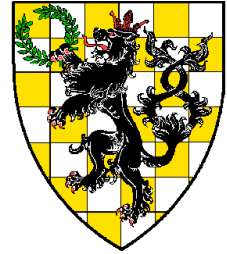


The Fousting Squirrel



*November, Anno Societatis LVII (2023)
Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir*

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

Collegium Delights

The Barony of Wastekeep hosted An Tir's Collegium and Bardic Championship on Saturday Nov. 18, as the event returned home to the lands where it first began.

Several attended from Akornebir including Honorable Lady Kaitlin, Lady Sadhbh and Megan, Lord Cuthbert, and the Baron and Baroness of Wastekeep, Master Thorkell and Mistress Gudrun, who were also stewards for the gathering. Megan and Sadhbh spent their time attending classes on finger-weaving, Bronze Age clothing and the history of romantic favors, while Master Thorkell taught some sessions in the administrative track for exchequers.

The Bardic competition was a talented affair with one particular highlight being Master Gareth Hyre asking the audience to imagine themselves sailing to Istanbul as he played a lively Turkish lute-like instrument called the "oud" with another musician on a drum. The championship was ultimately won however by Margaret ingen Domnaill who wowed their majesties with skill and grace.

The Collegium event might be remembered in our barony for one of the evening's final moments, as Ragnar Stykarrson was elevated to the Order of Chivalry, knighted by the King in the presence of so many of his family, friends, and brotherhood in arms.



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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

akornebir.antir.org

wastekeep.antir.org

The Squirrel Press

cake, crafts, & combat

Sunday October 21 saw the return of a scurry in Waitsburg as a large group gathered at Dame Katherine's house for a outdoor potluck including birthday cake, soups, breads, cheeses, and other treats. With many coming from different parts of Akornebir such as Dayton and Walla Walla, as well as a few traveling over from Wastekeep, the mood was celebratory and full of backslaps.

Camp chairs were set up in a circle as several artists started in right away on their crafting projects, and a number of rapier fighters found enough time to get some combat in with traveling guests. A winner-stays put rotation of three fights at the same time kept the swordsmen busy for a while, as the autumn leaves fell from the trees in canopy above them.

Thank you Dame Katherine and Lord Neil for opening your home to us. Photos can be seen on page 8.



The festive season approaches

The month of December is a busy one in nearly any town or organization as families balance the many holiday responsibilities with school, work, and home. Last year the Barony of Wastekeep held a traditional Yule feast in the Canton of Akornebir's boundaries, but this year a similar feast will be held later in the New Year, closer to February with a date yet to be determined and should still feature much of the same winter activities and merriments.

Even though that particular feast event is still a couple months away, that doesn't mean however, that there's nothing happening in our canton and barony during the weeks leading up to Christmas. Those specifically interested in an Inlands Yule feast can start inquiring now about carpooling to Yakima to attend the Barony of Vulcanfeldt's Yule event on Saturday Dec. 2. Then, here in Walla Walla, there's an afternoon scribal scurry to paint scrolls happening at Cuthbert's house on Sunday Dec. 10 with a potluck meal, bonfire, and possible outdoor fight practice. Warm conversations on cold nights can always be had at Wastekeep's Wednesday evening indoor fight practices, and Thursday Dec. 7 will be the next canton business meeting, which are always good excuses for fun conversations and a good plate of food.

Lessons Under Lights



As autumn progresses into winter, Pioneer Park continues to be our location for canton fight practice, and the lights of the gazebo band stand have served well for newcomers to learn valuable lessons in rapier combat.

The last year has seen an increase in local fighters and Akornebir seneschal Master Thorkell Palsson continues to mentor those interested in picking up a sword, some for the first time, and others still within their first few months of study. The methods of teaching have also included recording videos of the practices and placing them on YouTube for viewing later.

When canton chatelaine Sadhbh Dhubh brought her friend Megan, there was a sense of excitement for another new attendee to get ahold of the equipment: "It was different than I thought," Megan admitted. "But fun! I wish I had my own gear!"

Master Thorkell explained how rewarding it is to teach and that the best part is "when the things I'm working on them 'click' and they get me with it." While Megan didn't yet get to go full speed in combat, she did also add that, "it was more challenging to hold the sword than I thought it would be. I wish I could have done even more practicing!"





UPCOMING CANTON ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL EVENTS

CANTON ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Carpool to Wastekeep fight practice on Wed. Nov. 29. Inquire for details
- ❖ Next rapier fight practice is on Monday December 4, with time and place to be announced.
- ❖ Canton business meeting is on Thursday, Dec. 7, with time and place to be announced.
- ❖ Arts & Science scribal scurry on Sunday December 10 at Cuthbert's house from 12:30pm to 3pm.

REGIONAL EVENTS

- ❖ Yule Feast: Sat. Dec. 2 in Vulcanfeldt (Yakima, WA)
- ❖ Twelfth Night Coronation: Jan. 12 - 14 in Bellevue, WA
- ❖ Ursulmas: Jan. 26 - 28 in Aquaterra (Monroe, WA)
- ❖ Tir Righ Investiture: Sat. Feb. 17 in Pitt Meadows (BC)
- ❖ Oasis War: Sat. Mar. 6 in Cranehaven (Ephrata, WA)

In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Jousting Squirrel: *What is your name, position and title in the SCA? How long have you been involved and in what different capacities?*

Sadhbh: I'm Lady Sadhbh Dhubh, ("sive" rhymes with "five"). I'm the Chatelaine of Akornebir, and the deputy Exchequer of Wastekeep. I've been involved in the SCA for 34 years.

Jousting Squirrel: *Given that the Society is built around service and volunteerism, what is one of your favorite ways to give back and provide service in the SCA?*

Sadhbh: I like to be sure the people around me are taken care of and having fun. I tend to volunteer either where asked, or where I'll think I'll be the most help.

Jousting Squirrel: *Who has been someone in the SCA that you've seen who demonstrates service?*

Sadhbh: I've been fortunate to have met so many people in the SCA who have exemplified this trait. The Honorable Lady Katherine of Akornebir often comes to mind for things she's done to be of service both in and out of the SCA, and is a truly lovely person.



In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Jousting Squirrel: *What are the less visible, less glamorous parts of service in the SCA?*

Sadhbh: Oh, I imagine it's set up and break down/clean up crews at events. These folks come early and stay late to help keep the dream alive for the rest of us.

Jousting Squirrel: *As a registered educational non-profit, how does the SCA provide service and education to the people of Akornebir, right here in the Walla Walla Valley?*

Sadhbh: Akornebir's populace has a strong love of the Arts and Sciences, and have always been willing to share that knowledge with others. Some of my favorite memories with the Canton have been getting together to make traditional foods and learning how to make lampwork beads. I'm very excited for some of the Arts and Sciences scurries that are coming up in the near future!

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

Sadhbh : Just ask! I find asking "How can I help?" usually gets you put to work pretty quickly.

Jousting Squirrel: *What is the role of the chatelaine in providing service to the canton and the barony? And how does it fit into the SCA mission of service?*

Sadhbh: The role of the chatelaine is to welcome new and potential members, and help them find their people and place within the organization in whatever way you can. This is a vital role within the organization, as it allows us to continue to grow and flourish as a larger community. But to put it more plainly, feeling that your presence is wanted and that you feel included in a new group doesn't always come easy. A chatelaine is there to help folks transition into feeling like they are "one of us".

Jousting Squirrel: *Thank you so much for all that you do!*



More Canyon Photos



BOOK REVIEW

The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca

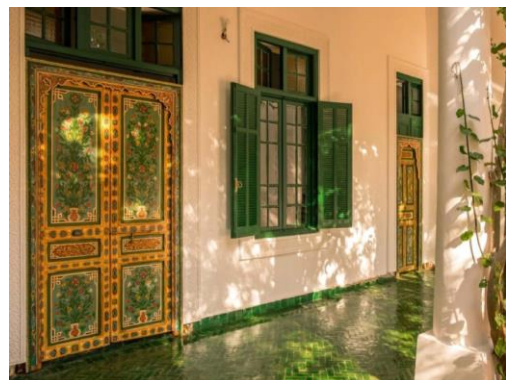
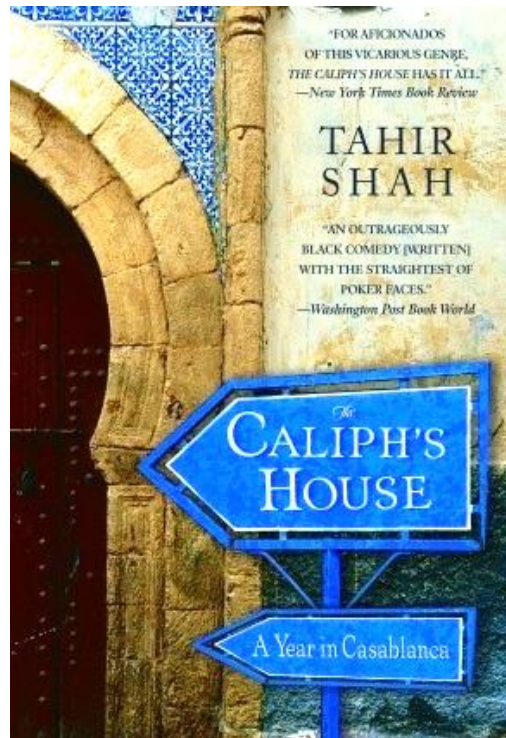
by Tahir Shah

Review written by Cuthbert Weaver

Few books capture the history, ambition, and humor of the SCA quite as well as Tahir Shah's *The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca*. After reading this delightful and utterly hilarious travel narrative, I came away with a greater understanding of medieval Arab architecture and design, as well as the folklore and religious beliefs of North Africa, and how business, story-telling and hospitality all intersect in a Moorish world that retains a deeper connection to the medieval past than our own.

Tahir Shah is a British-Afghani writer who decides to upend his family and career and relocate to Casablanca, Morocco. He knew there would be challenges along the way, but nothing could have prepared him for moving into a centuries-old mansion in a shantytown once owned by a local religious leader and still occupied by the hysterical servants, known as "guardians" of the dwelling. They demand a terrifying exorcism take place before the house can be permanently occupied. Fear of these genies or "jinn" prevent local artisans from renovating certain rooms, and Shah becomes flabbergasted trying to negotiate prices and work schedules as well finding the right construction materials. Along the way, the author weaves charming stories linking the tales of *Arabian Nights* to medieval Muslim pranksters like Nasreddin Hodja, while pleading with his wife that it will all be worth it when the renovation is done. By the end, both the house and book itself become one-of-a-kind charming medieval masterpieces.

Review Score: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting Minutes - Thurs. Oct. 5, 2023

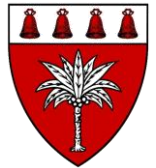
1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:31 pm with the following members in attendance: Galina, William, Sadhbh, Thorkell, Gudrun, Cuthbert, Kaitlin, Allison, Megan, Lif, Cora
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** July Minutes were approved with spelling corrections for Galina & Sadhbh.
3. **Officer's Reports**
 - a. **Seneschal** (Thorkell)
 - i. Baron's Ball went really well
 - b. **Chronicler** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Jousting Squirrel September Newsletter has been published and sent out
 - c. **Exchequer** (Kaitlin)
 - i. \$XXXX.XX balance in the canton account.
 - d. **Herald** (Thorkell)
 - i. Nothing to Report
 - e. **Marshall** (William)
 - i. 13 practices took place for this quarter and the report was sent in
 - ii. We still need to find a winter place to practice for indoor fight practices
 - iii. Discussion on acquiring two full sets for youth armored rapier
 - f. **Arts and Sciences** (Gudrun)
 - i. There were some amazing entries at Baron's Ball which was won by HL Ciosa
 - ii. We have papers available for those interested in future A&S submissions.
 - iii. Next Scurry will be on Oct. 21 at Kathy's with a potluck and rapier fighting
 - g. **Chatelaine** (Sadhbh)
 - i. Nothing to Report but brought her friend Megan
 - h. **Webminister** (Ramon – Not Present)
 - i. Canton needs clarity on the direction of our website construction
4. **Upcoming Events**
 - a. Canton of Akornebir / Barony of Wastekeep
 - i. Collegium & Bardic coming up soon as a \$30 day event on Nov. 18
 - ii. Ragnar will be knighted at this event
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Nothing to Report
6. **New Business**
 - a. Wastekeep is putting together a bid to host May Crown.
 - b. Baron and Baroness of Wastekeep are looking for new interested candidates.
 - c. Peers of the Canton will sponsor anyone interested in the 12th Night peer auction with proceeds going to the Trevor Project
7. **Next Meeting:** November 2nd 2023 with time and location to be announced
8. **End of Meeting:** Adjourned @ 6.57pm



Legal notice

The Jousting Squirrel is a publication of the Canton of Akornebir, part of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *The Jousting Squirrel* is available at akornebir.antir.org and on our Facebook group discussion page, or can be received through an email mailing list by writing to the Akornebir Chronicler: Cuthbert Weaver at mgsurridge@gmail.com

The Jousting Squirrel is written & designed for the Canton of Akornebir by Cuthbert Weaver.



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Canton of ficers

- ❖ Seneschal – Master Thorkell Palsson, OP
- ❖ Exchequer – Honorable Lady Kaitlin
- ❖ Marshal – Lord William Le Navetier
- ❖ Arts & Science – Mistress Gudrun Ulriksdottir, OP
- ❖ Herald – Master Thorkell Palsson, OP
- ❖ Chronicler – Lord Cuthbert Weaver
- ❖ Webminister – Honorable Lord Ramone de Leon
- ❖ Chatelaine – Lady Sadhbh Dhuhb



Baronial of ficers

- ❖ Baron - Master Thorkell Palsson, OP
- ❖ Baroness - Mistress Gudrun Ulriksdottir, OP
- ❖ Seneschal – Duchess Dagrún Strjarna, OP, OL
- ❖ Exchequer – Honorable Lady Anna
- ❖ Marshal – Honorable Lord William
- ❖ Arts & Science – Lady Litla-Sunneva
- ❖ Chronicler – Mistress Catriona, OP
- ❖ Herald – Lord Cuthbert Weaver



Kingdom monarchs

- ❖ King of An Tir – King Morgan of the Oaks
- ❖ Queen of An Tir – Queen Livia Alexandra Severa

