

Avantgarde

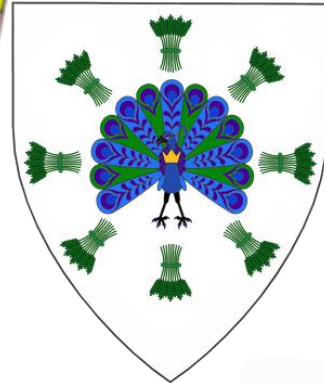


Kingdom of Avacal's Official Newsletter
AS LX (60) Vol XI March 2026

AVACAL ROYALTY



AIDEN AP GRENDAI
KING OF AVACAL



ISSABELLA OF KENDAL
QUEEN OF AVACAL

KINGDOM OF AVACAL CHAMPIONS

Champion of Sword	Duke Ivar the Black	Champion_of_sword@avacal.org
Champion of Arrow	Freydis Birthesdottir	Champion_of_arrow@avacal.org
Champion of Rapier	Reme the Burgundian	Champion_of_rapier@avacal.org
Champion of Arts & Sciences	Susan of Myrgan Wood	Champion_of_artsci@avacal.org
Youth Champion	Guglielmo di Pietro	
Champion of Bardic	Dolce Machiavelli	Champion_of_bardic@avacal.org



Royal Progress

February 11th - May 18th, 2026

Branch	Event	Date	TRM's
Vinjar	Winter Crown	Feb 14 th , 2026	K&Q (&PR)
Borealis	Winter War	Mar 21 st , 2026	K&Q (&PR)
Valley Wold	Ferret's Feast	April 11 th , 2026	K&Q (&PR)
Sigelhundas	Grand TUA	April 25 th , 2026	Queen
Valley Wold	Spring Coronation	May15 th -18 th , 2026	K&Q (&PR)



Links to Frequently used Society Guides & Handbooks:

[SCA Organizational Handbook](#)

[SCA Social Media Handbook](#)

[SCA Policy in Harassment and Bullying Revised 7/24/2022](#)

[SCA Sexual Misconduct Policy](#)

[SCA Sanction Procedures and Policies Manual](#)

[SCA Society Financial Policy](#)

[SCA Seneschal Handbook](#)

[SCA Receipt for Donation of Cash or Goods](#)

AWARDS

12TH NIGHT, JANUARY 17TH, 2025

KIERA THE SHADOWED

PELICAN

ALYNE OF KENDAL

LAUREL

ADIS ULFSDOTTIR

COURT BARONESS

REFR BJARNARSON

COURT BARON

ALLERT PIERSON

WINGED LYNX

RHIANNON QUON

WINGED LYNX

BJAR THE BLUE

CASTELLAN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

As of publishing date; for details on awards, please visit the [Avacal OP](#).



Avacal Official Events Calendar

Winter Crown

February 13th - 16th
Wembley Recreation Centre
9831 97th Street
Wembley, AB T0H 3S0



Event Stewards: Sir Olaf the Snowman & [Ademar Donedei di Pietro](#)

Site Fees	
Adult Membership	\$30
Adult Non-member	\$40
Youth	Free
Children	Free



Feast Fees	
Adult	\$30
Youth (12-17 years)	\$15
Children (0-11 years)	Free

Allergen and dietary restrictions will be considered - please contact feast steward

The Kingdom of Avacal seeks new Heirs, and the Shire of Vinjar is proud to host Winter Crown 2026.

Skald the Hall

March 7th, 2026
St. Joseph Calasanctius Parish
1942 98th Street
North Battleford, SK S9A 0N4



Event Steward: Daylen Elder
Feast Steward: Hamish MacCarrig

Site Fees	
Adult Membership	\$25
Adult Non-member	\$35
Youth	Free
Children	Free



Feast Fees	
Adult	\$20
Youth (12 - 17 years)	\$10
Children (0 - 11 Years)	Free

Skald the Hall - A celebration of Bardic Arts, good food, and great company! Witness the Myrgan Wood Bardic Championship, Youth Championship, and the legendary Bard-Off. Join us for stories, songs, and a feast fit for bards and warriors.

Avacal Official Events Calendar

Winter War

March 20th - 22nd, 2026
Wetaskiwin Co-op Place
4519 50th Ave
Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 2S1

Event Steward: [Falaen O'Dalaigh](#)



Site Fees

Adult Membership \$30
Adult Non-member \$40
Youth & Children Free



On the horizon Borealis sees the enemies on their borders; the faraway hordes are massing, encroaching on Borealis' lands. The lost Vikings, on behalf of the Barony of Borealis, call to muster all fighters, all rapiers, all archers, all bards, all artisans to repel the oncoming onslaught on this 40th Anniversary of Winter War.

Ferret's Feast

April 11th, 2026
Moose Jaw Mason Hall
1755 Main Street North
Moose Jaw, SK S6J 1L6

Event Stewards: Mike Bartlett & Trudy Simmons



Site Fees

Adult Membership \$20
Adult Non-member \$30
Youth & Children Free



Feast Fees

Adult \$25
Youth (12 - 17 years) \$15
Children (0 - 11 years) Free

Welcome to Ferret's Feast where the Shore of Valley Wold celebrates spring and chooses it's Champions in Armor, Raspier, and Arts & Sciences. In case none of that interests you, stick around for a fabulous feast and enjoy the various food presented by our HL Mora of Lincolnshire.

There will be four to five removes (menu being determined) with food allergies considered; we will require two (2) weeks' notice for final preparation.

Avacal Official Events Calendar

Grand Tua

April 17th - 19th, 2026
Mamawayatitan Centre
3355 6th Avenue
Regina, SK S4T 4L8

Event Stewards: [Trahaearn Kvirgsson](#) & [Gwen MacFergus](#)



Site Fees	
Adult Member	\$30
Adult Non-member	\$40
Youth & Children	Free



Join us at TUA in Sigelhundas! This event offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the tournaments to decide on the newest Kingdom Arts and Sciences & Bardic Champions as well as all the classes you can handle! Whether you are a seasoned member of the SCA or a curious newcomer, we look forward to seeing you there!

Spring Coronation

May 15th - 18th, 2026
Quad War Site
52°53'02.7"N 109°53'56.1"W
Saskatchewan

Event Stewards: [Jacinda Johnsdottir](#) & Phillip of the Lakes



Site Fees	
Adult Member	\$30
Adult Non-member	\$40
Youth & Children	Free



Please Join us for Avacal's Spring Coronation where we will celebrate with grandeur and tradition, marking the ascension of the new King and Queen to the Griffin Thrones! With elaborate garb, courtly ceremonies, and chivalric displays, you can expect a weekend filled with feasting, tournaments, arts and sciences, and opportunities to engage in all the Avacal has to offer.

UNVEILING YOUR IDENTITY: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SCA HERALDRY AND DEVICES

Presented by Arwyn of Leicester and Eirik of Two Ravens for the [Avacal College of Heraldry](#)
Edited for the Avantgarde by Lucrezia Iseppa Constantina di Arborea

THE WHAT AND WHY OF PERSONAL ARMORY:

In the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), few things are as distinctive and personal as heraldic display. The sight of a bold, colorful shield or a delicate badge on a cloak immediately signals identity, allegiance, and artistic spirit. For many newcomers, however, the world of heraldry – or armory, as we more accurately call the design system itself, can seem like a plethora of strange rules and archaic terms. This article aims to demystify that process, proving that creating your own personal symbol is not only accessible but a deeply rewarding part of your SCA journey.

WHAT IS HERALDRY AND ARMORY?

Let's start with a simple definition. As the Oxford dictionary states, heraldry encompasses "armorial bearings or other heraldic symbols." In the SCA context, armory refers specifically to the graphic designs themselves—the shields, badges, and banners that represent individuals and groups. It is the art and science of creating, recording, and protecting these unique identifiers.

A crucial distinction exists between "Arms" and a "Device." Historically, a Coat of Arms represented an individual in a specific time and place. In the modern SCA, while we sometimes use the term, we primarily focus on the Personal Device. This is a single piece of tinctured (colored) armory that uniquely identifies you. It becomes your "Arms" upon receiving an Award of Arms (AoA), but you can and should design and display your device from the very beginning! Furthermore, the concept of a universal "family coat of arms" is a modern myth; in our period, arms were specific to individuals. Therefore, using a pre-existing historical family crest is discouraged in favor of creating something uniquely yours.

DEVICE VS. BADGE: UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS

You have two primary tools for expressing your heraldic identity:

Personal Device: This is your primary heraldic emblem. It must have a colored or metallic background (called a field) and is registered to you alone. Think of it as your official "heraldic calling card."

Badge: This is a more flexible piece of armory. A badge can represent an alternative persona, serve as an artist's mark, or identify a household. It can be jointly owned by a group and, most notably, it can be fieldless – meaning it doesn't require a background shield shape, allowing for more free-form designs like a standalone dragon or a tree.

ACCEPTABLE VS. REGISTRABLE: PLAYING BY THE RULES

Do you absolutely have to register your armory with the SCA's College of Arms? Technically, no. But we strongly encourage it. Registration protects your design from being used by others and ensures it fits within our historical framework. To be used at all, a design should at least be acceptable:

Not Offensive: It must avoid vulgarity, mockery of any group, or any modern hate symbols.

Not Presumptuous: It cannot use charges (symbols) reserved for certain awards unless you hold them (e.g., a crown, a specific type of chain).

To be registrable, a design must meet all the acceptability criteria and also be:

Period in Style: It should use design elements and a composition that would be recognizable in a medieval or Renaissance context.

Clear of Conflict: It must be distinct from already-registered armory, differing significantly in its core elements to avoid confusion.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION - IDEAS AND CORE PRINCIPLES

Where to Begin? Finding Inspiration: The blank shield can be intimidating. Where do the ideas come from? Luckily, you are not alone. Start with these resources:

The "[Heraldry for Non-Heralds](#)" Primer: A simple guide to basic rules.

The "[Book of Traceable Heraldic Art](#)" (BoTHA): A collection of simple, clear line-art of common heraldic charges (lions, eagles, fleurs-de-lis, etc.).

The "[Pictorial Dictionary of Heraldry](#)" (PicDic): An illustrated guide to heraldic terminology.

The [Avacal Roll of Arms](#): See what your fellow kingdom members have registered!

Ask a Herald! The most valuable resource. Kingdom and local heralds love to help brainstorm.

THE PALETTE OF HERALDRY: TINCTURES

Heraldry uses a specific, vibrant palette divided into two groups that must work together:

The 5 Colours:

Black (Sable), Blue (Azure), Green (Vert), Purple (Purpure), Red (Gules).

The 2 Metals:

Gold/Yellow (Or) and Silver/White (Argent).

These form the foundation of all designs. Other tinctures exist (like "proper" for natural colors), but these seven are your primary toolkit.

The First Core Rule: Contrast is King

The primary purpose of armory is to be identifiable at a distance—on a shield across a tournament field or on a banner in a procession. Therefore, the number one rule is CONTRAST. This is achieved through the Rule of Tincture: a colour must be placed on a metal, and a metal must be placed on a colour.

Think of a modern traffic sign: dark letters on a light background. Heraldry follows the same principle. You would not put blue (azure, a colour) on green (vert, another colour), as they would blend. You would put a red (gules) lion on a gold (or) field. This ensures clarity and visual punch.

BUILDING YOUR DESIGN AND NAVIGATING REGISTRATION

What Can You Put On Your Shield?

The items placed on the field are called charges. They can be almost anything found in the medieval world: animals, plants, geometric shapes, mythical beasts, and everyday objects. Ordinaries are specific, simple geometric charges like stripes, crosses, and chevrons that dominate the field. You can also customize your background using field divisions (splitting the shield in half, into quarters, etc.) and vary the division lines (wavy, embattled like castle walls, etc.).

The Second Core Rule: Keep It Simple

(The "Sandwich" and "Pizza" Rules)

Complexity is the enemy of good heraldry. Use the "Sandwich" model to visualize layers:

Bread = The Background/Field.

Meat = A Primary Charge on the field.

Cheese = A Smaller Charge placed on top of the primary charge.

Aim for a good sandwich, not a overstuffed one. This leads us to the whimsical but vital Rule of Eight (or "Heraldic Pizza"): The total count of all distinct tinctures (colours and metals) and types of charge in your design should be eight or fewer. More than eight different elements? You have an "Otherwise Pizza"—a confusing, hard-to-describe mess. Strive for elegance and clarity.

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS: WHAT, HOW MANY, AND HOW?

What & How Many:

You may register one personal device. You may register as many badges as you wish. The current total registration limit for an individual is 10 items (device + badges). You must have a registered SCA name to file armory, but this can be as simple as "Your Legal Given Name of [Your Branch/Town]."

How to Register:

Work with a herald! They will help you draft your forms. You can find them at consultation tables (like at this event), through your local group, or via the Avacal Heraldic Community online. Once the forms are perfect, they are mailed with a fee (currently \$10 per item) to the Kingdom submissions office.

Timeline:

Patience is a virtue. The entire process—from Kingdom commentary to Society-level review and final decision—takes approximately 9 months. Don't be discouraged; this thorough review ensures the integrity of the entire system.

FINAL STEPS AND EMBRACING THE HERALDIC JOURNEY

What If My Submission is Returned?

Do not despair! A "return" means the submission needs minor adjustments to meet the rules for registration. You will receive detailed commentary explaining why. The key is to read the commentary carefully. If you don't understand it, ask a herald for clarification. We are here to help you succeed.

Importantly, resubmissions within Avacal are currently free, so you can revise and try again without additional cost. Reach out via the heraldic Facebook group or email the submissions team.

How to Get Started Right Now

The path to your unique armory begins with a conversation.

Talk to a Herald:

Find one here today or contact your local group's officer. Come with an open mind and be ready to brainstorm.

Use the Resources:

Flip through the PicDic or BoTHA. Sketch ideas, no matter how rough.

Attend the Open Session:

Take advantage of the breakout consultation time offered. This is your chance to get one-on-one expert advice.

Join the Community:

Connect with the Avacal Heraldic Community online. It's a supportive space to ask questions and share ideas.

CONCLUSION

Creating your personal heraldic device or badge is more than just following rules; it is an act of identity and creativity that connects you to centuries of tradition. It transforms you from a spectator into a part of the visual tapestry of the Current Middle Ages. The rules exist not as barriers, but as the framework that ensures your symbol will be strong, clear, and uniquely yours—recognizable across a crowded list field or a bustling market. So take the first step. Sketch that idea, talk to a herald, and begin the exciting journey of unveiling your heraldic identity.

Ready to discuss an idea? Your heralds are waiting.



Keep Calm and Colour On



Source: [Fondo Antigo de la Biblioteca de la Universidad de Sevilla](#)

Avacal Officer Positions

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING OFFICER

The DEIB Officer is responsible for overseeing the development, implementation, and maintenance of game-facing DEIB initiatives and education.

This position will become a greater officer in the New Year. Please Send your Resume to the Kingdom seneschal at seneschal@avacal.org

KINGDOM CHRONICLER

The kingdom chronicler is responsible for the official newsletter of Avacal. Please send resumes to seneschal@avacal.org



Society News and Events



[War of the Phoenix](#) February 10th - 16th, 2026

[Gulf Wars](#) March 14th - 22nd, 2026

[Double Wars](#) May 8th - 17th, 2026

[Known World Armoured Combat Collegium](#) September 5th - 6th, 2026

NEW CUT & THRUST COMBAT HANDBOOK COMMENTARY REQUEST

The Society Marshal, Society Rapier Marshal, and Society C&T Deputy have released the approved draft of the new Cut & Thrust Handbook for public commentary through March 30, 2026, as part of the ongoing modernization of all marshal handbooks to better reflect current structures, culture, and safety practices. The handbook features a modernized online format for improved accessibility and navigation, consistent with other updated manuals, and is available along with a PDF version, summary cliff notes, and a process FAQ. Following the commentary period, updates will be incorporated for final Board review, with an anticipated effective date of May 20, 2026, alongside the new Rapier Handbook; commentary should be sent to marshal@sca.org and rapier@sca.org with the subject "New C&T Handbook – Commentary," while also cc'ing your kingdom's relevant marshal, and note that feedback already submitted on the shared content of the Rapier Handbook need not be repeated.

AVACAL DIRECTORY

ROYALTY

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Castellan: Master Bjar the Blue
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VALLEY WOLD (Moose Jaw, SK - Shire)

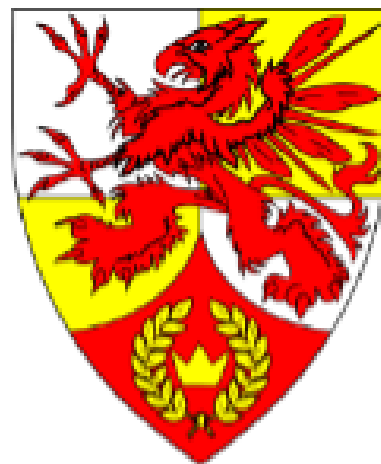
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Fáelán's Armoury

Gord Daley

780-565-2121

faelan.armoury@gmail.com

Phone to book viewing appointments

[Fáelán's Armour Page](#)

Kingdom Populace Pennants
Populace Badge Pins
Encampment walls

BANNERS
— OF WAR —

Contact:
Baron Hamelin L'Archier
hamelin1066@gmail.com

KINGDOM OF AVACAL
ARMY CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

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

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

Would you like to advertise your SCA Merchant Business?
Please contact the Kingdom Chronicler at chronicler@avacal.org



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Membership is available from the Member Services Office, SCA Inc., P.O. Box 66347, Scotts Valley, CA 95067 or online at <https://membership.sca.org> Send changes of address or questions about subscriptions to the Milpitas address. U.S. and international SCA membership forms are available online at www.sca.org

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