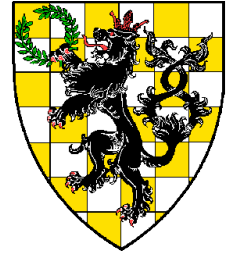


The Sousting Squirrel



March, Anno Societatis LIX (2025)

Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir

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

Disting Feast returns

For the second year, the Canton of Akornebir held its winter tavern Disting Feast at the Waitsburg Town Hall, and people came from near and far to eat, fight, and fellowship. Named after the traditional Norse celebration to mark the end of winter and the sowing of new crops, this Disting Feast included the baronial court of Baron William and Baroness Anna, along with several classes, live music, a served feast, and a rapier tavern brawl.

The Canton hosted its rapier championship alongside its yearly tournament for arts and sciences. After the judges inspected several worthy entrees, like a hand-crafted wooden chest and burned-wood art, Mistress Ciosa was named A&S champion, and she was actually wearing her competition item—a beautifully handmade Renaissance gown. The German-served feast was excellently prepared by Honorable Lady Kaitlin and her team of chefs. The Rapier championship was won by Lord Cuthbert, while Master Thorkell emerged victorious with the Skulduggery cloak, despite serving as marshal of the tournament!

To end the day, during court, after Baronessa Julia Sempronia was named Honorary Citizen of Wastekeep, Baronial bardic champion Lord Panfilo surprised the crowd with witty stories and songs.



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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

Iron and Ink in Akornebir

The home grounds of Dame Katherine and Lord Neil will host Iron & Ink in late spring within the boundaries of the canton, and it is sure to be an exciting event with lots of hands-on activities for attendees. The weekend is organized and run by the College of Lyonsmarche, but will be in Waitsburg this year, and will be taking place from Friday, June 13 to Sunday, June 15. There will be camping spots available and an archery range set up for usage also.

Iron & Ink is advertised as a "No-Garb" event "focused on Hands-On learning and demos for all aspects of SCA with a heavy emphasis on Arts and Sciences." Previous years have featured repoussé metal classes and advanced pottery techniques. In addition, there are still spots for people interested in teaching a class should you find yourself so inclined. If you have other questions, contact the event steward for more information at the following email address: sig_skaldsdottir@creativelyhammered.com.



let it sew, let it sew, let it sew

The Canton of Akornebir continues to work hard to pay its taxes to the Barony of Wastekeep through the making of largesse, specifically by cutting out and sewing fabric bags. This undertaking was the arts-and-sciences activity chosen for a pair of scurries in recent weeks, hosted by Svala and Kjartan at their house in Dayton, and then by Cuthbert and Lauren in College Place.

Crafting largesse donations for the barony serves as an opportunity to not only learn a new historical skill, but also to provide the baron and baroness with prizes and giveaways for award winners and newcomers at future events.

Each scurry brought canton members together for some sandwiches, while they also worked on some individual projects, like Fausto's ukulele-lute music and Kjartan's wood carving. The group cut out and sewed satchel cloth bags, first by preparing and pinning the fabric at Svala's and then using Lauren's sewing machine to bring it all together. While Cuthbert tried not to get the thread all tangled up, Mistress Gudrun was able to demonstrate to everyone else just how fast it can actually be done. Now that the nicer weather is here, and the camping events have started, indoor scurries will likely be replaced by some outdoor art-and-science gatherings, possibly in coordination with fight practices in the park.

finding new fighters



The Canton of Akornebir has been holding a mini-recruitment drive the last few weeks, and fighter practices have seen an increase in attendance, with half a dozen new fencers picking up a sword to try their hand at combat. Some visitors had prior experience in Olympic-style fencing, others with HEMA, but for most it was a new activity. Baron Thorkell, Lords William and Cuthbert, along with James and other canton members, all helped introduce our newcomers to rapier fencing and told them more about other things that the Society for Creative Anachronism has to offer. After an online notice was posted in a couple of local Facebook groups, several interested parties got in contact, and the regular canton practice swelled with teens and their parents, as well as others of all ages wanting to learn.

In between Monday sessions, Lord Cuthbert and Baron Thorkell were also able to attend Oasis War to kick off the war-and-camping season and get some fencing practice in with other out-of-area fighters.

Be sure to come to practice on Monday, April 7 as some out-of-area Masters of Defense are planning to make an appearance to fight and help teach too.



UPCOMING CANTON ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL EVENTS

CANTON ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Rapier fight practices are on Mondays @ 5:30pm at Wildwood Park, Walla Walla.
- ❖ Canton business meeting will be on Thur. Apr. 3 at 6:30 at Chiquillas restaurant in Walla Walla.
- ❖ Online Zoom Wastekeep business meeting on Thursday, April 10 at 6:30pm.
- ❖ Arts & Science scurries for the spring are likely to coincide with fighter practices. Stay tuned!

REGIONAL EVENTS

- ❖ Baroness War: April 4-6 in Vulcanfeldt (Grandview, WA)
- ❖ Honor War: April 11-13 in Lyonsmarche (Clarkston, WA)
- ❖ May Crown: March 7-9 in Vulcanfeldt (Grandview, WA)
- ❖ Springfest: June 6-8 in Wastekeep (Mesa, WA)
- ❖ Iron & Ink: June 13-15, hosted by Lyonsmarche in the boundaries of Akornebir (Waitsburg, WA)

In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Over the past few years, our newsletter The Jousting Squirrel has interviewed a different member of the canton each issue about service and how to give back to the SCA in different ways.

We would like to thanks both Svala and Kjartan for demonstrating this concept when they hosted a fabric scurry at their house recently, as one of our winter Arts and Sciences get-togethers.

Jousting Squirrel: *Thank you for answering our questions today! What is you names, both in the SCA and in real mundane life, as well as your hometown, and number of years you've been involved in the SCA?*

Svala: My name is Svala, but I don't have a last name yet. My mundane name is Jennifer Sublett. I live in Dayton, and I've been involved off and on for over twenty years.

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

Svala: I used to "feastocrat" a lot and that was how I was involved mostly. I did start the "Great Boke" (yearbook) at one time too. Not sure if it is still around or not. I've been the exchequer for a while too. At camping events, our campfire was where kids could hang out and smores were aplenty.



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, perhaps with families or kids?*

Svala: One could help by attending the crown and fighters, and helping with gate is always appreciated. I did the campfire for kids and helped with Pied Piper activities because my kids were young then.

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

Svala: Well you can also help by making items for gold key or by offering feast gear to newcomers. You can also make site tokens. There are so many things.

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

Svala: Well, I haven't been involved really for a long time, and so I am still learning who all the active local players are.

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?*

Svala: I think through one of my favorite parts, which is learning all the different arts and sciences and how those things were done. I think that really is the best thing that SCA offers.

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

Svala: I would say to figure out what it is you like doing, find someone that is doing it, and offer to help.

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

Svala: My favorite memories usually involved the different kids I've watched grow up. I also loved roaming campfires at events and meeting others.



More Cannon Photos



BOOK REVIEW

The Road to Burgundy by Ray Walker

Review written by Cuthbert Weaver

Ray Walker's *Road to Burgundy* is at its core an SCA instructional manual for the arts and sciences, even if the author did not intend for it to be so.

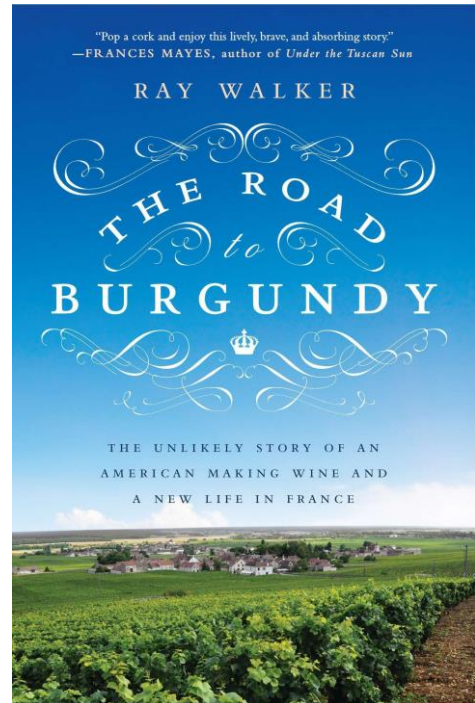
This passionate travel memoir begins in San Francisco where Walker begins to question his life in corporate finance, and instead dedicates himself to understanding how his favorite wine from Burgundy is made. When he brings his family from California to France, Walker quickly learns how overwhelming the process of winemaking can be, that not everyone in Burgundy can be trusted, and that the ancient magic of turning French grapes into alcohol is far less complicated than the bureaucracy for Americans trying to start a business in the European Union.

When he does start to make his own vintage, he does so by avoiding most modern methods, instead embracing slower, older, and gentler techniques. In a real-life project that would make the judges at Kingdom Arts and Sciences swoon, Walker emulates the centuries-old traditions of French wine-making in Burgundy—from sorting the grape clusters by hand, through their mysterious fermentation process, to eventually even storing them in an old medieval-style cave.

An inspiring role model for lifelong learners, Walker has to quickly adapt to the French language, negotiate and get investors on board, as well as master the history of the region and its knowledge of local soils, vines and climates.

I got lost trying not to confuse one chateau with another, but the book is a great read for people who have always wanted to pursue an impossible dream, or for those yearning to travel across continents or back in time to a slower era.

Review Score: ★★★★★☆



Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting Minutes – Thur. Mar. 6, 2025

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:30 pm with Cuthbert, Lauren, Thorkell, Kaitlin, Allison, Sadhbh, and Katherine
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** February minutes needed to have Kaitlin's name added to roll call, but were then approved
3. **Officer's Reports**

- a. **Seneschal** (Thorkell)
 - i. Looking for anyone interested in the seneschal job
 - ii. Quarter ends this month
- b. **Chronicler** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Minutes will have Kaitlin's name added.
 - ii. Jousting Squirrel newsletter should come out next week.
- c. **Exchequer** (Kaitlin)
 - i. \$XXXX.XX balance in the Canton account with \$XXX.XX made at Disting Feast. Event closed out.
- d. **Herald** (Thorkell)
 - i. Discussion on names for Lauren
- e. **Marshall** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Been pretty quiet recently.
 - ii. We are still practicing on Mondays at Wildwood Park. 5.30pm.
- f. **Arts and Sciences** (Gudrun) (Not Present)
 - i. Nothing to Report
- g. **Chatelaine** (Sadhbh)
 - i. Nothing to Report and interested in stepping down
- h. **Webminister** (Ramon) (Not Present)
 - i. Nothing to Report
- i. **Social Media** (Vacant)
 - i. Nothing to Report



4. Upcoming Events in the Canton

- a. A&S Scurry at Cuthbert and Lauren's house in College Place on March 15, 10am
- b. Sewing together the bags we pinned.
- c. There will be sandwiches to put together.

5. Upcoming Events in the Barony

- a. Fight practice is each Wednesday
- b. Springfest is June 6-8 and will be a "Tournament-of-Tournaments" style event

6. Upcoming Events in the Kingdom or Inlands

- a. Discussion on who might be attending various events including KASR, Oasis War, Baroness and Honor Wars
- b. May Crown is nearby in Grandview from May 16-18

7. Old Business

- a. Recap of Disting Feast details with information that we had 55 adults, 2 kids and 45 for the feast itself

8. No New Business

9. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 3rd @ 6:30pm at the Mexican restaurant

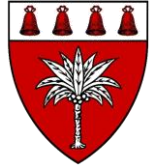
10. **End of Meeting:** Adjourned @ 7.04 pm



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 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

