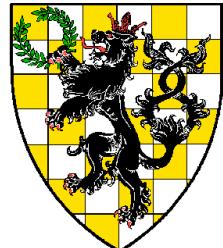
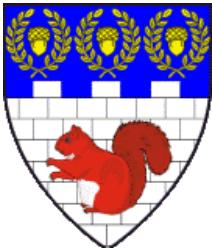


# The Tousling Squirrels



February, Anno Societatis LX (2026)

Newsletter for The Canton of Akornebir

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

## A seasonal feast for all

After a couple of years on hiatus, Wastekeep Yule returned for the 2025-2026 year, known in the society as Anno Societas LX, or the sixtieth year of the SCA. The event was held in the Waitsburg Town Hall, within the boundaries of the Canton of Akornebir, and members from both groups as well as travelers from further afield, all came together to plan and host a fun-filled holiday get together.

The potluck lunch meal was bookended on either side by gift exchanges, music practices, board games, and scroll painting workshops for several newcomers who attended. There was excellent weather compared to previous, more icy Yule feasts, and Baroness Anna and Baron William held court for the populace where several awards were handed out. Mistress Ciosa was awarded the Silver Muse and Mistress Gudrun was awarded the Silver Fox, while Lord Panfilo was given the Screaming Gull for contributions to the bardic arts. Most of the day was spent in fellowship and relaxation. After all, the heart of any SCA event is social time with friends.

The afternoon concluded with a round of satirical Christmas carols with amusing lyrics taken from the decades-old SCA songbook. These crowd-pleasing songs with instrumental accompaniment may well become a new Yule tradition.



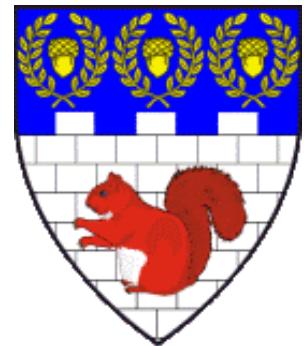
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## About the Canton of Akornebir

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](http://www.sca.org)  
[www.sca.org/new-to-the-sca/](http://www.sca.org/new-to-the-sca/)

[www.antir.org](http://www.antir.org)  
[akornebir.antir.org](http://akornebir.antir.org)  
[wastekeep.antir.org](http://wastekeep.antir.org)

# The Squirrel press

## New local office holders

The Barony of Wastekeep and Canton of Akornebir have both been playing musical chairs as officers shuffle around to new positions, some spots filled by SCA veterans and others occupied by first-time office-holders.

In the canton, Honorable Lord Ramon de Leon has stepped into the role of chatelaine, an office in charge of welcoming new members. For Wastekeep, several members expressed interest in open office positions, and with the guidance of our coronets and an officer vote, new candidates were selected. Natalie of Wastekeep will be replacing Mistress Catriona as our baronial chronicler. Kennari Sindri is taking up the position of exchequer after Lady Sadhbh stepped down. Finally, our newest marshal for Wastekeep is Lord Hiram who will be replacing Lord Oswald. Thank you to all of these officers, both past and present, for their work.



## A medieval month for Biscuit the fool

If you look closely at the pages of this month's newsletter, and listen attentively during court at Disting Feast, you'll notice a couple of newly started traditions, courtesy of one of our local members. Part of the SCA lifestyle is delving deeply into the history of a previous era, and some re-enactors continue this into their ordinary day-to-day lives. Biscuit the Fool, known mundanely as Russell, spent much of the past month living the life of a medieval time-traveler dropped off in a modern world. Firstly, there's the fact that Biscuit was late to our Monday evening gathering because of a need to care for mules and is also a regular rapier sword fighter, probably carrying around steel-induced bruises from week to week like the rest of us.

Following that particular event, Biscuit then told us of an evening plan to play the ancient Chinese game of Go with some community members. Only just a few weeks ago, Biscuit taught a class on elementary juggling skills to a group of children at the Walla Walla Public Library, a fitting endeavor for Wastekeep's newest Bardic Champion. On page 11 of this issue, you'll also see Biscuit's article on medieval theater, part of a new regular column series on the bardic arts, called "Crumbs from the Biscuit". Given that Biscuit is our baronial champion for the musical or spoken word performances, our very own fool will be leading the new canton bardic championship at Disting Feast on Feb. 7.

# warm for the winter



The College Place Youth Center continues to provide the Canton of Akornebir with a warm weekly gathering space these past couple of months. What began as a fight practice location only has now turned into a multi-use winter facility where our SCA members, friends, and visitors play music, work on some art projects, discuss future plans, and play board games. The basketball court and roller rink has a nice carpeted area off to the side where our group has been able to set up tables for fabric stamping, courtesy of Honorable Lady Kaitlin. During a previous week's session, rapier fighters were able to duel to accompanying live violin music performed by our local bardic talent Broklauss Varangr.

Our canton chatelaine Honorable Lord Ramon de Leon has graciously dedicated several hours this winter to teaching newcomers about the SCA, as well as playing board games with them. Then there was the week that Magdi and Cem came to visit from Vulkanfeldt, which provided our rapier fencers with a chance to duel another very experienced fighter, and we also went out to eat dinner afterwards. Come join us each Monday from 5:30pm until 7:00pm!



# Upcoming Canton Activities And regional events

## canton activities

- ❖ Rapier indoor fight practices are on Mondays @ 5:30pm at the Youth Center, 36 SW 8th St, College Place
- ❖ Winter arts & crafts “scurries” will be aligning with the fight practices above. Same time and place!
- ❖ Canton business meeting is Mon. March 2 at 5:30pm in the Youth Center, 36 SW 8th St, College Place
- ❖ Online Zoom Wastekeep business meetings on Thursday, Feb. 12 and Thursday Mar. 12 at 6:30pm.

## regional events

- ❖ Disting Feast: February 7 in Akornebir (Waitsburg, WA)
- ❖ Oasis War: Saturday, March 21 in Cranehaven (Ephrata, WA)
- ❖ Baroness War: March 27-29 in the Barony of Vulcanfeldt (Grandview, WA)
- ❖ Honor War: April 10-12 in Lyonsmarche (Silcott, WA)
- ❖ Newcomer Encampment: May 1-3 in Akornebir (Waitsburg, WA)

# In service to the canon: an interview with a gentle

**Jousting Squirrel:** What is your name in the SCA and in "mundane" life? Where is your hometown, and how many years have you been involved with the SCA?

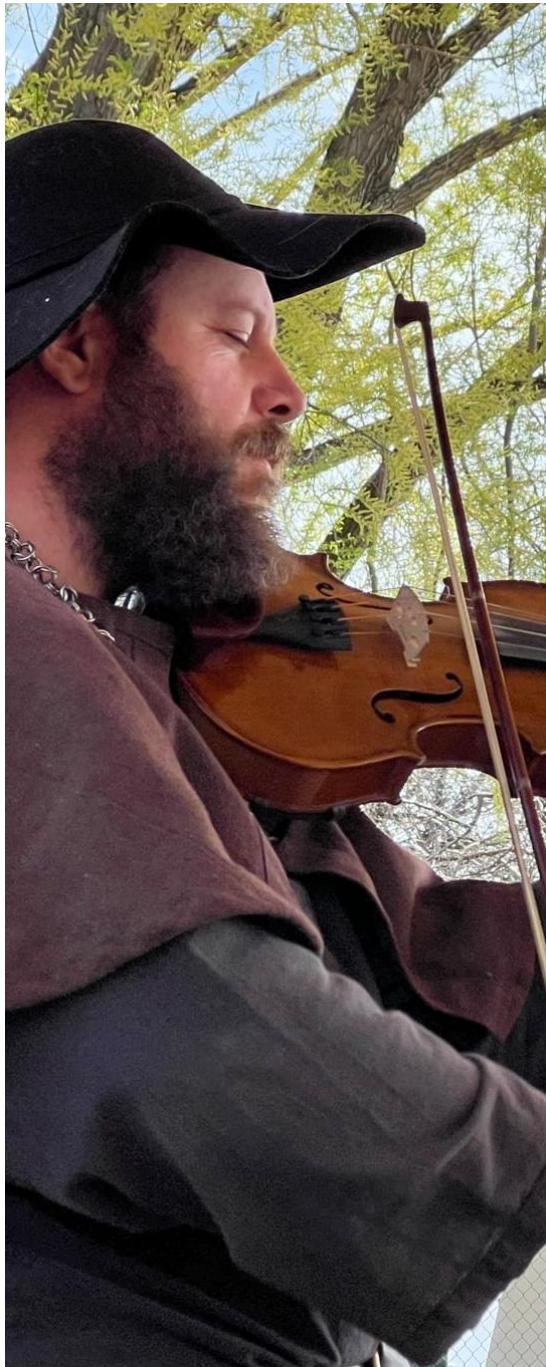
**Broklauss:** My SCA name is Broklauss Varangr, my real name is Bryan and I am originally from Ramona, CA. I've been active in the SCA for about four years.

**Jousting Squirrel:** What are your favorite SCA activities? What are some ways that you like to get involved?

**Broklauss:** I really enjoy playing music for people and jamming with others at events. My wife and I also enjoy leather craft and archery. The best way I have been able to get involved has been teaching musicality classes at events though I am pretty new to this and have only taught a handful of classes to date.

**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?

**Broklauss:** Gate duty is an easy one. That is how I started volunteering. Firewatch is a great way to meet people and help keep things safe. I have experience teaching in my mundane life so I enjoy teaching classes the most. It does not take much to get me geeking out with folks about music and I have had some really fun conversations in those classes.



# In service to the canton: an interview with a gentle

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

**Broklauss:** Be nice to newcomers and act as mentors if you can. I was very fortunate to meet many awesome people in the first few years. Through those few acts of kindness and finding a sense of community, I was inspired to learn the fiddle—long story. This led to a few key memories for me. I've had people dancing in the street while I play. That was a cool feeling. I got to meet some amazing musicians and even had a chance to do a little bit of mentorship myself. Kindness has a ripple effect and it can have widespread impacts over time.

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

**Broklauss:** There are so many; it's inspiring, but two people stand out to me: Magdi Tynkere and Cem Hadar. They are first on the scene to setup, last on the scene breaking down, teaching classes and constantly running gate or other logistical things important to the operation of events. When I mentioned the kindness aspect of service in question, many people came to mind. Magdi and Cem were two of them. We are lucky to have them.

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

**Broklauss:** Don't be afraid to ask, "How do I get involved?" Trust me, people will start to introduce you to other people and you will then know the best way to get involved. It's like a sense of community that pulls you in and the who-knows-who aspect is a fun part of the game.

**Jousting Squirrel:** What are some of your favorite SCA memories over the years?

**Broklauss:** An Tir West War holds many of my favorite memories. ATWW 2022 was our first event as a household. Our plan was to do the wandering bard thing and didn't get 100ft from our camp before we were pulled to three different fires full of music and stories.

This continued the whole event. Our household met our now long-time friends over at Black Company. I met some amazing musicians who inspired me to push myself as a musician, established traditions and foundation of our household—The Mourning Whimsy—and forged many friendships that event.

**Jousting Squirrel:** Thank you for your time Broklauss and for your all that you do in the SCA to serve others!

# More Canton photos



# Book review

*The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown

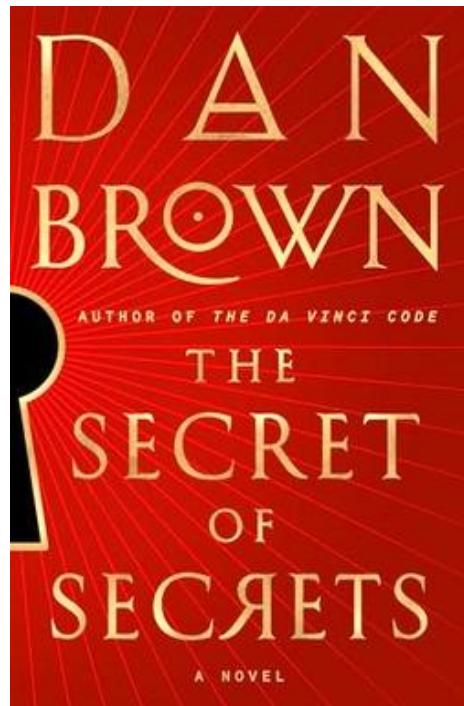
Review written by Cuthbert Weaver

If you read *The Da Vinci Code* back when it first came out a couple of decades ago, you'll remember the late-night page turning, the author's end-of-chapter cliffhangers and the globe-spanning mysteries that left everyone questioning the very foundations of religion, science, and society. If you're worried that this new book is likely to cause a similar lack of sleep however, fear not. This later story is a bit of a drop off for this famous writer; *Book of Secrets* is no *Angels and Demons* and not even as good as *Inferno* or *The Lost Symbol*.

The Robert Langdon novels by Dan Brown have always been a bit of a guilty pleasure for me. I loved how a high-stakes police chase in a European city of cobblestones and cathedrals could connect seamlessly to historical conspiracy theories and ancient tombs with hidden treasures. Brown always centered his novels around art, culture, architecture, and the lives of civilization's most enigmatic figures. More recently though, there's been a shift to cliché storylines mostly concerned with forbidden science and technology, as with his last book *Origin*, now with only the faintest connection to the great unknowns of the past. If I'm reading a Dan Brown book, and my eyes are glazing over during the scientific monologues, I'm probably not going to recommend that book very highly.

While *The Secret of Secrets* positions the hero Robert Langdon in the beautiful Czech city of Prague, and even though much of the mystery concerns religious manuscripts in medieval castles, Brown's novel ends up having more in common with a dull biology or psychology textbook than a thrilling *Indiana Jones* or *National Treasure* movie.

Review Score: ★★★★★



# Canton of Akornebir SCA Business Meeting Minutes – Mon. Jan. 5, 2025

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 6:30 pm with Kaitlin, Cuthbert, Allison, Katherine, Thorkell, Kaitlin, Ramon, James, Biscuit the Fool
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** December minutes were voted on and approved
3. **Officer's Reports**
  - a. **Seneschal** (Katherine)
    - i. Please get in your fourth quarter reports
  - b. **Exchequer** (Kaitlin)
    - i. \$XXXX.XX balance in the Canton account
    - ii. Approved \$100 for linen to produce regalia cloak for canton championships. Motioned and voted.
  - c. **Herald** (Thorkell)
    - i. Nothing to Report
  - d. **Marshall** (Cuthbert)
    - i. Turned in \$85 in cash donations to the exchequer from fighters to help offset the building rental cost.
  - e. **Chronicler** (Cuthbert)
    - i. December Jousting Squirrel came out last month, which, along with the minutes, were posted online.
  - f. **Arts and Sciences** (Gudrun)
    - i. Looking for a replacement A&S officer
  - g. **Chatelaine** (Open Position)
    - i. Cuthbert nominated Ramon to be Seneschal. Seconded and voted with change of officer paperwork.
  - h. **Webminister** (Ramon)
    - i. Nothing to Report
  - i. **Social Media** (Open Position)
    - i. Cuthbert is willing to take the lead, with other officers helping out, in administering canton FB pages
4. **Upcoming Events in the Canton**
  - a. Disting Feast on Feb. 7 is stewarded by Cuthbert featuring live music by our friend Broklauss from Pendleton. The event is now correctly hosted on Facebook and live on the An Tir web calendar. There will be a canton bardic championship, and please remember to contribute largesse for paying our tax. For the bardic championship, the plan is to award a tambourine with a squirrel painted onto it.
  - b. Newcomer's Encampment (May 1-3) now has a correctly hosted FB event and is live on the An Tir calendar
  - c. Iron & Ink is in the Canton of Akornebir from June 12-14 at Kathy's
5. **Upcoming Inlands Events**
  - a. Honor War – Lyonsmarche from April 10-12 where Tova will be elevated to Pelican
  - b. May Crown – May 15-17 in Grandview hosted by Wealdsmere
  - c. Springfest – Wastekeep in Basin City from June 5-7
  - d. Inlands Sergeants – June 19-21
6. **Other Events of Interest**
  - a. An Tir 12<sup>th</sup> Night is Jan 9-11 in Madrone (Bellevue)
  - b. Ursulmas is Jan 24-25 in Aquaterra
  - c. KASR – Ocean Shores – April 18-19
7. **Next Meeting:** We will hold the next two meetings in the Youth Center on Monday, February 2, and Monday, March 2
8. **End of Meeting:** Adjourned @ 7.00 pm



# CRUMBS FROM THE BISCUIT

HELLO, MY NAME IS BISCUIT THE FOOL AND I'VE DECIDED TO DIP MY FUNGUS-COVERED TOE INTO THE POOL OF THEATRICAL CRITICISM.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THEATER DIDN'T BEGIN WITH SHAKESPEARE. LONG BEFORE WILLIAM SHOOK HIS SPEAR AT ANYONE, EUROPE WAS FULL OF PLAYS. EVERY (LOWER-CASE h) HAMLET OF VILLAGES WOULD PUT ON DOZENS OF PLAYS EVERY YEAR. AND THESE PLAYS WERE MYSTERY FLAVORED.

MUCH LIKE (UPPER-CASE H) HAMLET'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS MOTHER, THE WORD "MYSTERY" DESERVES UNPACKING. IT'S A WORD THAT MEANS: "FROM THE BIBLE." THIS ISN'T A WEIRD DEFINITION. YOU'RE THE WEIRD ONE FOR LIVING IN A WORLD WITH TRENCH COATS AND A CODIFIED SENSE OF HUMAN AGENCY. GOD'S PLAN DOESN'T HAVE ROOM FOR INVESTIGATION. THE ONLY MURDER MYSTERY WAS CAIN AND ABEL.

EVEN TODAY, THE MOST POPULAR PLAY IN A KORNEBIR IS A MYSTERY. WHO AMONG US HASN'T BEEN DRAFTED INTO A NATIVITY PLAY? NOT ME — LITTLE BISCUIT DROOLED TOO MUCH TO FOR A WISE MAN BUT THE PERFECT AMOUNT FOR A CAMEL. THE CRITICS CALLED MY PERFORMANCE "BITING" THIS MODERN MYSTERY PLAY IS A BLAND RETELLING OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS WITH A SINGULAR PURPOSE: TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH PERFORMANCE ANXIETY.

THE MEDIEVAL MYSTERY PLAYS ARE EQUAL PARTS ENTERTAINMENT AND RITUAL. THEY ARE MADE BY ADULTS AND FOR ADULTS. AND NO ONE WAS OFF THE FLIPPIN' TABLE. ACTORS PLAYED PROPHETS, SINNERS, MONSTERS, ANGELS, DEMONS, AND EVEN GOD (JESUS' DAD). THE TONE WAS CRUDE AND RELATABLE. PERFECT FOR THE WORKING LIVES OF PEASANT FARMERS. IN ONE YORKISH MYSTERY PLAY, JOSEPH (JESUS' STEPDAD) WAS A UGLY, GRUMPY, CUCKHOLD. IN SHORT, HE WAS THE AVERAGE MAN FROM YORK. "WHY HAVE I NOT HEARD OF THESE PLAYS?" I HEAR YOU CRY. WELL, FOR TWO SIMPLE REASONS.

FIRST, BECAUSE YOU ARE AN UNCULTURED IGNORAMUS.

AND SECOND, BECAUSE YOU'VE FALLEN VICTIM TO RENAISSANCE PROPAGANDA. CRITICS CRITICIZED MYSTERY PLAYS FOR BEING "CHILDISH" AND "NO BETTER THAN PUBLIC EXECUTIONS". WHILE REFORMATION GOVERNMENTS CRACKED DOWN ON THE CATHOLIC TRADITIONS AND STARTED INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.

THE PEASANTS OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE WEREN'T CHILDISH, AND EVERYONE ENJOYS A GOOD EXECUTION. THEY WERE MORE CULTURED THAN YOU ARE. GOING TO A PLAY WAS MORE THAN JUST AN OBLIGATION TO YOUR MOST ANNOYING CHILD. IT WAS A COLLECTIVE ACT OF COMMUNITY BUILDING. DURING THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI , CITIZENS WOULD COME TOGETHER TO ENGAGE IN COLLECTIVE STAGECRAFT. THEY RODE IN CARTS AND PERFORMED ON THE STREET. HUNDREDS OF ACTORS WOULD PUT ON DOZENS OF MYSTERY PLAYS IN A WEEK. AND THOSE PLAYS WERE THE GLUE THAT SOLIDIFIED HUMAN CONNECTION

BISCUIT WAS NOT THE FIRST PERFORMER, AND THEY WON'T BE THE LAST. MYSTERY PLAYS WILL LIVE ON LONG AFTER BISCUIT HAS TAKEN THEIR LAST, BITING BREATH. THEATRE ALWAYS WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE. LYING IS TOO FUN FOR US TO HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.



IT'S ONLY THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI IF IT'S DONE IN THE SOUTH OF TEXAS. OTHERWISE IT'S JUST SPARKLING BODY OF CHRIST. AND THAT'S JUST SODA BREAD

# Legal notice

*The Jouusting Squirrel* is a publication of the Canton of Akornebir, part of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *The Jouusting Squirrel* is available at [akornebir.antir.org](http://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](mailto:mgsurridge@gmail.com)

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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 – Honorable Lord Ramone de Leon



## Baronial officers

- ❖ Baron – Master William McKenna, OP
- ❖ Baroness – Honorable Lady Anna McKenna
- ❖ Seneschal – Lord Eldrick von Muth
- ❖ Exchequer – Kennari Sindri inn hárfagri, OP
- ❖ Marshal – Lord Hiram of the Golden Plain
- ❖ Chamberlain – Honorable Lady Kaitlin
- ❖ Arts & Sciences – Mistress Ciosa, OP
- ❖ Chronicler – Natalie Conroy of Wastekeep
- ❖ Herald – Lord Cuthbert Weaver
- ❖ Webminister – Kennari Sindri inn hárfagri, OP
- ❖ Chatelaine – Lady Lína Williamsdóttir



## Kingdom monarchs

- ❖ King of An Tir – Ulfgar Thorvaldsson, OP, KSCA
- ❖ Queen of An Tir – Juahara al Azin, OL

