

Their Royal Majesties

Lars Wolfblut III & Mary of Carrigart III

(Michael Luthner) trh@northshield.org, (612)845-8229.

(Kate Luthner) trh@northshield.org, (651)341-4332 Call between 5 & 10 p.m. CST to talk to a real person.

Chamberlain/Chief of Staff Wu Yun (reign36chamberlain@gmail.com)



Their Royal Highnesses

TBD

The Stallari Qouncil of Northshield



Kingdom Seneschal seneschal@northshield.org Sorcha Bhuidhe (Sarah Oldenburg Garcia)

(715)497-9767



Kingdom Polaris Herald herald@northshield.org Ysolt Pais de cuer (Laura Knappenberger) (414)761-9603 (*Please call before 9:30pm*)



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Kingdom Earl Marshal kem@northshield.org Siegfried von Kulmbach (Chris Kalmbach) (608)301-5566



Landed Barons and Baronesses

Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr



Abelard die Elster (Paul Knappenberger) baron@caeranterth.org; (414)761-9603 (No calls after 10pm)

Ysolt Pais de cuer (Laura Knappenberger) baroness@caeranterth.org; (414)761-9603 (*No calls after 9:30pm*)



Barony of Castel Rouge

Gabriel De Lion (Michael DeLine) dj_archangel@hotmail.com; (204)979-0550 (*No calls after 9pm*)

Nadrah al-Zahara (Amy Pickard) nadrahsca@gmail.com

Barony of Jararvellir

Athelyna de Chestre (Ty Patterson) athelyna@jararvellir.org; (715)781-3833

Jois Corbet (Deena Patterson) baroness@jararvellir.org; (608)628-5059 (No calls before 9am or after 10pm, unless emergency)



Barony of Nordskogen Gabriel Kjotvason (Patrick Anderson)

baron@nordskogen.org; (952)412-4112

Caoilfhionn inghen Cheallaigh uí Mhórdha (Kellie Hultgren) baroness@nordskogen.org; (612)804-1159



Barony of CC indhaven Hamish de Nisbet of the Clan Nisbet hamish2@hotmail.com; (920)284-7807

Markéta Barfussin (Melissa Heenan) mgaywont@gmail.com; (920)265-4023 (Please call between 9am & 10pm)

The Northwatch – May 2023

Northshield Svent Galendar

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.

April 2023 (AS LVII)

20Deadline for June 2023 *Northwatch* (Running an Event)

22Kingdom A&S, Barony of Nordskogen (St Paul, MN) 🖄 🖄

6.....Bardic Madness XXX, Barony of Jararvellir (Madison, WI)

13Northshield Spring Crown Tournament, Shire of Darkstone (Ashland, WI) 🖄 🖄

20Deadline for July 2023 Northwatch (Welcome!)

26-28.....Raid the Brewery, Shire of Rivenwood Tower (Mankato, MN)

26-29....Feathers and Steel, Shire of Schattentor (Piedmont, SD)

26-29.....War Practice Weekend at the Roost, Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr (Mukwanago, WI) **June 2023 (AS LVIII)**

- 3.....Castle Fever, Shire of Silfren Mere (Oronoco, MN) ≌ ≌
- 9-17.....Lilies War, Kingdom of Calontir (Smithville, MO)
- 10Skirmish at the Border, Barony of Jararvellir (Stoughton, WI)
- 20Deadline for August 2023 Northwatch (Home Goods)
- 23-25.....Midsummer's Eve: Academy of Arts & Sciences, Shire of Tremont (Wessington Springs, SD)
- 23-25.....Known World Heraldic & Scribal Symposium, Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr (Milwaukee, WI) 할 알

July 2023 (AS LVIII)

- 13-16.....Warriors & Warlords 28, Barony of Jararvellir (Tomah, WI) 🖄 🖄
- 20Deadline for Septembor 2023 Northwatch (Youth)
- 28-Aug 13 . Pennsic War 50, Kingdom of Æthelmearc (Slippery Rock, PA) 🖄 🖄



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.

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. July 2023 meeting: TBD. October 2023 meeting: TBD. January 2024 meeting: TBD.

SQA Contacts

Society Seneschal

Lis Schraer (Elasait ingen Diarmata) (314)941-0831; seneschal@sca.org

Northshield Ombudsman Jennifer Krochmal (Duchess Kalisa Aleksandrovna) jkrochmal@director.sca.org

Society Registrar (Memberships/Insurance) Louise du Cray (800)789-7486 x202; louise@sca.org

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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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Their Royal Dajesties

Greetings,

This month We will have Our Crown Tournament to decide the next Crown of Northshield, an honor and a service decided by rattan combat and taken lightly by none. King and Queen are the most visible Kingdom roles; however, it has come to Our attention that some do not know how many other positions of importance exist in Northshield. During Our reign, We will be highlighting the roles of individuals who lead and affect the Kingdom.

Those who serve on the Stallari Council are counselors and steady guides to the Crown and kingdom. They apply to be on Stallari and in their positions act as the heads of critical branches of Our Kingdom, working with many levels of local and regional leadership roles. Look next to the landed Baronies. The gentles who hold Our lands do so at the will (vote) of their people and often see six or eight Crowns during their tenure. They have the time to more deeply be stewards and sculptors of their region. By combat, application, or vote, there are many paths to taking a turn leading Our Kingdom.

There are many many people working to create the dream we all enjoy and We, as Crown, hope all the good gentles of Northshield see how the Crown is one star in the constellation.

In service,

Lars & Mary

Their Royal Highnesses

Coming Soon!



Good Gentles,

As the world thaws, we look to the outdoors and more gatherings. Please be kind to one another and respect each other's space. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

May our Heirs feel confident in their wins. May Their Majesties find comfort in Their reign. But most of all, Long Live Northshield. Yours in Service,

Sorcha



Greetings, kinsfolk!

No changes to Society policies or expectations this month.

As of this writing, the Board of Directors has not yet reviewed or approved the PayPal policy update to use PayPal for donations or heraldic fees.

Speaking of PayPal, I have heard from groups that PayPal has been a good addition to event registration, though be aware that fees reduce site fee income by about 5.5%. If the event budget and expected attendance show that the event might not make money, it may be best to avoid using PayPal for event pre-registration. Alternatively, the group can increase site fees to improve the profitability of the event. Groups cannot add a PayPal fee for pre-registration – that is not allowed by PayPal – but all site fees can be increased.

Remember that it is necessary for groups to make money on events to fund the group's activities – non-profit doesn't mean that we can't make money! We want the SCA to be affordable for all who want to participate. However, participation is not possible at all if groups cannot pay for basic functions or cover some event pre-expenses like site deposits and food for feast.

In closing, know that I and the Regional Exchequers see the work you all do, and we appreciate your efforts.

In service,



No missive this month.

Ysolt



Greetings, Northshield!

In the SCA we often talk about various areas of interest as "communities" - the rapier community, the armored community, the A&S community. This term is broad and inclusive, but at the same time it can feel vague. What does your A&S community look like? Is it a local group of crafters you gather with? The experienced artisan you text with random questions in the middle of a project? All the people you've ever taught the basics of an art form? The person who first showed you how to do a certain craft? All of these things? Is it about support, encouragement, instruction, companionship? Do you find it in person, online, or both? Do you want more of it? Has it changed for you over time? For the month of May, I encourage you to reflect on what the "A&S Community" means to you. I look forward to hearing what you value most.

Yours in Service,

Farolfus



Greetings unto the populace of Northshield,

Happy SCAdian New Year! Welcome to Anno Societatis LVIII (58). Spring has arrived in Northshield (in theory, as I write this missive in March). It is a season of renewal, as the land reawakens and Northshield's new heirs are determined in the Shire of Darkstone. The outdoor event season is also ramping up.

Speaking of event season, as we move further into resuming a more pre-pandemic level of activity, I want to encourage event stewards and groups to be aware of the importance of advertising their events and making information easy to find. I have noticed some groups are relying on Facebook, rather than placing event information, including schedules, on their own group websites. Facebook is not the juggernaut it was a decade ago. Not everyone is on Facebook, for various reasons, and the social media environment is becoming more diverse. The group websites, if your group has one, on the other hand, are going to be universally accessible. And, of course, make sure to submit your events to be listed on the kingdom calendar and in the Northwatch.

Now, for my monthly pitch for volunteers. We have a number of kingdom deputy offices open. They include:

- Emergency Deputy Kingdom Chronicler
- Kingdom Archivist/HistorianMedia Relations Deputy
- Media Relations Deputy
 Deputy Northwatch Editor
- Western, Central, and Eastern Regional Deputy SMO
- TikTok Deputy SMO

Many hands make light work. If anyone is interested in learning more about the chronicler's office, and/or is interested in becoming either a local group chronicler or a deputy kingdom chronicler, please let me know. I will be very glad to talk to you about it.

Ever in service to Crown, Kingdom, and you,

Arnbjørn

Dorthwatch Editor

Cén scéal? What's the news?

Thank you to the bold experimenters who shared their successes and learning experiences with us this month! Our upcoming newsletter themes are as follows, but please submit art and articles on any topic for the edification of the kingdom.

- April 20 The Making of an Event Share your wisdom about hosting and running events in Northshield.
- May 20 Welcome! How can we help make Northshield a welcoming place to all our newcomers in all their diversity? Share your thoughts and messages of welcome; advice for newbies in your art, craft, or martial endeavour; and pictures of your own beginnings in the SCA.
- June 20 Homely Goods What physical items make your table, camp, or presence space more homey? What (e.g., dishes, furniture, or lighting) do you have that is period-appropriate for you and where did you get it or how did you make it? What period items would you like to have (practical/realistic or not)?
- July 20 Youth of the Kingdom The (parents/guardians/teachers of) children and teens of Northshield are encouraged to send in our youngest members' A&S projects, fighting kit or garb photos, stories, or any other spiffiness they would like to show off. Let's celebrate the future of Northshield!

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

Grainne



No missive this month.

Siegfried

A CONTRACTOR

SCA CORPORATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOCIETY IMPACT ASESSMENT: ANTI-DRAG LEGISLATION

The Society is currently assessing the Anti-Drag Legislation recently passed in Tennessee, USA, in addition to the proposed similar legislation in 14 other US states. The Corporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, in conjunction with SCA Inc.'s Legal Counsel and President, is undertaking an impact assessment for the Board.

This aims to determine potential impacts for the Society's participants in terms of public interaction and other potential safety consequences.

OUR SCA IS INCLUSIVE FUNDRAISER

Check out our new official SCA DEI shirt!



Our SCA is inclusive! Show your passion for Inclusion while also supporting the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Wear this shirt and show your belief that the Society is for everyone! You can buy a shirt or tank!

The DEI office, in partnership with SCA Communications team, are launching this fundraiser to help raise funds and awareness for the office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. You can contact the office at equity@sca.org

All proceeds will go directly to the work of the DEI office in alignment with SCA Inc financial policy. We'll be reporting and letting you know how the funds you help raise are helping support DEI activities for the Society!



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; see email addresses on page 2.

- Lakes Regional Deputy Seneschal: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Seneschal. Open until filled.
- Woodlands A&S Regional Deputy: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences. Open until filled.
- Kingdom Youth Officer: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Seneschal. Open until filled.
- **Regalia Minister:** Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Exchequer. The anticipated changeover is ASAP.
- Emergency Deputy Kingdom Chronicler: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.
- Kingdom Archivist/Historian: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.
- Media Relations Deputy: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.
- **Deputy** *Northwatch* **Editor:** Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.
- Western Regional Deputy, Central Regional Deputy, and EasternRegional Deputy SMOs: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.
- TikTok Deputy SMO: Inquiries and applications should be sent to the Kingdom Chronicler. Open until filled.
- See Kingdom Directory for other current vacancies.



Courts of TRM Guenievre & Tom III

THE RETURN OF HOGMANAY

A report from the Court of Northshield held the 7th day of January Anno Societatis 57, in the Barony of Castel Rouge at The Return of Hogmanay.

Herald of Record: Robert Faustus; Signet: Hermina Matilda de Ainesleah of Meredene; Seneschal: Gal Mergan.

RECIPIENT	г		HONOR		SCRIBES			
Wilhelmina Klienes Beist			Award of Arms		Katerinka Lvovicha			
Hlíf Mjoksig	glandi Askasmiðr		Award of the Bla	ick Flame	Geirráðr Koll	peinson		
Brice of Castel Rouge Award of the		Award of the Cy	gus	Judith Krahe	vom Schwarzw	ald		
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GULF WARS

Here follows the Court Report for the courts of Northshield, held during Gulf Wars, March 11-19, Anno Societatis 57, in Kingdom of Gleann Abhann.

Herald of Record: Petranella Fitzallen of Weston; Seneschal: Wu Yun.

(All scrolls presented at Spring Coronation.)

Monday, March 13:			
RECIPIENT	HONOR	SCRIBES	
Sibilla d'Orange	King's Cypher	Judith Krahe vom Schwarzwald	

Thursday, March 16:

RECIPIENT	HONOR	SCRIBES
Hans of Korsvag	Bravura	Kaydian Bladebreaker
Charlotte Almary	Bravura	Kale Phokaina Kourkouaina
Farolfus filius Richardi	Pantheon of Northshield	(no scroll at this time)
Scott the Chef	Award of Arms	Judith of Northwode
Vladimir Radescu	Joint Cypher	Kateryn of the Amber Mists
Anplica Fiore	Joint Cypher	Kateryn of the Amber Mists
Gwenllian verch Rhys de Goer	Joint Cypher	Muirenn ingen Fhairchellaig
Ralik Ravenwolf	Joint Cypher	Margaret Malise de Kyrkyntolaghe
Líadan inghean Cheallaigh	Joint Cypher	Judith of Northwode
Beatriz Estevan de las Serras	Joint Cypher	Cecily of York
Sethric Einarsson of An Tir	Queen's Cypher and Scroll of Honor	Geirráðr hersir Kolbeinsson
Wu Yun	Court Barony	Joya bint Arwa Al-Jinniyya
The Swampies	Hearthstead (no scroll at this time)	





A report from the Final Court of Guenievre and Tom, held April 1, Anno Societatis 57, in the Barony of Jararvellir at Northshield Spring Coronation and Jararvellir's 50ish Anniversary.

Herald of Record: Calamus Keythong; Signet: Sofonisba Vespasiana Gabrielli; Seneschal: Sorcha Buidhe.

RECIPIENT	HONOR	SCRIBES		
Rhys ap Ismael Llygad Ryfedd	Order of the Pelican	Kale Phokaina Kourkouaina		
Gautier de Franqueuille	Order of Chivalry			
Ceolwen ingen Adaim	Joint Cypher	Geirráðr hersir Kolbeinsson		
Olaf Kristsson	King's Cypher	Judith of Northwode		
Davin of Jararvellir	Queen's Cypher	Thora Heri & Racheldis of Glastonburye		
Ekaterina Anastaseva	Augmentation of Arms	Katerinka Lvovicha		
Samia al-Lulu bint Isa	Augmentation of Arms	Marguerite Larchier		
Courts)	ill & Mary III		

SPRING CORONATION

A report from the court of Lars and Mary, held April 1, Anno Societatis 57, in the Barony of Jararvellir at Northshield Spring Coronation and Jararvellir's 50ish Anniversary.

Herald of Record: Calamus Keythong; Signet: Sofonisba Vespasiana Gabrielli; Seneschal: Sorcha Buidhe.

RECIPIENT	HONOR	SCRIBES			
Etain of Jararvellir (Heidi)	Award of Arms	Geirráðr hersir Kolbeinsson			
Valdís Brýningsdottir	Award of the Cygnus	Tancorix inigena Bivaidonas & Síthmaith Eccnaidh			
Drazhan Simanov	Award of the Cygnus	Síthmaith Eccnaidh & Tancorix inigena Bivaidonas			
Sarah of Caer Anterth Mawr	Award of the Cygnus	Elizabeth of Roxbury Mill (Midrealm)			
Aesa Gilsdottir	Vigilant for the Order of the Pelican				
Farolfus filius Richardi	Vigilant for the Order of the Laurel				

KINGDOM OF NORTHSHIELD ANNOUNCEMENT Banishment from the Royal Presence (BRP) Sanction 3.B

On April 1, 2023, Lars and Mary, The Crown of Northshield, have issued a Royal Sanction of Banishment from the Royal Presence against Scott Adkins, known in the Society as Murdoch McArthur.

This sanction will expire at the end of our Reign.

Lars Wolfsblut, King of Northshield Mary of Carrigart, Queen of Northshield

Non-Euclidian Toes

By Áine ingen Máel Pátraic <verymelm@gmail.com>

As part of a barter exchange with a friend and mentor, I was tasked with recreating knit colorwork stockings based on extant examples of stockings found and dated to the 11th and 12th century in the Middle East. Most of the extant examples of stockings in this style consist of stranded knit patterning in blue and white or natural yarn, most often with geometric or pseudo-script patterning. From the extant pieces, it can be demonstrated that the stockings were knit from the toe-up. While modern patterns exist that recreate the look and feel of these stockings (see *Mamluk Stockings* in Bush, 1994), comparing these patterns with extant examples reveals that they do not follow the construction used to create the originals. Therefore, in order to create more authentic stockings, and to facilitate ensuring custom fit for the resulting stockings to fit the foot and leg of the recipient, I designed my own pattern.



I calculated that I would need 100 stitches for the main part of the foot of the sock. Because the toe of the stockings I'm creating includes symmetrical stranded color work patterning, I charted a pattern that would end with 20 stitches per repeat and created a five-pointed star toe (wait for it...).

Modern toe-up socks generally increase 4 stitches every round for 3-4 rounds and then increase 4 stitches every other



I did (after three more trial toes) find a solution that worked and created a shape that would fit as expected, but it took at least six attempts. The solution involves not only different numbers of increases and rows between increases, but also two additional needle sizes (two sizes below the size to get gauge)...



...and then realized as I was drafting documentation for Kingdom A&S that a four-pointed star would have been more in line with extant examples. *sigh*

round until you get the total number of stitches desired. The symmetrical five-pointed star, however, would require that each increase round would add 10 total stitches to the pattern. Figuring out the right pattern of increases (number of rounds between increase rounds) to make the toe the right shape yielded some...





interesting...and perhaps non-Euclidean results.

Five-point star attempt 3 (increases every 3 rounds)



DONKEY-POWERED WATERWHEEL. FROM BOOK OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF INGENIOUS MECHANICAL DEVICES BY BADI' AL-ZAMAN IBN AL-RAZZAZ AL-JAZARI, SYRIA, C. 1318 CE. COURTESY OF THE MET MUSEUM (NY)

Lampwork Beadmaking

By Knutr Ólafsson Osidar <uwbugman1996@gmail.com>

My journey into beadmaking started in late autumn of 2021. I was able to make standard beads without any issue and moved onto other artistic Viking Age designs...some successfully, some not so successfully.

Some of my first mistakes were equipment-related. The big one was selecting the wrong burner head. I used nearly every type I could purchase at the local hardware store. It left my white beads with a smoky look. Kinda cool, but not what I wanted.



Figure 1: Beads done with a soldering head have a smoky look

I then purchased a beginner's lampworking kit through Amazon. It had the torch head I needed, some mandrels (the rods that the beads are formed on), and so many colors of hand-pulled glass... that I found out later are notorious for being "shocky" (aka they tend to explode...BOOM!). BUY (AND WEAR) the safety goggles! And wear non-flammable clothes that you're ok getting holes in.

I started practicing basic bead shapes like barrels, spheres, and donuts and adding simple waves, sometimes successfully...



Figure 2: Success! Simple waves on barrels, donuts, and spheres Sometimes not.



Figure 3: Oops... Cracked bead

So then, as you do, you fall down the rabbit hole thinking how easy it will be to make so many other types of beads, like the eye... that I'm pretty sure looks more like a blue fried egg.



Figure 4: Attempt at an "eye" bead Or the raised dots...my infected pimple.



Figure 5: Attempt at raised dots

Sometimes the thoughts you had just didn't get all the way there, like these target beads.



Figure 6: Target beads, sort of ...



Figure 7: Target beads under light – that's supposed to be green, not black! Sometimes the failures look absolutely amazing...



Figure 8: Not what I was going for, but cool!

Sometimes you learn that more is not always better, such as the case when I used murine (decorative chips of glass that get laid onto the surface of a bead). The bead on the left below had only 2 snowflakes, while the one on the right, I used 4, distorting two of them.



Figure 9: Snowflake beads

But keep researching and keep practicing. You never know when the Baroness is going to yoink an item out of an A&S display for largess.



Figure 10: Practice, practice, practice leads to more success!

Trial and Error in Learning to Build Crossbows

By Vidi Hovdestad <adamlbur@yahoo.com>

When Crispin Fletcher and I started to work on building crossbows we were very ignorant about several key areas of the prod and trigger design. We learned their importance the hard way.

We had to make choices about the style of release and the draw length we wanted, then find a prod that would work with the desired draw length.

You can build four main types of releases. The first two are roller nut and Claplock (latching) mechanisms, if you are willing to tackle the internal trigger design, or you can simplify things and use a top lift mechanism or a lifting pin. We decided to go the simpler route with a lifting pin that is pushed up from a trigger bar on a bottom of the stock.

We also wanted a longer draw length so we procured a prod that would handle the desired draw length. From there it seemed like mostly a matter of making a stock, marking the spot to hold the string, and drilling the hole for the pin to come up and push the string free. But then you get into the finer details, and that is where we learned the most on that first crossbow.

Some of our key learning areas were:

- Size of string catch area
- Springs for trigger
- Prod angle alignment in stock

Starting with size of string catch area, we thought more space cut out behind the trigger would make it easier to speed-reload by giving more room to place the string after drawing back. This did work in practice, as we could quickly draw it back and easily find the place to drop in the string.

For the pin, we wanted it as simple as possible and relied on gravity to retract the pin after the trigger was released. A smooth brass pin in a sanded hole easily fell back down when the trigger was released.

For the prod, we copied the angle of an existing crossbow. Rather than try to figure it out on our own, we would use something that already worked.

For the string area, we drew back and then manually let the string down several times as a proof of concept, and we were happy with the design until the time we didn't release the trigger while the bow was level. Gravity couldn't pull the pin down, and when we drew back the string, we ended up having the pin in the up position and enough room behind the pin that the string actually held the pin in the up position. The pin was completely stuck. This incident taught us two different things. First, we cannot depend on gravity to pull the pin down, and springs would be needed to ensure a proper reset. Second, too much space behind the trigger allowed for the possibility of the trigger being up while pulling back the string, which is a hazard. Ideally, the pin should be larger front to back than the entire string opening so that pushing the string down into the holding area will force a pin reset even if a spring is broken.

Now that we had the trigger area fixed and a spring added to the pin and trigger we were ready to test-fire bolts. We took the bow to our local indoor range and misfired on the very first bolt. The string ended up on top of the bolt instead of behind the bolt and then dragged the bolt forward until the string stopped. A couple of followup attempts had the same result. Something was off and we didn't understand what was causing the problem.

Rather than destroy all the bolts we had with us, we stopped to

reassess what we would need to do for a fix. We sanded the release area to make it as smooth as possible. We rounded corners side to side and even a little on the top to smooth the rollover and try to get the string to catch the back of the bolt. Nothing worked and we kept crushing the top of bolts.

During this time, I was also seeking out and buying as many years as I could for the German crossbow journal *Jahrblatt der Interessengemeinschaft Historische Armbrust.* They put out a collection of articles every year (most in German, but a few in English). The 2016 journal is one of a few that showed up after our first shots, and one of the German-language articles resulted in me yelling "Eureka!" and grabbing my phone to text Crispin. Two images in an article put all the pieces together.







Image #2

In an ideal setup, the angle from the prod to the top point of release should be 90 degrees (Point A Image 1). If the 90 degree angle is lower (Point B Image 1), the string will lose significant energy dragging across the stock but it will still shoot the bolt. If the 90 degree angle mark is higher than the stock at the release point (Point C Image 1), then when the string is released it will try and go to this 90 degree point and hop over the back of the bolt. Unfortunately, as the string comes forward, it will then slam into the top of the bolt and drag it forward instead of shooting it. This was precisely what was happening to us, as the string was hopping over the back of the bolt before coming down and crushing it. The angle of the prod that we copied was for a shorter draw length. That meant that drawing the string back just a little farther, the 90 degree angle resulted in the string being higher than the bolt. It was still possible to latch the string by pulling it down lower than 90 degrees (the pressure against the stock was enough to keep it in place). What we needed to do was recut the angle of the prod to account for the longer draw length. Once this was done, everything worked as expected.

Using Image number 1 as a reference, the angle for line C is correct if you have a very short draw length. A is correct for the draw length indicated, and B would be correct for a longer draw (extend the line for B farther back). It's this interaction of the 90 degree angle from the prod and the draw length that is critical. Any given angle can be correct, if you place the trigger at the correct point. Once you pick one of those placements, the other must match.

In the end, it was a combination of trial and error and being able to recognize drawings in a German-language journal that put all the pieces together to correct the misfires. Just a few months later, I was at the first Missile Mayhem event and there was a team of ballista shooters having the same problem. The string jumped over the back of a ballista bolt and misfired almost every time. I went over to the crew and explained what we had learned recently. This ballista was built with wedges to set the prod angle and the crew was able to take out the wedges and reassemble with a different angle, putting the ballista back in working order.

Crispin and I are still learning as we go, making and fixing crossbows, and we look forward to learning even more now that we better understand these big key items in design.

Images from article: "Der "springende Punkt": Warum Klappenschlosser beim Spannen einrasten" by Dr Erhard Franken-Stellamans; *Jahrblatt der Interessengemeinschaft Historische Armbrust* 2016

Loaf of Bread, c. 1492-1473 BCE, Egypt	
Photo courtesy of the Met Museum (NY)	



MAY 6, 2023

BARONY OF JARARVELLIR

Bardic Madness XX



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church 6205 University Ave. Madison, WI 53705 USA Site opens 8am for staff & royalty, 9am for populace. Site closes 9pm.

Fees:	Youth (5-17) \$5
Adult (18+) \$15	Under 5 free
Adult member \$10	Dinner Feast \$12
Students w/ID \$10	Family cap \$20
Student members \$5	Light lunch \$8 (pre-reg required)

Checks payable to SCA WI Inc-Barony of Jararvellir. Pre-reg deadline April 29. Meals must be prepaid, site fees can be paid day of. Mail info to: Tracy Bossinger 1663 Haas St. Madison, WI 53704

Planned Activities: Bardic Activities. Populace/presence space available. Site is ADA accessible. Offboard seating for feast available.

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

Event Steward Ginerva Volpe(Tracy Bossinger) 608-556-2879 (text ok, no calls after 9pm); inariargenteus@gmail.com

https://digitalpixie.net/madbards30/index.html



DEAR ABBESS:

I have served in the Roman army for much of my adult life and, as you can imagine, have had to while away many an hour in some cold and dreary border fort. We make do as best we can to entertain ourselves, and I'll be honest – we gamble

a lot on dice games. One of my buddies has consistently been one of the unluckiest men I have ever met ever since we enlisted together. All of a sudden, though, his luck has changed. While he can still manage to step in the one pile of dung in an otherwise empty field, when it comes to dice, he has been winning consistently for the last few months. I cannot imagine that Fortuna has suddenly decided to smile upon him (and solely in this one aspect of his life), and the only thing that I can conclude is that he has found some cunning way of handling and throwing the dice in order to cheat. Now I am down by nearly a month's pay. I could tolerate it if it were truly chance, but it just doesn't seem possible. I also don't want to ruin our friendship with a false accusation. What should I do?

-Cursed in Carnuntum

Dear Cursed,

Your friend's sudden reversal of fortune does indeed seem suspect. Might I suggest your introduce a neutral way to cast dice when you play? Some of your compatriots over on the

Rhine frontier have developed a clever little gadget to ensure that no sleight of hand can affect the roll of the dice. The dice are thrown into a small metal box, open at the top and bottom, so that they tumble randomly and fall out of the lower opening down a tiny staircase, landing just as Fortuna intends. With luck (see what I did there?) something like this may restore your trust in your companion - or reveal his cheating ways. Either way, you'll have your answer.



-Abbess

For more information on the dice tower, see https:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vettweiss-Froitzheim_Dice_Tower Photo courtesy of Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn, Public Domain

To TRY SOME ROMAN DICE GAMES, SEE https://www.getty.edu/education/college/ancient_rome_at_home/pdf/tali_tesserae_game.pdf

Do you have Medieval Problems? Ask Dear Abbess by writing to Northwatch@northshield.org, putting "Dear Abbess" in the subject.



May 26-29, 2023	SHIRE OF SCHATTENTOR		MAY 26-29, 2023	BARONY OF CAER ANTERTH MAWR	
Feathers and Steel				e Weekend at the	
Black H	Iills Meadows			The Roost	
2305 Elk Creek Rd. 1	Piedmont, SD 57769 USA		S86W26950 Nationa	l Ave. Mukwonago, WI 53149 USA	
Site opens noon Frid	ay. Site closes noon Monday.		Site opens noor	n Friday. Site closes 2pm Monday.	
Fees:	Youth (12-17) Feast \$10		Fees:	Sunday Day Trip \$15	
Weekend Adult (18+) \$20	11 and under eat free		Adult (18+) \$25	Adult Dinners (Sat & Sun) \$15	
Weekend Adult member \$15	Tent/vehicle/vardo camping per		Adult member \$20	Children (5-12) Dinners \$10	
Weekend Youth (12-17) \$15	night: \$10 Family Size capped at		Youth (6-17) \$10	5 and under eat free (limit 2/	
Weekend Youth member \$10	4 (2 adult & 2 children).		5 and under free	adult)	
Youth 11 and under free	Additional people \$5/night		Checks payable to SCA WI	Inc- Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr. Pre-reg	
Day Trip \$10	Other sleeping options: contact		required for food, recommend	ded for site. Deadline May 12. Mail info to:	
Adult Feast \$15	Black Hills Meadows			28 Brandybrook Rd. Waukesha, WI 53188,	
Checks payable to SC	A Inc-Shire of Schattentor		or PayPal pre-reg form here: https://forms.gle/96B2u7A8qbXwVsXt8		
Planned Activities: Armored Combat, Archery, A&S Display, Bardic Activities, Classes, Rapier Combat, Thrown Weapons. Merchant space available, no fee. Site is accessible. Showers available.			Planned Activities: Armored Combat, Rapier Combat. Merchant space limited, contact steward. Shop is accessible, fields and woods may be difficult to access.		
Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to try to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.			Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to try to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.		
Event Steward Kathryn of Southwick (Kathryn Plate) text/call 605-389-5425, katgruenhagen@gmail.com			Armond le Ch	Event Steward harpentier (George Gundlach) 22 (no calls after 9pm please)	
http://northshield.org/Events/EventAd.aspx?ID=4635			http://northshield.o	org/Events/EventAd.aspx?ID=4654	

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Kingdom Seneschal: See page 2

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The Northwatch – May 2023

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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. Horse and Rider with experimental glaze colors, 8th c. CE, China Photo courtesy of The Met Museum (NY)

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Parallax by Duchess Kaylah the Cheerful

