

Directory of Avacal Branches

Bitter End (Red Deer, AB) (Shire)

Seneschal: *Lady Sybell Natharia Deya*
Melissa Brubaker) #7 Wallace Close, Red
Deer, Alberta T4N 5L8
spiral_orchid@hotmail.com

Bordergate (Cold Lake, AB) (Shire)

Seneschal: *Marina La Caminante* (Louise
Johnson) 604 12 Street, Cold Lake AB T9M-
1A9 (780) 639-4963 marinaca@telus.net

Cold Keep (Prince George, BC) (Shire)

Seneschal: *Lady Brynn MacDonald* (Donna
Bader) 561 Beech Cres. Prince George, BC
V2N 1L2 250-561-2830 dnd18@shaw.ca

Harrows Cross (Strathmore & environs)

(Shire) **Seneschal:** *Lord Cerid the Bloody*
(Mark Flebotte) Box 309 Gleichen, AB, T0J
1N0 403-734-3867 maf@telusplanet.net

Loch Dorr (Crawford Bay, BC) (Shire)

Seneschal *HL Thuirgaid of the Mysts*
(Joseph Bechal) P.O.Box 133 Crawford Bay,
BC V0B 1E0 250-227-9205.

Montengarde (Calgary, AB) (Barony)

Castellan: *Master Thorvald Grimsson*
403-282-0541 prescotj@telusplanet.net
Seneschal: *Caitlin ingen ui Dalaig* (Wendy
Hobbs), (403) 948-5290,
montengardesen@telus.net, 76 Big Springs
Hill, Airdrie, T4A 1L3

Myrgan Wood (Saskatoon, SK) (Barony)

Baron and Baroness: *HE Raoul & HE*
Roxanne Delaroche (Duane & Tracey
Walker) 2618 Preston Ave Saskatoon, SK
S7J 2G5 306-651-2599
dandt.walker@sasktel.net
Seneschal: *HL, Sgt, Sq, Gerhard Thorwulfsson*
(Mark Geldof) 205 A Avenue G North
Saskatoon SK. S7L 1Y9 306-653-1066
midgardarts@yahoo.com

Rhuddglvn (Medicine Hat, AB) (Incipient

Shire) **Seneschal:** *HL Emeric of Pevensey*
(Tim McShane) 467 5th St SE. Medicine Hat,
AB, T1A 0M9 403-526-4179
mcschanet@telusplanet.net

Sigelhundas (Regina, SK) (Shire) **Seneschal:**

Lord Murdoch MacLeod (Creighton Widdis)
83 Magee Cr Regina, SK S4R 6K4 306-543-
3906 bagpiperx@yahoo.com

Valley Wold (Moose Jaw, SK) (Shire)

Seneschal: *Lady Allesandra da Pavia* (Susan
Pomedli) 920 2nd Ave NW Moose Jaw, SK
S6H 3R1 306-694-1748
spomedli@hotmail.com

Vatnsdalr (Edmonton, AB) (Shire)

Seneschal: *HE Inga the Unfettered* (Michelle
Height) 1325 - 72 St. , Edmonton, AB T6K
3E9 780-463-4445
michelle.height@ualberta.ca

Vinjar (Grand Praire & environs) (Shire)

Seneschal: *Katla* (Jenifer Lizotte) Box 144
Sexsmith, AB 780-814-2113
Lizott_J@canada.com

Windwvrm (Lethbridge, AB) (Shire)

Seneschal: *Lady Danaathe Balmy* (Rosanne
McConnell) Box 988 Magrath, AB T0K 1J0
(403)758-6119

Other Avacal Contacts

Willowmere (Prince Albert, SK)
(Household) contact Myrgan Wood.

Fort McMurray, AB: Viscountess Eirika
(see Seneschal listing)

Brooks, AB: Lady Rhianon (Rita Shimonko)
636 - 11th St. W. Brooks, AB (403)501-5406
houpelande@mail.com



AVACAL
TOGETHER
WE CONQUER

The Avantgarde

Newsletter of The Principality of Avacal
AS XXXIX May 2004

In the Reign of
Their Highnesses Murchad and Morrigan



An illustration from *The Book of Worthy Conquest*, which narrates the
conquest of four Hungarian towns, a campaign led by Sokollu
Mehmed Pasha in 1551

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The Principality Online:

Avacal Website: <http://www.avacal.antir.sca.org/>

An Tir Website: <http://www.antir.sca.org/>

Avacal Circus (Mailing List) - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Avacal/>

Photos and Message Board: <http://www.avacal.ca/>

Principality Royalty, Champions and Officers

(no calls after 9pm please)

King & Queen An Tir:

His Royal Majesty Skapti THorinson
(Scott Zeller) 11221 80th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98034 (425) 823-1783
prince@antir.sca.org

Her Royal Majesty A'sa Starradottir
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dbooker@calcna.ab.ca
avacal-seneschal@antir.sca.org

Calendar: *Viscountess Catriona* (Jessica Steadman) 707 2nd St. E. Saskatoon, SK S7H 1P6 306-955-3052
catrionamcmanus@hotmail.com

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avacal-herald@antir.sca.org

Deputy: NMS and Waiver Deputy - Vacant

Deputy: New and Incipient Branches - Jacob Lachlainn de Sevigny (Haemish MacLachlan) Box 113, Riondel, B.C. V0X 2B0 haemac@netidea.com

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michelle.height@ualberta.ca

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From The Gryphon Thrones:**Greetings Avacal,**

With summer rapidly approaching and War season along with it We are thrilled to be represented both on the field of combat and in Arts and Science competitions by you, the people of this wonderful Principality. We foresee a wonderful and busy summer with the events that the Principality is involved with. Quad War is upcoming. There is also the Inlands War on the August long weekend that will be taking place at Farragout State Park just outside of Wealdsmere. We encourage all those who wish to help with these and other events to step forward and let the autocrats know.

We would like to thank the groups who have hosted Us over the past month.

Loch Dorr Ithra, Vatnsdalr's Spring Faire as well as Winter War. All wonderful events and We thank the people who made Our visits so special.

*Murchad & Morrigan
Prince and Princess Avacal*

Musings from the Chronicler:**Greetings Avacal!**

There have been a few changes lately with regards to the NMS and the Kingdom Calendar listings. To get the official word about this speak to our Calendar officer, Viscountess Catriona or check out the An Tir Autocrats website (www.currentmiddleages.org/autocrats).

That being said, I wanted to remind autocrats that this newsletter accepts all event copies and calendar listings regardless of whether or not your event is subject to the NMS. The event information must still be sent to

Viscountess Catriona who graciously forwards it me, the Avacal Webmaster and, if you wish, Kindom Calender/Crier editor. It's very easy. So please don't forget to use this great advertising venue!

Thank you to everyone who has sent me articles to publish, but I need more and I need artwork. Please send me anything that you think might interest the rest of Avacal. Pretty Please...

Happy reading!

*Ever in Service
The Lady Manynra.*

Rants & Ramblings from the Regent

Greetings unto all the populace of Avacal,

Spring has arrived and with it brings the season of outdoor events and activities. The University of Avacal intends to offer classes at many events throughout the realm. At the smaller events you may expect classes aimed primarily at addressing the local needs of the hosting group, while at the major events a full Collegium with a much broader slate of classes will be planned. Expect proportionately fewer summer classes to be academic than in the winter season; I suspect most of us would prefer to be outside in the sunshine doing hands-on activities at this time. In this matter I will do my utmost to make available whatever the populace tells me they wish to teach and learn; I am eager for your feedback and suggestions.

With this in mind, I would like to explain the basic procedure for having THUA classes organized for an event. The first step usually occurs at branch level where, an event and autocrat being decided on, and the group members agreeing that classes would be an asset, the autocrat approaches me by phone or email to request THUA involvement. At that point I assign the event to a coordinating Chancellor who is normally located in or as near as possible to the branch; right now and for the short term future that means me, as Chancellors have not yet been warranted (get your applications in, please !!).

The Chancellor then works closely with the autocrat in order to determine what classes are desired, what the needs of the branch are, and attempts to make a match up by finding suitable instructors who are available for that locale and time. Weather, site limitations, and other event

conflicts or redundancies all come into play. It's very much a back and forth... often compromises must be reached when physical space (classrooms) or other facilities are not available or practical. Usually the Chancellor will be consulting the seneschal, branch marshal, A&S officer, and chatelaine as well as the autocrat to determine clearly the needs of the group. If the branch has local or other preferred persons for class instructors this will be accommodated whenever possible. Such a proposed instructor would be asked to submit an instructor profile and class outline to the Regent for approval and inclusion in the THUA instructor database. This is not a highly formal process and its chief intent is to make available for all Chancellors an up to date record of teaching resources for future events. It must be understood that the final approval for inclusion of any given THUA class and/or instructor is made by the event Chancellor, or ultimately the Regent if there is a controversy. This is required to ensure the quality of instruction and the suitability of the course material that are to be associated with Their Highnesses University. Courses and instructors having been agreed upon, the Chancellor makes up a THUA event brochure for email and manual distribution, and promotes the event through online discussion groups, and local and principality newsletters.

Regarding finances, the hosting group is responsible for all site costs, feast costs, and all other ordinary expenses associated with running an event. The hosting group charges the populace for admission/feast fees, including the NMS when it is applicable, and collects and administers all income and expense fees separately from the University. On the other hand, the University independently

(Continued on page 5)

Quad War X July 2-4, 2004

Come one and all, war has once again come to our lands. Join us for this great and ever expanding annual event (sponsored by the Shire of Bordergate) located in the happiest place in the known world. Heavy/light (including some 6' weapons and under) scenarios are available in this 2 day, 4 army war fought in and around a continuously growing castle.

The site opens at noon, July 2 and closes at 4 pm July 5. An archery tournament, rapier tournament and melee, bardic competition and an incredible line up of THUA A&S and combat arts classes compliment the war activities. Round off your event with a visit to our expanding merchants row.

For war scenarios, TRP's class details, site rules, schedules, and pictures check out the web site www.geocities.com/quadwar Quad War! What a way to play!

Site fee: \$10.00 for 16 years of age and up (please add \$4.00 for non-member adults) 15 years of age and

A quick note from the Principality Earl Marshall regarding Youth Combat at Quad War!

This year at Quad War we are going to have a kids tournament complete with prizes for winners in categories like "Had the Most Fun" or "Best Death" or whatever people can think of...So if you are interested in having your kid play, http://www.antir.sca.org/Pubs/boffer_3_2004.pdf has all the rules for kids combat. There will be no loaner armor or anything so if you don't make it yourself, your child won't be participating...I would like to have a 1/2 hour orientation before the kids play to get the parents together and talk about this. - Hrogan (Excerpt from an email sent April 24th, 2004)

Shire of Bordergate Marsden.SK

under free Please make checks payable to "ACSA Canton of the Lakelands)

Co-Autocrats:

Volchok (Clint Zajic) 4510 Stewart cres. Vermillion AB. T9X 1R3 Ph# 403 899 4600 or volchok@shaw.ca
Owen de Caldekote 66 Patterson cres St. Albert AB. T8N 4T7 Ph# 780 460 0674 or mtech01@telus.net

THUA High Regent: Lord Ezekiel Hrafnklo (Brian Moffatt)
ravenclaw@netidea.com

Directions (there is no street address)
From Edmonton, AB: Take HW14 East until 8 KM past the Saskatchewan border. Turn north (left) on the Artland Road and follow the signs. from Saskatoon ,SK. Take HW 16 to North Battleford then HW 40 west 5 KM past Marsden, SK; turn north (right) on the Artland Road and follow the signs.

Mid Summer Tavern June 26, 2004

Sigelhundas Regina, SK

Once again it's time to fight, drink, and feast in Sigelhundas. We invite all good gentles to join us at our first ever Midsummer Tavern.

Place: Cornwall Alternative School,
40 Dixon Crescent S4N 1V4

Time: 1:00pm - 11:30pm

Cost: \$2 member; \$6 non-member
(Includes \$4 non member surcharge).
Make
Cheques payable to "QCSCA"

Activities:

1:00pm rapier begins.

Armoured combat to follow

A&S classes to be announced. A&S
contest, theme: Solstice

5:30 tavern (bar & food) opens

Light supper will be provided at a
small cost

We eagerly await this Midsummer
gathering, the begining of summer is
such an
invigorating time.

Autocrat:

Murdoch MacLeod
(Creighton Widdis)
83 Magee Cres
Regina Sk S4R 6K4
bagpiperx@yahoo.com
306-543-3906

Limited crash space available, please
contact Murdoch as soon as possible if
you need somewhere to stay.

Danish-Frisian Pillage Practice and Spring Tea May 7, 8, 9, 2004

Sigelhundas Regina, SK

It's time once again to make sure we
are in top fighting form for the
upcoming War Season!

The Shire of Sigelhundas welcomes
everyone to join in a weekend of fun,
fighting and frivolity at the 13th
Annual Danish-Frisian Pillage
Practice and Spring Tea. The Shire
Champions of Armoured Combat and
Archery will be chosen at this event as
well! Co- fight-o-crats Sir Ivar the
Black and Lord Philemon of the
Legion are set to give all combatants a
good challenge.

And yes, there WILL be tea!

Where: Camp Gilwell located between
Fort Qu'Appelle and Lebret SK
Please check below for the map!

Fees: \$12.00 site fee for 3 days, \$6.00
for smalls (12 and under), very young
smalls are free. Day passes are \$5.00
Reservations: through the Autocrats
(info below)

Autocrats: Nyrik Vartinnen (mka:
David Teskey) at ph# 306-586-7749
and Isabetta Adimari (mka: Brianna
Krentz) at ph# 306-775-2116 or e-mail
at willa_isobe@yahoo.ca

(Continued from page 4)

collects student registration and course
fees, and arranges payment to instructors
for course expenses, and any other
expenses associated directly with THUA.
The branch and THUA accounts are
completely separate at all times. THUA
policy for instructors is that the course fee
set must cover the instructor's expenses,
instructors must present receipts for
recompense, and that personal expenses
such as travel, food, and accommodation
are not covered except in exceptional
situations by prior written approval of the
Regent.

I hope that this brief introduction clarifies
the procedure for having THUA classes
included in an event. As the University of
Avacal is in its incipency and still in the
process of developing policies and
procedures, I would be grateful if you
would contact me if you have questions or

suggestions regarding any of the above.

In closing, I encourage you to participate
in classes at Windwyrn's May Days
(various archery, heavy combat, herbal
mythology, and pharmacology/medicinal
classes) and at Coronet (fighters
appreciation, fibre arts, theatrical/Bardic,
camping, and encampments classes
already arranged with more to come). I am
still avidly looking for volunteers and
instructors for additional Coronet classes,
and especially for Quad War which will be
a multi-stream full Collegium. Please get
in touch with me as soon as possible if you
have ideas for these events.

In service to Avacal,

Lord Ezekiel Hrafnklo

250-225-3367 regent@avacal.net

"Coniunctim Vinciemus"

Court Reports

The following awards were given out:

13 Mar 2004 Night in Byzantium
TH Murchad and Morrigan
AoA Robert of Wyvern's Veldt
AoA Ciar ingen Gobann

20 Mar 2004 Winter War
TH Murchad and Morrigan
AoA Nanook of the North
AoA Tat'iana Radokovaia Codlin

3 Apr 2004 Spring Faire
TH Murchad and Morrigan
AoA Taki Valgaardsdottir
AoA Cameron Stewart
GG Inga the Unfettered
PKnot Issabella Kendal of Raven's Rift
PKnot Aiden ap Darren y Cigfrain

10 Apr 2004 Easter Ithra
TH Murchad and Morrigan
AoA Ann of Willbeck Abbey
AoA Seraphina Bozzetti

17 Apr 2004 Heraldic Symposium
TH Murchad and Morrigan
GG Catriona MacManus

17 Apr 2004 Honour War
TRM Skapti and Asa
King's Favor Eirika Francesca Pacchioni

**Congratulations to all recent award
recipients.**

**For the complete Avacal OP please visit:
[http://members.shaw.ca/rslansky1/
avacal_herald/](http://members.shaw.ca/rslansky1/avacal_herald/)**

**Any corrections or updates can be sent
to Master Mordecai Avacal OP Deputy
at rslansky1@shaw.ca**

Royal Summons for Principality Officers:

The following positions are open to anyone in the SCA who currently resides in the Principality of Avacal. If you would like more information regarding this position please contact the incumbent or your local officer. If you are interested in applying for any of the following positions, please submit a letter of intent along with a copy of your resume containing both SCA and mundane experience to Prince, Princess and Principality Seneschal and the current officer if requested. Contact information is listed at the back of the Avantgarde.

***** Anyone interested in becoming a deputy may contact the Officer of the position of interest. The help is always welcome*****

NMS and Waiver Deputy: This is a new deputy of the Principality Seneschal's Office and the duties will include communicating with the Kingdom NMS Coordinator and all Avacal branches, keeping up to date with any changes to the Non-member Surcharge policy, overseeing the submissions monies from of qualifying events, and ensuring that waivers are being correctly utilized at events and that they are submitted to Kingdom in a timely fashion. Deputy will report to the Principality Seneschal. Any one interested in this position should send their applications to Their Highnesses with a copy to the Principality Seneschal.

Bardic Deputy: Please see letter from outgoing officer below for job description.

Greetings,

My employer has offered an opportunity to complete an Industrial Masters degree. Sadly, that means by September I will not have the time to devote to my SCA position as Avacal Bardic Officer (Deputy of the A&S Office). Thus Lady Ceis of Ravensrift (the Avacal A&S Minister) and I will be looking for my replacement.

The Bardic Officer position is a relatively new office, and its duties are still to some extent made by the person in the position. Those set down thus far are:
1) Encourage performance of all sorts through out Avacal (this means Dance, Singing, Juggling, Acting, Poetry, or anything else that falls under the heading of performance).
2) Report quarterly (four times a year) to the Avacal A&S Officer (Ceis), with a cc: to the Kingdom Bardic deputy officer.

(AnTir Bardic Deputy : Mistress Isolde de la Vielle-a-Roue). Your report should contain info on what is going on in Avacal for performance.

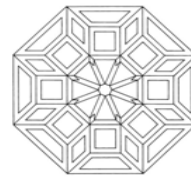
There is also the Avacal bards website, and although I pay for hosting it, I am willing to help you remake it (or to remake it according to your desires) into your vision for a resource for the Avacal Performers.

Please submit two resumes (mundane and SCA) to both me and Ceis by (June 1, 2004). Please note that the Bardic Deputy is a warranted office, and the officer must hold a current SCA membership, so applicants must be prepared to obtain a membership if they do not already have one.

Sincerely,
Kataryna Tkach

Dragon Slayer June 18 – 20, 2004

Montengarde Calgary, AB



Welcome young and old, from far and near. Join us in choosing our champions of Montengarde.

Come pitch your encampments and join us for a weekend of tournaments, dancing and merriment. Weekend events: DragonBlinder (archery), DragonSlayer (heavy) and possible Rapier tournament. Ready your drinking vessels, The Dam and Beaver Tavern will be bigger and better this year. We welcome all to make the evening celebrations as festive as possible. Let us celebrate our champions.

Your Autocrats: Tjorvi Fasthaldi & Galen MacGuire (Laura & Cliff Erasmus) 252052 Range Road 50, Calgary, AB T3Z 2K8 (403) 932-0709

The event will be held in the same location as last year. 252052 Range Road 50, Calgary, T3Z 2K8. All welcome to bring enclosed, secure portable fires (but provincial fire bans will be enforced, if need arises). Please bring your own drinking water as there is none on site. Supplies and showers are a 10 minute drive away.

All merchants are welcome (no additional fees). All camp and merchant spots are first come first served.

Site opens 4pm, Friday, June 18 – closes 5pm, Sunday, June 20.

Site fees: Weekend: Adult \$12
Child (6 – 12 years) \$6
Maximum charge per immediate family \$36
Day Fees: Half of the above cost
The non-member surcharge (+\$4 per adult) will be charged. Proof of membership will be required (bring your card). Make cheques payable to MSCA.

Directions: Take your best route to Transcanada Hwy. into Calgary (16th Ave). Head west out of town. On Transcanada West, pass the Cochrane overpass (Hwy 22) and the Petro Canada service station. For our friends from the west, take Transcanada Hwy Eastward. Take the next overpass (green) turn right to head North (Jumping Pound Road). Note: Stay on the paved road. Turn left at "T" intersection. After going over a few hills, turn right to head North toward Gas Plant and continue on pavement. Will see signs in last farmer's field on the left just before the Plant.

Avacal Coronet A.S. 39**June 5 - 6, 2004****SITE CHANGE!****Montengarde****Calgary, AB**

Welcoming young and old, from near and far. Join us in choosing our Prince and Princess of Avacal. Come pitch your encampments and join us for a weekend of tournaments, dancing and merriment.

Weekend Events: Coronet Tourney, Squires Tourney, archery, rapier, A&S display and many other things.

Your Autocrats: Aldreada of the Lakes, James d'Orleans, and Custance Fenwick.

5112 Barron Dr. NW
Calgary, AB. T2L 1T6 (403)
289-3197 (ask for Deloris).
Site Contact: Tjorvi Fasthaldi &
Galen MacGuire (Laura & Cliff
Erasmus) (403) 932-0709

Location: The event will be held at a farm just outside Cochrane at 252052 Range Road 50, Calgary, AB. T3Z 2K8.

All are welcome to bring enclosed, secure portable fires (but provincial fire bans will be enforced, if need arises). Please bring your own drinking water as there is none on site. Supplies and showers are a 10-

minute drive away. All merchants are welcome. All spots are first come first served.

Site opens 4pm Friday, June 4
closes 5pm Sunday, June 6.

Site fees: Weekend Adult \$12
Child (6-12 years) \$6., Day
Fees half of above cost. A \$4
surcharge will apply to all non-
SCA members. Make cheques
payable to MSCA.

Directions: Take your best route to Transcanada Hwy. into Calgary (16 Ave.) Head west out of town. On Transcanada West, pass the Cochrane overpass (HWY. 22) and the Petro Canada Service station. Friends from the West, take Transcanada Hwy. Eastward. Take the next overpass (green) turn right off overpass to head North (Jumping Pound Road). Note: stay on paved road. Turn left at "T" intersection, After going over a few hills, turn right to head North towards Gas plant and continue on pavement. Will see signs in last farmers field on left just before the Plant.

ASK ACCA

From event etiquette to helpful hints, let St. Acca put your fears to rest and clear the muddles in your brain.

Dear St. Acca,

When I joined the SCA I didn't really know anyone and after a short while I joined a household of other relatively new people. Now that we are all starting to establish ourselves we have started growing apart and the signs of stress are starting to show in the household. Is it okay to leave a household? Can I do it without making enemies? Should we maybe examine disbanding and each starting their own household? No matter how you slice it some friendships will be lost.

**Signed
Fledgling at the edge of the nest****Gentle Fledgling,**

Acca congratulates you on recognizing your own growth and expanding interests within the Society, and supports your continuing exploration into those areas that spark your imagination. Having said that, Acca believes that it is perfectly acceptable to leave a household at any time. Most reasonable people understand that individuals grow and change over time and, when the constructs of a household no longer serve all of the individuals involved, it is to everyone's benefit to allow those individuals the chance to forge their own path if

they choose to. Obviously, it is much easier when the household as a whole recognizes that growth has occurred, leaving no hard feelings as members head off in their new directions. However, it can be a delicate situation if not everyone holds the same vision, or has not grown at the same rate as others within the household. If there are enough household members realizing that changes can and need to be made in order to keep the group viable as it is, it might be worthwhile to bring the household together to discuss those changes and make them accordingly. If it is clear that the core ideals of the household are no longer in alignment with the direction of some of the individuals, it might be worthwhile for those individuals to acknowledge those differences and move on, but work out agreements of allegiance or support between the original household and the new one(s). Sometimes, though, the best course of action for an individual is to be grateful for the gifts, skills and connections that the original household provided, then continue on his own path without looking back. If all of the parties involved are sufficiently mature, shifts of this nature will be taken in stride with no adverse consequences, and the Society will reap the greater benefit, and be the stronger for them. It is the small-minded and

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petty person who chooses not to support the positive new directions of someone they call "friend," and the Society suffers. Ultimately, "to thine own self be true" – only you can weigh your decision, and determine the cost.

Medieval Word of the Month

Reeve: (O.E. *gerefa*; L. *praepositus, prepositus*)

1. A royal official, or a [manor](#) official appointed by the lord or elected by the peasants.
2. [Manorial](#) overseer, usually a villager elected by tenants of the [manor](#).
3. Officer responsible for the general management of a [manor](#) (usually selected from among the manor's tenants).
4. The lord's official on the [manor](#) who supervised labour dues and renders owed by peasants.
5. Principal manorial official under the [bailiff](#), always a [villein](#).
6. The usual word for an O.E. official, including the *scirgerefa* (sheriff) and *portgerefa* (port reeve, town reeve); continued to be used in towns after the Norman Conquest (later sometimes interchangeable with "[bailiff](#)"), generally for the officials responsible for paying the king's or lord's dues.

News from around the Principality

Their Majesties have chosen the next Baron and Baroness for Montengarde.

As reported by Master Thorvald Grimsson, OP, OL, OGGs, Court Baron Castellan of Montengarde, April 13, 2004 and May 2nd, 2004

They have selected HL Malabar Membro Spaccata and HL Hero the Responsible to become the next Baron and Baroness of Montengarde. They will be invested at June Coronet in Montengarde on June 5.

Myrgan Wood's Baron and Baroness to step down in the fall.

Baron Roaul and Baroness Roxanne announced at the Kingdom Heraldic Symposium that they will be stepping down in the Fall. A schedule to choose their new Baron and Baroness of Myrgan Wood will be announced at a later date.

May Days XXXIX: The Festival of Flora and Fauna May 28 – May 30, 2004

Shire of Windwyrm Lethbridge, Alberta

Come one come all and join the Shire of Windwyrm for our yearly May Days celebration while joining in on celebrating the Flora and Fauna.

Partake in our traditional May Pole Dance and the choosing of the May Queen. Spend some time trying your hand at a game of medieval soccer, hone your skills as a sheep pilferer, and join in with assorted children's activities.

Warm up and enjoy our Bardic circle, try your hand at storytelling, and raise your voices in song and in laughter with the populace of Windwyrm.



Lords and Ladies enjoy this relaxing weekend with friends, with plenty of camping space for all.

Autocrat: Eden Waddington (aka Sandi Pickles) 138 18 St N, Lethbridge, AB, T1H 3E8
Phone: 403 328 3074 or (403) 892 3566 sandiedenpickles@yahoo.com

Site Info: This event will take place at the Fish and Game Park in Fort Macleod, Alberta (there is no

street address). Full amenities are available 2 minutes from the site. Bring your own drinking water. Alcohol is permitted in period containers. No smoking in and around site except at designated area. All pets must be leashed.

Site opens at 12 noon on May 28 and closes 12 noon on May 30. The site fee is \$10.00 for adults (card required) plus a \$4.00 surcharge for non-members, \$1.00 for youths (ages 6-16), and children 5 and under are free. Make cheques payable to W. S. C. A.

Directions:
From Lethbridge go West on

Highway 3 (Crowsnest Trail). Stay on Highway 3 through Fort Macleod. At the west edge of town, just past the Fort Museum, stay in the right hand lane and look for the Lyndon Road Sign, opposite the Shell Station. Stay on paved road down the hill. Go past the Daisy May Campground and look for signs.

From Calgary: Highway 2 south then east on Highway 3 into Fort Macleod. Turn left onto Lyndon Road, opposite the Shell Station. Go past the Daisy May Campground and look for signs.

Cold Keep Champion's Event May 8, 2004

Shire of Cold Keep Prince George, BC

The Shire of Cold Keep invites all comers to vie for the honour of representing Cold Keep as Heavy or Archery Champion of our fair Shire.

The meal will be potluck - period dishes preferred! - followed by a bardic competition to entertain all. This is a discreetly dry site!

The site will be open from 10:00AM until midnight.

Further detail and championship requirements can be found on the Cold Keep website www.geocities.com/trad_archer77/ColdKeep/ColdKeep.htm.

The event is at the Miworth Community Hall at 13510 Flint Road, Prince George, BC, V2M 7B9.

Make your best way on Highway 97 (the Bypass) to 5th Avenue. Turn west onto 5th Avenue and follow it to Foothills Boulevard. Turn north onto Foothills, and continue to Otway Road (just before the bridge). Turn east onto Otway Road and continue 11 kms to Flint Road.

Note the road crosses the railway tracks three times before you reach the site. SCA signs will be posted.

Site fee is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12, children under 5 free: the \$4 non-member surcharge applies. Make cheques payable to the Shire of Cold Keep, SCA Inc.

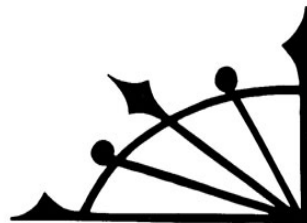
For information on either tourney, contact HL Vladimir Andreivich Aleksandrov at chornem@navcanada.ca.

For the bardic competition, contact Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha at natalia@telus.net

Autocrats:

Lady Brigit ingen Meic Thire Ruaidh (Darlene Edvall), 2573 Inlander Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1J6, 250-562-8417, celticwolf@telus.net

HL Tatiana the Outspoken (Martina Irvine), 2925 Westwood Drive, Prince George BC, V2N 1R7, 250-562-7807, tatiana@shaw.ca.



Costuming Tips from Avacal Circus

The following is a collection of sewing tips posted to the Avacal Circus. Thank you to every one who contributed and especially to Zenoiva who gathered and organized it all for publications. Keep 'em coming!

Patterns

Here's an idea I learned about while helping a dance studio put together their costumes for the year end show.

Trace your patterns with permanent markers on the clear plastic film used for a vapour barrier when you install fibreglass insulation. You can buy this at any hardware store.

The beauty of this stuff is that it is inexpensive and very easy to work with. It doesn't tend to tear and it is easy to see marks, like darts or seams, through it. You can just copy the marks under the plastic onto the fabric. Another advantage is that it tends to pick up a static charge and cling to the fabric, so you can just weight it down with dressmaker's weights or hockey pucks and cut away, without tracing anything other than the darts, etc. When you are done, it folds up neatly and is easy to store.

**Elizabeth Stafford, Windwyrms,
2004-03-15**

If you're *really* cheap (like me), you'll go to a bedding store and get the large plastic bags that mattresses are shipped in. The plastic is heavier and will endure many uses without tearing.

Stanislav, 2003-03-15

You can tailor and make adjustments with plastic film as well. With a bit of tape and your model, you can do some fitting before cutting.

**Tiran mac Iomhair, Montengarde,
2004-03-15**

Chair covers

Chair covers are great for enhancing the medieval look of your campsite and keeping track of which one of the 20 or so black chairs at the bardic belong to you. They can be surprisingly hard to make, however, because they tend to rip at the seat.

Use the strongest fabric you can find. Upholstery fabric is ideal but will still tend to tear or be uncomfortable if the cover is too tight.

The weak spot on most styles of chairs will be where the seat meets the back. The trick is to make the back covering separate and not attached to the seat covering. Just have a flap of cloth that slides under the two parts where the seat meets the back (under your bum, if you are sitting on the chair.)

Another option is to put a few inches of extra fabric, like a gusset, in the back-seat area. If your chair has arms, you also need to have the extra give where the arms meet the seat. Don't

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be afraid to make the whole cover slightly larger than you think it should be, because the chair expands when someone sits on it.

If you are really clever with your chair cover, you could also add pockets or flaps to hide mundane containers or hold flashlights, etc.

Elizabeth Stafford, 2004-03-15

Practise techniques on scraps

If you're unsure of your ability to do a particular sewing technique (e.g. insert a gore into a slit), try it out on scraps first.

Do a few to get the hang of it. It saves the grief of ripping out stitches if you happen to get it wrong. Save each sample when you get the particular technique right so that, in future, you can refer back to them or show them to someone else who is learning.

**Zenovia, Myrgan Wood,
2004-03-25**

Gores by hand

I've had lots of problems with this in the past, but I've finally licked them, and it proves that if you go back to "primary" sources, it pays.

My problem was that most of the gored dresses I was looking at re-creating have no centre seams: the front and back panels are not in two pieces each. Inserting a gore into a

single rectangle tended to cause puckering/bumps at the top point. ("Tended" is a mild term: think, rather, huge and unbelievable mountains of bump, whacks of cursing and swearing and hours of adjusting and oversewing to the point where some of my clothing probably weighs a quarter pound extra just from trying to disguise the bumps...)

Finally, I took a close, hard look at scaled drawings of garments made this way, based on **real** archaeological remains. Using a teeny jeweller's callipers, I measured the length of the slit and the length of the gore. I went through every book and bit of documentation I had, measuring both the drawings and the actual garment pictures. About fourteen different dresses/shirts in all, I think, give or take. In every case, the slit is just a bit shorter than the gore! (Okay, I am a slow learner. What can I say?)

How to do it:

Determine the length of the slit you want/need. Make your gore approx. 1" to 1½" **longer** than the slit and about ½" **wider** than you would like the finished gore to be.

Lay the gore flat on your table or floor.

After you cut the slit, place the rectangle over the gore and carefully position the slit so that it is open

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AVACAL CALENDAR

Calendar Policy: Autocrats **MUST** submit *Date Reservation* and *Event Information* forms to Kalends (Viscountess Catriona) before an event is officially reserved or put on Calendar. Forms available from your Seneschal or the Kalends officer.

All event copies for the Crier, Avantgarde, and Avacal Webpage has to go through the Calendar Officer. Please have the event information form (with appropriate signatures) and event copy to the Calendar Officer by the 15th of the month, 2 months prior to the event. (ie. If your event is January 22, have event copy in by November 15th).

Please include the following as required by the Crier:

- Date of event (day and month and year)
- Time of event (when site opens and closes)
- Name of sponsoring group
- Location (name, street address, and town) of the site. The postal code should also be included if available.
- Name (society and modern) and address of the autocrat (I find it useful to include the feastocrat as well)
- If there is a fee for the event, the statement "make cheques payable to <Group>" must be included.
- Official SCA Event Title
- Modern Location (town/city)

08-May	Champions Tourney	Cold Keep
08-May	Pillage Practice and Spring Tea*	Sigelhundas
15-May		
22-May	An Tir Crown	
29-May	May Days	Windwyrn
05-Jun	<i>Avacal Coronet</i>	
12-Jun	To The Bitter End	Bitter End
19-Jun	Dragonslayer	Montengarde
26-Jun	Mid-Summer Tavern	Sigelhundas
03-Jul	Quad War	Bordergate
10-Jul	Turkish Picnic	Myrgan Wood
16-Jul	An Tir Coronation	
23-Jul	Un-named Team Competition Event	Montengarde
30-Jul	Avacal/Inlands War	Wealdsmere
07-Aug		
14-Aug		
21-Aug	<i>Avacal Investiture</i>	Sigelhundas

* Note please see Page 20 for Pillage event copy—It's the only place I could fit it. :-)

The Sun is Your Enemy....

By Lady Melusine of Windhill Wood, Our newest import from the Barony of Western Seas, Caid.(Hawaii)

This is some advice for the young fighters out there.

Even though you may be a light fighter, you can just as easily succumb to heat exhaustion as a heavy.

It is easy to forget due to the lack of humidity here. (and being outside without layers of clothing)

When you fight, don't drink soft drinks-they contain sodium and will only make you more thirsty-drink water or Gatorade, or even flavored waters, or tea but don't over do it. Some folk put lemons in their water for added vitamin C.

Everyone has their own "limit"-you will have to figure out yours as you pursue your fighting career.

Have slices of oranges about-they will help to regain the vitamin C you lose when you fight.

If you can, when you break your fast, eat breads, and/or oatmeal, and have a banana-this will give you needed carbohydrates and potassium. Cold foods may upset your tummy (depending on the person).

Another trick during a long day of fighting is to keep slices of dill pickles handy in your cooler-take a bite after a long fight-if it is sweet to you, then you have lost your body salts, and are in the first stages of heat exhaustion. In some kingdoms, the water bearers use that to determine if a fighter is able to continue fighting.

Also, the early symptoms of heat exhaustion are:headaches,nausea, dizziness, dry skin, feverishness and a cotton mouth. If you experience these-it's time to stop fighting, doff your armor, sit in the shade, and get some water or a cool (not cold) compress. Some fighters also note that they stop sweating.

Some fighters mistake these symptoms for their adrenaline calming down. But as you all are used to a much colder climate, the sun will wilt you faster.

As the weather gets warmer, please do not forget sunscreen-(yes, even I use it) It is no fun to get sunburn at anytime.

For those of you who imbibe:take a couple aspirin before you sleep, if you are sober enough to remember. this will help alleviate the major hangover the next morning.

And finally-no matter what you are doing-be it fighting, or otherwise, Please, Do Not Forget to Take Time Out to Eat! Or have someone remind you to do so! (we are not superhuman-though sometimes we like to think we are)

In Service to the Dream,
"Mother Mel" (hehehe)

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over top of the gore but overlaps (important!) by about ½” along the edges of the gore (or less, or more, as you feel appropriate). There should be about 1” of overlap of the slit on the top of the gore-piece. Make sure everything is perfectly flat and even: now is the time to get this right.

Baste the gore into place. (I use a **very** contrasty colour so that there is no mistake about which is basting-thread and which is “final sewing” later). Hold it up and make sure it’s still lying flat, no bumps, no ripples, no gappy bits. This is the best time for this, as basting is fast, and you haven’t invested a whole lot of time or effort yet. Re-doing things at this point is way, way easier and much less disheartening.

Note: I baste while everything is lying flat on my living room floor. The only danger here is that I will sew the garment to the carpet, but, again, basting is so low-intensive that snipping out the offending bit and re-sewing is not a big hassle. (If you have a dressmaker’s dummy, pinning the gore into place and then reorganizing and re-pinning, then basting it while the dress is on your dummy is probably a good way to do this, too. But for those of us without...)

For early period stuff, I use overcasting (sort of like blanket stitch). I do this by hand, sewing so that I am simultaneously finishing the raw edge and attaching the

rectangle to the gore. Then I turn it inside out and do the same, finishing the raw edge of the gore while attaching it to the rectangle. (For fabrics that ravel easily, it is sometimes preferable to overcast the edges on both pieces, and then overcast/attach the pieces. Or serge them if you have a serger. Use your own judgment here.)

My new green dress has absolutely flat insertion points, beautifully finished edges, and I don’t have to go around mentioning that the gores aren’t quite right.

If you don’t want to hand-sew this, you will need to adjust the sizes/measurements to account for turning the raw edges under first, but honestly, hand-sewing them doesn’t take that long. (If you don’t have a fully equipped sewing room, count up all the time you spend setting up your machine and finding the right chair, and clearing off the dining room table and winding your bobbin and so on, and compare: there’s a lot more time involved in machine-sewing than people think!)

The next-to-last thing you do, of course, is remove the basting stitches. I advise against pins (although they are handy for anchoring things before you baste) because they don’t mimic the final sewing very well, and cause ripples and things.

After everything is done, you may see some mild bumpy/ripply bits.

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Take the fabric to the ironing board, lay a drop cloth over top of the fabric and steam-press like a demon all along the sewn gores. Wool especially (but even cotton and linen, to a lesser extent) responds well: the whole thing will flatten out and lie perfectly... within reason. If you have a really big bump, you're stuck, though, which is why I recommend using natural fibre fabric (esp. wool, for overdresses) and baste, baste, baste!

One last note: it is far, far easier to insert the gores before you put anything else together. For basic kirtle/chemise/gown/gunna construction, the front and back panels should be organized first, and the gores inserted. It's easier to make all the further fittings and adjustments to the side gores and gusset arrangements (even cutting the rectangle to a slimmer size) than it is to try to work the tailoring out ahead of time. I don't even think about those (except to make sure I've got enough fabric) until I've sorted out the main pieces. At least, it is easier for me. People with better sewing skills may find they work differently.

**Morgan the Unknown,
Montengarde, 2004-03-28**

Gores by machine

For those of us without the time/patience to set in gores by hand:

If you cut your gore first, mark the seam-lines and then measure the seam-line not the edge, you should be able to cut the slit to precisely the right length. The exact difference between the length of the cut edge and the length of the seam-line depends on the angle at which the seam-lines intersect at the top. This empirical method removes the guess work and, therefore, much of the swearing.

I use machine construction. I begin the seam at the hem on one side, right sides together, slit on top of gore. I sew up to the top, grading the seam-allowance of the slit only as I move towards the point, pivot on my needle at the precise centre top, and grade the seam-allowance back out as I move toward the hem again. Once the first phase is stitched, I trim the wider parts of the seam-allowance of the slit to about 3/16". I then press the seam-allowance of the gore (this should be full width all the way up) out over the garment body, turn its edges under and stitch it down (by hand or machine) thus producing a flat-felled seam and reducing the strain on the vulnerable point at the top of the gore.

Note: if your fabric frays badly, it is a good idea to reinforce the top inch or so with buttonhole or overcasting.

**Issabella Kendal, Vatnsdalr ,
2004-03-28**

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Drawing parallel lines

When drafting pattern pieces, you may want to draw one line parallel to an existing line to add a seam allowance, for example. It's easy to simply use a ruler when the existing line is straight, but it can be a royal pain when the line curves or is even more complex.

A standard sewing tape measure is 5/8" wide. Coincidentally (or perhaps not), seam allowances on commercial patterns are also 5/8" wide. If you want to add 5/8", just lay your tape measure with one edge along your line, and trace the other edge.

What if you need some other distance? I'll use a facing for a keyhole neckline as an example. (A facing is a scrap of fabric that you sew to the right side of a raw edge such as a neckline, then turn to the wrong side in order to neatly finish the edge. It works well on curved edges where you can't just fold the fabric over to finish the edge as you would on a hem.)

1. Establish your original line (e.g. draw your keyhole neckline).
2. Decide on the distance (e.g. 3").
3. Draw a circle with a radius equivalent to your distance on heavy card (e.g. index card or heavier).
4. Cut out the circle and poke a hole through the centre.
5. Stick the point of a pen or pencil through the hole. (This won't work with tailor's chalk/soap etc. You

need the writing implement to make a good line easily.)
6. Follow the original line by running the edge of your circle along it.

The line you draw from the circle's centre will be the correct distance from the original line.

Zenovia, 2004-04-06

The way I do it is by using a compass: one with a pencil on one end when on paper; or one with two pointed ends when marking out my leather. They are also useful for marking out where holes are going to go (if you want them all the same distance apart) and for stitch marks on a non straight edge where you can't use a pricking iron and you don't trust your freehand stitching!

Myfanwy, 2004-04-07

Using the circle template is more hassle, but it would ensure that the new line is always the correct distance from the old one.

I guess when using the compass-only method you'd just have to be careful to keep the compass perpendicular to the old line, otherwise your distance might vary. Depends how anal you want to be about it ☺.

Zenovia, 2004-04-07