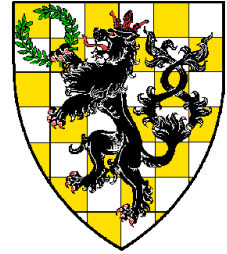
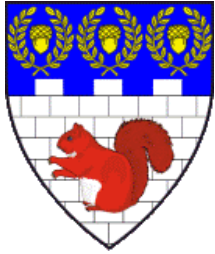


The Fousting Squirrel



*February, Anno Societatis LVII (2024)
Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir*

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

Disting Coeristing

The Canton of Akornebir held its first ever Disting Winter Feast on Saturday, February 3, hosting the final home court for Baron Thorkell and Baroness Gudrun of Wastekeep. Attendance was high at the Waitsburg Town Hall as 80 guests filed in to pay respects, dance, eat, give gifts, play games, and cross swords in the alley.

Named after an ancient yearly Norse feast, Disting celebrations originally centered on preparing lands for the planting of new crops, and the many visitors who came to Akornebir from near and far might have noticed the suddenly green hills of Wastekeep as they drove through. They might also have reflected on how our barony is preparing itself for a new crop of leaders instead of just the crops of wheat or barley.

The event itself went off without a hitch, and attendees were able to take classes on embroidery with Honorable Lady Ciosa and dancing with Duchess Stjarna. Their excellencies presented awards and favors during court, as well as a moving toast to those no longer with us.

The feast itself required extra tables to be set up due to the large number of guests. One particular highlight was Ciann the Minstrel visiting each table, unfurling a comically long scroll with songs for selection, as he serenaded and played along on the strings.



In this Issue

- ❖ “Disting Coexisting” / Front Cover – pg. 1
- ❖ In this Issue / About the Canton – pg. 2
- ❖ The Squirrel Press – pg. 3
- ❖ Wild Wood Wild Folk – pg. 4
- ❖ Events Calendar – pg. 5
- ❖ Interview with a Gentle – pg. 6-7
- ❖ Canton Photos – pg. 8
- ❖ A Story from Drachenwald – pg. 9
- ❖ Book Review: Between Two Fires – pg. 10
- ❖ Business Meeting Minutes – pg. 11
- ❖ Legal Notice and Curia – pg. 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

akornebir.antir.org

wastekeep.antir.org

The Squirrel Press

Arts of the scribe tribe

Akornebir held a winter scurry at the house of Cuthbert Weaver, which featured more than a dozen local members in attendance, and a few even coming over from Lyonsmarche. The group was fortunate to have some expert advice from the baronial scribe, HL Mairghread of Wastekeep who traveled to lead out in the session, recommending illustration techniques, assigning materials, and instructing those needing help. Two separate tables were put to use, with artists lending a hand to decorate new baronial award scrolls, including some painting for the first time just a few months after joining our local canton. Dragons, seagulls, stags, and wolves were painted, including some done by young children, and the group seemed to have a blast as they took breaks at the make-your-own-sandwich potluck assembly line, successfully keeping the yellow paint and yellow mustard separate.



Three wars coming to the Inlands

Calls to arms were put forth to the populace at the Disting Winter Feast for several wars soon approaching here in the Inlands. The first on the calendar was announced at court by Runa Kennikona of the College of Cranehaven, the event known as Oasis War, to take place on Saturday, March 16. This one-day war will be hosting a cut-and-thrust marshal clinic, as well as fighting scenarios for heavy and rapier. Honor War in the College of Lyonsmarche was also announced at court, by Honorable Lady Tova Fransdottir, reminding those in attendance to come to Chief Timothy Park for a weekend campout and war featuring heavy, rapier, archery, bardic, and arts and sciences activities. Honor War will cost \$30 for the duration, and plans to welcome King Ulfgar and a royal retinue. The weekend immediately following Honor War is Baroness War in the Barony of Vulcanfeldt from April 19-21, where attendees can expect merchants, equestrian activities, thrown weapon and archery competitions, and a full set of heavy and rapier war scenarios, all of which contain the possibility of earning points for the baroness on whose behalf you will be fighting. Baroness War will take place at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum. Good luck to all competitors!

Wild Wood Wild Folk



Those walking their dogs at night on South Division Street in Walla Walla might notice an unfamiliar glow, as the lords and ladies of Akornebir cross blades, ignite propane heaters, and stand out from the shadows with sparks aplenty.

The last few months, the Canton of Akornebir has used a new location for fight practice on Monday nights, braving the colder weather, yet still remaining dry, warm, and in high spirits.



Wildwood Park, just down the street from Pioneer Park in Walla Walla, has a large concrete-floor pavilion with overhead lighting and practices are averaging half a dozen people. James and Gene make frequent trips from Dayton, new female fighters suit up to practice, other officers and spouses come to support, and loaner gear is laid out to borrow and utilize. Master Thorkell's video equipment is often set up to record and teach the new fighters where they're in need of improvement.



Wildwood Park might not be as well known as Pioneer, yet its pavilion quite literally stands out as a shining light in an otherwise very dark wood, while distant fairy lights decorate houses in the surrounding area to add a charming ambience.



UPCOMING CANTON ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL EVENTS

CANTON ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Arts & Sciences Scurry at Ramon and Thorhalla's on Sun. Feb. 18, 10am - 4pm. Inquire for address.
- ❖ Carpool to Wastekeep fight practice on Wed. Feb. 21. Inquire for details.
- ❖ Akornebir rapier fight practices are on Mondays at 6pm in Wildwood Park. Next practice: Mon. Feb. 26.
- ❖ Canton business meeting is on Thursday, March 7 at 6:30 with location to be announced.

REGIONAL EVENTS

- ❖ Oasis War: Sat. March 6 in Cranehaven (Ephrata, WA)
- ❖ Honor War: April 12 - 14 in Lyonsmarche (Clarkston, WA)
- ❖ Baroness War: April 19 - 21 in Vulcanfeldt (Union Gap, WA)
- ❖ May Crown: May 17 - 19 in Wastekeep (Grandview, WA)
- ❖ Celtic Revolt: May 24 - 27 in Wealdsmere (Nine Miles Falls)

In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Jousting Squirrel: What is your name, title and previously held positions in the SCA, as well your name as in real mundane life? How long have you been involved with the SCA?

Mathilda: I'm Lady Mathilda de Rouen, mundane name Melissa Jousma. I've been a scribe, chronicler, and exchequer as well as a deputy seneschal. My first experience with the SCA was in 2008 when friends invited us and our toddlers to camp with them at June Fair near Port Gamble, but we didn't become members until 2014 after moving to Walla Walla and running into Gudrun embroidering a Viking design at our kids' school picnic and being welcomed into Akornebir.

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

Mathilda: The legal rules, insurance, background policies, and how much goes into keeping everyone safe, as well as setup and cleanup before and after each event.

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

Mathilda: Jump in and find what you love to do. It's easier when you're having fun, because you love what you're doing!



In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Jousting Squirrel: *What have been some of your favorite activities and events throughout the years that have been enjoyable to attend and participate in, and why?*

Mathilda: My favorite event was camping overnight in a castle in Germany with the SCA Barony there combined with the local German medieval reenactment group.

Now that I'm back in Akornebir, I think I like *Newcomers*, where it's a small but really casual event focusing on teaching and presenting what we are to anyone interested.

I also really love the University of Atlantia. During Covid, their online classes were expertly done and it was such a great way to keep busy and hone my craft.

Link: <https://university.atlantia.sca.org/>
I was able to participate in it while overseas. A really neat thing to note is there are SCA groups and events worldwide, not just in the USA, but worldwide.

Jousting Squirrel: *What is one of your favorite ways for you and your family to give back and provide service in the SCA?*

Mathilda: I love scroll painting and illumination and while I haven't had the time to dedicate to it lately, I've

spent countless hours creating them for Akornebir and Wastekeep, as well as for The Canton of Veilburgen and Barony of Knights Crossing in Germany. My husband enjoys rapier fighting, and gives his time serving as a Marshal. I also try to purchase hand-made items from SCA merchants whenever I can. My kids used to enjoy a program of classes and learning events they tracked in a printed book Wastekeep gave out called "The Page Program".

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

Mathilda: Our local group brings live, creatively reenacted history lessons when we hold demos and events. It's something different that most folks don't realize can be a hobby. We bring classes on arts and sciences as well as fighting practices, competitions and feasts. As SCA members like to say, "There's hobby's inside my hobby!"



More Canton Photos



A Tale from Drachenwald

Each newsletter, the Jousting Squirrel asks one of our local members, "Who have you seen in the SCA that demonstrates service in a meaningful way?"

Mathilda's answers takes us to the heart of Drachenwald and a story of Old World resilience and kindness.

Mathilda: Chris Lett in Germany kept her shire of two to three people going after it had been disbanded years before Covid, due to politics and the nature of running a group near military bases where members are constantly leaving.

She kept holding events, even if only one person came, growing the group through Covid restrictions.

She befriended a chef and when we couldn't hold a feast because of restrictions, we had online medieval cooking classes, and then individual feast dinners were packaged individually free for pick up!

She lifted and revived that shire, and with constant outreach, she brought in a lot of individuals and families offering rides, garb, classes. After a couple years of growth, the shire was turned into a canton under the nearest barony and she was beautifully recognized for her service with an appliqué Star taken from the dress of the Baroness of Knights Crossing and an award.

It's still a thriving group now. I don't know how one could grow a Canton while being shut down for Covid-19, but she did!



BOOK REVIEW

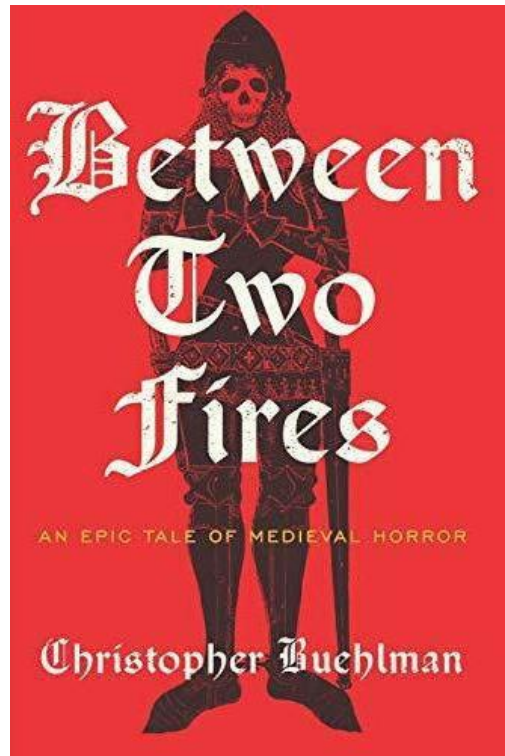
Between Two Fires: An Epic Tale of Medieval Horror

by Christopher Buehlman

Review written by Cuthbert Weaver

Some books make you long wistfully for an earlier, simpler era, with its medieval princes and chivalry and its beautiful pastoral landscapes. This is not one of those books. The subtitle of *Between Two Fires* is “An Epic Tale of Medieval Horror”, a phrase that describes the amazing novel perfectly. Don’t run away in fear just yet though, even if the book’s language, content, and levels of violence would definitely earn a hard R-rating. If you liked HBO’s *The Last of Us*, based on the PlayStation video game of the same name, this tale will be the gripping page-turner you’ve been looking for. Thomas is a disgraced French knight and traumatized veteran of the Hundred Years War. When the Black Death hits Europe, leaving behind it an apocalyptic wasteland, he is further reduced to a shell of his former self, stealing from travelers and violating his knightly vows — until he meets a unusual young girl named Delphine who seems to be the key to solving a series of evil mysteries devastating the charred 14th century countryside. Thomas has a hard time believing what he’s seeing, but it appears as if creatures from hell itself have breached our world’s protective barrier, *and* they’re hunting Delphine. Incredibly well researched by the author, evocative and engrossing, *Between Two Fires* is unlike any other book I’ve read. It’s terrifying, but also so beautiful and heart-warming, like a lonely campfire under a hostile moonlit sky.

Review Score: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting Minutes – Friday Feb. 2, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:35 pm with the following members in attendance: William, Kaitlin, Sadhbh, Cuthbert, Katherine, Ciosa

2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** January minutes were motioned, voted, and approved.

3. Officer's Reports

a. Seneschal (Thorkell) – Not Present

- i. Officer reports should have been turned in for January
- ii. Dame Katherine leading the meeting went over upcoming kingdom events

b. Chronicler (Cuthbert)

- i. There will be a Jousting Squirrel Newsletter sent out soon for February.
- ii. Chronicler's Report for Q4 was sent in
- iii. Minutes from last meeting were uploaded to Facebook and the Akornebir Website

c. Exchequer (Kaitlin)

- i. \$XXXX.XX balance in the Canton account.
- ii. A check for \$XXX.XX for the Waitsburg Town Hall has not yet been cashed
- iii. Gate book and waivers were brought to Town Hall for Disting. Free event so no entry fee.

d. Herald (Thorkell) – Not Present

- i. Nothing to Report

e. Marshall (William)

- i. Will be stepping down from marshal position in May. If interested, talk to the Seneschal.
- ii. Needs to liaison with exchequer regarding the purchase of new loaner swords.

f. Arts and Sciences (Gudrun) – Not Present

- i. Upcoming scurries on Feb 18th at Ramon's

g. Chatelaine (Sadhbh)

- i. New members and guests will be coming to Disting: Megan and Roy, and Lauren
- ii. Was also contacted by a family and their interested teenage son.
- iii. Gold key will be brought to Disting.

h. Webminister (Ramon) – Not Present

- i. Wants to re-order menu on website and looking for someone with photo editing skills.

i. Social Media (Vacant)

- i. Nominated Allison in absentia to take up the role of Social Media Officer

4. Upcoming Events

- a. Disting Winter Feast tomorrow on Saturday, February 3 at the Waitsburg Town Hall.
- b. Scurry on February 18th at Ramon's

5. No Old Business or New Business

6. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 7th with location to be announced

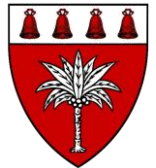
7. **End of Meeting:** Adjourned @ 7:03pm



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.

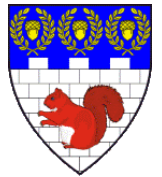


The Jousting Squirrel is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2023 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

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

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 Dhubh



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 MacKenna
- ❖ Arts & Science – Lady Litla-Sunneva
- ❖ Chronicler – Mistress Catriona, OP
- ❖ Herald – Lord Cuthbert Weaver



Kingdom monarchs

- ❖ King of An Tir – Ulfgar Hjartar Bani Thorvaldsson
- ❖ Queen of An Tir – Juahara al Azin

