

the BATTERING RAM

April 2002 AS XXXVI

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Submissions: We are currently seeking articles and artwork for future editions of *The Ram*. Articles of a maximum of 500 words should be submitted by email to grasslands@ocis.net, or may be typed, double-spaced and submitted to the chronicler at any Shire meeting. Artwork should, if possible, be scanned at 200dpi, and in jpg format. Submissions deadline for the July issue will be June 21, 2002.

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the ART of chivalry



SCA on the 'Net

When you look up the word "chivalry" in the Random House Dictionary, it lists it as "the qualities expected of a knight such as courage, generosity, and courtesy, or courtesy and gallantry towards women". When we look at chivalry in the SCA, it's not just expected from a knight but from everyone. And when you look up the word, "honour" it lists, "honesty and integrity in one's actions or beliefs". The act of chivalry and honour has

lasted throughout the ages and has much of a history. You can check some of the history out over some of the sites I have in this quarter's edition of *SCA on the 'Net*.

First came along the *Knighthood, Chivalry, and Tournament Research Library* located at www.chronique.com where you can find lots of research articles, references to periodicals, and other links to other sites just like a regular library. Then, there was the *Ring of Chivalry* site that has links to numerous sites that all have to do with the art of Chivalry.

Speaking of Rings, I have found some links to some webring that can connect you to countless sites for medieval and renaissance research information. They are *Medieval Studies* (www.geocities.com/Athens/2519/msring.html), *Medieval and Renaissance Ring* (www.diac.com/~edreas/cf/ring.html), *History Ring*, (members.tripod.com/~PHILKON/ring.html) and the ever well-known *SCA Webring* (www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?ring=sca:list). Last but not least, I found the most incredible reference site called *TheHistory.Net* (www.historymedren.about.com) which has all kinds of medieval and renaissance articles, references, and links. It is easy to read, very informative and most of all, fun to use!

Also, I wanted to let everyone know that I am currently getting together a list of merchants that I have found online. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this list when it's finished, please e-mail me at: maid_melody@yahoo.com and let me know. (Below you will find "the marketplace" where you will soon be able to find online merchants and more... Ed.)

Well that's all for now, but don't forget! The internet is always filled with lots of ways to research any interest in the SCA that you could have, so go and spend time on the 'net exploring. It never hurts to learn something new that you could use at the next event!

- Rose of Ramsgaard,
Household of the Red Tigers,
Marine Commander Of The Ivory Queene

Ye Olde Marketplace

The Medievalist's KnightShop
www.knightshop.com

Welcome to the KnightShop! We are pleased to offer you a wonderful selection of products. We will always remain true to our goal of engaging the talents of skilled medieval artisans to bring you truly unique medieval treasures from the world over.

Step into the past... Within the pages of our

[on-line catalogue](#) are a variety of items. You will notice intriguing historical notes and captivating stories behind the artefacts for many items within these pages, we hope that they will inform and entertain you during your shopping experience.

Awaiting you are beautiful and unusual articles with which you can transform your home into a castle and help keep your love of history close to your heart.

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determined. We are attempting to arrange for a class in War tactics. Heavy Fighters and Combat Archers will both learn the benefits of working together as an effective battle unit. Land will be set aside for these units to scrimmage with each other to practice their new found skills in preparation for upcoming Wars. Baron Sven's Sunday fight practices will beheld at the event. Members of the Order of the Grey Goose Shaft (OGGS) are especially encouraged to set up encampments for themselves and their Arcarii. Advanced land reservations for OGGS and their Arcarii are a direct benefit of teaching at least one class. Merchants will be allowed on site for setup at noon on Friday. Please contact Nettie MacLost de Beaumont. Merchant Fee is a donation to the prize chest. Site Fees: 16 yrs. & up \$10, (\$8 for SCA members) Youth 9-15 yrs \$6 (\$5 for members) 8 yrs. & younger, free. Autocrat: Charles de Beaumont (cdb@medtimes.org), Merchant Contact: Nettie MacLost de Beaumont (nettie@medtimes.org) Phone: 253-631-4652 Location: Riverglen Campground, Orting, WA

June 7-9, 2002

Pas d'Armes

Shire of Ramsgaard

The Shire of Ramsgaard invites one and all to come and witness acts of great chivalry and honour at their first annual *Pas D'Armes*. All entrants are required to present a letter of intent on the day of the tournament and a banner to be displayed on the eric. There will be a *William Marshal Woods Battle Tourney* to raise funds for the Northern Principality. In the evening there will be a Bardic Display open to all, in which all tournament entrants must perform, or sponsor a bard in their name. For the Fencers there will be a Fencing Tourney with the same requirements as the *Pas d'Armes*. Do not let the requirements intimidate you. Come and show the chivalry and honour of the Northern Principality. **ALL PROFITS FROM THIS EVENT WILL GO TO HELP FUND THE**

NORTHERN PRINCIPALITY.

SERF INFO: Camping Event with lots of room for all. Site Opens June 7th@ 5pm. Closes June 9th @ 5pm. No Ground Fires. Fire Restrictions May be in Effect. BRING YOUR OWN WATER. Discreetly Wet. All Mundane Alcohol Laws Strictly Enforced. SERF FEES: \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Children 8 to 15, Children under 8 free. Make cheques payable to the Shire of Ramsgaard MORE INFORMATION: Autocrat Team: Tariq abu Zayd: (Alan Graham) (250) 828-0251, 4_grahams@telus.net Saif al Sirhan: (Chris MacDonald), (250) 377-8818, wctetech@ocis.net

June 14-16

Lionsdale Champions

Canton of Lionsdale

Do you love a festival? Are you in need of a challenging fight or competition? Well, how about BOTH? Then join the Canton of Lionsdale's annual Champions Tournament, where you can witness the speed and prowess of heavy and rapier fighting, the accuracy and poise of light and archery tournaments, and the beauteous cunning of Arts & Sciences competition; then in the evening sit back and be entertained by Bards from around the Kingdom as they present their best works, all hoping to become one of Lionsdale's Champions!

Once again we have the fabulous Island 22 Equestrian Park, 45695 Cartmell Road Chilliwack BC. Gate Opens at 4pm June 14th. Site Closes at 4pm (or when court is over) June 16th.

Site Fee is \$10 for Adults (15+), \$6 for Children (8 - 15), Children Under 8 are free. (Make Cheques Payable to Canton Of Lionsdale). Important Notes: Fire Restrictions May be in Effect. Bring Your Own WATER. For More Information :

L u t h e r M a g n u s :
luther_magnus@hotmail.com, Dominiqua Perreira: dominiqua@shaw.ca or
L i o n s d a l e W e b S i t e :
www.geocities.com/lionsdale

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April 27, 2002

Spring Opener Tourney

Griffins Gate

The people of Griffins Gate would like to invite one and all to their *Spring Opener Tourney*. The tourney is in conjunction with their rapier championship, and is a round-robin of sorts. The lists open at 10am, with armour inspection at 10:30am. There will be a heavy tourney after the rapier tourney. Any fighters wishing to partake are asked to donate a prize for the prize pool.

There will also be a bardic competition. Contestants can tell stories, sing songs, or play an instrument. The pieces can be in period, or not. The lists for bardic will open shortly after the rapier tourney. If it is warm enough in the evening, the bardic will be held at the bardic pit. As well as the bardic, there will be different games for all to play.

There will be veggies and dip for snacking on throughout the day, as well as a bowl of homemade chili and a bun for evening feast for \$3. For those that would prefer a vegetarian dish, there will be a plate of 7-layer dish and a bun for \$3 as well. For breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, there will be a potluck at Lord Gunthor and his lady, Auacia's abode. For more information, please contact the feast-ocrat.

Site fees are as follows: Individual \$8, Couple \$12, Children 12 years and younger are free. This is a private site, so will be discreetly wet.

Feast-ocrat: Milady Auacia De Gaulbert jgeier@stardate.bc.ca(250) 392-2619, Master of Stables: Skarp-hedin, Visigoth@telus.net, (250) 398-7803 Autocrat et al: Kallyn Rozvardo, krolous@telus.net, (604) 852-6698.

May 4, 2002

Bardic Revel

Barony of Lions Gate

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

Come attend our Annual Bardic Revel! We'll have games, dancing, bardic performances, A&S displays/contests, and of course some of the best socializing. The A&S contests will include: Calligraphy & Illumination, Jewelry, Leather, Metal, Needle Arts, Wood, and other (surprise me). The populace will judge the A&S contests. Children's Contests are: *Design A Shield* and a colouring contest. Both will be organized on site. Children's contests will be judged by the children. The Bardic contests are: *SCA Filk*, *Best Duet*, *Brave New Bard*, and *Storytelling*. The Bardic contests will take place throughout the day. For fun, our Gamesmaster will be organizing a boule and a hunkerdown tournament. Day food will be available for sale; please bring your own dinner. Baron Gerhard will be conducting an auction to raise funds for the coronets for our upcoming Prince and Princess. This spectacle is not to be missed so bring your auction items and your readily disposable income. Autocrat: HL John MacAndrew, 604-762-6402(Lionsgater@yahoo.com)

May 24 - 27, 2002

Daffodil Archery Shoot III

Barony of Blatha an Oir

The Barony of Blatha an Oir cordially invites archers from throughout the realm and beyond for a memorable weekend of archery, archery, and more archery!!! There will be a children's range as well as Royal Rounds, IKAC, York, IKCAC and some novelty shoots to test your skills. Also, this year we will offer classes to improve your knowledge and broaden your skills: *Children's Beginning Archery*, *Beginning Archery*, *Target Archery*, *Marshalling*, *Combat Archery*, *Marshalling*, and other classes to be

Concerning Knighthood



This day is call'd the feast of Crispian.

*He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd,
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.
He that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,
And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian.'
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars,
And say 'These wounds I had on Crispian's day.'
Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember, with advantages,
What feats he did that day. Then shall our names,
Familiar in his mouth as household words-
Harry the King, Bedford and Exeter,
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester-
Be in their flowing cups freshly rememb'ed.
This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered-
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen in England now-a-bed
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That fought with us upon Saint Crispian's day.
- From *Henry V*, William Shakespeare*

If a man act in honourable wise when he gains thereby glory, repute, or the love of a fair lady, none may know if he is in truth an honourable man. When he chooses between honour on the one hand and all that he desires on the other, then may his honour be known. The man who, fighting for a crown he fiercely desires, yet accepts without dispute the blow that ends his hopes, is in truth honourable-the more so when no soul but himself would have known the blow was true had he said otherwise. He who refuses to accept the blow until he can no longer do so without open shame is no honourable man, howsoever gentle and courtly he may appear in other lists, where there is nothing to be won or lost save that reputation which men miscall honour.

It has been the custom in certain lands that, when a knight is to be dubbed, the King calls the knights to assemble, whereat the eldest approaches the throne to complain that there is one absent who has by right a place among their company. To this the King assents, and calls out him who is to be dubbed. And all this is in token that a knight is made neither by King nor all the chivalry assembled; their part is but to recognize that he has made himself a knight. Neither belt, spurs, nor chain makes up a knight, nor yet the accolade of any King.

And as kings and knights are but men and fallible, so may they be mistaken, and some may wear the three tokens who are not knights, and some be truly knights who wear neither belt, spur, nor chain. But Allah alone knoweth all.

- Cariadoc of the Bow

This article is taken from *Cariadoc's Miscellany*, Copyright (c) by David Friedman and Elizabeth Cook, 1988, 1990, 1992.

The Code of Chivalry

Introduction

Many people have written to me asking for the 'old code' or the code by which medieval knights lived. In truth there was no such code; chivalry as a set of ideals and duties changed throughout the Middle Ages to meet new socio-economic realities. In our day, they must once again change, maintaining the essential quality of defending 'rightness' that ties the many images of what we call 'chivalry.'

Although there is no 'authentic' code, discussions of knightly virtues can be found in the writings of knights and bards throughout

history. What I have done here is to distill many of the essential qualities discussed by all the major sources, Chrètien de Troyes, Ramon Lull, Geoffrey de Charny, Honoret Bonet, and others. I have modernized them slightly, removing many of the socially dependent elements and replacing them with more generic (and weaker) equivalents palatable to modern sensibilities.

Chivalry is often taken to be a matter of opinion and of dispute, but most would agree that the following virtues all have a place in the virtues a knight should have. There will be grave differences of opinion on what duties and actions are expected in service of these virtues, and of their relative importance to one another, but I hope this serves as a starting point for

discussion. Therefore, in response to the hundreds of messages asking for the 'old code', here is a code of chivalry updated for the modern world:

Prowess: To seek excellence in all endeavors expected of a knight, martial and otherwise, seeking strength to be used in the service of justice, rather than in personal aggrandizement.

Justice: Seek always the path of 'right', unencumbered by bias or personal interest. Recognize that the sword of justice can be a terrible thing, so it must be tempered by humanity and mercy. If the 'right' you seek rings agreement with others, and you seek it out without bending to

the temptation for expediency, then you will earn renown beyond measure.

Loyalty: Be known for unwavering commitment to the people and ideals you choose to live by. There are many places where compromise is expected; loyalty is not amongst them.

Defense: The ideal knight was sworn by oath to defend his liege lord and those who depended upon him. Seek always to defend your nation, your family, and those to whom you believe worthy of loyalty.

Courage: Being a knight often means choosing the more difficult path, the personally expensive one. Be prepared to make personal sacrifices in service of the precepts and people you value. At the

same time, a knight should seek wisdom to see that stupidity and courage are cousins. Courage also means taking the side of truth in all matters, rather than seeking the expedient lie. Seek the truth whenever possible, but remember to temper justice with mercy, or the pure truth can bring grief.

Faith: A knight must have faith in his beliefs, for faith roots him and gives hope against the despair that human failings create.

Humility: Value first the contributions of others; do not boast of your own accomplishments, let others do this for you. Tell the deeds of others before your own, according them

the renown rightfully earned through virtuous deeds. In this way the office of knighthood is well done and glorified, helping not only the gentle spoken of but also all who call themselves knights.

Largesse: Be generous in so far as your resources allow; largesse used in this way counters gluttony. It also makes the path of mercy easier to discern when a difficult decision of justice is required.

Nobility: Seek great stature of character by holding to the virtues and duties of a knight, realizing that though the ideals

cannot be reached, the quality of striving towards them ennobles the spirit, growing the character from dust towards the heavens. Nobility also has the tendency to influence others, offering a compelling example of what can be done in the service of rightness.

Franchise: Seek to emulate everything I have spoken of as sincerely as possible, not for the reason of personal gain but because it is right. Do not restrict your exploration to a small world, but seek to infuse every aspect of your life with these qualities. Should you succeed in even a tiny measure then you will be well remembered for your quality and virtue.



- *Brion Thornbird ap Rhys, Earl & Knight, OL*

Editor's Note: This essay was taken from the most excellent website of Brian R. Price (www.chronique.com) and used by permission.

