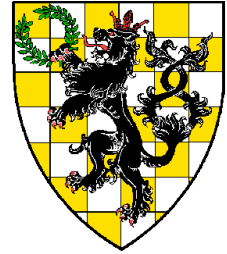


The Soustring Squirrel



*August, Anno Societatis LIX (2024)
Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir*

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

Smiles at Springfest

The Barony of Wastekeep hosted their annual Springfest camping weekend within the borders of the Canton of Akornebir to start off summer. The event celebrated a first home court for Baron William and Baroness Anna McKenna with many citizens swearing their allegiance for the first time. After vehicles arrived on Friday from across the Inlands as well as Western Washington, the variety of colorful period encampments and garb on display created a beautiful atmosphere that showcased the skill and dedication of so many participants around the kingdom. On Saturday, local families walked over to enjoy the sun-filled park, while getting to watch the combat tournaments and listen to live music. Baron William and Baroness Anna awarded the Blasted Tree to Oswald of the North Sea, who also stewarded the event with Master Thorkell Palsson, amid a series of court investitures for Wastekeep's newest champions in heavy, rapier, archery, as well as youth heavy and youth archery. New bonds were forged as local canton member and former Baroness of Wastekeep, Dame

Katherine of Akornebir took the Honorable Lady Mairghread as her protégé, after Mairghread had once again been running the lists all day, and Baron William, on marshal duty, became provost to Master Jack in rapier combat.



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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

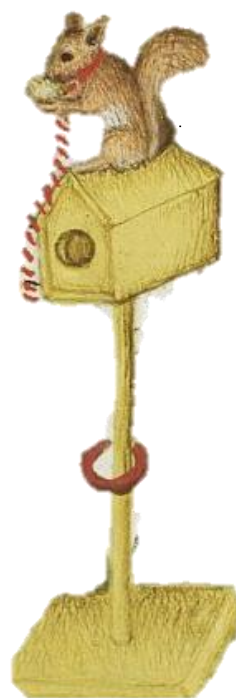
The Squirrel press

September council meeting

After not meeting during the month of August, the Canton of Akornebir officer meeting will again reconvene for their first-Thursday-of-the-month meeting on Thursday, September 5. Social time begins at 6:00pm when officers start gathering in a local restaurant before moving onto the official agenda at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Recently, the council voted to approve an officer change for marshal after Lord William Le Navetier stepped down from the position and was replaced by Lord Cuthbert Weaver who will now run the local weekly rapier practices. The council approved a purchase of a new economy rapier-sword-and-dagger set from Castille Armory to be kept by the canton as loaner and practice gear.

A social media officer position remains open, and as can be read in the meeting minutes, the canton is in the midst of finalizing its plans for a winter feast and other events for 2025 and beyond.



Autumn events fall into place

The Barony of Wastekeep have several events coming up in the next couple months as summer is replaced by early autumn in the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla areas. First on the calendar at the end of the month, the warm weather season concludes with the Sergeantry Trials for Wastekeep on August 24 in Benton City, as candidates aim to test their knowledge, and demonstrate their skills and service to the newest Baron and Baroness, Honorable Lord William and Honorable Lady Anna McKenna. Period board games and dancing will be on offer, not just for candidates, but for anyone who wishes to have fun. Then, once again the barony will be hosting a symposium for chatelaines in Moses Lake from September 27 to 29. Attendees will be able to learn and practice methods for attracting, retaining, and mentoring new members to the SCA.

Further down the road will be one of the last events of camping season, Border War, hosted by the Barony of Wastekeep from October 4-6. The weekend gathering will take place once again in Horn Rapids Park in Benton City, and will feature heavy war scenarios, a rapier tournament, dancing and court, as well as Wastekeep's arts and sciences championship and bardic championship. Check the An Tir events page for more information soon.

The new champion



The Canton of Akornebir was well represented in the Springfest rapier tournament, and the competition featured so many fighters under the shady trees in Waitsburg that the round robin portion of the event needed three marshals to keep it all running. Cody of Akornebir fought in his first tournament, earning several wins throughout, while Lord Cuthbert and James also entered and crossed swords with the dozen or so contestants. However at the end of the day, it was Master Thorkell Palsson who became the new rapier champion of Wastekeep. With these fighters coming up against each other many times, it gave the tournament a particularly local and familiar feel.

In the final round, Thorkell defeated Lord Skaldi Vandraeðaskáld during a tense best-of-five matchup, that had the audience watching attentively. Skaldi didn't walk away empty handed though, as both he and Panfilo Caminante were awarded rapier chivalry prizes for their efforts.

Thorkell ended the day swearing allegiance to their excellences Baron William and Baroness Anna of Wastekeep in their court, as they bestowed on him the regalia of Captain of the Blasted Musketeers.



Upcoming Canton Activities And regional events

canton activities

- ❖ Thorkell's birthday potluck and rapier fight practice in Pioneer Park: Mon., August 5 @ 6:30pm.
- ❖ Car pool to Wastekeep demo tournament on Wednesday August 14. Inquire for details.
- ❖ Wastekeep online business meeting will be on Zoom, Thursday August 8 at 6:00pm.
- ❖ Canton business meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 with location to be announced.

regional events

- ❖ Sergeantry Trials: August 24 in Wastekeep (Tri-Cities, WA)
- ❖ Crown Tournament: August 30 - Sept. 2 in Tir Righ (B.C., Canada)
- ❖ Border War: September 20 - 22 in Wealdsmere (Harrison, ID)
- ❖ Chatelaine Symposium: September 27 - 29 in Moses Lake, WA.
- ❖ Baron's Ball: October 4 - 6 in Wastekeep (Benton City, WA)

Interview with our new Baron and Baroness

Jousting Squirrel: What are your names, positions and titles in the SCA, and how long have you been involved?

Baron William: William MacKenna, I have been Constable, Master of Stables twice, Seneschal, Herald. I have Lord, Currently HL and Baron. Played about 22 years.

Baroness Anna: Anna MacKenna, Baroness, previously held the office of Baronial Exchequer and Deputy list mistress. I am an Honorable Lady, and a Protégé. We have been involved in the SCA for 22 years.

Jousting Squirrel: How do you see the role of the canton in terms of its relationship to the barony? What do you hope to strengthen or develop?

Baron William: The Canton has been an integral part of Barony the whole time we have played. Its members are energetic and willing to go all out in service. We are lucky to have a Canton that works so well with the Barony, as we are almost unique in this.

Baroness Anna: We love Akornebir and hope to continue the wonderful relationship we have with our members in the Canton. For quite a while after we began playing, I did not realize that the Canton was a separate group. A lot of other groups do not have such a strong relationship with their Canton, I want to make sure that our relationship stays strong and gets stronger.



In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Jousting Squirrel: *Jousting Squirrel: How do you see your roles as baron and baroness in terms of service to the barony and canton? What excites you about serving?*

Baron William: Being able to recognize those that are deserving and put a spotlight on the youth of our group as they are our future, as well as those who mentor tirelessly.

Baroness Anna: I feel as though we are ambassadors of the Barony and Canton. I feel a sense of pride in telling people I meet that we are from Wastekeep, but my excitement comes from being able to see the looks on people's faces when we recognize them for something they have done or provided.

Jousting Squirrel: *As a registered educational non-profit, how does SCA provide service and learning to the people of Wastekeep and Akornebir?*

Baron William: The knowledge base of SCA members, Peers and non-peers is outstanding. They are always willing to share that knowledge.

Baroness Anna: Our local populace is wonderful with sharing their knowledge and skills. We have very skilled and knowledgeable members who *love* to share their knowledge by teaching what they know to whoever would like to learn

from them. They are very generous with their time and their excitement to show someone else what they know is a wonderful thing to behold.

Jousting Squirrel: *What advice would you give to someone who wants to better serve their canton or barony?*

Baron William: Jump in. If you are not sure how to help, find an established member to mentor you. There is not really a "wrong" way to do service. As Baron, I would be honored to help you learn and feel comfortable in this aspect.

Baroness Anna: Don't be afraid to jump in! Be present, be active, and step outside your comfort zone.



More Cannon Photos



Book review

The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the 14th Century

by Ian Mortimer

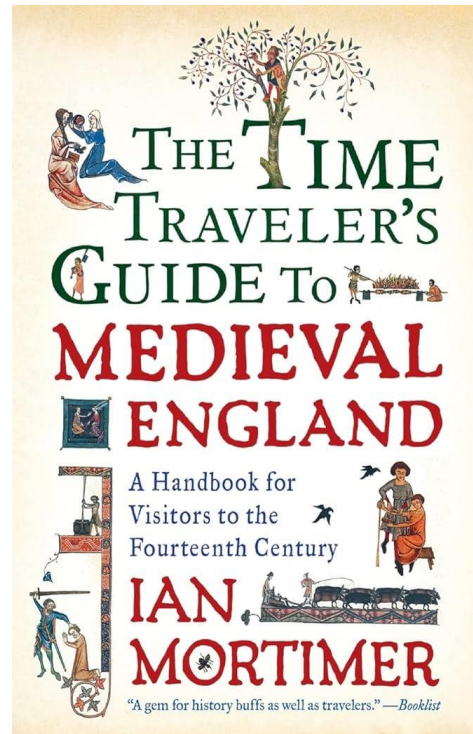
Review written by Cuthbert Weaver

Ian Mortimer's collection of "Time Traveler Guides" includes books on what it would be like to live in Elizabethan England, Regency England, and others, but it was this specific text on Medieval England caught my interest and I was immediately rewarded with a fascinating look back into some oft-forgotten history.

Mortimer places the reader in the thick of the action, often writing in second-person perspective, and I honestly felt truly transported at times to the feeling of being in the depths of a fourteenth-century ship during a dangerous ocean crossing, or approaching the edge of a smelly and noisy city. This second-person perspective of "you wake up in the belly of a dark rocking ship" or "you look out across your field of failing crops" is where Mortimer's writing is at its strongest. Too often though, his guide gets lost in pages of tables and charts comparing the different levels of bishops and archbishops, or the importance of a mayor compared to an mason. This isn't entirely without merit though, as it does help remind you of how complex, sophisticated, and hierarchical their civilization was over 600 years ago. And anyway, before you know it, you're back in the middle of gruesome and gripping plague stories, or learning about medieval pregnancies, herbal remedies, and breakfast options.

I really appreciated his approach to the genre, which is to treat the past like a tour guide treats the present, and to think of these historical people as still existing, not just as dusty skeletons.

Review Score: ★★★★★



Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting Minutes - Thur. June 6, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:30 pm with the following members in attendance: Thorkell, Gudrun, Lif, Kaitlin, Sadhbh, Ramon, Thorhalla, Galina, Cuthbert
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** May minutes were voted on and approved.
3. **Officer's Reports**
 - a. **Seneschal** (Thorkell)
 - i. Nothing to Report
 - b. **Chronicler** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Minutes have been fixed from last month. There will be a Jousting Squirrel Newsletter next month.
 - c. **Exchequer** (Kaitlin)
 - i. \$XXXX.XX balance in the Canton account.
 - d. **Herald** (Thorkell)
 - i. Thorkell will be going to the Known World Heraldic event in Pittsburgh this month.
 - e. **Marshal** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Need to reset the email password for the marshal account.
 - ii. We have a new fighter Stephanie who is learning rapier.
 - f. **Arts and Sciences** (Gudrun)
 - i. Traveled to Iron and Ink, which was a great event.
 - ii. Hoping to do more Arts & Sciences soon.
 - g. **Chatelaine** (Sadhbh)
 - i. Nothing to Report.
 - h. **Webminister** (Ramon)
 - i. Some spam reports on the website.
 - i. **Social Media** (Vacant)
4. **Upcoming Events in the Canton**
 - a. Planning for Disting Feast 2025 with no "As You Like It" in November. Needs to get figured out soon.
5. **Upcoming Events in the Barony**
 - b. Springfest is in Waitsburg this coming weekend
 - c. Sergeants will be in Benton City on August 24
6. **New Business**
 - a. Fourth of July Meeting Cancelled. No meeting in August.
7. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 5
8. **End of Meeting:** Adjourned @ 6.47 pm



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 Cuthbert Weaver
- ❖ 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 – Honorable Lord William McKenna
- ❖ Baroness - Honorable Lady Anna McKenna
- ❖ Seneschal – Duchess Dagrún Strjarna, OP, OL
- ❖ Exchequer – Lady Sadhbh Dhubh
- ❖ Marshal – Honorable Lord William McKenna
- ❖ Arts & Science – Mistress Ciosa, OP
- ❖ Chronicler – Mistress Catriona, OP
- ❖ Herald – Lord Cuthbert Weaver



Kingdom monarchs

- ❖ King of An Tir – Eirik Daegarsson II
- ❖ Queen of An Tir – Brynhildr Ansvarsdottir

