

A Note from the Exchequer

Well, yearend has come and gone and everything was finally put in order with i's being dotted, t's being crossed and reports being filed with every decimal in its proper place. Your Exchequer is now tucked and but the job will be much easier next time with all the books now being put in order again.

We had a grand total loss of \$540.49, which puts our Shire in need of events and fundraisers that will add to our coffers. We need to raise the balance in our bank account so that we will not be in the crunch when it comes time to put on *Freeze-Off* again this year.

So, put on your thinking caps and come up with some great ideas for the Shire and hopefully, next issue, I'll be able to say that we are in good shape to hold *Freeze-Off* without any worries about having enough money to pay for it.

Until next time,

I remain Yours In Service to An Tir, the Crown Principality of the North, and the Dream,

Katrynka Chornovoloskaya,
Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Life as Master of Blades

It seems hard to believe that three months have passed and we are nearing our tourney season so let's dust off our armour, retape our weapons and stretch our muscles in preparation. This year our Shire is very busy. Our fight practices have been moved to Wednesday nights 7pm to 10pm at Bert Edwards Elementary School on York St (across from the Ukrainian Orthodox Hall).

Fight practices are a great place to practice your style, working on old and new moves, ensure your gear is up to regulations and in working order. When you can, travel and visit other Shire's practices. See what your competition is doing. See who your next challenge is going to be.

On March 1, six rapier fighters travelled to Krakenfjord. There was that great SCA feeling when we walked through their doors that, although we came from another Shire, we were all one big family.

This made the night very exciting. We are also planning a number of trips to other Shire's fight practices with them reciprocating by attending ours (probably every other month).

Let us also not forget our tourneys and taverns with *Winter's End* on April 21 and our next tavern on May 12. The Shire is also looking forward to an Ithra sometime in the near future. Then, of course, there is our yearly trip to Clinton and our most favorite, and longstanding, *Freeze-Off Tourney*.

Along the way, our Shire's populace will travel to other events in other Shires and maybe even to other realms. So, whatever your pleasure is in the SCA, be it fighting, A&S or just having fun, enjoy and be safe.

Yours In Service to the Dream,
Duncan Darroch,
Master of Blades.

Coming Soon to a Shire Near You...

April 13 – 15
Loch D'Orr
Grand Ithra,
Loch Dorr

April 14
Brau McAsh
Rapier Seminar,
Montengarde

April 14 – 16
Ithra of the Arts,
Dregate

April 20 – 22
Silver Arrow Tourney,
Bitter End
Fibers and Flething,
Aquaterra,
Honor War: Norse
by Norewest,
Lion's March

April 21
Three Mountains'
Sergeants Trials,
Three Mountains
Winters End,
Ramsgaard
Sir Edward's Memorial
Tournement,
Shittimwoode

April 27 – 29
Boar Hunt,
Aquaterra

April 28
Tribute to
Shakespeare,
Hartwood
Beltaine,
Montengarde
Spring Championship,
Myrgan Wood

April 28 – 29
Krakenfjord Ithra/
Antir Costumers Guild,
Krakenfjord

May 4 – 6
Mayfaire,
Glymm Mere
Pillage Practice,
Sigelhundas

May 5
May Champions,
Three Mountains
Bardic Revel,
Lions Gate

May 5 – 6
11th Annual Danish-Friesan
Pillage Practice & Spring
Tea,
Sigelhundas

May 12
Cold Keep Champions
Tourney,
Cold Keep
Fairy Quest of Dragons
Mist,
Dragon's Mist

May 12 – 14
That Stinking Little War
Over There,
Nordholt

May 18 – 20
May Crown,
Dregate

May 25 – 27
Sealion War,
Seagirt

May 25 – 28
Keltic Revolt,
Wealdsmere

June 1- 3
Avacal Coronet,
Loch Dorr

June 2
5 Champions Tourney,
Krakenfjord

June 2 – 3
June Fair,
Dragon's Laire

June 8 – 10
To the Bitter End,
Bitter End
El Paso Honroso del
Dragon,
Dragon's Mist

June 16
Montengarde DragonSlayer,
Montengarde

June 23 – 24
Dryad's War II,
Sigelhundas

June 24 – 26
Lord Defenders,
Blatha An Oir

June 28 – 02
Quad War,
Borealis

June 28 – July 1
Antir - West War
Adiantum

June 29 – July 2
Just Cause Tourney
Lions Gate

June 29 – July 1
Fields of Gold
Tir Bannog

July 6 – 8
Mermaids Tourney,
False Isle

July 7
Chicken War,
Cold Keep

SCA on the 'Net



Greetings lords and ladies, and welcome to yet another issue of *SCA On The 'Net*. I hope you all found warmth and comfort through the cold winter. Now that it is the beginning of spring, we are probably all thinking about all the events and activities that will be starting up again soon. I know I am.

A number of our shire members, myself included, have been getting involved with doing calligraphy within the Arts and Sciences group. As such, I thought it would be helpful to suggest a few sites to check out. I found this really neat site that has a selection of different alphabets that you can practice with and even print right off of the net so you can keep them for your calligraphy sets. You can find it at www.painting.about.com/hobbies/painting/library/blalphabets.htm. I also found that if you want to view different art that is done with calligraphy and illumination, check out these sites, *Calligraphy Center*, located at www.calligraphycentre.com, where work is highlighted by two different artists; *Vellum Gallery* can be found at catalog.com/gallery/welcome.html where you can find art based on calligraphy and illumination and also a demonstration of how to do the basic steps of calligraphy

alphabets; and lastly *Paging Through Medieval Lives*, found at www2.art.utah.edu/Paging.Through/ which has a collection of different works on display... All of these sites and many more display exquisite examples of how beautiful this handwriting is, and I hope that they will become inspiration for all of us.

Ever wanted to find an easy way to talk to SCA members on the internet without using programs such as *ICQ* or *Yahoo! Messenger*? Well, there is a channel on mIRC that is strictly dedicated to SCA members from around the world. Now, if you want to check this out, but don't have the mIRC program, it's easy enough to download it from www.mirc.com. To find the channel, go to any Undernet server and just type in #sca and that's it! They also have a website that is located at <http://irc.halberd.org> called *Welcome To The SilverChannel*. Believe me, everyone is really nice to talk to here at the channel and very helpful when it comes to finding information on certain subjects.

I want to finish this issue of *SCA On The 'Net* with a couple of fun sites for you to check out. Now, all of us have heard the "You Know You Are In The SCA When..." lines but I found a collection of them on the net and they are actually found right off of the SCA official website. To go directly to it, www.ecst/csuchio.edu/~amarth/sca/ykyitscaw.html and laugh your head off! And to check out some really good stories from SCA members about things that have happened to them, or people they know, check out *Auntie Sit-By-The-Fire's* page at emporium.turnpike.net/Z/zen/SCA/Auntie.html

Well, that's it for me at this point. I hope you have fun with these sites and I'll have some more great sites for you in the next newsletter. Until then!

Melody of Ramsgaard
Clan member of the Red Tigers,
Marine Commander of The Ivory Queene

Close to home

Bardic Revel

Barony of Lions Gate
May 5

Come attend our Annual *Bardic Revel*! We'll have games, dancing, bardic performances, and A&S displays/contests - not to mention the socializing!

The A&S Contests: Calligraphy & Illumination, Jewelry, Leather, Metal, Needle Arts, Weaving & Spinning, Wines Meads & Liqueurs, Wood. There is also an Unfinished Projects Category with prizes for: Best Excuse, Close But Not Quite, Longest (Time) Unfinished Item. **Children's Contests:** Design a Shield, Colouring Contest, Kid's Favour. **The Bardic Contests:** Limerick (must begin "There was a Baron from Lions Gate"), SCA Filk, Shakespearean Sonnet, Brave New Bard. The Bardic Contests will take place during the early evening in a Bardic Circle.

Day food will be available for sale; please bring your own dinner.

Site: Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC

Fee: Adults \$6, Children 5-12 \$3, Children <5 are free Families \$18 (immediate mundane family) Cheques should be made payable to 'Barony of Lions Gate'

Hours: 10:30am - midnight

Autocrat: Lady Elena de Maisnilwarin (Elaine McMillan) (604) 430-8208, emcmillan@tsi.bc.ca

Co-Autocrats: HL Eriu of Tlachtga, (604) 524-2824, bashful@tsi.bc.ca

HL John MacAndrew, (604) 451-3912, jmail@teleglobe.ca

Crown Principality of the North Five Champions Tournament

June 1 - 3

Shire of Krakenfjord

The Shire of Krakenfjord is pleased to invite one and all to this first *Five Champions Tournament* for our new Crown Principality. Are you ready to be among our first champions?

The site will be at the Vernon Army camp,

#100 Hwy 97S (just South of Vernon). The access is the North Gate, just across the highway from the tourist info building. Watch for SCA signs. For more details www.geocities.com/krakenfjord

The site will open Friday evening (June 1) at 6:00 and will close Sunday, June 3 at 2:00. Site fee is \$8.00. Saturday night feast is \$5.00. Make cheques payable to SCA, Inc/Shire of Krakenfjord.

Autocrat: Gabriele Silverhand (MKA Judith King) 250-503-7902 email isjynx@home.com

Fields of Gold

Tir Bannog
June 29- July 1

The Wilderness Shire of Tir Bannog invites one and all to come and experience our 5th Annual *Fields of Gold*. The site is on Private Property with shady trees and open fields. Water will be brought in. Nearest grocery store is 15 km away. What it lacks in facilities it makes up for in atmosphere.

Site information: Set up at noon on Friday June 29th, events start on Saturday morning and will end with court on Sunday afternoon. Site fee is \$5.00 per person, family rate is \$15.00. Heavy and Archery Championships (open to all). There are contests for "Midsummer Rose", Gallant Thorn, and many other honours. On Saturday at noon we will be holding our renowned "Helm Auction". Saturday evening is a potluck, and Sunday morning the Shire prepares a pancake brunch. The site is discretely damp. Contained fires only. If anyone requires a larger space for their encampment that can be arranged ahead of time with the Autocrat.

A word of caution, the nights can be cool, the days hot and the mosquitoes are always present (sometimes plentiful), so bring warm blankets and cloaks, sun screen and bug repellent. Please don't let this information stop you from tasting the flavour of our Northern hospitality.

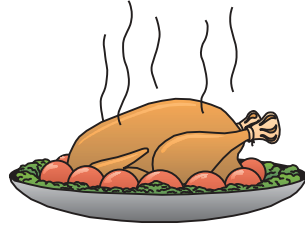
For any information contact the Autocrat *Betha* at (250) 846-5290 or cardinal@bulkley.net

Sticky Fingers at Play

Chicken with Fennel

Take the chickens, cut them up, fry them, and when they are fried add the quantity of water you prefer; then take "beards" of fennel, "beards" of parsley, and almonds that have not been skinned; and chop these things well, mix them with the liquid from the chickens, and boil everything, then pass through a sieve. Add it to the chickens, and add the best spices you can get.

1 free-range chicken
2/3 cup (100 g) unblanched almonds
a handful of fennel or dill leaves
a handful of parsley
2 cups (1/2 liter) water
scant 1/2 teaspoon fine spices (see below)
2 tablespoons lard or oil
salt



Cut the chicken into serving pieces and pat dry. Melt the lard in a casserole over medium-high heat and brown the chicken. When it is golden brown, add the water and salt to taste. Lower the heat and simmer, covered, for 40 to 45 minutes or until tender.

Meanwhile, wash and thoroughly dry the herbs. Grind the almonds finely in a blender or food processor, then add the herbs and blend to a paste. Remove the chicken from the casserole and keep it warm in a very low oven, covered loosely with aluminum foil. Add the almond mixture to the casserole and reduce over medium heat until the sauce has thickened. Arrange the chicken on a serving platter and strain the sauce over the chicken. Sprinkle with the spices to taste and serve.

Summertime Cerulean Blue Sauce (Sky-blue sauce for summer)

Take some of the wild blackberries that grow in hedgerows and some thoroughly pounded almonds, with a little ginger. And moisten these things with verjuice and strain through a sieve. Toward the end of summer, when blackberries are at their best, this cerulean blue sauce will add zest to your September meat dinners. The pectin in the berries helps the sauce set to a lovely midnight-blue jelly that is a visual foil and a delicious accompaniment to white meats such as veal and chicken.

1 quart (1 liter) blackberries
1/3 cup (50 g) unblanched almonds
2/3 cup verjuice, or a mixture of two parts cider vinegar to one part water
1/4-inch slice ginger, peeled
salt

Puree the blackberries in a food processor or food mill, and strain the juice, pressing to extract as much liquid as possible. In a mortar or in a blender, grind the almonds and ginger, then mix with the blackberry juice. Contact with the air will turn the mixture a dark blue. Add the verjuice and strain once more. Season with salt to taste.

Excerpted from *The Medieval Kitchen* by Odile Redon, FranJoise Sabban, & Silvano Serventi, published by the University of Chicago Press. 1 1998 by the University of Chicago.

WINTER'S END IN RAMSGAARD

The Shire of Ramsgaard would like to invite one and all to their *Winter's End Tourney* on April 21. For information, please contact the Autocrat, Duncan Darroch at 554-3986 or by email: duncan1466@yahoo.com.

At this time I would like to submit, for your information, the criteria for the *Banner Challenge* judging. I am looking forward to seeing lots of entries.

Ramsgaard Banner Challenge Judging Criteria

Heraldic Layout and Authenticity of Banner: 20 pts

- Correct emblazon for heraldic device on banners?
- Is it well balanced, how is the symmetry?
- Do colour elements tie things together?
- Use of colour, is it complementary overall?
- Good clarity and contrast? Visibility from a distance?
- Does it look medieval? Period shapes and sizes?
- Good relationship of text and illumination, if any?

Workmanship: 20 pts

- Authentic materials and tools used?
- Are there any visible mistakes?
- Were guidelines used? Were they erased?

Creativity: 10 pts

- Is it an original design or a reproduction?

Documentation: 5 pts

- Is there any, how well done is it?

Artistic Value: 5 pts

- Aesthetics, is it skillfully done or does it look poorly put together?

Judges Opinion: 15 pts

Total Possible Points: 75 pts

