

# the BATTERING RAM AS XXXVI

January 2002



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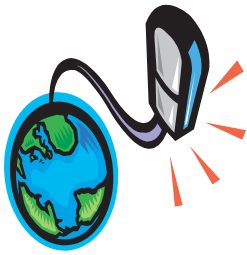
**Submissions:** We are currently seeking articles and artwork for future editions of *the Ram*. Articles of a maximum of 500 words should be submitted by email to [grasslands@ocis.net](mailto:grasslands@ocis.net), or may be typed, double-spaced and submitted to the Editor at any Shire meeting. Artwork should be black and white and, if possible, scanned at 200dpi in jpg format. Submissions deadline for the April issue will be March 15, 2002..

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## of myth AND LEGEND

# SCA on the 'Net



Well, the holidays are gone, and I know mine were definitely busy. But I still made time to see *The Lord Of The Rings* the day it was released. If you haven't seen it yet, make it the next one you do!!! Almost every day you see

some sort of advertise me nt or hear s o m e o n e comment on the movie; either the books that the trilogy will be based on, J.R.R.

Tolkien's life and his writings, or just the making of the movie itself and how spectacularly it was done. But *The Lord Of The Rings* is just

one of numerous movies that have been made based on fantasy, myths, and legends. On the internet, there are a good number of sites that are either made for certain movies or numerous movie database sites that you can check out with movies that are based either strictly or loosely on medieval myths and legends.

With *The Lord Of The Rings* almost becoming a household subject when it comes to the series and the recent movie, I wanted to start out by looking at some

sites that are based on Tolkien himself, as well as his works. The obvious place to start for me was *The Lord Of The Rings Official Site* ([www.lordoftherings.net](http://www.lordoftherings.net)) which was, like any new film-related site, done both as a Flash-type site and a non-flash-type site, which means basically, if you have Flash capabilities in your browser, that is the best way to view the site, but if you don't, you

can still check out the site. The official site has all the behind the scenes info on how the movie was made, conversation

s with the director and cast, as well as downloads for your desktop. From there, I checked out a site called *One Ring: The*

*Complete Guide To Tolkien Online* (<http://onering.virbius.com>) which is a terrific site if you are interested in J.R.R. Tolkien and his life's work. Everything from media to the biography is covered and definitely the ultimate site for the Tolkien fanatic. The third site that I checked out was just after I saw the play of *The Hobbit* done by WCT. (Great job by the way!!) I wanted to know more about the whole background about the hobbits and some of their stories so I went to Barrow-Downs ([www.barrow-downs.com](http://www.barrow-downs.com)), which had all about the



hobbits, how they were created and even some of the illustrations of them.

But then I thought, 'Well, what about all the other films out there that have been done in medieval fashion? Are there sites for them?' so I checked. Now, we all know *Braveheart*. Yeah, that Mel Gibson movie with guys in kilts yelling, "They may take our lives, but they will never take our freedom!" at the tops of their lungs. Quite a good film, but did you know that there is a site about the character William Wallace? Yep. It's called *William Wallace: The*

*Tru th* ([www.highlanderweb.co.uk/wallace/index.html](http://www.highlanderweb.co.uk/wallace/index.html)), which has some of the background story about Sir William Wallace himself. How about the movie *Excalibur*? It's kinda old but still a really good movie. There is a site completely on the movie and the Arthurian legend that it's based on. You can find it at <http://dandulf.com/dandulf/excalibur.htm>.

I. Final note! I found a site that an SCA

member designed back in 1997 and has been updating it regularly where they have kept record of practically every single medieval and late-period film that has ever been released that they know about. We're talking Shakespearean to Musketeer, Arthurian to Zorro. I am not kidding!!! You can find the entire list at the site called *SCAdian Interest In Medieval*

*M o v i e s* ([www.geocities.com/zorikh/movielist.html](http://www.geocities.com/zorikh/movielist.html)) Believe me, this is one you definitely don't want to pass up! Excellent list of movies that you can get ideas for personas, costumes, etcetera!

If you find a site online that is excellent for SCA reasons, let me know! I would love to hear from you about sites you find on the net! My e-mail address is [maid\\_melody@yahoo.com](mailto:maid_melody@yahoo.com). Catch ya later!!!

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

## The Language of Myth

As a child I remember, curled on the sofa beside my mother, the adventures of Bilbo and Frodo, Gandalf and all the others. I was amazed and awed by their stories, and more than that - I believed in them, I knew them. Today, I watch as my husband, riveted, devours page after page of the three-inch thick *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. I see in him that same response - admiration and awe. J.R.R. Tolkien's stories have that power - they are magic with readers of any age. But what makes them so? Why do these tales appeal to us - what makes them timeless? Could it be that these are more than just stories? Dare we call them modern Myth?

To answer that question, it's important to

look at Tolkien himself. He was, above all else, a scholar. He studied languages; in particular, he studied Anglo-Saxon and how it related to linguistically similar languages like Old Norse, Old German and Gothic. (As a note of interest, Tolkien was a master of languages to the point that he created over fifteen of them for his books, complete tongues with consistent roots, sound laws and inflections, into which he poured all of his imaginative and philological powers.) Tolkien was an expert in the surviving literature written in all of these tongues. His wide reading of myths and epics led him to a clear understanding of the importance of stories. He gained insights

# More Language of Myth

and perspectives on language, the Heroic Tradition, Myth and Story, all of which came together with stunning effect in his stories.

"Myths are stories of our search... for truth, meaning, significance." So said Joseph Campbell, famous mythologist. Tolkien, from his studies of ancient lore, knew this to be true. He also knew, as Campbell did, that modern English-speaking society no longer embraces a powerful mythology. He chose to write his own. And who better to lead the search for truth than an "insignificant" Hobbit?

Much of mythology is built on universal themes and archetypes. In *The Hobbit* for example, our hero, unlikely though he is, is Bilbo Baggins. He is joined by a myriad of archetypal characters, The Mentor (Gandalf) and the shape-shifter (Gollum), to name but two. Bilbo must also journey through a series of universal stages. Is Gandalf's arrival at the hobbit hole not a Call to Adventure? Does Bilbo not end up, quite literally, in the Inner-Most Cave?

Joseph Campbell once said, "One thing that comes out in myths is that at the bottom of the abyss comes the voice of salvation. The black moment is the moment when the real message of transformation is going to come. At the darkest moment comes the light." Surely, lying in his bed suffering from trench fever after the Battle of the Somme, Tolkien would have first-hand knowledge of this. He then saw his way clear to put those feelings into words. (In 1917, while in the hospital, he began *The Book of Lost Tales*.) Certainly, Tolkien's land of Mordor is a dark and terrible place, and the characters that journey through it are forever changed by what happens there, just as in Mythology, the Hero must be forever changed and bring back the Sword of Experience. Campbell also said,

February 2, 2002  
**Day of Dance**  
Barony of Lions Gate (Vancouver BC)

Back by popular demand, a *Day of Dance*. Anyone wishing to perform a particular style should contact the autocrat. For those less energetic gentles, there will be games, arts and sciences, as well as socializing. There will be a place (outdoors) set aside for anyone who may wish to compare fighting skills. The evening will feature a tavern and a tablero tournament; an opportunity to practice those dances learned during the day as well as several presentation pieces. In accordance with BC liquor laws, no outside alcohol will be permitted on site!

This exotic event is set on a Spanish/Moorish theme, although visitors from other lands are greatly encouraged. In keeping with the theme, evening seating will be divided between table and floor seating (please bring your own cushions). Evening food will be available for a minimum \$3 donation or bring a dinner food donation (serving 8-10) for our potluck feast. (Warming oven only available). Coffee and Tea will be available (by donation) during the day and eateries are a short walk away. Site fee is \$6.00 Cdn for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12. Babes in arms are free. US \$ will be determined based on the exchange rate at the time.

Doors Open at 9am, Opening Court at 9:30am, Tavern Doors Open at 6pm.

Autocrats:

Lady Antonella di Sicilia, (604) 841-3169 or [antonelladisticilia@yahoo.com](mailto:antonelladisticilia@yahoo.com)  
Master Baron Steffano da Gucci, (604) 420-4225 or [steffano@mindlink.bc.ca](mailto:steffano@mindlink.bc.ca)

The site is the same as last year's - The Capitol Hill Community Centre on 361 South Howard in Burnaby.

# CLOSE TO HOME

February 2, 2002  
**Founding Revel Feast**  
Barony of Stromgard

Gourmet Feasting and High Spirited Revelry awaits you in the land of Stromgard! Join in as we celebrate the founding of our grand barony with a feasting extravaganza and good natured merriment. Your site fee covers the savory meal just bring your feast gear and beverage of choice. A fighter's practice for heavies and fencers will be held at noon on-site. Children's "Equestrian" games (two-legged mounts only) will take place prior to the feast which begins at 5pm. For those interested in the Arts & Sciences, a Laurel's Panel will be on hand to answer questions about the order. The evening will culminate in the investiture of our Arts and Sciences Champion at evening short-court after the feast. Join in the trials to become Champion by submitting three entries in separate categories complete with simple documentation by 1pm for judging. Single entries are encouraged as well for other prizes. Dancing will follow dinner. Autocrat: Madonna Contessa Ilaria Veltri degli Ansari (Lynda Fjellman), (360) 247-5980, [lfjellman@pru-nw.com](mailto:lfjellman@pru-nw.com)

A & S Mistress- Lady Judita bat Ephraim Micas (Julie Ensign), (360) 695-1395 [arts.and.sciences@stromgard.org](mailto:arts.and.sciences@stromgard.org)  
Hamundarson (James Sanborn) (360) 546-3726

Site Info: Camas Community Center. 1718 SE 7th Ave., Camas, Washington. This is a discreetly moist site. Site Opens at noon and closes at 10 pm. SCA Member Site Fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Non-member Site Fee \$13 adults and \$6 children 12 and under. Toddlers 5 and under are free. Make checks payable to: The Barony of Stromgard, SCA, Inc.



# CLOSE TO HOME

February 16, 2002

## *A Lovers' Masquerade*

The Shire of Eisenmarche

Life in Venice was crowded. The narrow calli, courtyards and squares did not afford any personal anonymity or privacy. The need "to escape" was such that in 1208 the Venetian donned masks from the eve of Santo Steffano, the start of the Venetian carnival, to midnight of Shrove Tuesday and the Masquerade was born. It is now 1520; Masquerade has become a way of life for the people of Venice. So much that visitors also flock to the City to take part in the ritual of donning a mask and shedding their inhibitions.

The Shire of Eisenmarche invites all who dare to join us at St Steffano Square, a place for lovers and friends alike to let down your prim and proper and become whoever you wish to be for the evening, for the masquerade all masked and anonymity is the key. Be you Naughty or Nice, Bravo or Buffoon, for all are one and the same. Do keep in mind the theme is "LOVERS". The evening's festivities will include a masked Tablero Tournament and other games of skill, the election of the Doge. Dancing with a mystery dance game. A processional to show off those fine disguises and masks. Identities to be revealed at 11.00pm even a do it your self-conessional for those that must, plus more to entertain you.

Will there be prizes? But of course. Best Male Mask, Best Female Mask, and Best Couple. Even one for the person whose disguise is so good that no one can guess who he or she is. Will there be food? Does forbidden (cloven) fruit count. Our Bacchanal masked servers will tempt you with trays of tasty morsels and tease you with succulent sweet meats. Is drinking allowed? Only if you are of legal drinking age for this province and that you purchase it on site. Soft drinks will also be provided for those who do not imbibe.

Where: Orangeman's Hall

333 6th St New Westminster BC

Time: 5pm - 11:59pm

Cost \$10.00 includes tasty morsels. (For tickets see Autocrats)

Autocrat: Corinne Maria Hennenberg aka Colleen Vince, 604-942-6171 [lithium@direct.ca](mailto:lithium@direct.ca)

Co Autocrat: Lady Rhiannon Ap Gwynned aka Sue Davis, 604-594-0547 [rhiannon9@dcnet.com](mailto:rhiannon9@dcnet.com)

To keep everyone's anonymity, all tickets must be purchased prior to the event. We only have room for 120 people..so please do not arrive without your ticket or confirmation.

February 23, 2002

## *Winter's End*

Barony of Terra Pomaria

Barony of Terra Pomaria proudly presents *Winter's End*, to be sited this year at a location nestled in the beautiful hills of West Salem. This year we again have the Rapiet Championship for the Barony. The A & S Championship contest features these categories: Cooking (period cold dish); Herbalism (research of period treatments); Performance (period song, poem or story); Pottery or Glass; and Brewing (Brewed Mixture). The highlight of the evening will be a feast!

Site opens at 9am and closes at 10pm. Lists will open at 9am. The kitchen will open at 10am Site is discreetly wet. Site Fee: 12-Adult \$6.00, 4-11 \$3.00, younger free. Feast is a separate cost, approximately \$6.00.

Autocrat: Dara O'Cearbhaill (Linda Carroll), 503-769-7077, [snow\\_owl@hotmail.com](mailto:snow_owl@hotmail.com)

Site Address: Oregon 4-H Conference and Education Center, 5390 4-H Rd NW, Salem



March 16, 2002

## *Daffodil XXV Tourney and Feast*

Barony of Seagirt

The Barony of Seagirt invites the warriors of An Tir to come vie for the title of Defender of Seagirt (currently held by Duke Skepti Thorinsson). Come be the guests of Their Excellencies Liam and Nádzhda as we host *Daffodil's Silver Anniversary* at the Saanich Fairgrounds in Victoria, BC.

Site opens: 8:30am, Lists: 10:30am; Tournaments: noon. Site closes: midnight. The ARMoured and RAPIER COMBAT tourney formats will be announced the day of the event (Armoured - standard legal tourney weapons). There will be prizes. Traditional Daffodil contests: Daffodil in Any Medium and Daffodil Costume Contest.

Daffodil Feast & Entry Tickets on sale until March 8, 2001. Contact Autocrat for tickets. Make cheques payable to the Barony of Seagirt - NSCA. For crash space, contact the Deputy Autocrat. Day fees (no feast; no advance registration required): 5 and under; free; ages 6-12, \$4 Cdn, (\$3 US); Adult (age 13+), \$8 Cdn (\$6 US).

Autocrat: HL Lenora di Calizzan (Tami Hayes), (250) 474-5602, [tami.hayes@moh.hnet.bc.ca](mailto:tami.hayes@moh.hnet.bc.ca),

Deputy Autocrat: HL Brenethwyn O'Connell, (250) 382-9349, [stunning-johnson@telus.net](mailto:stunning-johnson@telus.net),

Merchant-crat: Daniel of Stafford Pele (Dan Hill),

[woodcrafter@shaw.ca](mailto:woodcrafter@shaw.ca), (250) 385-5449

IMPORTANT NOTES: There will be a tavern running across the hall from the feast for those wishing to eat off-board. NO OUTSIDE LIQUOR ALLOWED (BC Liquor Law). Absolutely no open flame indoors; enclosed candle lanterns only. There will be Piped Piper activities for children. Please note that this is not a babysitting service.

# CLOSE TO HOME

April 19 to 21, 2002

## *Sir Edward's Annual Memorial Tournament*

Shire of Shittimwoode

As we look to hibernation, I offer you dreams of Spring. The morning dew on the grass, tender buds on the trees, the sound of rattan on metal... This dream is Sir Edward's Annual Memorial Tournament. For the first time in the tournament's history we will have not one, but three days of merriment! Both indoor and outdoor camping will be available. Activities and competitions include Heavy, Rapiet, Archery, Thrown Weapons, Bardic, Brewing, A&S, and much more.

A succulent feast prepared by Feastocrat Lady Tantra of MaElring and able assistants to include many beast and fowl will commence on Saturday eve. Tickets will be available January 2nd for the stipend of \$8 age 10 and above and \$4 under age 10 when purchased in advance. If you prefer to linger and hope to purchase at the event cost will be \$10 age 10 and above and \$5 under age 10. Please contact the feastmistress, Maele McGum (Molly Cannon), for the full menu and to purchase your tickets at [siredwardsfeast@hotmail.com](mailto:siredwardsfeast@hotmail.com)

Entertainers - dancers, singers, jugglers, etc. who 'sing for their supper' are invited to feast for no cost! Contact Serith (Raelene Winter), at [Serithanne@yahoo.com](mailto:Serithanne@yahoo.com) for more information.

All other questions or inquiries can be directed to the autocrat team Isebau (Tess Allison) and Conel (Brent Allison) at [btbk@email.msn.com](mailto:btbk@email.msn.com) or Moira Doonee (Brooksana Raney) at [brookksana\\_raney@opppco.org](mailto:brookksana_raney@opppco.org)

