

# The Fluffy Flyer



OFFICIAL SUPPLEMENT PUBLICATION OF THE KINGDOM OF AVACAL  
VOLUME II, NOVEMBER AS LIX (2024)

# The ROYAL MISSIVE



reetings glorious Kingdom that is Avacal from Vik and A'isha,  
your King and Queen,

As winter begins to send her icy fingers clawing and cold We  
wish to thank all those who journeyed to the Eastern part of  
Avacal to attend Our Coronation and swear fealty. We trust a  
good time was had by all.

With snow on the ground Our Kingdom's thoughts turn to feasting and celebrating  
as the New Year brings promise of more events to attend. We hope to see  
everyone in the coming months as we visit Our great land.

Remember that this great game is meant to be fun and a break from the reality of  
daily activities. We want to encourage everyone to find what they like to do and  
get involved in a positive way. There are so many different facets to the jewel that  
is the SCA and we know there is a place for everyone.

Lastly, We wish to repeat what was said at Our Coronation court – We know court  
can be a scary place if you are not used to it. We want Our courts to be welcoming,  
which is why you will see the Eagle staff, a symbol of unity, brought forth and  
displayed. If you are brought into court and unable to kneel, please remain  
standing. If you have questions, please see Ourselves or Our Retinue. While a  
King and Queen are often busy, We want to make time for everyone who wishes to  
speak with Us.

We are here to help the kingdom in whatever way We can.

In Service,

Vik & A'isha  
King & Queen  
Kingdom of Avacal



*Photography by Mitchell Craig  
Winter Coronation 2024*



## chronicler' s Desk

Salutations to all,

The days grow shorter, and the nights longer, and we have witnessed the coronation of our Winter King and Queen, Their Royal Majesties Vik and A'isha!

In this edition of The Fluffy Flyer, I encourage you to share your own November stories, let's come together to celebrate our community and the bonds we share. May your days be filled with comfort and your hearts with gratitude.

Yours in service,

Lady Lucrezia Iseppa Constantina di Arborea  
Avacal Chronicler

# share your passion & knowledge

Are you a skilled practitioner or passionate enthusiast in the SCA? We invite you to contribute your insights and expertise to our Kingdom by submitting articles on various SCA topics!

Topics of Interest (***not a complete list!***)

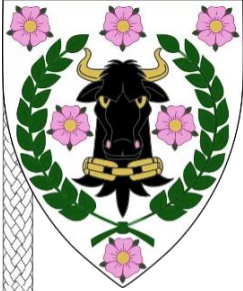
- Examples of Martial Arts:
  - Armoured, share your techniques, training tips, or historical insights.
  - Rapier, write about your insights and rapier fighting and training skills.
  - Archery, we want to hear about your experiences, equipment, and techniques.
- Bardic, celebrate the art of storytelling, music, and performance. Share your favourite bardic traditions, techniques, or original works!
- Arts & Sciences, from alchemy to Zampieri, we would love to hear from you!
- Service, articles that highlight the importance of service in Avacal. Share stories, experiences, and ways to engage in service-oriented activities.
- Youth, not only to newsletter pieces encourage the next generation, but we would love to hear from them and publish their articles (with proper consent, of course)!
- Classes, do you have knowledge to share? Please send us your class for publication!

Why Contribute? Your voice matters! By sharing your articles, you can inspire others, foster learning, and contribute to the vibrancy of our community. Whether you're a novice or an expert, we would love to hear from you!

Submission Guidelines for the Fluffy Flyer

- ✓ Articles should be SCA-relevant, in good taste, and neutral.
- ✓ Include any images or references that enhance your article.
- ✓ Please submit your work by the 10th of the month.





## BARONY OF MONTENGARDE CONFIDENCE POLLING



Hear Ye Populous of the Barony of Montengarde!

The time has come for the Confidence Polling of our Excellences HE Baron Refr Bjarnarson & HE Baroness Ádís Ulfsdóttir. All comments will be submitted directly to their Majesties Vik Vikingsson and A'isha Rayhana al-Karim for review.

**WHEN:** Montengarde 12th Night Event, January 18th, 2025 - This will take place during the Montengarde 12th Night event, on January 18th, 2025. Paper forms will be available throughout the duration of the event for all members of the Barony who wish to make their comments know.

**ONLINE** Submission Option: If you cannot fill out the form in person or wish to provide feedback ahead of time, the submission form will be available online at <https://www.montengarde.org/Welcome/baronial-polling-2025/> . The form will go live January 5th, 2025 and remain available until midnight on January 18th, 2025. All submissions will be sent directly to Their Majesties ONLY for review.

So come out and let your voice be heard!

Sir Kiera,  
Seneschal, Barony of Montengarde





# In Conversation

## An Interview with Sir Skane Tyrsson



In this edition of The Fluffy Flyer, we dive into the journey of a remarkable individual who has been elevated to the Order of Chivalry — Sir Skane Tyrsson. Known for his unwavering dedication and thoughtful nature, Sir Skane shares the emotions he experienced upon receiving the news of his vigil for The Order of Chivalry. From a blend of excitement and surprise to the overwhelming sense of responsibility that comes with elevation, he offers a candid look into what this achievement means to him personally and how

it has shaped his identity within our community. Join us as we explore his insights, aspirations, and the profound significance of his journey towards knighthood.

### The Q&A

How did you feel when you received the news about your vigil for The Order of Chivalry? Were you surprised, excited, or overwhelmed?

How did I feel? Goodness, I do not possess the skill at word-craft to sufficiently express the rush of feeling that hit me before, during and after that moment. Excited, yes. I mean, who wouldn't be excited to see plans and work and hopes all come to fruition after such a journey. Surprised, not so much, there were some indicators that had me at least prepared for the possibility. Not to say that I knew it was happening. I was not, however, blindsided. Overwhelmed, perhaps. To be completely honest, I was surprised by my physical reaction to the preamble before they called my name. It was a lot of "They've called up the Members of Chivalry! Is it me? What if it isn't me? Where's my wife? There she is, oh thank goodness. Why's my mouth so dry? Why can't I breathe properly? I'll bet I'm changing colours...". I sincerely hope that none of that chaos showed, and I was able to at least appear stoic. Then, it happened. They called me up. Our Then Queen Kiera, spoke my name and changed everything. I'll ask you a question to answer this question. How would you feel to have our Crowns and Council say "Yup, that guy has what we want. Get him in here."? People are lucky if they get that feeling more than a few times in their whole lives.

What did being placed on vigil for knighthood mean to you personally?

Vigil is the transition time. When you are a squire, you behave as a squire. Although you are learning to be a Knight, you aren't preparing for imminent Knighthood. You stay your ground and do your work. You are this thing (i.e. a squire) until they make you another thing (i.e. a Knight). Being on vigil bridges that gap a bit. It allows a small amount of time for you to begin preparing for the next journey stage. It also allows



you to wrap up any business that needs doing before taking the next step. I had some gifts to finish that would have been less appropriate after my elevation. Being put on vigil also gave my family and friends time to prepare for my elevation. Vigil is important to my family (and now to me). To us, it is not to be taken lightly. There is also significant value in being on vigil. Vigil is when people you don't know as well are more comfortable coming forward and giving you advice. And since we all benefit from shared experience, this is a valuable facet to this tradition. I personally received A LOT of solid advice as well as heartfelt truths during my vigil, that I don't believe I would have received otherwise. I am grateful. Vigil isn't for everyone, but I value mine.

Now that you've been elevated, how has it impacted your sense of identity and belonging within the organization?

First and foremost, apart from my wife and inspiration Lady Kassandra Formica, I now no longer represent an individual with my comportment (i.e. my Knight Ogedei BAHADUR), I now represent an entire order. Even more than before, I need to be an ambassador for what we (the Order of Chivalry) represent. Every word I speak...every move I make...they are no longer for me, and my benefit. My primary aim needs to be, forever more, to the benefit of our Society and the people who work and live within it. For some, elevation to an order is the end of the line. But I feel differently. I still see room for personal and martial growth. And I see room to share what I have and what I've learned.

As you reflect on your journey to date, what are your hopes and aspirations for the future as you see it?

"Future"...what a nebulous, but grand concept. I think that I will answer this in equally terms. As I think I can cover all facets in one. The concept is that of Progressive Overload. At its root, it is an exercise science term, but it can evolve to encompass all of what we do. In short, it means "Do what you can, until you can do more". In the gym, lift what you can, until you can lift more. On the field, fight with as much skill as you possess, until you possess more. Off the field, give as much of yourself as you can, until you can give more. Socially, be as understanding and as open-minded as you can, until you can manage more.

Now we know I am a huge fan of your sweetheart and inspiration Lady Cassandra Formica, and we've all seen here amazing work on your garb for your elevation, and I know this enquiring mind wants to know how special that made you feel?



Kassandra is the love of my life and my reason for existing. Without her love and approval, I am nothing. Every single day, she gives me the strength and courage to push forward. She is my light, the bedrock of my belief, and simultaneously the source of my strength and my greatest weakness. I have never figured out why she chose me...and honestly, I'm afraid to speak my confusion too loudly in case someone figures out that a mistake has been made and I lose her. How special did she make me feel? VERY! She always does!



Would it be okay if I asked you to describe what your personal tenants are that you believe are/were an integral part of your journey to becoming a Knight?

This is a far more complicated answer than I can give here, but I'll give some of what I can.

- Leave everywhere slightly better than when you arrived.
- Never be satisfied with anything less than perfect. Does that mean that everything (anything) you do will be perfect? HECK NO. But keep trying as hard as you can. (i.e. do everything with your whole ass)
- Know/Learn your limits. No one can do everything. Do what you can when you can.
- Share pieces with others. We are each valuable in our own way. Take a piece from this person and a piece from that person and internalize it until those pieces have made you into a person worth taking pieces from.

## Final Thoughts

We plainly see in our conversation with Sir Skane Tyrsson, it's clear that his journey to knighthood is marked by reflection, growth, and an unwavering commitment to the values of the Order of Chivalry. His insights on the significance of vigil, the weight of responsibility, and the importance of community resonate deeply within Avacal. As he looks to the future, embracing the concept of 'Progressive Overload', we are reminded that the path of a knight is not just an endpoint but a continuous journey of improvement and service. We thank Sir Skane for sharing his experiences and candor, and we look forward to witnessing the impact he will undoubtedly have on our community as he grows in his new peerage.

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*Who should we interview next?*

*We'd love to hear your thoughts! Who do you want us to spotlight in our next edition of The Fluffy Flyer? Whether it's a fellow member, a community leader, or someone whose story inspires you, let us know! Share your suggestions with us and help us continue to celebrate the remarkable individuals in our community.*

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## Awards granted in the reign of, by John Wernarsson and Gailey of Borealis

|                              |                          |                       |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Elias Silver                 | Duke/Duchess             | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Kiera the Shadowed           | Duke/Duchess             | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Hjalti inn Undarligr Vikingr | Avacal Champion of Sword | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Sylvie Tofadottir            | Avacal Champion of Arrow | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Skane Tyrsson                | Elder of Avacal          | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Adam Arrowsplitter           | Elder of Avacal          | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Michael of Montengarde       | Award of Arms            | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Svava Suanhuita              | Vigil                    | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Wernar Ivarson               | Iron Maul                | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Fáelán O'Daláigh             | Iron Arrow               | May 18, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Catherine of the Rowan Tree  | Vigil                    | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Clara                        | Prince/Princess Royale   | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Malikai                      | Prince/Princess Royale   | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Luciano Tiepolo              | Sable Glove              | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Lorenzo of Borealis          | Award of Arms            | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Geneviève Cadieux            | Sable Glove              | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Aman Brennan                 | Sable Axe                | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Jean de Chauillac            | Laurel                   | Jun 8, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Sylvie Tofadottir            | Award of Arms            | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Garrett of Borealis          | Award of Arms            | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Sylvie Tofadottir            | Sable Wing               | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |

|                          |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kassandra Formica        | Sable Flame              | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Galeana Nicoletti        | Argent Flame             | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Robert Boniface          | Sable Glove              | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Caelfind                 | Sable Glove              | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Asney Grimolfrsdottir    | Sable Rapier             | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Hadice bint Osman        | Sable Rapier             | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Trahaearn of Sigelhundas | Sable Axe                | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Alfred Killian of Vinjar | Sable Axe                | Jun 29, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Vik Vikingsson           | Crown Prince             | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| A'isha Rayhana al-Karim  | Crown Princess           | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Ogedei Bahadur           | Silver Griffin of Avacal | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Roya of Montengarde      | Silver Griffin of Avacal | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Ragnarr Ottarsson        | Winged Lynx              | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Bryce de Chauliac        | Award of Arms            | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Katherine Kendal         | Award of Arms            | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Jacinda of Valley Wold   | Black Shield             | Aug 31, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| William-o of Vinjar      | Red Quill                | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Freydis Birthesdottir    | Winged Lynx              | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Svava Suanhuita          | Pelican                  | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Rorik Gunnarson          | Royal Foreign Legion     | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Lucinda Knarrabringa     | Royal Foreign Legion     | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Aman Brennan             | Royal Foreign Legion     | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Sarah of Borealis        | Royal Foreign Legion     | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Sicillia Beaumont        | Royal Foreign Legion     | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |

|  |                      |                       |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chelsea                                | Royal Foreign Legion | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Clara                                  | Royal Foreign Legion | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Arwyn of Leicester                     | Royal Foreign Legion | Sep 1, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Tacimir                                | Award of Arms        | Sep 14, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Tófa Váladóttir                        | Sable Wing           | Sep 14, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Jean Phillipe Fournier dit Prefontaine | Black Shield         | Sep 14, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Ademar Donadei di Pietro               | Sable Wing           | Sep 14, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Vail of Vinjar                         | Sable Wing           | Sep 14, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Basil the Husband                      | Award of Arms        | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Aethlebert of Myrgan Wood              | Award of Arms        | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Hoshikawa Takakage                     | Black Arrow          | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Maggie the Magpie                      | Award of Arms        | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Meredityh of Myrgan Wood               | Award of Arms        | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Ulrich Guntherson                      | Award of Arms        | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Tonegawa no Keiran                     | Black Arrow          | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Conan of Myrgan Wood                   | Grey Goose Shaft     | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Rorik Gunnarson                        | Order of Avacal      | Oct 12, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Seamus of Montengarde                  | Award of Arms        | Nov 2, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Allert Pierson                         | Sphinx and Cartouche | Nov 2, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Arnolt Brekeswerd                      | Black Arrow          | Nov 2, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Quon Jien                              | Sable Axe            | Nov 2, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Constantina di Arborea                 | Sable Wing           | Nov 2, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Arjun Singh                            | Sable Rapier         | Nov 2, 2024 (AS LIX)  |
| Svalbard of Sandesend                  | Award of Arms        | Nov 2, 2024 (AS LIX)  |



|                           |                |                       |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Köttr Hrafnas             | Award of Arms  | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Jacob of Sigelhundas      | Black Shield   | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Alexander Blackadder      | Award of Arms  | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Dolce Adalina Machiavelli | Sable Rapier   | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Wernar Ivarson            | Sable Axe      | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Fergus of Carlisle        | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Jacob of Sigelhundas      | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Gwen MacFergus            | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Renee Carr                | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Roxanne Delaroche         | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Sadb Jofreysdottir        | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Fáelán O'Daláigh          | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Sicillia Beaumont         | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Ragnarr Ottarsson         | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Aman Brennan              | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Sarah of Borealis         | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Geneviève Cadieux         | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Allert Pierson            | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Lucinda Knarrabringa      | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Rorik Gunnarson           | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Ademar Donadei di Pietro  | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |
| Alfred Killian of Vinjar  | Throne's Favor | Nov 16, 2024 (AS LIX) |

# Known World Article Contributions

## The Unique Skills and Work of the Medieval Surveyor

By Křišťan Věstonice of Moravia

### Introduction

One important element of SCA arts and sciences that may not be intuitively known or understood is the role of a surveyor and the surveyor's value to medieval society. Surveyors existed in the Middle Ages; they were guild members given legal sanction as approved agents for their work by the King or through the military.<sup>1</sup> Medieval surveyors were literate and understood complex mathematics – normally the result of a long and rigorous skilled-labor apprenticeship tenure with a guild.

Unlike fine arts, entertainment, or practical craftsmanship, surveying is a skill that does not produce a product of beauty or functionality that can be appreciated in its final form. Surveying is rather like mathematics or astronomy – a tool that increases our ability to create order and improves our understanding of the world around us.

This article aims to increase our awareness of the roles, functions, and value of the surveyor's craft. In doing so, it is hoped that our lives in the Middle Ages – and our collective sense of place in it – may be more deeply and colorfully enriched.

### Greek Mathematics Meet Roman Technology

The revival of interest in Euclidean mathematics was a direct result of the "...Renaissance in education and scientific knowledge<sup>2</sup>... providing the necessary intellectual foundation for the development of [medieval] surveying."<sup>3</sup> At the time, the medieval human concept of an earth-centric universe combined with Euclidean geometry provided accurate earth measurement; but without calculus, was lacking when projected into space [e.g., for maritime navigation].<sup>4</sup>

Medieval surveyors used crude but effective Roman tools for their work.<sup>5</sup> In the hands of a capable surveyor with a firm grasp of mathematics, these tools were precise and accurate when measured against future scientific standards. There were limitations, however. Roman surveying instruments were restricted in range to the vision of the naked eye, and the equipment was unwieldy and vulnerable to the caprices of weather.<sup>6</sup>

Medieval surveying was – quite simply – grueling mental and physical work, frequently in difficult weather conditions. To accomplish the work normally required a large team of workhands, each with a specific duty to aid the surveyor.

### Tax Assessment for the King

"The principal task of the surveyor in the medieval economy was assessing and recording the customary obligations and rights of tenants of the manor, not the technical business of measuring the size of tracts, or making their boundaries. [The surveyor] kept the rolls and records of rights to land, of agricultural

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<sup>1</sup> Bosshardt, William and Lopus, Jane S. (2013). Business in the Middle Ages: What Was the Role of Guilds? *Social Education*, 77(2), 64-67.

<sup>2</sup> The Renaissance of course would be hastened by the arrival of the printing press in 1436.

<sup>3</sup> Hughes, Sarah S. (n.d.) 16<sup>th</sup> Century Surveyors. *Backsight Magazine*, published by Surveyors Historical Society. Retrieved November 7, 2022 from [http://www.surveyhistory.org/16th\\_century\\_surveyors1.htm](http://www.surveyhistory.org/16th_century_surveyors1.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Hughes, Sarah S. (n.d.) Roman Surveying. *Backsight Magazine*, published by Surveyors Historical Society. Retrieved November 7, 2022 from [http://www.surveyhistory.org/roman\\_surveying1.htm](http://www.surveyhistory.org/roman_surveying1.htm)

<sup>5</sup> A future article is planned which will discuss these Roman surveying tools and their use.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. Roman Surveying.

production, of the number of trees in the forest, and of the rents, fees, fines, or days of work due from each tenant to his or her lord.”<sup>7</sup> In England and throughout central Europe this tax assessment was called *taille* (Tah-LAY), or simply “aid” conducted on behalf of, and under the sanction of, the King.<sup>8</sup>

The scope, therefore, of the medieval surveyor was mathematical, legal, and judicial.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the surveyor was required to be well versed in geology, fish and wildlife ecology, crop and timber production, animal husbandry, and topography and land measurement.<sup>10</sup> In *taille* assessment, the mathematical and technical aspects of surveying were of secondary importance to the general span of knowledge required for accurate taxation.

### **Public Works**

In addition to legal authority for *taille* assessments, medieval surveyors also possessed technical expertise to support a variety of public works which benefitted public commerce, the military, and the concerns of the Crown.

- Surveying works for harbors and wharves, canals and aqueducts, and all-weather stone roads supported commercial and military needs.
- Plumbed city walls and fortifications supported military defense.
- Mapping and boundary surveys supported the sovereign interests of the Crown.

Of special note were road and city design surveys.

In laying the course for a road, the surveyor had to understand topography and carry on a fine balance between the cost of expensive road materials and construction against the shortest viable distance between two points. Horse and oxen-drawn commerce required a gentle gradient. As well, a steep road gradient risked washing out in heavy rains. The surveyor had to work with the terrain to lay out a road that could efficiently carry hundreds of years of traffic.

Finally, the medieval surveyor supported the interests of organized religion. The urban layout of cities significantly changed in the mid 1300’s from a random form to a configuration which conveyed Christian symbolism. City plots and streets were straightened and paralleled through accurate surveying, providing a Euclidean aesthetic designed to reflect order, beauty, and truth – pleasing God as He looked down from Heaven.<sup>11</sup>

### **Value to Royalty and to the People**

Using Greek mathematics and Roman technology, the role and work of a surveyor spans a significant part of medieval life. Kings, Barons, and Lords relied on trusted *taille* assessors to assure effective yet equitable taxation from their subjects. Surveying support to public works promoted efficient commerce for economic growth and welfare to the populace; and it maximized the effectiveness of the King’s instruments of war. The surveyor’s work also reproduced mathematical order in city design that reflected medieval Christian aesthetic values designed to please God.

The author hopes that our lives and personas of the Middle Ages are enriched by a consideration of how surveying as an art and science touches nearly everything we do, and improves our medieval world.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid. 16<sup>th</sup> Century Surveyors.

<sup>8</sup> Encyclopaedia Britannica. (1998).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. 16<sup>th</sup> Century Surveyors.

<sup>10</sup> A future article is planned which will discuss Medieval land measure and the *taille* tax system.

<sup>11</sup> Lilley, Keith, D. (2003). *Cities of God? Medieval urban forms and their Christian symbolism*. London: Royal Geographical Society.

Křišťan Věstonice - spoken: "*Khrish **TAHN** Vest oh **NEET** seh*", is a surveyor from Moravia (southern Czechia) in 1435. He conducts taille aid assessments on behalf of the Crown; however, his primary surveying work is determining precise elevation measurements used to drain marshes and swamps, thereby securing viable farmland.



Křišťan is currently a subject in the Barony of Ponte Alto, Kingdom of Atlantia.<sup>12</sup>  
He can be reached at: [kenferris00@gmail.com](mailto:kenferris00@gmail.com)

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<sup>12</sup> Křišťan has registered his name and device (displayed above) through the College of Heraldry of Atlantia.



# Gardic arts



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## The Mabinogion – Taliesin Excerpt

And this was the first poem that Taliesin ever sang, being to console Elphin in his grief for that the produce of the weir was lost, and, what was worse, that all the world would consider that it was through his fault and ill-luck. And then Gwyddno Garanhir asked him what he was, whether man or spirit. Whereupon he sang this tale, and said:—

“First, I have been formed a comely person,  
In the court of Caridwen I have done penance;  
Though little I was seen, placidly received,  
I was great on the floor of the place to where I was led;  
I have been a prized defence, the sweet muse the cause,  
And by law without speech I have been liberated  
By a smiling black old hag, when irritated  
Dreadful her claim when pursued:  
I have fled with vigour, I have fled as a frog,  
I have fled in the semblance of a crow, scarcely finding rest;  
I have fled vehemently, I have fled as a chain,  
I have fled as a roe into an entangled thicket;  
I have fled as a wolf cub, I have fled as a wolf in a wilderness,  
I have fled as a thrush of portending language;  
I have fled as a fox, used to concurrent bounds of quirks;  
I have fled as a martin, which did not avail;  
I have fled as a squirrel, that vainly hides,  
I have fled as a stag’s antler, of ruddy course,  
I have fled as iron in a glowing fire,  
I have fled as a spear-head, of woe to such as has a wish for it;  
I have fled as a fierce hull bitterly fighting,  
I have fled as a bristly boar seen in a ravine,  
I have fled as a white grain of pure wheat,  
On the skirt of a hempen sheet entangled,  
That seemed of the size of a mare’s foal,  
That is filling like a ship on the waters;  
Into a dark leathern bag I was thrown,  
And on a boundless sea I was sent adrift;  
Which was to me an omen of being tenderly nursed,  
And the Lord God then set me at liberty.”



Then came Elphin to the house or court of Gwyddno his father, and Taliesin with him. And Gwyddno asked him if he had had a good haul at the weir, and he told him that he had got that which was better than fish. “What was that?” said Gwyddno. “A Bard,” answered Elphin. Then said Gwyddno, “Alas, what will he profit thee?” And Taliesin himself replied and said, “He will profit him more than the weir ever profited thee.”

The Mabinogion Translated by Lady Charlotte Guest

DEA

TS

RECIPES



# VENISON NECK POT ROAST

PROVIDED BY HIS GRACE, SIR RORIK GUNNARSON



- **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1-2 pieces venison neck, crosscut (~1.5" thick)
- 2 large carrots, peeled, cut into 2" pieces
- 2 large potatoes, cut into 2" pieces
- 1 small rutabaga, cut into 2" pieces
- 2 yellow onions, large dice
- 2-3 sprigs rosemary
- 6-8 sprigs thyme
- 1 quart venison stock
- ~½ cup red wine
- ~¼ cup flour

**METHOD:**

1. Preheat oven to 275F
2. In a Dutch oven, add oil and heat to medium high.
3. Add in carrots, potatoes and rutabaga and brown for 4-5 minutes, remove from pan.
4. Brown onions in the same pan, 4-5 minutes. Remove from the pan.
5. Turn pan to high heat and season the neck roast with salt and pepper. Dredge it with flour, shaking off any excess. Brown all sides of the neck in the pan, 1-2 minutes each side. Remove neck roast from pan.
6. Use red wine to deglaze the pan, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom.
7. Return the neck, carrots and onions to the pan.
8. Add in thyme and rosemary.
9. Top with stock to just cover the neck and bring to a simmer.
10. Cover with lid and place on the center rack of the oven.
11. Cook until fork tender, approximately 3 hours.



# VIKING AGE BREAD RECIPE

BASED ON ANALYSIS FROM VIKING AGE, BIRKA SWEDEN BREAD FOUND

PROVIDED BY HIS GRACE, SIR RORIK GUNNARSON



## INGREDIENTS:

- 150 grams (2/3 cup) barley flour
- 6 tablespoons (90 grams) wholemeal flour
- 2 teaspoons crushed flax seeds
- 100 ml (1/2 cup) of water
- Pinch of salt

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Blend flours and flax seed until well mixed
2. Add salt and mix
3. Add water and knead for 5 minutes or until mixture is a ball of dough. (if it gets too watery add flours, if it is too dry add water)
4. Let sit for 90 minutes – 2 hours
5. Tear the dough into small balls and make them into cookie sized small cakes
6. Heat a dry cast iron pan at medium heat and bake the “cookies” 5-20 minutes / side. (Option: heat over to 300-degree Fahrenheit and bake the cookies for 18-20 minutes or until brown)

# ONE GALLON HONEY MEAD

PROVIDED BY HIS GRACE, SIR RORIK GUNNARSON

## INGREDIENTS:

- distilled or filtered water
- 2-3 pounds honey, local raw honey is best
- $\frac{1}{5}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  package champagne yeast (find it at homebrew stores or online [here](#))

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Simmer  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon water until warm.
2. Add honey: 2 pounds for a dry mead or 3 pounds for a sweet mead. Stir until dissolved.
3. Simmer (**do not boil**) for about 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that forms.
4. Remove from heat, let cool to about 100°F, and pour into a gallon glass bottle.
5. Add any extra ingredients you may want.
6. When the temperature is below 90°F, add the yeast. One package will make 5 gallons of mead, so use between  $\frac{1}{5}$  of a package and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a package.
7. Cap the bottle and shake well.
8. Add more water to fill the bottle, **leave 3-4 inches of headroom at the top.**
9. Take the top off and add an airlock.
10. Once the airlock is in place, set the bottle in a cool spot for about 6 weeks.



## NOTES:

- Within 12 to 24 hours, you will notice bubbling and foaming in the top of the bottle. If you add fruit or herbs, this may bubble into the airlock and get stuck, you will want to clean it out well and reset it. A clogged airlock could lead to an explosion.

- After six weeks it should have stopped bubbling or slowed to once every minute. When the bubbling stops, it is time to bottle it.

## BOTTLING YOUR HOMEMADE MEAD

- Pour the mead out of the bottle into a strainer to remove any fruit or herbs.
- Pour the strained mead into another bottle and cap tightly. The mead will continue to ferment for a while, producing a sparkling beverage.
- You can put the mead in a refrigerator for a week or so. This will cause the yeast to slow and settle to the bottom.
- Open the bottle and decant the top of the mead, down to the sediment on the bottom, into another bottle. Your mead will now be still, or (mostly) non-sparkling.



## DRY OR SWEET HOMEMADE MEAD?

- **Sweet Mead**
  - To get a sweeter mead, add more honey (3 cups or more), and use a yeast made for sweet wines (Lalvin 78-B Narbonne is one of the best you can use).
- **Dry Mead**
  - To get a dry mead, use a lesser amount of honey (like the 2 cups mentioned) and stick with the champagne yeast.

## IDEAS FOR FLAVORING HOMEMADE MEAD

- You could start with apple cider instead of water. This is called cyser.
- Herbs such as lemon balm, lemongrass, rosemary, hibiscus, vanilla, rose, and even hops can be used. For this size recipe, use ½ cup dried herbs or one cup fresh herbs.
- Fruit is another option for flavoring mead. Blackberries, blueberries, wild grapes, persimmon, rhubarb, spiced apple, lime or grapefruit, elderflower, maple, or spiced pumpkin are some possibilities.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR HOMEMADE MEAD

- Sterilize your equipment and bottles to prevent bacteria from forming. Filtered water is also a must.
- Fruit that has not been cleaned could also cause problems and be sure to keep an eye on your airlocks, so they are not clogged.
- If you sniff your mix while it is brewing and you smell rotting fruit, don't worry. It's not rotting, it's working! If it still smells bad after it is done, leave it a few weeks in the new bottles. Raw and "green" mead will smell strong. Once it sits for a while, the smell should mellow out.

IF YOU SEE MOLD, OR WORSE, MAGGOTS, COMPOST IT. THERE IS NO HELP FOR THAT BATCH.

MEAD MADE THIS WAY WILL HAVE SOME ALCOHOL, USUALLY AROUND 15%. NOT A LOT, BUT MORE THAN OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. BE AWARE OF THIS IN CASE YOU WANT TO GIVE IT TO SOMEONE WITH SENSITIVITIES TO ALCOHOL.



# TOURTELETES IN FRYTURE

PROVIDED BY LUCREZIA ISEPPE CONSTANTINA DI ARBOREA

Forme of Cury from the 14<sup>th</sup> century has many delightful surprises for the person looking for something sweet such as this recipe of small figs basted with honey. Showcasing the use of spices (I've even supplied my own Poudre Fort recipe) and emphasizing the flavours that were popular at the time. Fig and honey pocket pie anyone?



## Modernized Version:

### INGREDIENTS

#### PASTRY

2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup unsalted butter or  
lard

1/4 teaspoon salt

4 to 6 tablespoons cold  
water

#### FOR FRYING

Oil for deep frying

#### SPICE BLEND (POWDER FORTE)

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1/4 teaspoon white pepper

1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

1/4 teaspoon ground  
cardamom

1/4 teaspoon ground clove

1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

#### FILLING

1 cup dried figs finely  
chopped

1/4 teaspoon of saffron  
threads

1 teaspoon spice blend

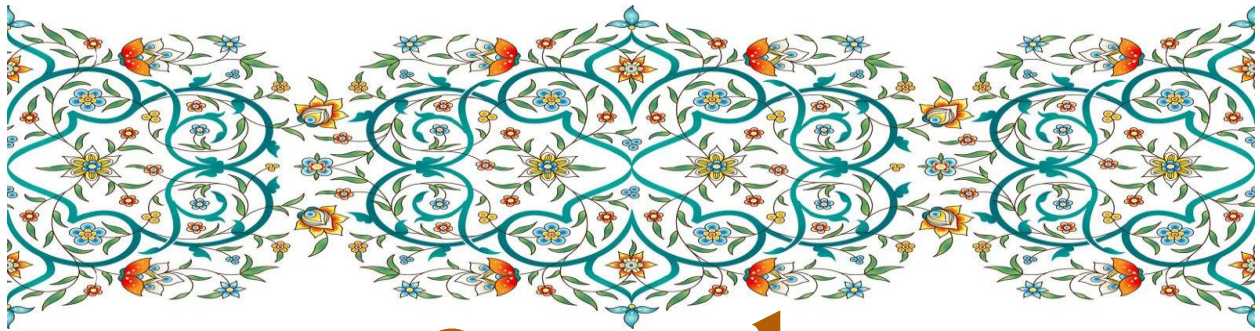
#### FOR BASTING

1/2 cup honey



## **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Prepare the Filling:
  - a. In a mixing bowl, combine the finely chopped or puréed figs with saffron and mixed spice blend. Adjust the spices to taste and set aside.
2. Make the Pastry:
  - a. In a large bowl, mix the flour and salt. Add the cold butter and use a pastry cutter or your fingers to combine until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Gradually add cold water, one tablespoon at a time, mix until the dough comes together. Avoid overworking the dough. Form the dough into a ball, wrap it in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
3. Assemble the Tourteletes:
  - a. Roll out the chilled pastry on a floured surface to about 1/8 inch thick. Cut out circles of dough (about 4-5 inches in diameter). Place a spoonful of the fig filling in the center of each circle. Fold the pastry over to form a half-moon shape and seal the edges well, crimping with a fork for decoration.
4. Fry the Tourteletes:
  - a. Heat oil in a deep-frying pan to around 350°F (175°C). Carefully add the tourteletes to the hot oil in batches, frying until they are golden brown and crispy, about 3-4 minutes on each side. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels.
5. Baste with Honey:
  - a. In a small pot, gently heat the honey, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface. Once the tourteletes have drained, brush the warm honey over them.
6. Serve:
  - a. Enjoy the tourteletes hot or cold and share with your friends!



# Events

## a very Ayresgarde Christmas

**Event Steward:** [Thisbe Elysande La Blanchette](#)

November 30, 2024  
From 9am to 11pm

Girl Guide Hall  
1421 2<sup>nd</sup> Street S  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 1C4

The annual Ayresgarde holiday affair is upon us! Prepare to be dazzled by our bardic and A&S defenderships, your tastebuds tantalized by our fabulous feast and of course all of the other mischief and mayhem one can expect from your favourite shire to the south.

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adult                     | \$10 (Free with membership) |
| Youth Registration (0-17) | \$0                         |

**Feast Steward:** [Sylve Leslie](#)

A spectacular festive array prepared by our very own Sylve Leslie, menu is the ghosts of AVAC past!. Please check the website for updates and further details.

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Feast fee (adult)            | \$20 |
| Feast fee (youth, 12 - 17)   | \$10 |
| Feast fee (children, 0 - 11) | \$0  |



**DEFENDERSHIPS**

## ARTS AND SCIENCES:

Greetings, fellow creatives of Ayresgarde! As the current Arts & Sciences Defender, I'm excited to extend a whimsical challenge to all participants in the upcoming A&S Defendership tournament at AVAC!

A&S Tomfoolery!

This is your chance to take a period technique or fascinating piece of information from your A&S research and apply it in the most delightfully absurd way imaginable. Think along the lines of crafting period-accurate weaving into cozy toe warmers, creating stunning scribal illuminations of your favorite Paw Patrol characters, or writing a paper that draws parallels between the Barbie Movie and the fall of the Byzantine Empire.

Dig deep into your research rabbit holes and let your imagination run wild! I can't wait to see how you'll take serious scholarship and turn it on its head.

Additionally, if you're planning to attend the event and would like to lend your expertise as a judge, please reach out to me!

Yours in silliness and scholarship,  
Rowan of Ayresgarde

## BARDIC

Come all ye faithful, this season, and your Ayres-bard brings you tidings of great joy. The time has come for a new bard to take on the mantle and become the defender of our fine shire for the upcoming year. I know my successor is among us. Could it be you?

What you will need:

- 1) A letter of intent sent to me by...competition time. The earlier the better though!
- 2) Two SCA-appropriate pieces in WHATEVER bardic medium you choose!

First, I call upon thee to deliver me a piece of great joy! Give me some good news, friends. It could be romantic, celebratory, or hilarious. It doesn't matter; just make us smile.

The second should be what I am calling your Bardic BEST! It should show us who you are and demonstrate your talent. Give us a real showstopper!

Bonus points for pieces that are period, festive, or if more than one bardic medium is showcased in your performances. And please make sure you choose pieces that are appropriate for all ages!

- 3) A brave and willing heart.

So go on, be merry and bard hard! I'll see you on the stage.

YIS,  
Thisbe

# KRAmpus has COME 2024

**Event Stewards:** [Duchess Asney](#) & [Duke Ivar](#)

December 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

From 9:30 am to 11 pm

Immanuel Anglican Church

142 Massey Rd. Regina, SK S4S 4M9

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adult                | \$25 (\$15 with membership) |
| Adult Student        | \$20 (\$10 with membership) |
| 17yrs and under free |                             |

Krampusnacht was on Dec 5th. Let us celebrate how we all have evaded Krampus' evil talons!

This fun-filled event is family friendly and should not be scary for children. There will be space for merchants and lots of activities for those to partake in an evening of bardic during the feast.

*It is required that all pre-register for feast tickets;* cut off will be Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a handful of spare seats available on the day of the event if we have not met our maximum ticket allotment. On request through feast registration, we can accommodate dietary restriction requests.

## Schedule of Events

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 9:30 am  | Doors open and room set up   |
| 11:30 am | <b>Dodge the Krampus</b> - youth combat (test the bravery of our youth warriors with games of combat to avoid getting tagged by the Krampus)   |
| 12 noon  | <b>Lunch</b> \$5 donation - Gourmet Hot Dog  |
| 1:00 pm  | Keep the Children Safe - rapier edition (modified crestfallen tourney)   |
| 2:00pm   | <b>Rapier Defender Tournament</b> - format TBD; eligible Defenders must have a membership in either Sigelhundas or Valley Wold   |
| 2:30 pm  | <b>Keep the Children Safe</b> - heavy edition (modified crestfallen tourney)   |
| 3:30pm   | <b>Heavy Defender Tournament</b> - format TBD; eligible Defenders must have a membership in either Sigelhundas or Valley Wold  |
| 4:00 pm  | <b>A&amp;S Defender Tournament</b> - format TBD; eligible Defenders must have a membership in either Sigelhundas or Valley Wold  |
| 5:00 pm  | <b>Hall flip</b> over to feast layout & bar opens  |
| 6:00 pm  | <b>First remove served.</b> Throughout the feast, bards will be encouraged to share their Krampus inspired stories, songs etc. Please try to keep all material suitable for children; we do not want any nightmares. Music will be available for dancing during the third and fourth remove. |



**Court at the whim of TRM or visiting representatives.** If no royalty are in attendance, an informal Ducal court held by The Black Duchy will be held to award prizes and gift tokens.

11:00pm

Hall closes

\*Krampus: The half goat, half monster whose origins date back to the pre-Christian era, was popularized in central Europe (Germany) by the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. According to legend, he is the son of Hel, the Norse god of the underworld. Krampus and St. Nicholas are said to arrive on the evening of December 5<sup>th</sup> (Krampus Nacht; "Krampus Night"). While St. Nicholas rewards nice children by leaving presents, Krampus disciplines those who misbehaved, sometimes by hitting them with birch branches, and sometimes by stuffing them into a sack and abducting them. All children at the 'Krampus is Coming' event will be assumed to be good little munchkins and will be rewarded for good behaviours, irrespective of the reports of their parents.

Members of the Chivalry are presumed to have behaved irreproachably all year long, and had better watch out, and better not cry.

**Feast Stewards: Rob & Lynsey**

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Adult         | \$20 |
| Adult Student | \$10 |
| Youth (12-17) | \$5  |
| Under 12      | Free |





**Event Stewards:** Sarah Yakimets & Taran Medvedev

December 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>  
From 9 am (14<sup>th</sup>) to 3 pm (15<sup>th</sup>)

Alberta Avenue Community League  
9210 118 Ave NW  
Edmonton, AB T5G 0N2

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Adult        | \$30 (\$20 with membership) |
| Youth (0-17) | \$0                         |

Join Their Excellencies Borealis as they celebrate the Turning of the Season and the Return of the Sun, shining a light in the depths of Avacal's winter. Wear your best and brightest attire to be part of this spectacular event! Don't miss the opportunity to see and be seen at the Event of the Year, reveling at the Barony of Borealis' "A Very Landschneckt Yule."

**Feast Stewards:** Sicillia Beaumont and Tommaso Tiepolo

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Adult feast fee | \$20 |
| Youth (12-17)   | \$10 |
| Children (0-11) | Free |

***A Very Landsknecht Yule***  
***"The Best Wurst Feast"***  
***Dietary Considerations and Accommodations***

**First Remove**

- Gluten-free buns available
- Margarine available

**Second Remove**

- Gluten-free tart crust available
- Blancmanger is made with almond milk (lactose-free), a separate serving will be made with regular milk to accommodate almond allergies
- Cherry sauce is made with gluten-free bread crumbs
- Mushroom stew made with vegetable stock instead of beef stock (vegetarian)

**Third Remove**

- Pork sausage and beef sausage separate (proteins not mixed)
- Beef Bratwurst does not include cheese (lactose-free)
- Stewed turnips made with vegetable stock instead of beef stock (vegetarian)
- Stewed turnips made with margarine instead of butter (lactose-free)
- Cheese balls made with gluten-free bread crumbs
- Cheese balls with cornstarch (as an egg substitute) available

**Fourth Remove**

- Gyngerbrede is made with gluten-free bread crumbs
- Grape pudding (more of an applesauce consistency) made with gluten-free bread crumbs

# montengarde 12<sup>th</sup> night

**Event Steward:** William Bennet

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
From 8 am to 11:45 pm

Delacour Community Hall  
275194 Township Road 254  
Rocky View County, Alberta, T1Z 0E6

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Adult        | \$30 (\$20 with membership) |
| Youth (0-17) | \$0                         |

Winter has settled in, and long nights are upon us. Join Their Excellencies Refr and Ádís in celebrating the coming of the new year. Come together and push back the dark and cold with revelry, comradery and joy. The new champion of arts and sciences as well as champion of fencing will be decided. Come and witness, participate and support the entrants in their pursuits!



**Feast Steward: Ellias Silver**

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Adult Feast Fee | \$20 |
| Youth (12-17)   | \$20 |
| Child (0-11)    | \$10 |

You know it is going to be another fantastic feast with Duke Ellias in the kitchen!

## **ARTS AND SCIENCES CHAMPIONSHIP:**

At this upcoming Twelfth Night, January 18, 2025, there is to be a grand Tournament to choose the next Montengarde Emerald Rose, Champion of Arts and Sciences!

January brings us into the middle of the darkest nights and coldest days. However, there is rejoicing to be had when we do the things that we love. These activities help bring us through these challenging times and into the bright light of the coming Spring.

Thus! The theme for the upcoming Tournament is What Inspires You?\* Show us, through your chosen Art or Science, what brings you light and inspires you through these bleak

winter months. (*\* Please note that while we would love to see entries that follow the theme, it is not a requirement for entry. Just a fun extra!*)

The document containing information on the A&S tournament for this year is now on the Baronial website. If you have any issues accessing the document, please let me know.

Rubric for judging physical and non-physical entries may be found on the Avacal Kingdom site (Avacal.org) under Officers, Ministry of Arts and Sciences, Documents.  
For further information contact Cassandra Formica at [champion-as@montengarde.org](mailto:champion-as@montengarde.org)

Yours in Service, Arts and Science,  
Kassandra Formica, Stenbocken Hus  
Apprentice to Master Mai  
Emerald Rose of Montengarde

### **DRAGONBLADE CHAMPIONSHIP: TBA**





# winter crown

**Event Stewards:** [Ellisif Snorraddottir](#) & [Kathryn inghean Ui Ailbhe](#)

February 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> 2024  
From 6 pm (14<sup>th</sup>) to 11 pm (18<sup>th</sup>)

Beiseker Community Centre  
410 5th Street  
Beiseker, AB, T0M 0G0

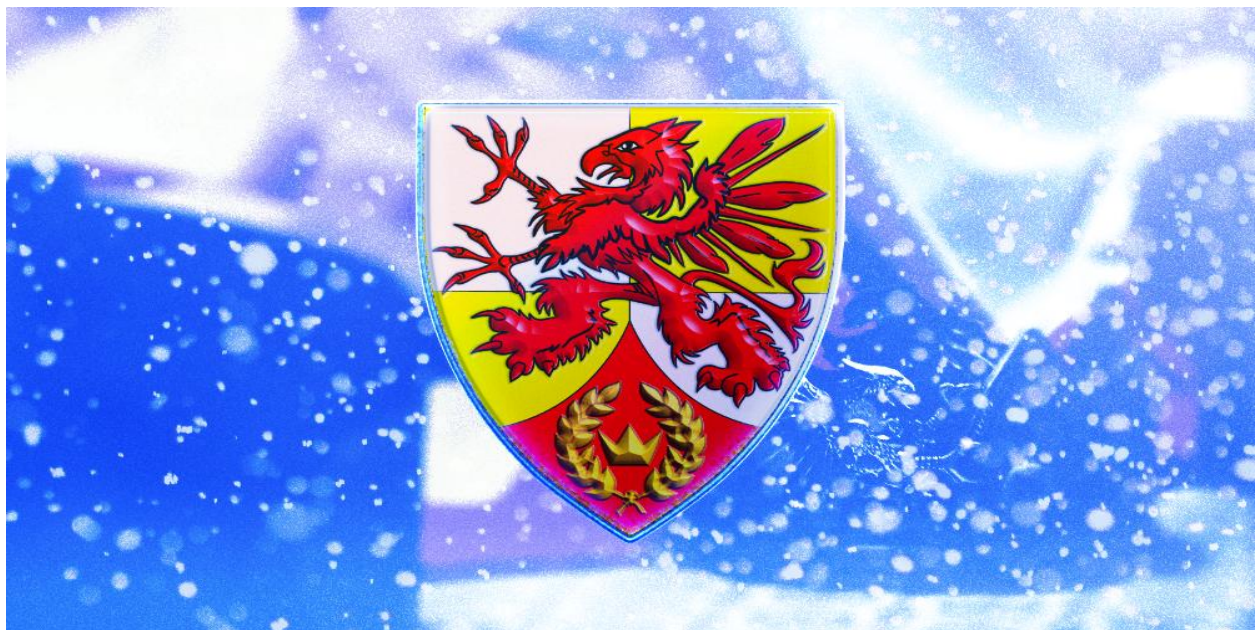
|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Adult        | \$40 (\$30 with membership) |
| Youth (0-17) | \$0                         |

In the cold heart of Winter, Avacal shall determine its heirs. Come join Montengarde in its neighbouring village of Beiseker and let the warm Chinook winds melt the ice and snow. In addition to the Crown Tournament, there shall be a feast, many fun tournaments, and classes to enjoy. More details to follow!

## **Feast: Montengarde Culinary Group**

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Adult Feast Fee         | \$25 |
| Youth Feast Fee (12-17) | \$15 |
| Child Feast Fee (0-11)  | \$0  |

The feast will be served by Montengarde's Culinary Group and promises a variety of delicious, medieval dishes that will be tasted and tested. **There will be a family cap for the feast of \$50 - to include up to two adults and two youth.**





# curia

## AVACAL CURIA – FALL CORONATION – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 – SIGELHUNDAS

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## ATTENDANCE:

| SCA Name                | Office                              |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Renee Carr              | Avacal Seneschal                    |
| Roxanne Delaroche       | Deputy Seneschal & minutes recorder |
| Tofa Valadottir         | MW Social Media                     |
| Raoul Delaroche         | K fencing marshal                   |
| Fergus                  | KEM                                 |
| Kaydance Pardus         | D K Exchequer                       |
| Ellisif Snorradottir    | New Branches Deputy                 |
| Segdae ua Faelain       | Events Deputy                       |
| Ogedei Bahadur          | Populace                            |
| Roya                    | Webminister                         |
| Sicillia Beaumont       | Populace                            |
| Erik Rugensson          | Populace                            |
| Aaron Brennan           | Baron Borealis                      |
| Cuan                    | Populace                            |
| Hagar Fergusson         | Borealis D Exchequer                |
| Wernar Ivarsson         | Populace                            |
| Signe Smidt             | Populace                            |
| Medb Polestripper       | Ayriesgarde D Seneschal             |
| Celestino van Brabant   | Populace                            |
| Luciano Tiepolo         | Populace                            |
| Sadb Joyffreysdottir    | D Seneschal                         |
| Asney                   | Populace                            |
| John Wernarsson         | Populace                            |
| Bailey                  | Family Activities Minister          |
| Robert Boniface         | MW Fencing Deputy                   |
| Jeannette Boniface      | Populace                            |
| Ayame Hougou            | K D Archery                         |
| Tonegawa dono no Keiran | MW Web Minister                     |
| Merideth of the Sea     | Populace                            |
| Kaen Ykimura            | Populace                            |
| Basil the Husband       | Populace                            |
| Hoshikawa Takakage      | MW Exchequer                        |
| Conan of MW             | Populace                            |
| Trosten Spearbreaker    | Populace                            |
| Alexios Mavros          | Baron MW                            |
| Amya Mavros             | Baroness MW                         |
| Antonia of MW           | Populace                            |
| Amee Martin             | MW A&S                              |
| Alexandra of MW         | MW Chamberlain                      |

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Inga              | D K Chamberlain            |
| Chloe Edel        | Populace                   |
| Skald Strifemaker | MW Herald                  |
| Svava Suanhuita   | K Lists, MW Seneschal      |
| Kvigr Ivarsson    | K Chamberlain              |
| Gwen MacFergus    | Calendar Officer           |
| Jake Young        | Sigelhundas Herald Officer |

Call to order: 10:06 am  
Land Acknowledgement – Roxanne

Presentation and approval of previous minutes from September Crown 2024.  
Motion to approve as written: Sadb  
Seconded: Medb

## WORDS FROM THE CROWN

Sickness prevents them from attending

## KINGDOM SENESCHAL: HL RENEE CARR

Our membership sits at 419 as of the 12th of Nov. I have found a replacement, Countess Sadb, Vicki Foster. She is acceptable to Society. She will be stepping up on the 16th of Jun 2025, and I will be moving to the Transition Deputy Seneschal. I have also accepted Countess Bailey's application for the Family Activities Co-ordinator. I am looking for applications for Kingdom DEI Officer. I have one application so far and will keep the position posted until 1 Jan 2025, the successful candidate will be announced at Feb 2025 Curia. Our 10th Anniversary event is a go; however, we will not be able to use any kind of electronic payment. Baron Alexios is the representative for Avacal in regard to SCA Canada Study group and will be a deputy to the Kingdom seneschal.

I would like to commend the exchequers who worked so hard to catch us up on reporting for the 2023 financial year as society was not happy with us. It looks like Q3 is well underway and so year-end will hopefully go smoothly and on time.

Borealis has found a Seneschal. I strongly suggest everyone work toward having a deputy. Life can throw you a curve ball at any time and a deputy will save everyone a lot of Headaches. The deputy does not have to move full time into the position if they do not want to, they can fill in as an interim officer while the group looks for a permanent Volunteer.

I appreciate you all for working so hard to make Avacal awesome.

## DEPUTY SENESCHAL - NEW BRANCHES: MISTRESS ELLISIFF

New branches have made some great progress!

Sandeshend is our potential branch in Medicine Hat. They are doing well with reporting to their Montengarde counterparts. They are having regular practices and Arts and Science nights, and they recently did a demo as well. They are ready to put together their petition to become incipient.

To help with that, I put together a document that outlines what they group needs to do and what they need to document in their petition as well as a rough timeline for the next steps in the process. This is specific for Sandeshend right now, but I will adjust it for any new group and put it on the website.

I also was recently put in touch with a gentle who has formerly played and is looking to come back. They are located in Drayton Valley (the group would likely go with the name Stonewolf) and have requested material to help with recruitment. They would also like to hold a demo (likely in the spring) to do some recruiting. I included the kingdom chatelaine in my response to them as the chatelaine will have information on materials for newcomers and to recruit. I also gave them the contact info for the Borealis chatelaine as Borealis is the group most likely to help with the demo. I will follow up within the next few weeks. They are likely thinking about being a canton of Borealis.

Please feel free to put me in touch with anyone interested in starting a new group!

---

## DEPUTY SENESCHAL – EVENTS: MAISTIR SEGDAE UA FAELAIN

Feb crown is Beiseker in Montengarde

June Coronation in Montengard

Need bids for TUA – date likely to be moved. If there is no bid shortly it will be assigned to a group.

No bid for Sept crown yet or November coronation. There is a bid coming for Sept crown from Bordergate.

---

## CALENDAR: MISTRESS GWEN

Calendar is active. I need to run more training on how to fill in the form. If you are thinking about possibly running an event or are curious – please fill in all the spots. We have 3 events waiting to go live. 2024 should be up and it is extended to June on the website. If you are running an event and have space for a class, I am down to teaching.

---

## DEPUTY WAIVERS: BROTHER SELEWINE

No report

Reminder from Renee to send waivers to Brother Selweine not to her. Remember quarterly practice waiver need to go in.

---

Representative to SCA Canada Study Group: Baron Alexios

There is a working looking into incorporating in Canada. Currently they are trying to determine if it is a good idea or not. If so then outline what needs to be done. If not then set parameters to determine when/if it should happen. SCA inc wants this to be determined by the desires of the Canadians. This will not have any impact on game side changes – just the business side. Currently getting all members of the study group to be warranted officers so they can have access to all society information. Currently looking for subject area experts and will be putting out a call for volunteers.

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#### DEPUTY DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING (DEIB):

Still recruiting see notes in Seneschal report above.

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#### AVACAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL:

There were two people on the council but Sadb is now becoming Seneschal. So applications are re-opened. Master Amery is the other person on the council.

---

#### KINGDOM WEB MINISTER & SOCIAL MEDIA: HL ROYA

Currently in the process of revamping the OP/Heraldry site over the next several months. The current one is a hand-me-down from An Tir and has not been updated in over a decade. As such, it is lacking in functionality, security and ease of access and it also has several errors that cannot be easily fixed.

Calontir has graciously shared their Wordpress based OP plug-in with us, which I will customize to suit the Kingdom's needs. Once I have done so, a beta version will be available for preview. And finally, when it is ready to launch, to repopulate the OP list I will be looking for volunteers to transfer our records in the new year. You may send your suggestions to me about how you would like the site to look at.

Though I could create an automatic method to do so, it will benefit the Kingdom to have several members who know how to use the OP database.

Just as an FYI, due to my workload increasing, it can sometimes take a few of days for me to respond. If it is urgent, please contact me via FB messenger. Otherwise I'll try to get back to you as soon as I am able. For other, non-pressing issues, please send a message to [webteam@avacal.org](mailto:webteam@avacal.org).

This position is not very active. If there is someone interested in taking this on who is active and knowledgeable and willing to not shitpost – this position is yours.

---

#### KINGDOM EXCHEQUER: LADY RUQUAYYAH

The Avacal account balance is \$64,518.23 as of October 30, 2024.

The Kingdom Exchequer Deputy has been awarded to Candice Koshman (Kaydance Pardus), who will also take over as Kingdom Exchequer in January 2025.

Efforts are being made to update the financial documents and information on the Avacal website.



All of Avacal's baronies and shires currently have Exchequers in place.

Thank you,  
Lady Kaydance (Candice Koshman)  
Deputy Kingdom Exchequer

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#### **CHAMBERLAIN: SIR KVIGR**

Changeover when fairly well. Nothing to report. The storage unit paid for until January. The invoice for the renewal should be coming next week.

---

Non-member surcharge: Mistress Dezzrienne  
No report. Reminder to branches that the deadline for submissions is 10 business days

---

#### **KINGDOM EARL MARSHAL: SIR FERGUS**

Below is my report for the KEM office.

General

We are having and have had a couple of issues (human error) with that authorization database and are currently working on a system to make it more streamlined. Currently working with the SEM and other KEMs on the grievance process. I will be updating the marshal book to match the future process.

I will be stepping down in a year and am actively searching for a replacement.

Lists

Her Grace Svava is stepping aside as lists, Blialith is training to take over the lists position soon. I would like to thank her grace for her years of service.

The following are the fighter authorization numbers:

Armoured: 132

C&T: 6

Equestrian: 8

Rapier: 84

Siege: 7

YAC: 7

Marshals Armoured: 37

C&T: 3

Equestrian: 4 Rapier: 2

Siege: 3

TAM: 16

Thrown: 6

YAC: 7

Armoured

Low profile thrusting tip experiment has been closed. It was not deemed something worth bringing into Avacal as it decreased the safety factor without adding benefit. There is little interest in the community for this change.

Rapier

Continues  
unabated.

Archery

A new deputy is being sought out as the current term ends in the new year. The application process will close at the beginning of December.

Equestrian

Currently we don't have a deputy as Tessa has stepped down from her role. We have no applicants and at this time there are no scheduled Eq events.

YAC

Borealis has a healthy group of fighters. The deputy position is currently empty. Should this still be empty when I step down there might be an interruption in YAC in Avacal. If you know someone who is interested, then let me know. If we do not have a deputy responsible for this then we will not be able to have youth combat.

If anyone has any follow-up questions they can contact me.

Those who wish to become a senior, you must have a background check and that request to society must come through Fergus, not directly to Renee.

---

## **KINGDOM CHRONICLER: LADY CONSTANTINA**

### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Number of Issues since last report • 4 Official, 1 XTRA

State of Finances • Unknown – have not required funds

### **Encountered Problems**

1. Lack of response for necessary information from other Avacal royalty, other officers (both kingdom and branch) which has resulted in last second requests (usually after the newsletter has been published). – you must have information to her by the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month 3 months in advance by our policy – society requires a single publication. We may need to review and update the policy.
2. Last minute branch event to chronicler email.
3. Late calendar publication that have been put forward through the event submission but have been received to chronicler email.
4. Disregard for cut off dates

#### Possible Solutions

1. Outlook has a calendar – reminders can be set to be reoccurring and sent to the appropriate people.
2. Reminder to events stewards to submit event information in the appropriate timeframe.

#### Help required

1. Looking for 2 deputies – one for the Avantgarde, and one for the Fluffy Flyer
2. Seeking someone who is gifted at policy writing so that Avacal can have its own kingdom Chronicler policy (kingdom does not have one or it was lost to the ethereal dragons).

#### Other items to report

1. The December issue of the Avantgarde has a colouring contest with prizes for the children in Avacal – they do however need their parents consent to receive the prizes and/or have their artwork published in the Fluffy Flyer.
2. We are receiving many article contributions for the fluffy flyer and are always looking for more. Anyone from Avacal can contribute an article about SCA related interests/pursuits.
3. The Royal Progress calendar has been reinstated in the Avantgarde.

#### BRANCH NEWSLETTERS

##### Branches publishing newsletters

- Barony of Montengarde
- Shire of Sigelhundas

##### Branches reporting newsletters

- Barony of Montengarde
- Shire of Sigelhundas

Note that Myrgan Wood is also publishing a newsletter so those officers will get in touch with the Kingdom office.

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#### KINGDOM CHATELAINE: HL RICHARD DU'HAWKE (HAWK)

No report

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#### KINGDOM A&S OFFICER: HE BRANGWAYN

I unfortunately can't be at the event in person. A&S activities have been happening in the kingdom see the following notes.

I am going to post about finding a TUA officer and post to encourage A&S participation in this year's A&S competition.

#### TUA:

No TUA officer.

Interest expressed by 2 individuals in-person conversation but did not receive an email confirmation.

Question: what do people do with TUA class lists etc?

There is someone in Borealis who is willing to catch up that documentation and will start that once they recover from an illness. Duchess Inga and Countess Sadb are reviewing and updating the Tennets.

Borealis: A&S activities have mostly been our Sunday Community Activities during fight practices. Recently Yule feast, Lady Sicillia has been facilitating a number of classes to help prepare food in advance.

A&S Championship at Yule- no one vying for the A&S championship. Need help to encourage participation and need instructors for Yule

Myrganwood:

We have a new baronial A&S champion! -Antonia Craft nights continue at Siobhan's common room  
A&S still happens at weekly practice  
Needs a new officer- May have new replacement officer details soon.

Montengarde:

We have a new baronial Bardic champion! - Alexander Blackadder  
A&S both online and in-person happening monthly  
A&S Bardic- Happening online usually monthly  
Dance - every tavern  
A&S Championship at 12th Night Event - Theme: What inspires you? - no one vying so far but it is early. NEEDS a new replacement officer soon. Will be advertising soon.

Shires:

Windwyrms- New A&S officer. Thanks to previous A&S officer Ivar gosf . New officer Freyr Freydisson

---

## THE UNIVERSITY OF AVACAL:

### KINGDOM HERALD: COUNTESS SADB JÓFREYSDÓTTIR, SANGUINARIS HERALD

This will be my last curia report as Dame Arwyn has taken over the position of Sanguinaris Herald. Change of Officer Forms have been sent to K. Seneschal as well as the warrant to be signed at Curia.

Dame Arwyn has been training Eirik of Two Ravens, who has taken the position of Submission Herald.

Everything is running smoothly. We are still getting submissions and still have heraldic Monday classes and review sessions.

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### KINGDOM SCRIBE: COUNTESS A'ISHA

No report

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### KINGDOM FAMILY ACTIVITY CHANCELLOR

Welcome to Countess Bailey. For Avacal 10-year anniversary I'd like to plan a Disney movie night. I will need a generator, projector, & screen if anyone has those things and would like to help out.

---

## OLD BUSINESS

How often do we wish to celebrate the anniversaries of becoming a kingdom?

The current 10 year is intended to be an experiment so that we can gauge what the efforts are so we might want to table this until after that. Although celebrating an anniversary it doesn't always have to be a week-long event. Let's bring this up again at Crown after a post-mortem of the Anniversary event.

| ACTION ITEM  | WHO   | PROGRESS  |
|--|---|---|
| Changing signing authorities at the bank   | Dezz/Roxanne for Ruquayyah                                    | Ruquayyah has been added to the account; Renee & society person still pending |
| Officer Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Exch Deputy</li><li>- Family Activities</li><li>- DEIB</li></ul> | Renee ensures advertisement in AG & FB                        | DEIB is still in recruitment until Jan, other positions are filled.           |
| Discussion item from THs – How often do we wish to celebrate Avacal Anniversaries?   | Roxanne – add to agenda for Coronation Curia                  | Added to the agenda see notes above   |
| Investigate what is required to rejuvenate TUA & recruit a new Regent  | Sadb & Inga will write an information article for publication | Nothing published, Recruitment underway Tennets first then articles.          |

## NEW BUSINESS

Calendar questions:

- Kingdom events on long weekends – possibly moving things off of long weekends
  - We need to commit as a populace to participating in the long weekend. It is pricey to get appropriate venues for it.
  - If we don't want to use a long weekend, then let's don't but commit to one way or the other.
  - Many do not attend curia on Monday and so it's difficult to make appropriate decisions
  - Kingdom events require a lot of things and it's difficult to have them all scheduled in a single day
  - Can some of those things move to a zoom meeting. Curia anyone?  
An informal polling of preference by show of hands was requested – not a vote and no immediate change intended, just an indication of preference:
    - Online preference 23
    - In person preference 0



- Good with whatever 25
  - Spreading out the calendar more evenly, the calendar does already fairly well spread out. Most months have at least 2 events with a weekend in between with the exception of June which may have more depending on when July long weekend ends. December is heavy but Jan/Feb which only have 1 and often have difficult travel weather.
  - Dec & Nov each has 3 events & July has 4 events
  - People, please think about this and we will discuss again.
- Assignment of kingdom events on a rotation
  - *There is a provision in our current event policy to use a rotation to assign events when no bid a year out.*
  - Ties back into the calendar because populace can how to plan vacation, budget, and set their personal calendars more easily if the kingdom events are known further in advance.
  - In this case (for TUA) a couple of shires would be first and might not be able to have the expertise to do this in a 5-month timelines. Once getting a year in advance then they would be able to arrange for assistance. Borealis would be on deck as a barony first. Vinjar would be next.
- See Fig 1 from Calendar Policy below (for set dates)

Currently law states that TUA must happen on the fourth weekend of April. TMs are planning to change the wording of that to say on or near the fourth weekend to allow for some flexibility. This change is intended to happen at Yule.

---

Motion to close: Ayame

Seconded: Medb

Curia meeting closed at: 11:11 am

---

## ACTION ITEMS CHART

| ACTION ITEM  | WHO   | PROGRESS |
|--|---|----------|
| New officers need to complete officer change forms | Kaydance – D Exch<br>Sadb – D Seneschal<br>Alexios – D Canada Study Group<br>Bailey – Family Activies |          |
| Discuss with TMs conversations about calendar      | Renee   |          |

---

## APPENDIX

From the Calendar Policy:

January

Montengarde 12th Night – Third weekend

February

WINTER CROWN - Second weekend (February long weekend)

March

Skald the Hall (Myrgan Wood) – First weekend

Winter War (Borealis) – Third weekend

April

Ferret's Feast (Valley Wold) – Second

weekend GRAND TUA – Fourth weekend

May

Silver Arrow (Bitter End) – First weekend

SPRING CORONATION – Third weekend\* (May long weekend)

May Days (Windwyrn) – Last weekend

\* Where the May Long weekend does not fall on the Third weekend of May, a variance may need to be addressed for Spring Coronation

June

Silverwolf (Borealis) – Second weekend

Dragon Slayer (Montengarde) – Third weekend

July

Quad War (Border Gate) – First weekend

Summer Champions (Myrgan Wood) – Second weekend

Pillage Practice (Sigelhundas) – Third weekend

Midsummer Mischief (Ayresgarde) – Fourth weekend

August

Tri Baronial Cup (All Baronies) – First weekend (August long weekend)

Valley War (Valley Wold) – Fourth weekend

September

FALL CROWN – First Weekend (September long weekend)

Harvest Feast (Bitter End) – Second weekend

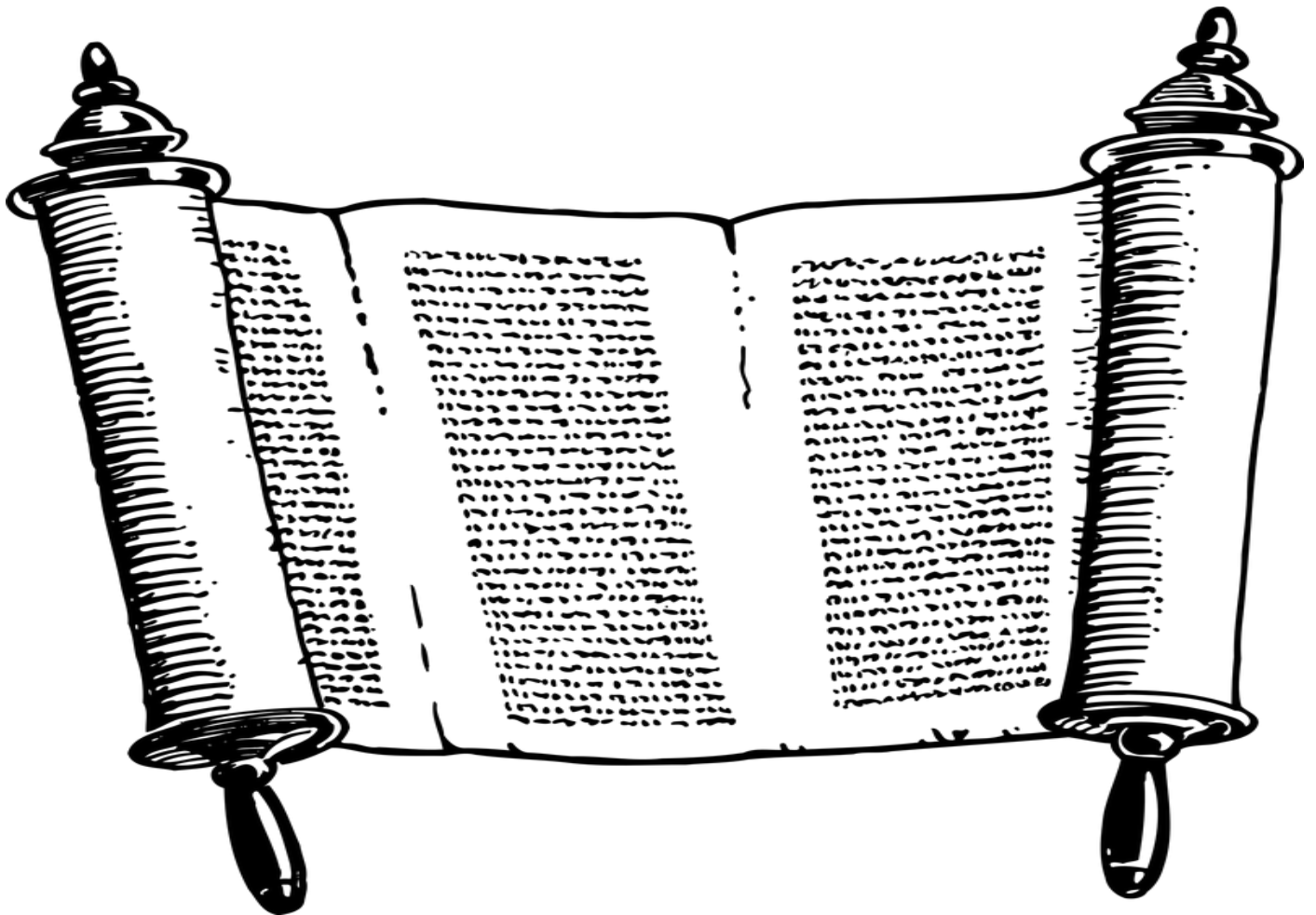
Vinfest (Vinjar) – Third weekend

October

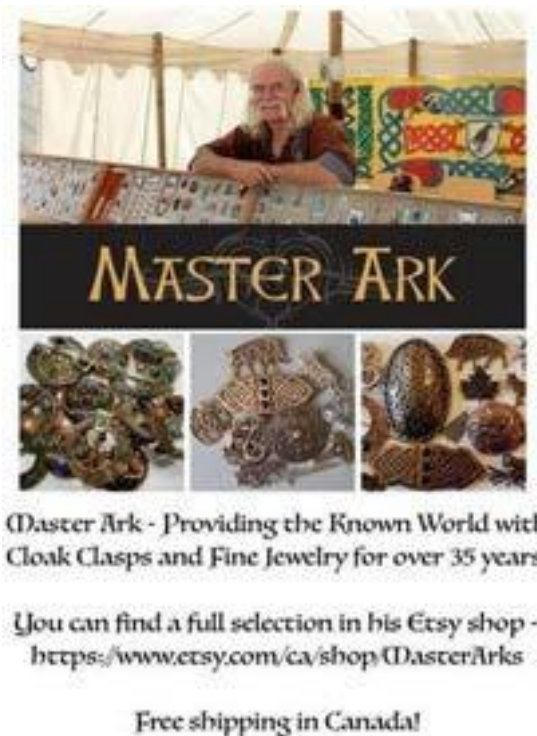
THE FLUFFY FLYER

Myrgan Wood Anniversary – Second weekend (Thanksgiving Weekend)  
Snow Eaters (Windwyrn) – Last weekend November  
Samhain (Montengarde) – First weekend  
WINTER CORONATION – Third weekend  
Very Aryesgarde Christmas (Aryesgarde) – Last weekend

December  
Krampus (Sigelhundas) - First Weekend  
Yule (Borealis) – Second weekend



# merchants of avacal



Master Ark - Providing the Known World with Cloak Clasps and Fine Jewelry for over 35 years

You can find a full selection in his Etsy shop - <https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/MasterArks>

Free shipping in Canada!

The advertisement features a man with a long white beard and a brown tunic, standing behind a wooden table. On the table are various items, including a large, ornate metal clasp. Below the photo is a black banner with the text 'MASTER ARK' in gold. Underneath the banner are three small images showing different types of metal clasps and jewelry.



Schmett Yrlynska

Blacksmith

Chokecherry Forge

[www.chokecherryforge.com](http://www.chokecherryforge.com)

The image shows a blacksmith with a long white beard and a brown tunic, working on a piece of metal. Sparks are flying from the forge. The background is a dark, smoky grey.



KINGDOM OF AVACAL  
ARMY CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

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

The advertisement features a black t-shirt with a circular emblem on the chest. The emblem has a red and yellow design. Below the t-shirt are four small images showing different styles of t-shirts and hoodies.



Fáelán's Armoury

Gord Daley  
780-565-2121  
[faelan.armoury@gmail.com](mailto:faelan.armoury@gmail.com)

phone to book viewing appointments

The advertisement features a green four-leaf clover graphic. The text is arranged around the clover.



Kingdom Populace Pennants  
Populace Badge Pins  
Encampment walls  
Contact: Baron Hamelin L'Archier  
hamelin1066@gmail.com



Archos Markus Pheilsmid  
250-571-8841  
bowsinister@gmail.com  
www.bowsinisterarchery.com

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