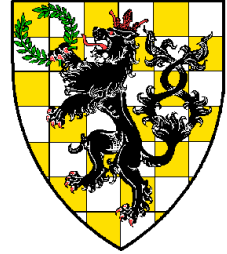


The Fousting Squirrel



January, Anno Societatis LVII (2022)
Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir

A Branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA Inc.)

Yule Feast & Fun

On Saturday, Dec. 10, the Barony of Wastekeep hosted their annual Yule Feast at Waitsburg Elementary School. While travelers had to contend with the cold and ice on local roads, it was definitely a warm and welcoming atmosphere with delicious food, fun games, delightful dances, and festive gift exchanges. Attendees enjoyed beautiful live violin music provided by Jacqueline fille de William, and there was even time for some impromptu rapier fighting. Every table was filled with either plates of food, card games, pantry goods for the food drive, or collections of garb for those who needed new period clothing.

Baron Porkell and Baroness Gudrun held court, and awarded the Honorable Lady Lucia Robertsdottir with the Blasted Tree for her service to the barony.

"The weather may have conspired against the Barony to have most of us attend Yule," admitted Baron Porkell, "but for those that did make it, it was fun. Thank you to Levi, Yentil, and Fina for the wonderful feast."

"We also collected three boxes of food for the food drive," added Baron Porkell, "which was delivered to the Blue Mountain Action Committee." Thank you to all those who contributed to this great event for a good cause!



In this issue

- ❖ "Yule Feast and Fun" / Front Cover – pg. 1
- ❖ In this Issue / About the Canton – pg. 2
- ❖ The Squirrel Press – pg. 3
- ❖ Swords Under Shelter – pg. 4
- ❖ Events Calendar – pg. 5
- ❖ Interview with a Gentle – pg. 6-7
- ❖ Canton Photos – pg. 8
- ❖ Book Review – pg. 9
- ❖ Business Meeting Minutes – pages 10-11
- ❖ Legal Notice and Curia – page 12



About the canton of Akornebir

The Canton of Akornebir is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. We are located at the foot of the Blue Mountains, in Walla Walla, Washington. Our area includes all of Walla Walla County and the Waitsburg/Dayton area. Akornebir became an official branch of the Society in June, 2001 (A.S. XXXVI).

Citizens of Akornebir have for many years been affectionately known as Squirrels.

The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA) is a non-profit group dedicated to researching and recreating the Middle Ages in the present.

The Canton of Akornebir is located in the Kingdom of An Tir (Irish translation: Our Land), in the area formerly known as the Inland Region. Locally, the Canton of Akornebir is a part of the Barony of Wastekeep. Its territory includes the Canton of Akornebir, and any 993xx zip codes within Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties and, through previous negotiations, including Grandview, which is in Yakima county.

The Barony of Wastekeep is ruled by our Baron and Baroness who act on the King's authority and hold the lands in their stead. Their Excellencies are pleased to grant Baronial Awards to worthy members of the populous and to challenge those who would apply to become one of Wastekeep's Sergeants.



Web Links

www.sca.org
www.sca.org/new-to-the-sca/

www.antir.org

www.akornebir.wastekeep.org
www.wastekeep.org

The Squirrel press

Scribal paint night

On Thursday, November 17, the Canton of Akornebir held its monthly scurry at the house of Honorable Lady Lucia Robertsdottir, where HL Mairghread of Wastekeep taught local members scribal painting skills.

Attendees were able to “brush up” on techniques they may have learned once but had since forgotten, or in the case of some people, absorbed new ideas and practices for the first time.

Some of the more interesting aspects were getting to paint with gold-colored pigments, mixing and applying the gouache paint to the correct consistency, as well helping with baronial scroll awards, and even getting a glimpse at kingdom awards.

The canton especially appreciated Honorable Lady Mairghread making the trip over to Akornebir in the cold and wet weather of winter.



Kingdom seneschal reminder

On December 7, the Kingdom Seneschal sent out a notice to all branches of An Tir regarding indoor event season and the best ways to limit the spread of illness during the winter months.

While the reduced pandemic restrictions have made more activities possible, our region continues to battle several concurrent public health concerns—including RSV, Covid, and flu.

Folks are encouraged to consider testing or masking up before large gatherings, and to be considerate of others. It is especially important to remain home if you are not feeling well.

If you have any questions, the Kingdom Seneschal can be reached by emailing seneschal@antir.org

Swords Under Shelter



Indoor fight practice is in full swing in the garage space of Lord William Le Navetier and Lady Mathilda de Rouen.

The Jousting Squirrel would like to say a special thank you to them and their family for hosting each week, as well as keeping us hydrated, warm and lending loaner equipment to those unequipped guests eager to learn.

The well-lit room, which doubles as a dance studio for members of their family, is perfect for some swordplay during the dark and cold winter evenings. Each Monday at 6pm, canton rapier fighters gather to shake the snow from off their shoulders and attempt to get past Lord William's crafty defenses. One memorable highlight saw Lord William, with both sword and dagger, successfully and repeatedly defeat Lord Cuthbert and Mike at the same time.

The group, which on Monday December 12 featured several newer members and first-time fighters, was also able to learn from Honorable Lord James Elwyc who came and demonstrated some very skillful moves and historical techniques. Next practice will be on Monday, January 9th at 6pm.



Upcoming Canton Activities And regional events

Canton activities

- ❖ Fight practice each Monday @ 6pm at the home of William and Mathilda. Next practice on January 9, 2023.
- ❖ Next monthly Canton business meeting (virtual) on Thursday, January 5th @ 6.30pm.
- ❖ Arts & Sciences Scurry this month on Saturday, Jan 21st from 10am to 4pm at Kaitlin's. Inquire for more details and location.

regional events

- ❖ Twelfth Night: January 13-15 in Adiantum (Eugene, Oregon).
- ❖ Ursulmas: January 27-29 in Aquaterra (Snohomish County)
- ❖ Feast of the Snow Moon: Feb. 11 in Wealdsmere (Spokane).
- ❖ Kingdom Arts & Sciences Championship and Queen's Rapier Tournament: February 24-26 in Glymm Mere (Olympia).
- ❖ Oasis War: March 25 in Cranehaven (Wenatchee).

IN SERVICE TO THE CANTON: AN INTERVIEW WITH A GENTLE

Jousting Squirrel: What is your name, position and title in the SCA, and how long have you been involved?

Baron Porkell: Master Porkell Palsson, Baron of Wastekeep. I'm also Ducat Herald (exchequer) for the SCA College of Arms and the Exchequer and Herald for the Canton of Akornebir. I've been playing in the SCA since 2008.

JS: What is one of your favorite ways to give back and provide service in the SCA?

BP: I love making the space for others to play. My joy is the creation of the spaces for others to do their thing. Need an event run? I'm there. Want to fight? I'll setup and run the field for you.

JS: Who have you seen demonstrate service especially well in the SCA?

BP: Everyone who steps up to help out, volunteer to hold an office, or who does what needs to be done for everyone else's enjoyment. We talk that the SCA is a "volunteer organization" and that "many hands make light work." But there are people who consistently step up to assist.



In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

JS: What are some of the less visible and less glamorous parts of service in the SCA?

BP: Book side – those individuals who are holding offices and running events are usually the unsung heroes.

The people who are making sure contracts are correct, bills are paid, safety equipment is setup and running. They're the ones running things when the pageantry and loud noises are happening, so that the pageantry and loud noises can actually happen.

JS: As a registered charitable non-profit, how does SCA provide service and education to the people of Akornebir, here in the Walla Walla valley?

BP: Locally, I think we're not doing the best job in this front. Demos and education are difficult to wrangle. Especially for the last few years.

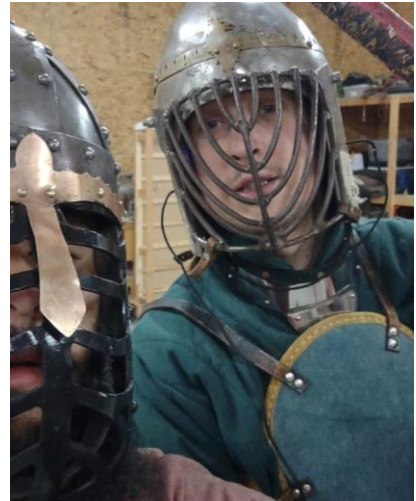
We joined the medieval weekend at the brewery in Milton-Freewater and talked with a lot of people – showing historical armour, fabrics, weaving, and pottery, which went over really well.

JS: What advice would you give to someone who wants to help out within their canton or barony?

BP: Don't hesitate to raise your hand to help out. Ask if you can help someone.



More Camton Photos



BOOK REVIEW

***The Bright Ages: A New History of Medieval Europe* by Matthew Gabriele & David Perry**
Review by Cuthbert Weaver

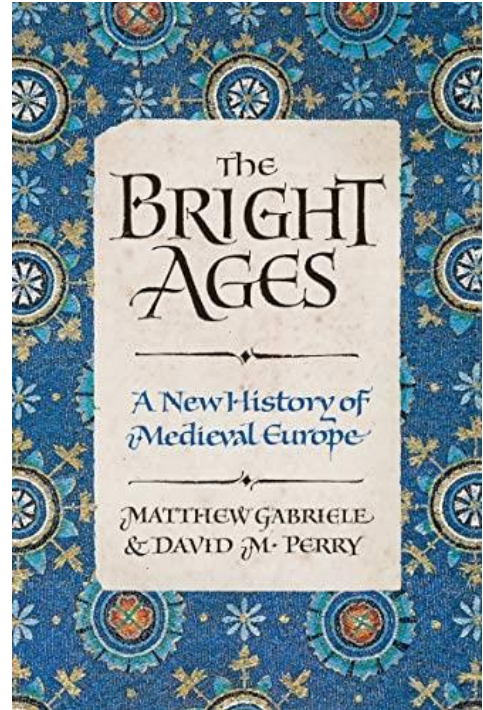
As far as historical time periods go, the Middle Ages will always be sandwiched between the might and splendor of the preceding ancient world, and the intellectual artistry of the Renaissance that followed it. Many of us grew up hearing it was “the dark ages,” an era of barbarism, superstition, prejudice, and ignorance.

In the book, *The Bright Ages*, all of these faulty assumptions are intelligently challenged to show that the years from 500-1500 CE were in fact luminous and not some gloomy, dusty era lacking in racial, religious or gender diversity. Often that light could be seen physically and literally in the brilliant mosaics of Byzantine queens from Ravenna, or in the shining metallic passports of trailblazing Mongolian messengers.

The authors also explain through humorous and enlightening stories that scientific and philosophical accomplishments—of Muslims in Spain, feminist nuns like the visionary Hildegard in Germany, and Jewish leaders like Maimonides in Egypt—illuminated the period figuratively as an millennium far less homogenous than previously believed.

Fortunately, *The Bright Ages* doesn't ignore the blinding light of destructive fires too, whether in the Crusades or pogroms against Jews. After reading, it's clear the medieval period was many things: militaristic, diverse, pioneering, beautiful, deadly. However, one thing it definitely wasn't was dark.

Review Score: ★★★★★



Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting (virtual)

Minutes

Thursday, December 1, 2022



In Attendance: Thorkell, Guðrun, Lucia, Kaitlin, Phelan, William, Cuthbert,

1. Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Motioned, seconded and voted to accept the minutes from the November meeting
3. Officer's Reports
 - a. Baron & Baroness's State of the Canton (Guðrun and Thorkell)
 - i. Yule is next weekend on Saturday Dec. 10 at Waitsburg Elementary School.
 1. Look online for potluck information by last name alphabetical
 - ii. Collegium in Aquaterra was a great success
 1. Cuthbert earned his Award of Arms
 2. Stjarna ran an excellent Bardic tournament
 - iii. Kingdom A&S
 1. Unlike previous years, it will be the last weekend in February
 - iv. Twelfth Night
 1. Seems everything is going according to plan
 - b. Seneschal (Lucia)
 - i. Nothing to report
 - c. Chronicler (Cuthbert)
 - i. First issue of the Canton newsletter *The Jousting Squirrel* was released last month and next one will be published and posted in December.
 - ii. The Walla Walla University library conference room can be reserved for business meetings or scurries in the future should we wish, although it is not available on Saturdays.
 - d. Exchequer (Thorkell)
 - i. Current balance is \$XXXX.XX
 - ii. \$96 dollars made selling garb at As You Like It
 - e. Herald (Thorkell)
 - i. Forms for previous name changes were dropped off at Collegium
 - ii. Cuthbert has mailed his packet to register his name and device
 - f. Marshall (William)
 - i. We are having indoor fight practice on Mondays @ 6pm in the garage space of William and Mathilda in Walla Walla
 - ii. The next two (Dec. 5 & Dec. 12) are likely cancelled due to schedule conflicts
 - iii. Regular attendees: William, Mike, Cuthbert, Cody and his grandma Elaine, Thorkell
 - iv. Cuthbert added that William has been giving excellent lessons

- g. Arts & Sciences (Guðrun)
 - i. Starting a scribal group for scrolls in the barony and canton
 - ii. Scurries coming up for necklace making and largesse production
 - h. Livia (Chatelaine)
 - i. Nothing to report
 - i. Ramon (Webminister)
 - i. Nothing to report
 - j. Social Media (open)
 - i. Lucia is stepping back from Kingdom Social Media
4. Canton Upcoming Events: None
5. Baronial Events: Yule
- a. Dec. 10 on Saturday at Waitsburg Elementary School
6. Old Business
- a. We still need a date for newcomers and will keep this topic on the docket for future business meetings
7. New Business
- a. Discussion about next scurry Possible Christmas get together
 - i. Suggestion to wait to until January to get through the holiday chaos
 - ii. Tentative Date Suggestion: Saturday January 21st from 10am – 4pm @ Kaitlin's
8. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm

End of Minutes



Legal notice

This is the November 2022, issue of *The Jousting Squirrel*, a publication of the Canton of Akornebir, of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *The Jousting Squirrel* is available at akornebir.wastekeep.org and on our Facebook group discussion page, or by writing the Akornebir Chronicler: Cuthbert Weaver, (Martin Surridge) at mgsurridge@gmail.com

The Jousting Squirrel is written & designed by Cuthbert Weaver.

The Jousting Squirrel is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.
Copyright © 2022 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

For info on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original piece's creator. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. Submissions and ideas are welcome!

CANTON CURIA

- ❖ Seneschal – Honorable Lady Lucia Robertsdottir
- ❖ Herald – Baron Thorkell Palsson
- ❖ Exchequer – Baron Thorkell Palsson
- ❖ Chronicler – Lord Cuthbert Weaver
- ❖ Marshal – Lord William Le Navetier
- ❖ Arts & Science – Baroness Gudrun Ulriksdottir
- ❖ Webminister – Honorable Lord Ramone de Leon
- ❖ Chatelaine – Honorable Lady Livia Della Strada



BARONIAL CURIA

- ❖ Seneschal – Honorable Lady Ciosa
- ❖ Exchequer – Honorable Lady Anna
- ❖ Martial – Honorable Lord William
- ❖ Arts & Science – Lady Sunneva



KINGDOM MONARCHS

- ❖ King of An Tir – King Octamasedes Skuthikos
- ❖ Queen of An Tir – Queen Achaxe Ek Auchatae
- ❖ Crown Prince Athanasios Belisarios
- ❖ Crown Princess Alianora Greymoor

