND POETRY, WHICH SHE READS OR SINGS TO ME NEARLY EVERY TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER SOCIALLY. I SUSPECT HER INTENTIONS MAY BE ROMANTIC IN NATURE, SINCE HER COMPOSITIONS ARE ALWAYS DIRECTED AT ME, NO MATTER HOW MANY OTHERS MAY BE PRESENT. I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN HER OVERTURES, BUT I LACK THE GIFT OF WORDS AND WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME DIRECTION. WHAT ARE SOME RELATIVELY SIMPLE (OR SHORT) POETIC FORMS THAT I MIGHT EMPLOY TO RESPOND TO HER IN SONG OR VERSE? SHE TENDS TO FAVOR THE SESTINA OR EVEN LONGER THINGS (INCLUDING SEVERAL BALLADES OF NEARLY 30 LINES EACH!) AND I FEAR THAT



I CANNOT MASTER SUCH COMPLEX FORMATS QUICKLY ENOUGH TO RESPOND IN KIND AND ASSURE HER THAT I RECIPROCATATE HER FEELINGS FOR ME.

ANXIOUS IN ANJOU

DEAR ANXIOUS,

WHILE THE SESTINA AND BALLADE ARE INDEED COMPLICATED FORMS, INVOLVING ADHERENCE TO BOTH METER AND RHYME SCHEME, THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS THAT MAY SUIT YOUR SITUATION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STRAY FROM THE FRENCH OR PROVENCALE FORMS YOUR

FRIEND PREFERS, I WOULD RECOMMEND THE OTTAVA TOSCANA. IT IS ALSO ONLY EIGHT LINES LONG, USES IAMBIC PENTAMETER, AND CONSISTS OF A SESTET FOLLOWED BY A COUPLET (THE RHYME SCHEME IS ABABAB / CC). OTHERWISE, I THINK YOUR BEST BET IS THE TRIOLET (SOME EXAMPLES ARE REFERRED TO AS RONDELS) – I CANNOT THINK OF A SHORTER FORM, AS THE TRIOLET IS ONLY EIGHT LINES LONG, NEARLY HALF OF WHICH ARE REFRAINS, SO YOU WOULD ONLY NEED TO COME UP WITH FIVE LINES. THE TRIOLET CAN BE WRITTEN IN IAMBIC TETRAMETER OR PENTAMETER, AS IN THIS 14TH-CENTURY EXAMPLE BY JEHAN DE LESCUREL – WHICH, SHOULD YOU SIMPLY SING IT TO HER, MIGHT VERY WELL DO THE TRICK – BEST OF LUCK!

DE GRACIEUSE DAME AMER
NE ME QUIER JAMÈS DEPARTIR.
TOUZBIENZ EN VIENNENT, SANZ DOUTER,
DE GRACIEUSE DAME AMER,
ET TOUZ DEDUIZ. N'EN VEIL CESSER:
CAR C'EST MA JOIE, SANS MENTIR;
DE GRACIEUSE DAME AMER
NE ME QUIER JAMÈS DEPARTIR.

–ABBESS

FOR ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF THE WORKS OF JEHAN DE LESCUREL, A 19TH-CENTURY PRINTING OF HIS COLLECTED BALLADES AND RONDEAUX CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT <https://archive.org/details/chansonsballades00jeha/page/32/mode/2up>

Do you have a medieval problem or quandary? Send your message to northwatch@northshield.org and include "Dear Abbess" in the subject line to get some expert advice.

AUGUST 15-17, 2025

SHIRE OF VILKU URVAS

Bring Your Own Marshal XXI

Trakai Forest

45317 County Rd. 172, Deer River, MN 56636 USA

Site opens noon Friday. Site closes noon Sunday.

Fees:	Youth (5-17) \$5
Adult (18+) \$25	Under 5 free
Adult member \$15	No merchant fees

Checks payable to SCA Inc-Shire of Vilku Urvas.

Planned Activities: Archery, Thrown Weapons.

Site is accessible. Populace/presence space available. Merchant space available on request. Firewood provided. Site is wet.

Come join the Shire of Vilku Urvas for our annual event in beautiful northern Minnesota! We have the space to accommodate most combat. Bring Your Own Marshal!

-Archery, thrown weapons, heavy, rapier, youth/boffer

-Site is NOT available for siege or equestrian.

-site has woods accessible for battle.

Event Stewards

Alan Kemmer & Branne O'Conchobair (Melissa Plonis)
218-398-7991, shireofvilkuurvas@gmail.com

<https://northshield.org/Events/EventAd.aspx?ID=4793>

AUGUST 15-17, 2025

SHIRE OF FALCON'S KEEP

Poor Man's Pennsic

Grand Rapids Lions Park

2411 36th St S, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54449 USA

Site opens noon Friday. Site closes noon Sunday.

Fees:	Adult member day \$15
Adult (18+) wkend \$35	Youth daytrip \$10
Adult member wkend \$25	5 & under free
Youth (6-17) wkend \$15	Family wkend \$65 (+nms)
Adult Saturday only \$25	Family day \$35 (+nms)

Checks payable to SCA WI Inc-Shire of Falcon's Keep.

Planned Activities: Armored Combat, Archery, Bardic Activities, Classes, Rapier Combat, Thrown Weapons.

Ground is generally flat. Wheelchair accessible buildings. Site connected by a large loop of hard packed road. Accessible portapotties & parking available.

Populace/presence space available. Merchant space available (no fee). One primitive outdoor shower. Site is discreetly damp. Dogs welcome on leash. No separate camping fee.

Event Steward

Quinn of Falcon's Keep (Quinn Hall)
quinnsqueaker@gmail.com

<https://northshield.org/Events/EventAd.aspx?ID=4761>

AUGUST 21-24, 2025

SHIRE OF RIVENWOOD TOWER

St. Radegund's Faire



McGowan Farm: 2000 Hawkeye Ln
(Township Rd 198), Mankato, MN 56001 USA
Site opens noon Thursday. Site closes 2pm Sunday.

Fees:

Adult (18+) \$30	Camping \$10/tent
Adult member \$20	(no charge for day shades)
Youth (17 & under) free	

*Checks payable to SCA Inc-Shire of Rivenwood Tower.
Pre-registration closes 8/8.*

Planned Activities: Armored Combat, Classes, Rapier Combat, Thrown Weapons, Youth Activities.

Outside is flat, but rough gravel roads on site. Most buildings are accessible. Accessible port-a-potties. Showers are not accessible. Populace/presence space available. Merchant space available (no fee). See website for food information.

Join Rivenwood Tower at Saint Radegund's Faire! We are planning a variety of hands-on classes! The theme is experiential education.

Event Steward

James Wyndover (James Littlefield)
jameswyndover@proton.me (Radegund's in subject line)

<https://sites.google.com/view/stradegunds?pli=1>

AUGUST 22-24, 2025

SHIRE OF SKERJASTROND

Smida Arferð (Makers' Harvest)



Ottawa Sportsmans Club
11075 M38, Pelkie, MI 49958 USA
Site opens 2pm Friday. Site closes 11am Sunday.

Fees:

Adult (18+) \$25	Family cap \$60
Adult member \$15	Family member cap \$40
Youth (6-17) \$10	Camping \$10/site
5 & under free	Saturday Lunch \$5

*Checks payable to SCA MI Inc-Shire of Skerjastromd
Pre-reg link on website.*

Planned Activities: Archery, A&S Display, Bardic Activities, Bronze Casting, Thrown Weapons. Site is accessible. Outside populace/presence space available, inside limited. No merchant space. Breakfast by donation.

Come explore all things Metal Casting with our featured workshops:

- Early Medieval Bronzecasting (Material fee: \$10.00) 18+
- Modern bronze casting using delft clay
- Hands-on Blacksmithing demonstration

More details on website.

Event Stewards

Hjorleif Ottarson (Andrew Tomlinson) andrew.j.tomlinson@gmail.com,
Margareta de Wevere (Amy Applin) amyapplin414@gmail.com,
Sabine d'Anjou (Stacy Fletcher) sabine.danjou.sca@gmail.com
<https://paulk225.sg-host.com/smidarferd-makers-harvest-2025/>

AUGUST 22-24, 2025

SHIRE OF INNER SEA

Pirate For a Day



Viking Village of Charlie & Morgan
3102 Deer Forest Rd., Makinen, MN 55763 USA
Camp setup noon Friday. Site opens 9am Saturday. Site closes noon Sunday.

Fees:

Adult (18+) \$25	Youth 17 & under free
Adult member \$15	

Checks payable to SCA Inc-Shire of Inner Sea.

Planned Activities: Armored Combat, Archery, Bardic Activities, Rapier Combat, Thrown Weapons, Youth Boffer.

Site has rough terrain. Populace/presence space available. Potluck dinner Saturday, please bring a dish to share.

If camping, keep in mind the possibility of bears or other wild animals entering the campsite. Use the dumpster provided on site and prepare food in designated cooking area. Keep food and drinks in your vehicle at night when not being used.

Event Steward

Dragy Dichkov (Nick Taylor)
taylorn09@gmail.com

<https://northshield.org/Events/EventAd.aspx?ID=4797>

AUGUST 29- SEPTEMBER 1 2025

BARONY OF CASTEL ROUGE

Sorry Caesar, Brittania is Closed!



Ukranian Park and Camp
117061 PR 222, Gimli, MB R0C 0M0 Canada
Site opens 4pm Friday. Site closes noon Monday.

Fees (Canadian Dollars!):

<i>Wkend: site, room, all food</i>	<i>Day: site fee only</i>
Adult (13+) \$110	Adult (13+) day \$20
Adult member \$100	Adult member \$10
Youth (6-12) \$60	Youth (6-12) day \$10
Youth member \$50	Youth member free
5 & under free	<i>Meal prices on website.</i>
	<i>Feast reg. deadline 8/15,</i>
	<i>\$25 deposit required.</i>

Checks payable to SCA Inc-Barony of Castel Rouge (CANADIAN DOLLARS). Pre-registration online at <https://tinyurl.com/gimli25pre>.

Planned Activities: Armored Combat, Archery, A&S Competition, Bardic Activities, Classes, Dancing, Rapier Combat.

Hall, washrooms, and cabins accessible. Populace/presence space available.

Come join us for Castel Rouge's 55th Anniversary!

Event Stewards

Clara ingen Uilleam (Robyn Brough) & Aemilia Tacita (Amanda Whitely), gimlievent@castelrouge.ca

<https://www.castelrouge.ca/castel-rouges-55th-anniversary-sorry-caesar-britannia-is-closed/>

KINGDOM DIRECTORY



Kingdom Seneschal: *See page 2*

Emergency Deputy

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Instagram Deputy

Vacant

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Kingdom Exchequer: *See page 2*

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Emergency Deputy Regalia Minister

Vacant

Book Reviews Deputy

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Warrants Deputy

Vacant

Exchequer Education Deputy

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Polaris Herald: *See page 2*

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Keythong Herald (Submissions Deputy)

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Deputy Keythong Herald - Vacant

Aegis Herald (Education Deputy) - Vacant

Minister of Protocol - Vacant

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Compass Herald

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Arts and Sciences

Kingdom MoAS: See page 2

Emergency Deputy Minister of Arts and Sciences

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Woodlands A&S Regional Deputy

Vacant

Earl Marshal

Kingdom Marshal: See page 2

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Deputy Clerk of the Roster

Sian merch Gruffydd
Asa Ormsdottir Brunison (Kayla Boysen)
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Armored Combat

Kingdom Armored Combat Marshal

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Emergency Deputy Armored Combat Marshal

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Kingdom Rapier Marshal

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Archery

Kingdom Archer General

Rhys ap Ishmæl Llygad Odd (Andy Kailhofer)
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Siegound Eishaut (Mark Luedecke)
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Thrown Weapons

Kingdom Thrown Weapons Marshal

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Western Regional Marshal Thrown Weapons

Erik Sateren
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To report a change of officer or contact info

(address, phone, etc.), please contact your kingdom superior
- the Change of Officer form on the website is only for new,
incoming officers. New **seneschals** must also send the
appropriate paperwork to the Kingdom Seneschal to be listed.

Seneschalloram

MANITOBA

Castel Rouge, Barony (*Winnipeg*)
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