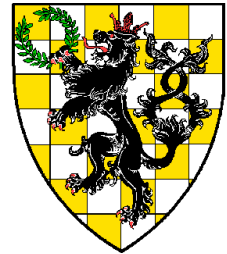
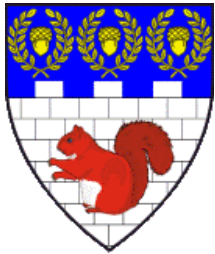


The Jousting Squirrel



September, Anno Societatis LX (2025)

Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir

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

Swimming Sergeants

The Barony of Wastekeep held its annual Sergeantry Trials event last month, and for the first time it was hosted at the home, and swimming pool, of Mistress Ciosa and family. The smaller, end-of-summer day event featured a library book giveaway, court, and both heavy and rapier fight practices. However, the event is best known for written tests and presentations given by candidates hoping to join the ranks of the Wastekeep sergeantry.

The swimming pool session after a hot day dancing and fighting in the sun was an especially welcome addition, and attendees began chatting about trying to find more aquatic options for SCA events in the future, perhaps even with a court held in the pool itself! The Canton of Akornebir brought a contingent of half a dozen local members over from Walla Walla, including some newcomers attending their first ever SCA event.

The sergeantry met to make adjustments to their reporting structure, planned event attendance, and testing requirements, for a group with its membership often evolving.

While no candidates passed the exams this particular year, with some unable to attend, there is cause for optimism in the future as several new candidates declaring their intentions to enter next year's trials.



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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

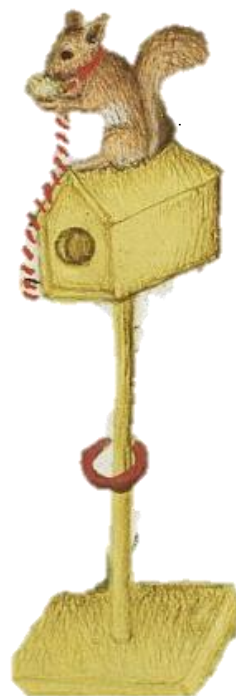
wastekeep.antir.org

The Squirrel press

newcomers on the calendar

The Canton of Akornebir is planning to hold its first Newcomers event in almost four years, currently scheduled for the first weekend of May, 2026. From Friday the 1st to Sunday the 3rd, attendees will have the chance to camp out in Preston Park, Waitsburg, where all sorts of activities will be arranged for the public to come and see what the SCA is all about. Previous versions of this event have included classes in scribal arts, combat training, archery, and heraldry, all specifically designed for those brand new to the society.

In addition to the event being an immersive welcome party for first-time attendees, the canton will also use the weekend to host its heavy fighting championship and archery championship. Baron William and Baroness Anna of Wastekeep will host a couple of court sessions to both show the public a typical court, and to award championship scrolls and more. Make sure to bring a friend!



wastekeep autumn events line up

The Barony of Wastekeep has an increased schedule of even more exciting events to look forward to over the next few months. During October, November, and December, locations in the Greater Tri-Cities area will be hosting three SCA get-togethers for our local members, as well as those coming from further afield, including our reigning monarchs.

First up is our annual Baron's Ball, hosted for the first time at Basin City Memorial Park, a location familiar to those who attended June Springfest. The weekend campout from October 3-5 will include the field battles, merchant wares, and both bardic and A&S championships that the event has traditionally featured.

Almost exactly one month later, the barony will then host a weekend Collegium, from November 7-9, after it permanently returned to being a Wastekeep event in recent years. This arts-and-sciences indoor convention features classes and hands-on activities for attendees of all experience levels, as well as a royal court and local peerage elevations. There at least four class tracks planned in areas such as scribal arts, persona development, history and more.

Lastly, December 13th will see the return of Wastekeep Yule for the first time in three years. This indoor feast in the Tri-Cities has traditionally featured opportunities for gift-giving and medieval table games, so please plan to attend!

Straight to the point



A new weapon is being used for the first time at Akornebir rapier fight practices. In addition to our typical swords, daggers, shields, and batons, the inclusion of a long wooden spear has made the local fighters re-think how to approach both offense and defense.

It's a sight more typically seen on the heavy combat field and reminiscent of a pike used to face down cavalry, but these rattan spears with their rubber blade and tips have recently been approved for use in the SCA Fencing Marshals' Handbook.

They currently require a separate authorization, given the difficulty in landing soft touches with a rattan pole and how easy it can be to attack to forcefully.

As such, they aren't too many local members fully trained yet in the usage of these spears.

Our canton's recently elevated Master of Defense Thorkell has been giving hands-on lessons in how to defend against its long reach and deceptively quick attack, with the basic defensive strategy to get inside the spear's reach as quick as possible.

Spears in rapier combat are only authorized for practices and war scenarios, but not in tournaments and championships.



Upcoming Canton Activities And regional events

canton activities

- ❖ Rapier fight practices are on Mondays @ 6:00pm in Pioneer Park, Walla Walla.
- ❖ Autumn scurries coming soon. Keep an eye on the canton Facebook page for more info!
- ❖ Canton business meeting will be on Thur. Oct. 2 at 6:30pm in Walla Walla. Location to be announced.
- ❖ Online Zoom Wastekeep business meeting on Thursday, Oct. 9 at 6:30pm.

regional events

- ❖ Vulcanalia: Sept. 19-21 in Vulcanfeldt (Union Gap, WA)
- ❖ Baron's Ball: October 3-5 in the Barony of Wastekeep (Mesa, WA)
- ❖ Octoberfeast: October 11 in Wealdsmere (Spokane Valley, WA)
- ❖ Collegium: November 7-9 in Wastekeep (Tri-Cities, WA)
- ❖ Yule: December 13 in Wastekeep (Tri-Cities, WA)

In service to the canon: an interview with a gentle

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

Tova: My SCA name is Tova Fransdottir and my mundane name is Diane Lillibridge. I am originally from Ohio, then moved to Lewiston, Idaho after college. Lewiston is east of Akornebir in the An Tir branch of the College of Lyonsmarche. I was part of a Viking Vanirlag/RPP household for three years before I discovered the SCA twenty-five years ago.

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

Tova: I'm probably best known for home brewing beer which I contribute to vigils and other SCA parties along with Root Beer & Ginger Ale sodas for youth and those who don't imbibe. I love to cook. Over the years, many classes at SCA events have become hobbies - medieval cooking, Viking embroidery, nalbinding, inkle & tablet weaving, finger loop braiding, and sewing garb for my family.

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?*

Tova: Be observant. Does someone need help carrying a chair or a basket to the erics or court? Is someone trying to set up a tent and can you lend a hand? A moment of your time can mean so much to someone else who is struggling.

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

Honorary Citizen of Akornebir



In service to the Canton: an interview with a gentle

Tova: Consider volunteering to be a branch officer deputy (assistant) or an officer.

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

Tova : I may be somewhat biased, but I would say my husband Phelan Tolusmidr. While I was back at camp with our children, he would be running around helping set up pavilions and tents. He served as Kingdom Dexter Gauntlet entering awards into the OP (Order of Precedence), became a Wastekeep Artisan, Sergeant, Laurel, Pelican, and then Knight.

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

Tova: Be inquisitive; be a life long learner. Take a class at an SCA event. You never know how it might inspire you to learn something amazing. Then someday, share what you've learned by teaching a class at a future SCA event.

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

Tova: Attend your monthly branch Council (business) meeting to keep informed. Be able to contribute input about regional activities, and perhaps volunteer.

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?*

Tova: Phelan and I had only been dating for a month when I learned about the SCA from my RPP friends. I sewed him a t-tunic, and then we drove two hours to our first SCA event in February 2000, which was the Court of Love hosted by the incipient Canton of Akornebir. The event was held at Walla Walla's Pioneer Park in the Garden Center building. I fondly recall there was a cheerful fire inside. We attended so many Inland events in the following years. At an Akornebir Harvest Feast on November 15, 2003, both Phelan and I were both given our first SCA scrolls and became Honorary Citizens of Akornebir.



Spoonful of the past



Norse Harvest Feast 3 AS38



Jousting Squirrel: In our interview with Honorary Canton Citizen Tova Frandsdottir, she unearthed a beautiful Akornebir artifact with an interesting story to go with it. Thank you for the show and tell Tova!

Tova: I have a couple of pictures to send! I have a wood-burned spoon from the Akornebir Norse Harvest Feast Cooking Competition in A.S. 38 (2003-2004). The elder futhark runes are phonetic. I won this wood cooking spoon in that cooking competition at Akornebir's Norse Harvest Feast.

It was a tie, so then we played rock, paper, scissors, which I won. It became apparently that I had never played that game before since I was convinced that rock always won.

Alas, no Akornebir scrolls in our unframed stash of awards, but I am going to get Phelan to help me hunt for my Honorary Citizen scroll to take a photo because I remember small ones!

More Canon photos



BOOK REVIEW

***Femina: A New History of the Middle Ages, Through the Women Written Out of It* by Janina Ramirez**

Review written by Cuthbert Weaver

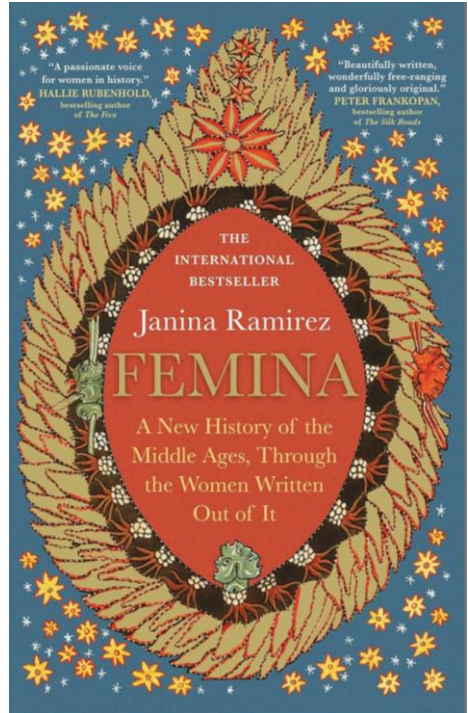
Femina by Janina Ramirez reminds readers that one of the reasons we know more about the prominent men from the Middle Ages than we do the women, is that there was a concerted effort to remove any feminine contributions to history by male chroniclers of later centuries. This non-fiction exploration of some of the most important medieval women in history goes far to address that balance, while also encouraging readers to use it as a starting point to find more stories and contribute to this ever-evolving task.

Ramirez divides the book with a series of fascinating chapters to tell these women's histories such as "warriors and leaders", "spies and outlaws", or "polymaths and scientists". This was a valuable way to remind the reader that these women fought, created, or explored with their male counterparts, often times in tales that would make Hollywood screenwriters jealous with envy.

One of those polymaths is the Hildegard of Bingen, the German abbess who published music, pioneered ground-breaking medical treatments, was revered as a theologian of the highest order, and grew a botanical garden that even led to breakthroughs in brewing. An earlier chapter is a forensic examination of a Norse female skeleton which demonstrated that Viking women fought alongside men to a much greater degree than previously thought.

The author begins these chapters introducing the women and men whose modern archaeology led to the discoveries of these medieval stories. It's a fitting way to bookend the contributions of women from each end of the millennium.

Review Score: ★★★★★☆



Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting Minutes – Thur. Sept. 4, 2025

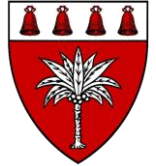
1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:00 pm with Kathy, Thorkell, Gudrun, Kaitlin, Cuthbert, Allison, Galina, Baron William
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** August Minutes were voted on and approved
3. **Officer's Reports**
 - a. **Seneschal** (Katherine)
 - i. Ulfgar and Ulhara are the new crown prince and princess
 - ii. There will be a Yule on December 13 in Wastekeep
 - b. **Exchequer** (Kaitlin)
 - i. Kaitlin is currently extending her warranty after it expired
 - ii. \$XXXX.XX balance in the Canton account with a check for XX.XX deposited
 - c. **Herald** (Thorkell)
 - i. Nothing to Report
 - d. **Marshall** (Cuthbert)
 - i. Replacement loaner sword blade is coming. It is covered under the warranty. We pay shipping.
 - ii. Thorkell would like \$24.50 for the spear. Vote was held and money approved
 - e. **Chronicler** (Cuthbert)
 - i. September issue of the Jousting Squirrel is coming out soon.
 - f. **Arts and Sciences** (Gudrun)
 - i. Getting into fall with scurries coming soon.
 - ii. Discussions on giving out largesse will be happening too
 - g. **Chatelaine** (Sadhbh) (Not Present)
 - i. No Report Given
 - h. **Webminister** (Ramon) (Not Present)
 - i. Nothing to Report
 - i. **Social Media** (Open Position)
4. **Upcoming Events in the Canton**
 - a. Disting Feast is stewarded by Cuthbert by there is a need to fix the website
5. **Upcoming Inlands Events**
 - a. Border War is Sept. 12-14
 - b. Vulcanalia is Sept. 19-21
 - c. Baron's Ball is Oct 3-5
 - d. Octoberfeast is Oct. 11
 - e. Collegium is Nov. 7-9
6. **Old Business**
 - a. No Old Business
7. **New Business**
 - a. Discussion of canton honorary members and if future awards should be given
 - b. Newcomers will be held 1st weekend of May and stewarded by Darby
8. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 2nd
9. **End of Meeting:** Adjourned @ 6.30 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 – Dame Katherine, OP
- ❖ Exchequer – Honorable Lady Kaitlin
- ❖ Marshal – Lord Cuthbert Weaver
- ❖ Arts & Sciences – 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 – Master William McKenna, OP
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Webminister – His Lordship Sindri inn hárfagri



Kingdom monarchs

- ❖ King of An Tir – Sir Octamasades Skuthikos, KSCA
- ❖ Queen of An Tir – Achaxe Ek Auchatae, OP, OL

