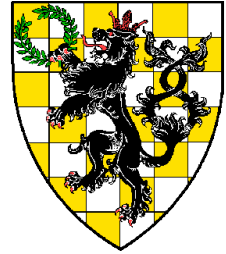


The Fousting Squirrel



December, Anno Societatis LIX (2024)

Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir

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

Wastekeep Collegium

In the first time for several years, Collegium is permanently back in Wastekeep as a baronial-level event, and its return was a filled with new classes, the presence of royal heirs, exciting hands-on learning opportunities, and so much more.

Baron William and Baroness Anna held court for their first Collegium as coronets of Wastekeep, and they awarded Lina Thyradottir and Nafnlaus Hetison with a pair of Blasted Trees. Baron William also awarded her excellency Anna and Mistress Ciosa with a Baron's Favor.

Attendees came from as far as Tir Righ and the Summits to share their wisdom and expertise and teach classes on the fiddle, designing medieval charters, how to write ancient Greek poetry, the history of witch trials, and many other topics. Canton members Lord Cuthbert and Honorable Lady Kaitlin taught sessions on screen-printing and women of the twelfth-century Renaissance respectively, while Mistress Gudrun and Master Thorkell were busy planning and organizing the event held at Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center.

A room filled with armor intrigued those who entered, and Lady Sadhbh and others took administrative-track classes on things like baronial finances. Be sure to come back for its return next year!



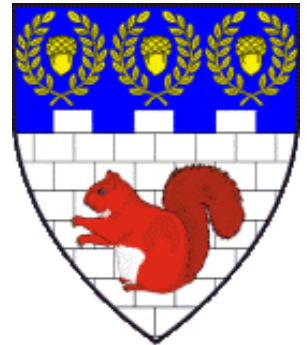
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about the canton of Akornebir

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

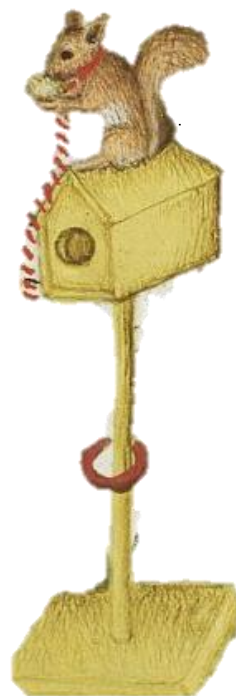
akornebir.antir.org

wastekeep.antir.org

The Squirrel press

Disting feast returns soon

The Canton of Akornebir will be holding the annual event known as Disting Feast on Saturday, February 1 at the Town Hall in Waitsburg where attendees can expect a delicious meal, rapier combat, the formalities of baronial court, and more. Named after the traditional Norse celebration to mark the turning of the seasons and planting of new crops, Disting Feast comes during the depths of An Tir winter as we look forward to spring. It's sure to warm the hearts of those who come with live music and bardic performances, as well as games, classes, competitions, and social activities. The sword fighting tournament will determine a new rapier champion for Akornebir, as well as the new Master of Skulduggery during the much-loved Tavern Brawl. The canton will also be choosing its newest Arts & Sciences champion with judges selecting the best entry from various projects put forth. The German-themed feast is a pre-registration meal with a small cost associated, so keep an eye out for details coming soon.



Northwest Vikings came to raid

Near the end of fall, several canton members carpoled down to Milton Freewater for a uniquely interesting festival hosted on the same site as the Dragon's Gate Renaissance Fair: The Northwest Viking Market and Festival. Thought not an SCA event, the market was open to a delighted public who bought tickets by the hundreds, but many tent-booths featured familiar faces from around An Tir.

The trip was organized by Mistress Gudrun who was able to reunite with several Viking reenactor friends from far and wide, and the canton quickly realized the tremendous potential with the festival happening here in our backyard each year. Cuthbert, Allison, Sadhbh, Svala, and Kjartan—who all joined Gudrun in visiting the magnificent event—enjoyed live Viking music, merchant stalls of the highest quality, food on sale, games and demonstration booths, and educational exhibits including an enormous Norse longship that can be seen on page 8. This two-day event was sponsored by the Northwest Viking Alliance, and is already scheduled for their return in 2025, on the weekend of October 11-12. There are already tentative plans to have a Canton of Akornebir presence at the event in the fall of 2025, and so if you're interested in being part of an authentic Viking re-enactment, please contact Mistress Gudrun, our Arts & Sciences coordinator.

practices heating up



While the Canton of Akornebir continues to search for an indoor spot in the winter to practice their rapier sword fights, the outdoor concrete shelter at Wildwood Park hosts regular get togethers to cross blades in the evening darkness.

Fluorescent lights overhead and the warmth of a propane heater makes each gathering cozy and warm-spirited, and it's not long before chilly fingertips heat up within leather gloves holding swords and daggers.

Fight practices even during the winter months are a near-weekly occasion, and only the rare practice is rescheduled due to weather or other circumstances.

The regular rapier fighters still include Thorkell, William, James, Cuthbert, Cody, and Mike, with Lif fighting often as well, and with the recent purchase of additional combat weaponry, there is room to grow. Recently, the group enjoyed the visit of Svala and Kjartan, as well as a pre-Christmas round of hot chocolates by the fire of the orange-glowing propane heater.

These winter months may prove an excellent opportunity to practice extra hard as the Akornebir rapier championship will be happening at the Disting Feast in Waitsburg on Saturday, February 1.





Upcoming Canton Activities And regional events

canton activities

- ❖ Fabric scurry and potluck lunch in Dayton: Saturday, Jan 4 @ 11am. 103 SE Sunny Drive, Dayton.
- ❖ Rapier fight practices at Wildwood Park, Walla Walla: Monday, Jan. 6 and Monday Jan. 13 @ 5:30pm.
- ❖ Online Zoom Wastekeep business meeting on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30pm.
- ❖ Canton business meeting will be on Thur. Feb. 6 at 6:30 at Chiquillas restaurant in Walla Walla.

regional events

- ❖ Twelfth Night Coronation: January 10 - 12 (Portland, OR)
- ❖ Disting Feast: February 1 in Akornebir (Waitsburg, WA)
- ❖ Kingdom Arts and Sciences and Queen's Rapier Championship: March 7-9 (Location TBD)
- ❖ Oasis War: March 22 in Cranehaven (Ephrata, WA)
- ❖ Baroness War: April 4-6 in Vulcanfeldt (Yakima County)

In service to the canon: an interview with a gentle

Jousting Squirrel: *What is your name in the SCA, as well as your hometown, and number of years you've been involved in the SCA?*

Kjartan: My name is Kjartan from Dayton, Washington, and it's a little difficult to say. My actual involvement with the SCA was maybe about five years.

Jousting Squirrel: *What are some of the things you enjoy doing in the SCA, your favorite activities, hobbies or ways to get involved?*

Kjartan: I enjoy the history of it all. Being able to share my knowledge, and learn from the knowledge of others, is a great experience. I love to carve wood. I'm also getting involved in leather crafting and hope to expand into working with metal.

My favorite thing about the SCA is the people.

As for ways of getting involved, bring up an idea! People are very encouraging and supportive.

Jousting Squirrel: *What are some of the less visible and less obvious ways that people serve in the SCA?*

Kjartan: I would say individual study. It's definitely not obvious, but it contributes to the overall experience with an individual's participation.



In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Jousting Squirrel: *What are some good ways for attendees to be of service at SCA events, and how have you enjoyed helping out in the past?*

Kjartan: So much has changed. One thing my wife did for a long time is to be a "feastocrat" or working preparing the food for event feasts. Myself, I taught a few classes.

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

Kjartan: Dame Kathrine. Her qualities as an individual and her contributions to the SCA over the years need no words.

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

Kjartan: This is a difficult question. Obviously, within the realm of SCA events, the opportunity to teach and learn are all around people. From formal classes to general discussion, the amount of knowledge that is passed around is one of the things I love. As for the community, this is something that needs work, and people. Being a small canton, it's difficult to interact as much with the community as we are presently.

Life is busy, people have families and obligations, and there is only so much that can be done without more members. Personally, I would like to see more outreach with other groups to give demonstrations or to allow participation within other groups. In the past, we've done so with local Cub Scouts, and even camped out and gave classes at the regional 4H summer camp. I'd like to do that again.

Jousting Squirrel: *What are some of your favorite memories over the years with SCA in the Walla Walla Valley, as well as beyond the canton limits?*

Kjartan: Definitely the interaction and adult life-long friendships I've established with people--people whom I never would have met if not for the SCA.

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

Kjartan: Don't be afraid. Be it within the mechanics required to facilitate a functioning canton or offering participation in events, limitations are few.



More Camton Photos



Book review

Matrix by Lauren Groff

Review written by Cuthbert Weaver

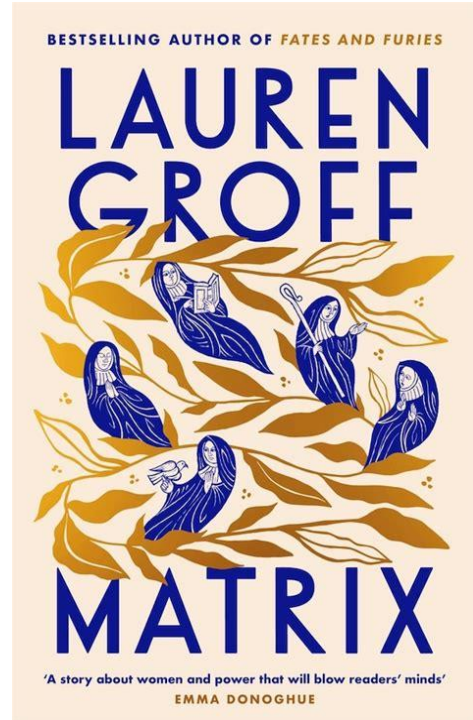
I originally started reading Lauren Groff's historical novel *Matrix* for an arts and sciences research project. Set in England and France during the late 1100s, its story of Marie de France provided me with valuable insight into how women contributed to the Twelfth Century Renaissance, but the book quickly became much more personal and emotional than I expected.

The author positions Marie de France in the convent that she likely led during the latter stages of her life, but as a historical figure, we don't know that much about her. Her contributions to the medieval period are strictly literary, but *Matrix* fills in the gaps with a speculative, mysterious, spiritual, and relatable tale of forbidden desires, feminine ambition in a patriarchal society, and the complexities of how Marie's friendship with Eleanor of Aquitaine changes over time.

Marie de France is only a seventeen-year old aristocrat when the story begins and must rebuild a nunnery through famine and disease, all while struggling to understand the strange visions of the Virgin Mary she keeps receiving, visions that confuse the reader as they do the protagonist.

You feel deeply immersed, often overwhelmed, by the tedious daily life of a nun in twelfth century England, quickly having to understand the prayer schedule of terce, matin, vespers, and compline, as well as the different roles in the convent: cellatrix, prioress, infirmatrix, and the spiritually central role of the matrix herself. By the end, I loved how the novel centered creativity in the spiritual realm, and inspires us all to build, write, or make other art of our own as part of a wider contribution to our community and to history.

Review Score: ★★★★★☆



Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2024

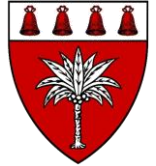
1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:31 pm with Thorkell, Gudrun, Sadhbh, Ramon, and Cuthbert in attendance
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** November minutes were motioned, voted on and approved
3. **Officer's Reports**
 - a. **Seneschal** (Thorkell)
 - i. Reports are due after next meeting
 - b. **Chronicler** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Minutes from last month were posted to the Facebook page and uploaded to the website.
 - ii. There will be a *Jousting Squirrel* newsletter in December
 - c. **Exchequer** (Kaitlin)
 - i. \$XXXX.XX balance in the Canton account
 - ii. Some problems continue with our US Bank account
 - d. **Herald** (Thorkell)
 - i. Digital submissions continue for heraldry if anyone is interested
 - e. **Marshall** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Regular practices are going well at Wildwood Park
 - ii. There will be a 2-3 week break in late December / early January for the holidays
 - iii. Still investigating multiple possibilities for a winter location. Kathy's shop is not available yet, but the Walla Walla Police Department might have a room to use
 - f. **Arts and Sciences** (Gudrun)
 - i. Hoping to plan a scurry soon, but the holidays will be a busy time
 - ii. Gudrun will be doing some soapstone carving this coming weekend
 - g. **Chatelaine** (Sadhbh)
 - i. Planning to gather info on different event locations for the barony and canton
 - ii. The Newcomer's online series is wrapping up
 - h. **Webminister** (Ramon)
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - i. **Social Media** (Vacant)
 - i. Quiet as of late
4. **Upcoming Events in the Canton**
 - a. Disting Feast will be on Saturday Feb. 1 at the Waitsburg Town Hall
 - b. There are currently problems on the kingdom calendar website leading to a lack of visible information
 - c. The menu for the pre-reg feast was explained
5. **Upcoming Events in the Barony**
 - a. Field of Dreams in the Shire of the Four Rivers (sponsored by Wastekeep) is on Dec. 28 in Ontario, OR
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Kathy's shop is not available yet for fight practice, and the REA has not been contacted yet
7. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 2 @ 6:30pm at the Mexican restaurant
8. **End of Meeting:** Adjourned @ 6.58 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

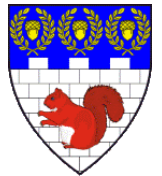
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Canton officers

- ❖ 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 officers

- ❖ Baron – Honorable Lord William McKenna
- ❖ Baroness - Honorable Lady Anna McKenna
- ❖ Seneschal – Lord Eldrick von Muth
- ❖ Exchequer – Lady Sadhbh Dhubh
- ❖ Marshal – Lord Oswald of the North Sea
- ❖ Chamberlain – Honorable Lady Kaitlin
- ❖ Arts & Science – Mistress Ciosa, OP
- ❖ Chronicler – Mistress Catriona, OP
- ❖ Herald – Lord Cuthbert Weaver
- ❖ Scribe – Honorable Lady Mairghread



Kingdom monarchs

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

