

**Directory of Avacal Branches**

**Bitter End** (Red Deer AB) (Shire)  
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 403-347-2347 annsteve@telus.net

**Bordergate** (Cold Lake AB) (Shire)  
**Seneschal:** Denis Le Griz (Denis Ouellette)  
 5301—44th St., Cold Lake AB T9M 2B4  
 780-594-1828 grizsho@telusplanet.net

**Borealis** (Edmonton AB) (Barony)  
**Baron and Baroness:** *TE Vik Vikingsson & Inga the Unfettered* (Jim Manners & Michelle Height)  
 1325 - 72 St., Edmonton AB T6K 3E9  
 780-463-4445 slikboy@shaw.ca or michelle.height@ualberta.ca  
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 11328 95A St., Edmonton AB T5G 1P1  
 780 432-7927 kintair@telus.net

**Cold Keep** (Prince George, BC) (Shire)  
**Seneschal (Acting):** *Eggbert the Ready* (David Golding)  
 1474 Warner Ave, Prince George BC V2L 4P2  
 250-564-1343 goldingspg@shaw.ca

**Harrows Cross** (Strathmore & environs) (Shire)  
**Seneschal:** *Isibel Svindandi* (Tammy Giles)  
 316 Bermuda Dr., Calgary AB T3K 2B1  
 403-230-2641 twg88@yahoo.ca

**Montengarde** (Calgary AB) (Barony)  
**Baron and Baroness:** *TE Beothuk of the Beothuks & Wilma the Still* (Ian Racine & Jenny Stellick)  
 #4 1704-35 ST SE, Calgary, AB T2A 1B5  
 403-568-0735 beothuk@shaw.ca  
**Seneschal:** *James the Quixotic* (James Cyr)  
 44 Dalton Bay NW, Calgary AB T3A 1H8  
 403-243-7084 quixote317@hotmail.com

**Myrgan Wood** (Saskatoon SK) (Barony)  
**Baron and Baroness:** *HE Dietrich von Kleeve* (Derrick Schreiber)  
 119 Lochrie Cr., Saskatoon SK S7M 5E3  
 306-382-8789 or (306)-220-9973 (cell)  
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**Rhuddglvn** (Medicine Hat AB) (Shire)  
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 2354 20 Ave SE, Medicine Hat AB T1A 3Y1  
 403-504-6182 mark\_normoyle@hotmail.com

**Sigelhundas** (Regina SK) (Shire)  
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**Valley Wold** (Moose Jaw SK) (Shire)  
**Seneschal:** *Geoffrey Lawrence* (Jeff McKibben)  
 1147 Elgin Ave, Moose Jaw, SK S6H 4G9  
 306-692-3332 jeffmckibben@hotmail.com

**Vinjar** (Grand Prairie AB & environs) (Shire)  
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 780-568-2528 esylvester@telus.net

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**Seneschal:** *L Matthias der Jager* (Kris Fischer)  
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 steadman@crtc.sk.ca or 306-682-1984

**North Battleford & area**  
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**Wvverns Veldt** (Brooks AB) (Household)  
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**The Principality Online:**

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<http://www.avacal.antir.sca.org/>  
*An Tir Website:*  
<http://www.antir.sca.org/>  
*Avantgarde Website*  
<http://users.accesscomm.ca/avantgarde/>  
*Avacal Circus (Mailing List):*  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Avacal/>



**AVACAL  
 TOGETHER  
 WE CONQUER**

# The Avantgarde

Newsletter of The Principality of Avacal  
 AS XLII \* October 2007  
 In the Reign of Their Highnesses  
 HH Kvigr Ivarsson and HH Linnet Grimolfsdottir



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Cover Photo by Askell  
Kiera of the Shadows riding Chance at Quad War 2007

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*Vacant*

**Southwest Avacal Chancellor:** *Vacant*

**Montengarde Chancellor:** *Vacant*

**Southeast Avacal Chancellor:** *Vacant*

**Myrgan Wood Chancellor:** *Vacant*

**Principality Royalty, Champions and Officers**

(no calls after 9 pm please)

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780-463-4445 michelle.height@ualberta.ca**From The Gryphon Thrones:**

Greetings to Avacal,

We want to thank those that made Harvest Feast as well as Feast of the Dragon's Fire a special event for Us. We hope that everyone enjoyed those events as much as We did. Our apologies to Vinjar and Cold Keep for not being able to attend their respective events; we wanted to, but it was just not possible. We had heard good things about them, and by the sounds of it, this year was no different. It was truly Our loss for missing two great events.

We are looking forward to Myrgan Wood's Anniversary in October, and Ferret's Feast, Skull and Crossbones Tavern and November Coronet in November. Those wishing to vie for the Coronets of Avacal are urged to prepare yourselves and to read the rules below regarding the format of the Coronet Tournament. We hope to see all of you join Us in the feasting and celebration of the season.



Picture by HE Beothuk

Kvigr & Linnet  
Prince & Princess of Avacal**Royal Progress**

Nov. 3	- Ferret's Feast, Valley Wold (Kvigr & Linnet)
Nov. 10	- Skull & Crossbones Tavern, Sigelhundas (Kvigr & Linnet)
Nov. 23-25	- Coronet Tourney, Bordergate (Kvigr & Linnet)
Dec. 8	- Yule Feast, Borealis (Kvigr & Linnet)

**NOVEMBER CORONET TOURNEY RULES**

In response to the success at Crown We are issuing the following requirements to the November Coronet tourney, in addition to the previous requirement of both fighter and consort having Avantgarde subscriptions:

- ❖ No conspicuously visible plastic
- ❖ No running shoes
- ❖ Every fighter is to have some written documentation on their persona and what armour and fighting style would be appropriate to them.

At least one part of each fighter's kit should be appropriate to their persona. We hope that everyone takes this as an opportunity to improve their kit and to better Avacal with the further development of your persona.

Kvigr &amp; Linnet—Prince &amp; Princess of Avacal

## *Seneschal's Message*

Greetings Avacal!

It's reporting time again. Branch reports have to be in to their Principality Superiors by Oct 15th or hopefully even earlier!

There has been great discussion lately about kids in the SCA around Avacal. With the great set of youth activities offered at Quad war and the increasing interest in youth combat Being such a fan of policy, I would just like to remind everyone that the SCA works on a "two deep rule." Basically, this means that two adults unrelated to one another be present at any youth activities. This is not to replace the responsibility of parents to watch over their kids but rather to add a level of safety for our future kings & queens. More information is in the Seneschal's Handbook which can be found at <http://www.sca.org/docs/SocSenHandbook-200510.pdf> but understanding that this policy exists shows how important children are to the SCA.

I hope to see many people at November Coronet in Bordergate. If you have any questions or concerns about what's happening in Avacal, I would love to hear them. I know many have ideas on how to improve this already great principality but they can't be put into practice until they are voiced. Curia will be held on Sunday and again, everyone is welcome.

Cheers!  
Manyra



## *Greetings from the Principality Royal Archer!*

Both target and combat archery were well represented at events over the past summer season. Many thanks to the hard work of the archery marshals who stepped forward and hosted archery tournaments.

- ❖ In the second quarter alone, archery occurred at seven events
- ❖ No archery-related injuries were reported at any of those events
- ❖ Target archery rules respecting Avacal tradition shall be crafted
- ❖ The new Deputy Royal Archer is Hlaford AEdelred Willelmes sunu
- ❖ At February Investiture 2008, I am stepping down as Royal Archer

Best wishes and in service,

HL Brynach ap Rhys

**Event: Avacal November Coronet**  
**Date: Nov 23 - 25th, 2007**

**Shire of Bordergate**  
**Cold Lake, AB**

Please join Their Highnesses, Kvirg and Linnet in the Shire of Bordergate to witness the tournament to select the next heirs to the Avacal Thrones.

Site: Exhibition Park Agriplex (no street address avail.)

Autocrat: Wentliana (Wanda Edel)  
1-780-594-3629  
email [vandw@telusplanet.net](mailto:vandw@telusplanet.net)  
mail: Box 711, Cold Lake AB, T9M1P2

Cost: Site fee \$5.00 per person,  
under 5 is free  
Feast is \$20.00 per adult,  
youth is \$10.00, under 12 is free  
Non-member site fee is \$4.00 per person

Please make cheques payable to:  
CSCA Canton of the Lakeland

Directions: Take hwy 28 north to Cold Lake, as you enter the Town you will see large red sign just past recycling depot on your right that says Exhibition Park, turn right under the sign and follow the SCA signs. The site opens Friday at 6pm and closes at 12 noon on Sunday. Overnight camping is available. If you are coming from Sask, please take best route to hwy 55. Follow signs to AB and Cold Lake. There will be SCA signs out to follow to the site

Merchants welcome, tables are free, please let me know how many you will need.



## Skull 'n Crossbones Tavern #9 – A Gathering of Pirates November 10, 2007

Come out and enjoy fine food and possibly some Northsheilders to kill! Yes, they are invited – after all, we need someone to pillage and plunder so why not our closest neighbours – but do they dare to show up? They haven't yet in the past 8 years but we shall see!

The Tavern will open at 9:00AM for her ninth run in the fair Shire of Sigelhundas. We will be closed at the stroke of midnight so you best be gone by then!

The place of the Tavern is St. Luke's Hall at: 3233 Argyle Road, Regina, SK, S4S 2B5

### Tavern fees:

SCA Members:

Adults (13yrs & older):

Site Fee - \$8.00

Feast Fee - \$12.00

Youth (3yrs to 12yrs):

Site Fee - \$4.00

Feast Fee - \$6.00

Child (under 3yrs): Free

Family (2 Adults & 3 or more Youth):

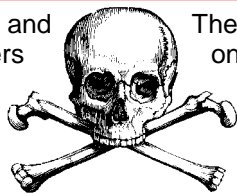
Site Fee - \$24.00

Feast Fee - \$36.00

As per SCA Law, the Non-member surcharge of \$4.00 will be in effect.

Cheques should be made out to the QCSCA.

## Shire of Sigelhundas Regina, SK



The Feast this year will be based on Piracy through the ages. Each remove will focus on a certain period of history starting with the Vikings and going forward. There will be authentic period dishes from each time period as well as traditional SCA dishes that everyone can enjoy. There are only 100 seats for the feast so reserve early!

There will be a few contests as well this year:

- ✦ the Principality Games Master Tourney
- ✦ an armoured combat tourney
- ✦ Shire Rapier Champion tourney
- ✦ Shire Arts & Sciences Champion tourney
- ✦ Tablero de Gucci tourney
- ✦ Other 'surprise' contests

More info can be found at: <http://maillie.sasktelwebsite.net/tavern.html>

Tavern Keeper:

Cap'n Thomas Wollffe (Stu Glennie)

Ph# 789-3185; email:

[thomaswollffe@gmail.com](mailto:thomaswollffe@gmail.com)

3242 Athol Street, Regina, SK,

S4S 1Y9

Cooks:

al-Sayidah umm Bishr Fatimah

Amatallah bint-Dirar al-Qurtbiyah (Angie Miller)

Ph# 775-3759; e-mail:

[millerac@sasktel.net](mailto:millerac@sasktel.net)

And lady Wynfryda (Maryanne Slater)

Ph# 757-5245

[celticclutter@accesscomm.ca](mailto:celticclutter@accesscomm.ca)

## From the Principality Chronicler

Ya Hala,

As always, submissions on any subject or theme related to the SCA are always welcome for November I'd like to try something different—Heraldry will be the focus of the next issue because it is an aspect of the SCA that all members should be familiar with—whether you are an artist, a bard, a fighter, a leader or all of the above, once you receive your Award of Arms you are charged with creating a heraldic device. Displaying these devices adds to the atmosphere, pomp and ceremony of the middle ages as it should have been. If you have a submission to offer with a 'heraldic theme' please send me an email at [Avacal-chronicler@antir.sca.org](mailto:Avacal-chronicler@antir.sca.org).

For those of you who haven't read the new Kingdom Chronicler's missive in 'The Crier' let me bring your attention to some nominations to the William Blackfox Awards that didn't make it to the Society but were meant to. The Sigelhundas' 'Sundog's Tale' was up for nomination as *Best Overall Newsletter* (both HL Thomas Wolffe and Wynfryda were acknowledged as editors) and there were two nominations being submitted for *Best Regular Feature*—the article "Da'ud bob ibn Briggs Goes to the Movies" which is featured each month in the 'Montengarde Mouthpiece' and the Avantgarde's very own 'Selewine's Scribings—Popular Person Piece' by HL Brother Selewine. If you ask me all three of these awards would have been given had the nominations made it to the Society Chronicler, so a big Huzzah to the writers and editors of Avacal!! Make a joyous noise!!!

*alaam Alikum — al-Sayidah umm Bishr, principality chronicler*

**Event Reporters Wanted! Branch Reporters Wanted! Branch Chroniclers Wanted!**

**For more info e-mail [avacal-chronicler@antir.sca.org](mailto:avacal-chronicler@antir.sca.org)**



## Call for Avacal Coronet Designs

Greeting unto the Populace,

This is an open call to the populace for designs for the new Coronets of Avacal. We are looking for Coronets that speak to the history of our Principality as well as to the glory of our future. Avacal is unique and our Coronets should speak to that.

His Excellency Vik Vikingsson is the chosen artisan to physically create the new Coronets. As such he, along with Their Highnesses and Their Excellencies, will be the final arbiters of the design. All designs will be sent to HE Vik as well as the Prince and Princess for selection.

There will be no guarantee of the use of your design in part or in whole for the Coronets. However all designs will be given serious consideration. All members of the populace are encouraged to submit designs by Oct. 30th to the design committee ([prince@antir.sca.org](mailto:prince@antir.sca.org), [princess@antir.sca.org](mailto:princess@antir.sca.org), [slikboy@shaw.ca](mailto:slikboy@shaw.ca), [e-beer@telus.net](mailto:e-beer@telus.net)).

*Thank you! —HL Jajiradai Batu, Regalia Officer*

# COURT REPORT

## 20 Jan 2007 Montengarde 12th Night

### *Wernar and Tatiana*

Baron Beothuk of the Beothuks

Baroness Wilma the Still

### *Beothuk and Wilma (Montengarde)*

Emerald Rose - Findabhair na Noinini

### *Steinn and Gemma*

Viscount Wernar Ivarson

Viscountess Tatiana the Outspoken

LVE Tatiana the Outspoken

GA Thorvald Grimsson

Elder Coryn of the Woods

Elder Illyanth Ildanach

Champion A&S Sina Erdena

Rapier Champion Guillemine de

Rouen

Iron Gauntlet Robert of Clan Gunn

### *Beothuk and Wilma (Montengarde)*

Golden Link - Findabhair na Noinini

Golden Link - Anna de la Manquita

## 24 Feb 2007 Investiture

### *Wernar and Tatiana*

AoA Baldor

AoA Romana

AoA Halla Ulfhednar

AoA Nataschja Bergeron

GV Annys Bradwardyn

GV Stragin Vikingsson

PKnot Brynach ap Rhys

PKnot Brigit ingen Meic Thire

Ruaidh

PKnot Annys Bradwardyn

PKnot Freja of House Isormr

PKnot Haakon Einarsson

PKnot Markus Pheilsmid

PKnot Sibán

PKnot Jajiradai Batu

PKnot Ifatahyo al-Jenne

PKnot Sadb ingen Thuathail

PKnot Beothuk of the Beothuks

PKnot Kalira

PKnot Brother Selwynn of

Clearwater

PKnot Askell Sigurdsson

PKnot Gemma Meena of Cur Elmo's

Keep

PKnot Steinn Vikingsson

PKnot Inga the Unfettered

PKnot Natal'ia Volkovicha

PKnot Khudukha the Scruffy

PKnot Malcolm de Bruce

PKnot Gabrielle of the Leaf

PKnot Rick of Cold Keep

PKnot Finn

Prince Steinn Vikingsson

Princess Gemma Meena of Cur

Elmo's Keep

## 17 March 2007 Feast of the Evergreens

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA Denis le Gris

AoA Ceridwen

## 21 April 2007 Silver Arrow

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA Tait

AoA Delphina

## 28 April 2007 Beltaine

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA Myfanwy Glanmorfa

AoA Dauphina Del Lago

### *Beothuk and Wilma (Montengarde)*

Rose Petal - Myrrhineh Chey de

Roma

Rose Petal - Eldric the Insane

Rose Petal - Morgan the Unknown

Rose Petal - Odette the Swan

Rose Petal - Taya the Wanderer

Golden Link - Mayve

Golden Link - Arisko the Efervescent

Golden Link - Garrik the Norman

Golden Link - Robert Faustus

Horns of the Minotaur - Leeda

Machiavelli

Heart of the Minotaur - Varrus Lupus

## Ferret's Feast November 3, 2007

## Shire of Valley Wold Moose Jaw, SK

The Shire of Valley Wold invites all to attend our annual celebration of the Ferret on 03 November 2007 at the Moose Jaw Wildlife Hall. There will be heavy and rapier tournaments to determine the shire champions as well as an Arts & Science competition.

Site opens at 9 am and closes at 12 midnight.

Site Fees:

Members: \$15.00

Non-members: add \$4.00 nms

Off Board: \$5.00

Non-members: add \$4.00 nms

Children 12 – 16: \$8.00

Children under 12: free

Please make cheques payable to MJSCA

Site Address: 1396 3rd Ave. N.E., Moose Jaw SK (there is no postal code for this address)

Direction: Coming into Moose Jaw from the north on Main St., turn left onto Saskatchewan St. E. Turn left at 3rd Ave. N.E. The Wildlife Hall is at the end of the avenue. Signs will be posted.

There will be a Gold Key Luncheon on November 3, and a brunch available at the Season's Restaurant in the Heritage Hotel on November 4, 2007, from 9 am until 1 pm.

The Autocrat for this year's feast is Lucia Magna (Deborah Oddie), with the assistance of Alessandra de Pavia (Susan Pomedli) and Leikny the Small (Ida Marie Kindlein).

Lucia Magna/ Deborah Oddie  
1124 Alder Ave  
Moose Jaw, SK  
S6H 0Y7  
(306) 694-5844  
mystwalker@sasktel.net



# AVACAL CALENDAR

October		
6	<b>Autumn Celebration</b>	Cold Keep
13	<b>Myrgan Wood's Anniversary *</b>	Myrgan Wood
20	Theme Feast	Bordergate
November		
3	<b>Ferret's Feast *</b>	Valley Wold
10	<b>Pirate's Tavern *</b>	Sigelhundas
24	<b>Coronet Tourney *</b>	Bordergate
December		
8	Yule Feast	Borealis

*Bold = event information has been submitted. \* - Royalty Attending*

**Calendar Policy:** Autocrats MUST submit *Date Reservation* and *Event Information* forms to Kalends (see officer listings) before an event is officially reserved or put on Calendar. Forms available from your Seneschal or the Kalends officer. On-line forms which may be filled out electronically can be found on the Avacal webpage, under Officers/Seneschal/Forms.

**All event copies** for the Crier, Avantgarde, and Avacal Webpage have to go through the Calendar Officer. Make sure to note if you do not want the event copy in the Crier. The Avantgarde and webmasters do accept longer/fancier versions of the event flyers but **it still must be sent through the Calendar**. 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. (i.e. 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. If there is no street address, this must be noted in the copy.
- Name (society and modern) and mail address of the autocrat; email address or phone number are discretionary but are very helpful. (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)

The event copy can be a maximum of 300 words for branch or baronial events, 350 for Principality events.

## 19 May 2007 May Crown

### *Sven and Signy*

Laurel - Sina Erdena  
Shattered Shield - Kvigr Ivarsson  
CB Malabar Membro Spaccata  
CB Hero the Responsible

Golden Link - Bryanna  
Horns of the Minotaur - Ecvar  
Francisco de Leon

## 4 Aug 2007 Quad War

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA Aida Machiavelli  
AoA Zora Machiavelli  
AoA Iain Archibald Guthrie  
GH Emeric of Pevensy

## 2 June 2007 Coronet

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA Ragnar of the Wolfpack  
Tanist Kvigr Ivarsson  
Tanista Linnet of Myrgan Wood  
SG Bazz Steinsson  
SG Madeileen de Rouens

## 18 Aug 2007 Investiture

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA Kirk Einarsson  
AoA Phelan  
GF Inga the Unfettered  
GF Sadb ingen ui Thuathail  
PKnot Sadb ingen ui Thuathail  
PKnot Jajiradai Batu  
PKnot Caitlin ingen ui Dalaig  
PKnot Katelijne van der Ast  
PKnot Iain Archibald Guthrie  
PKnot William Bennet  
PKnot Sina Erdena  
PKnot Inga the Unfettered  
PKnot Steinn Vikingsson  
PKnot House Delaroché (Household)  
PKnot Emma Von Bern (Terra Pomaria)  
PKnot Adrienne von Brandenburg (Terra Pomaria)  
PF Inga the Unfettered  
PF Sadb ingen ui Thuathail  
PF Gemma Meena of Cur Elmo's Keep

## 16 June 2007 Silver Wolf

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA AEdelred Willelmes sunu  
AoA Victory Dragoner  
AoA Peregrine Falconer  
GG Marina la Caminante  
GG Tomas Alvarez  
GG Owen Caldicott  
GF Coryn of the Woods  
***Vik and Inga (Borealis)***  
Decorated Letter - Catherine of the Rowan Tree  
Decorated Letter - Verdandy Spencer  
Decorated Letter - Jean de Chauliac  
Wolf's Paw - Kintair of Hawkehaven  
Golden Spoon - Peregrine Falconer

## 21 July 2007 Coronation

### *Sven and Signy*

OGGS Deicyn Moel  
GdS Kvigr Ivarsson

PF Sina Erdena  
PF Titus Valerius Romanus  
PF Jajiradai Batu  
PF Caitlin ingen ui Dalaig  
PF Bazz Steinsson  
PF Iain Archibald Guthrie  
PF Katelijne van der Ast

## 28 July 2007 Dragonslayer

### *Steinn and Gemma*

AoA Madb  
AoA Gareth Stringbreaker  
AoA Birch Lupus  
GF Brother Selwynn of Clearwater  
GF Brynna Lovisdottir  
***Beothuk and Wilma (Montengarde)***  
Rose Petal - Hero the Responsible

PF Raoul Delaroche  
 PF Roxanne Delaroche  
 PF Manyra Thorinsdottir  
 PF Emeric of Pevensey  
 PF Cormac MacAenghusa  
 PF William Bennet  
 Iron Maul Argyle MacMillan  
 Iron Arrow Stragin Vikingsson  
 Champion Sword Gerhard  
 Thorwulfsson  
 Champion Arrows Genic  
 Elder Markus Pheilsmid

For the complete Avacal OP  
 please visit:  
<http://heraldry.avacal.net>

Any corrections or updates can be sent  
 to Master Mordecai Avacal OP Deputy  
 at [rslansky1@shaw.ca](mailto:rslansky1@shaw.ca)

### 15 Sept 2007 Feast of the Dragon

#### *Kvigr and Linnet*

AoA Faelán O'Daláigh (Rhuddglyn)  
 AoA Abbot Murtagh (Windwurm)  
 AoA Katrina (Rhuddglyn)  
 AoA Aethelhelm (Rhuddglyn)  
 AoA Nataschja Bergeron (second  
 one)

#### **Recommendation forms!**

[http://www.avacal.antir.sca.org/files/avacal\\_award\\_rec.pdf](http://www.avacal.antir.sca.org/files/avacal_award_rec.pdf)

<http://www.antir.sca.org/recommendations.php>

### **Interesting Links (no, not chainmail...)**

Check this link out for an interesting article on the history of Hallowe'en. Look for words from this article in the word search in this issue of the Avantgarde.  
[http://www.pipcom.com/~colyne/Article/SCA\\_article\\_samhain.htm](http://www.pipcom.com/~colyne/Article/SCA_article_samhain.htm)

*Submitted by al-Sayidah umm Bishr Fatimah Amatalah bint Dirir al-Qurtobiyyah*



### **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, Heirs and Principality Seneschal and the current officer.** 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.*

**Regional THUA Chancellors (Deadline for applications is Nov 15/07)** : Coordinate with teachers in your area to arrange classes for local events.

**Principality Chirurgeon (Deadline for applications is Oct 15/07)** : SCA Chirurgeons provide first aid at Society events. (The word "Chirurgeon" is a medieval term from which the modern "Surgeon" is derived.) Members of the SCA Chirurgeonate include Red Cross trained first aiders, medical doctors, military medical corpsmen, nurses, paramedics, St. John Ambulance volunteers, and many other medical volunteers. A Chirurgeon's Warrant of Office crosses Kingdom boundaries.

**Principality Calendar Officer** is seeking a **deputy** for the last year of her term, possibly to step into the Calendar Officer position. The duties of the Calendar Officer are not onerous, but the applicant should be organized and willing to take the initiative. This is a great way to find out what is happening in the Principality, and get to know the seneschals and autocrats of all the events you are planning to attend anyway.

For more information, or to discuss the position, please contact the Avacal Calendar Officer, HL Brigit ingen Meic Thire Ruaidh (mka Darlene Edvall).

**Gules Signet Scribe (Deadline for applications is Nov 15/07)**: The Gules Signet is the chief scribe for the Principality and is responsible for all scrolls that are produced within the Principality. Gules Signet acts as the principal deputy for assuring the accuracy of scrolls, their timely assignment and completion, and their delivery to the recipients. S/he, or a designate, is also the holder of the Principality Seal. Gules Signet takes care of the following:

Promoting the Scribal Arts within the Principality.

Providing wax seals to the Monarchs for charters and scrolls during each reign.

Managing the production and distribution of Charter Scrolls for the Monarchs in the absence of a designated Charter Deputy or Royal Scribe.

Managing the production and distribution of Original Scrolls to recipients.

Assisting the College of Heralds as necessary to ensure the accurate and timely completion of scroll commissions.

Managing such funds as are budgeted and allocated to this office by the Principality and this officer's supervisor, and ensuring their proper disbursement in accordance with the Principality of Avacal and Kingdom of An Tir financial policy. Training and supervising such deputies and scribes as are needed to accomplish these duties.

**Rapier Provost (Deadline for applications is Nov 15/07)**: The responsibilities of the Principality Rapier Marshal are to maintain, publish, and enforce the rules for period rapier combat as laid out by the Kingdom Earl and Rapier Marshals. The Rapier Marshal also maintains, publishes, and enforces standards for safety and equipment for period rapier combat. They are also responsible for encouraging rapier combat and related activities with Avacal. A list of the full responsibilities and requirements can be found in the An Tir Rapier Marshal's Handbook.

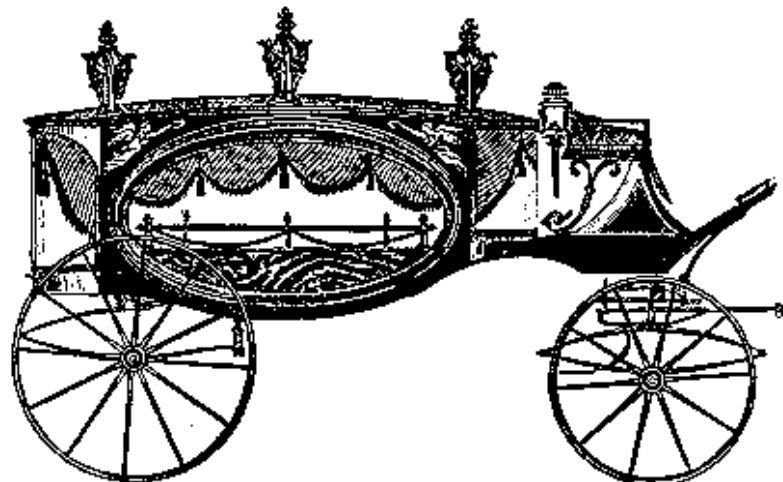


### Honouring the Dead

Words I found while researching Medieval Celebrations similar to Hallowe'en.

RTSERIFNOBLODLOEOLAL  
 RBESRSAI LAREFASAOLKN  
 HGKCSOSORHALL OWMASET  
 NNAVLNPHLDDRURSNIDAN  
 GICUAMOHAZELNUTSAYNT  
 ELLIGAMMPHSASESRBNPL  
 DLUOCTOBERHORSEACODS  
 OEOSNNNSADENAUBSDISA  
 ETSEGA AFLDSNQNNPVTYD  
 SESSORCLLEHSRAPIOAVI  
 PNTSAEURSNAEMGNRRNRO  
 RUSCLPONAMKOOAGINISY  
 STRTDWYHIFRMTNSTIVHA  
 NRSGRRLNHIIFHSSAISMS  
 DOEEAEUATTOCHMPBHDEA  
 EFDLHTPI SNETEANVMSUP  
 ANDCUPOODFEWOSKCALBF  
 UAI ELOARASTCNSRESIUG  
 IOLEGG SAYHAZELNUTSAS  
 PLS SAHAPILEFIRE SARIH

- |                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All Saints Day   | Apples          | Black Sow       |
| Bonfires         | Celts           | Dead Amongst Us |
| Demons           | Divination      | Divination      |
| Druids           | Ferialia        | Fortune Telling |
| Guisers          | Hallowmas       | Hazel Nuts      |
| Hazel Nuts       | Kern Baby       | Lanterns        |
| Masquerade       | October Horse   | Oiche Shanhna   |
| Parshell Crosses | Pile Fires      | Pomona          |
| Purgatory        | Recently Passed | Romans          |
| sacrafices       | samhain         | Samhnagan       |
| Soul Cakes       | Soulers         | Souls           |
| Spirits          | Underworld      |                 |



## Introduction to Youth Combat in Avacal

The sun blazes overhead, a light breeze slowly picks up causing pennons and banners to dance lightly upon their poles. There is a glint of steel off a polished helm, as two proud warriors enter the field. The two brave opponents bow clumsily to the thrones of Avacal, then embarrassingly to their inspirations, finally with respect to each other. Lay on is called, they circle, they engage and by a flurry of blows one falls to the ground. The other, he stumbles, he slowly spins, he crashes to his knees and falls as well. Both young souls stand together, have a laugh, and prepare to do it again. A third opponent waits, she is impatient for her turn. They all want more competitors, but they are the beginnings of their game. Gnar faces off against his opponent again, it happens to be his sister, Oxara, she happens to be living her ninth summer, to his eleventh. Waiting in the lists is Driffa, who has seen her twelfth summer, and Briak, the gentle giant of fourteen summers.



Royals, Knights, a great many gentles look on and cheer these young warriors. Aged fighters take them aside. They are taught the little tricks, they are shown how to fight safely, they are taught to fight with honor, chivalry, and discipline. They stand proud of who and what they are.

Who are they? These young members of our game are the beginnings of an emerging combat discipline here in our Principality. It is Youth Combat. They are the future of our game, future Princes, Princesses, Kings, Queens, Knights, Pelicans, and Laurels. They are out there just like the rest of us trying to participate in the S.C.A. and have some fun while learning about the middle ages. Youth combat fits in as an activity that allows our children to wield weapons and armor just as we adults do. It gives them an opportunity to discover how it felt to be on that list field at Rouen, or the war field at Hastings. It gives an opportunity to be part of a team, and an individual in a sport. Youth

combat guides and directs children in the direction of personal honor, a code of chivalry, and enhances the rules and obligations of a member of the S.C.A.

It is not as difficult as it might seem to get involved in youth combat. The first thing is to see if it is something your children are interested in. The next is armor. This is not as difficult as it might seem as for youth gear most of it can be "store bought" and slightly modified. To see the ABC's of youth combat go to: [http://www.antir.sca.org/Pubs/boffer\\_3\\_2004.pdf](http://www.antir.sca.org/Pubs/boffer_3_2004.pdf).

Please remember that these are under review as we speak, and as well there is work being done to an Avacal book of youth Combat. All basic forms of weapon and armor construction are listed, and if there are any questions or inquiries feel free to contact me at youth<dot>combat@gmail<dot>com.



Submitted by — HL Malcolm de Bruce

## INTRODUCTION TO EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES IN AVACAL

Greetings to the populace of Avacal.

Equestrian activities have finally crossed our borders and for the horsemen of our principality it is a time to rejoice, as we can now take to the field and do what it is our passion to do. The dedicated serve and assist, the combatants fight, the A&S specialists create, and now, the riders ride. It is a good thing as now we all have an additional way to honor our combined love of history.

For those of you who do not know what Equestrian is, it is a horse and rider performing their skills together as would have been done in the middle ages. Many of the skills performed are based upon military training or techniques used to prepare for tournament. Most of the below tournament descriptions are taken from "The An Tir Book of the Horse" (ABoTH), page 14, the document that dictates the rules and regulations that govern these activities in the Kingdom of An Tir;

**Behead the Enemy** – Simulated heads are set on standards at pre-determined intervals. Riders weave between poles, striking the heads from the standards with a simulated weapon or baton.

**Driving** - Rules for driving (horse pulling a vehicle) events are currently being discussed by the Rewrite Council and the SCA KEO's (Kingdom Equestrian Officers), and therefore driving at an event is NOT currently legal in An Tir, with the exception of professional teamsters operating in a professional capacity (ABoTH, Part III, Section C). We do expect that it will be cleared eventually, as two kingdoms are currently authorized.

**Foam Jousting** – Jousting using breakable foam lance tips.

**Mounted Archery** – Shooting at static targets while mounted.

**Mounted Combat** – Mounted combat using boffer equipment. Either one-on-one or in a controlled melee.

**Pig Sticking** (or 'Tent Pegging') – Targets are placed on the ground which the rider attempts to spear with a lance or spear.

**Reeds** – Sticks of varying heights are placed in a row or a double row to be knocked off by the rider as they pass. This game does not include weaving by the horse.

**Ring Tilt** – Rings of various sizes are suspended from the arm of a standard. The riders attempt to spear the rings on the tip of their lance. This martial game is usually run in a straight line. Smaller rings usually carry a higher point value.

**Spear Throw** (or 'Javelin Toss') – Throwing a spear or javelin through a ring or into a target as the rider goes past.

**Tilting at Quintain** (or simply 'Quintain') – A contest of lance work against a simulated opponent. A shield is attached to a horizontal arm that rotates on an up-right post. Upon being struck the shield begins to rotate around the up-right. Often the score is based on the number of rotations made by the shield around the post. **Tilting at the Mock Knight** is similar to Quintain, but the knight or shield rotates or pivots on a horizontal axis rather than a vertical axis.

All of these activities are done while rider and horse are wearing period garb and competing on terrain styled after period tourney grounds. Period barding is always strongly encouraged unless the use of such items causes a safety risk. It's not that difficult to make and barding can make the difference between a visually ho-hum event and something spectacular.

One of the best parts of the equestrian activities is that it is a great opportunity to re-enact one of the leisure activities of the middle-ages; a day at the tourney. Nobles and

(Continued from page 18)

when Troy is ashes and the movie ends, he's the only leader left alive and on-site. Like the good leader he is, he takes responsibility and leads the troops in cleaning up the mess, marshalling the survivors and giving due honour to the worthy slain.

The other strong leader in the film is Hector (Eric Bana), Priam's elder son, another subordinate doing his best to support the boss and still take care of the troops. Indeed, after the death of Patroclus, Hector and Odysseus see eye-to-eye both literally and figuratively. Both recognize they are embroiled in a terrible tragedy and both are doing their best to end the tragedy the only way left to them, through victory. Both are ethical; both see the big picture (especially the importance of a rich and happy family life). Finally, the only difference between these two honourable heroes is that one survives the dirty work and the other doesn't, which is a product of fate -- one being born on the losing side -- more than anything else.

Sometimes even the best leadership can't save a lost situation. However, ask anybody caught up in a mess and they'd tell you who they'd like to be working for and with when it's all going down in the dumpster.

How many Agamemnons have you met in real life? In volunteer endeavours like the SCA, how many Ajaxes? If you've met any Ulysses, I'll bet they stand out in your mind as shining exemplars, the good bosses and cool Kings. I concede readily that the movie "Troy" isn't a literal encapsulation of Homer's "Iliad"; I believe the film can offer the interested viewer some object lessons about how to lead, motivate and inspire others. And it has some spectacular sword fights; what more can you ask for?

# Happy Hallowe'en

### Riddle Me This...

Quick; quite mum; I die notwithstanding.  
I lived once, I live again.  
Everybody lifts me, grips me,  
and chops off my head,  
bites my bare body, violates me.  
I don't bite a man unless he bites me;  
there are many men who bite me.



Answer: Onion

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 17)

As I've written elsewhere, Paris (Orlando Bloom) wants to be a leader and, across the narrative arc of the movie, becomes a mature character and starts to take responsibility, first for his own actions and then for the people around him. However, his initial, immature behaviour and selfish, bad choices (especially at the outset: in an armed society, never steal the wife of a man who's twice your size and ten times meaner than you are) show an ineffective leader seeking and achieving eventual redemption.

Wherein lies the effective leader?

Consider Ulysses (Sean Bean). He is not a rich kid capable of buying his way to Agamemnon's throne and staying there. He's from the little kingdom of Ithaca, so he has no big battalions to help force him to the top of the Greek heap. His only means of success is working with those around him. His job before the Greeks sail for Troy is to persuade others to buy into the project before it's launched (as he does with Achilles in Pythia). He then makes the project work once it's underway. He does all this through communication, sound judgement and consistent, positive example.

When the Greek attack after the duel between Paris and Menelaus turns into a disaster, Agamemnon wants to press onwards. Ulysses is the voice of reason, managing to stop the attack before the Greeks lose everything. Ulysses ultimately is honest with everyone, including himself, which includes being able to admit mistakes (his own and others'). This intellectual honesty fuels sound decision-making and leads to credibility with superiors, peers and subordinates.

When the Trojans counter-attack the next night, Ulysses is standing amidst the ranks of the Greeks before their ships, sharing hardship and danger with the troops when things are at their most bleak. This up-front vantage point also permits Ulysses to order the Greeks' general advance at the exact right moment, when the Myrmidons counter-attack off the beach and turn the tide of that particular battle. To do the right thing at the right time you need to be at the right place, seeing what's going on first-hand and able to take advantage of whatever breaks you get.

Ulysses talks to his troops and listens to them, also. He doesn't just order them around from the rear or lead them from way up front and expect them to follow. His behaviour throughout the film is a shining example of how to be loyal to those above you and those beneath you. His willingness to listen, his openness to other ideas, is what leads to the moment of inspiration that becomes the Trojan horse and the eventual Greek victory.

Finally, at the moment of decision, Ulysses takes the same risk the troops do and hides in the horse. He shares the danger, he leads from the front rank and,

(Continued on page 19)



15th C. Manuscript—  
The Trojan Horse Enters the City of Troy

(Continued from page 10)

peasants alike enjoyed attending the festivals and taking time from their lives to just relax and enjoy the sport, not unlike modern man going to the football stadium or the movie theatre. There is no substitute for the excitement generated by the sound of thundering hooves and shaking ground as a horse with colours flying gallops past.

However, one must remember that mixing 1,000 lb animals who don't know any better with people who may not understand how to behave around these large animals can easily result in damages to people, animals and personal property. For this reason, the rulebook for equestrian activities is chock full of safety procedures. Many of them are based on common sense, many of them are based on expert knowledge and I highly recommend that anyone intending to participate in equestrian in the SCA should read the rulebook completely. The base SCA rules are detailed in The SCA Equestrian Handbook, and the An Tir Book of the Horse lists the rules adjusted specifically for use in the Kingdom of An Tir. Web addresses for both documents can be found at the end of this article.

This article is the first in a series that I will be issuing over the next few months. Please be advised that these articles are in no way written by an official source. I am neither an official in any capacity, nor am I an authorized marshal or ground-crew, although I do intend to walk that path. I am merely a concerned citizen, knowledgeable in this subject, who wants to make certain that we can all enjoy this new facet of our hobby equally and above all safely. The subjects I will be covering in the next few issues will be such things as (in no particular order);

- ❖ How to behave around horses and specifics for tourney grounds and stabling areas;
- ❖ Children and Horses: An emotional experience. How to make sure nothing goes wrong;
- ❖ Marshal and Ground-Crew requirements;
- ❖ Some training tips to get you ready to have fun;
- ❖ Specifics on tournament rules and equipment;
- ❖ Don't have a horse? No problem, there's still a place for you!
- ❖ Quad War 2008! It's gonna be great!

#### Next Issue: Barding – Style & Construction

I believe that Equestrian is a valuable and fulfilling activity. It has grown strong in other kingdoms and there is already a healthy group of riders in our own kingdom core and our sister principality across the mountains. Let's all work together to show everyone that Avacal is as good as any other group in the Known World, as we already have in so many other areas.

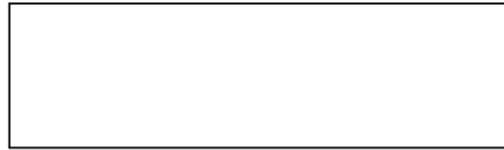
Submitted by—Lady Lyonet Lamoureux, Award of Arms,  
Order of the Rose Petal, Horse Fanatic

#### Resources:

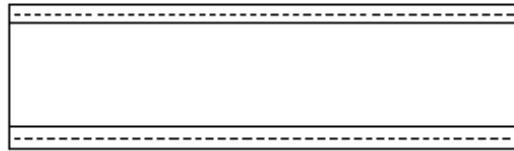
- ❖ SCA Equestrian Handbook - [www.sca.org/officers/marshal/combat/equestrian/equestrian\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.sca.org/officers/marshal/combat/equestrian/equestrian_handbook.pdf)
- ❖ The An Tir Book of the Horse - [antir.sca.org/Offices/Marshallate/Equestrian/forms/AnTirBookofHorse2005.pdf](http://antir.sca.org/Offices/Marshallate/Equestrian/forms/AnTirBookofHorse2005.pdf)



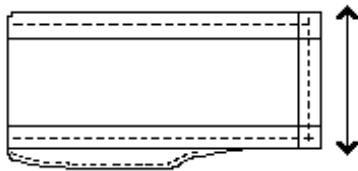
# How To Make a Belt Pouch Favour



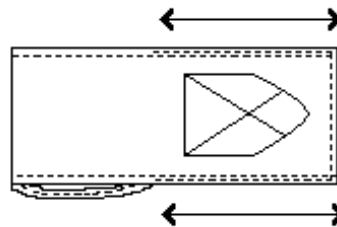
Piece of Cloth



Hem long sides



Fold in half inside out, sew end



Turn inside in, sew up sides deep enough to leave a pocket, but leave a gap at looped end on each side big enough for your belt to go through.

Submitted by — Brígiða Vadesbana (Brigid Anraith)

(Continued from page 16)

big ox of a man in an ox-powered world). The problem is, leaders who do it all themselves become casualties early on. In Ajax' case in this film, he dies in the second major battle. In the real world, the do-it-yourself leadership approach leads to utter burn-out. In volunteer endeavours like the SCA, it often seems far easier to do it yourself than to:

- persuade someone else to do it;
- teach them how to do it;
- follow up with them to see if it actually got done;
- correct mistakes; and then
- follow up again (and again and again) to see if it finally got done correctly.

The problem is, if a leader does it all himself or herself, the followers don't learn anything. There is no skills development. There is no knowledge transfer. When the time comes for the leader to do other things, or the leader isn't available for whatever reason (taken a different office, holidays, real-life commitments, got run over by a bus, burn-out, etc), nobody has been prepared to step up and take over. Doing it yourself is short-term gain for yourself in exchange for long-term pain or worse for everybody.



Brad Pitt as Achilles —  
troymovie.warnerbros.com

And then there's Achilles (Brad Pitt); his prowess is unsurpassed. He leads from the front -- well out in front of the front rank of his subordinates -- and is well aware of the realities of battle so he makes sound tactical decisions. While he isn't at arm's length from the results of his actions (like Agamemnon usually is), Achilles also suffers at the outset from an excess of ego, fuelled by his awareness of his own personal prowess as a warrior and the adulation of the troops. It can be dangerous for a leader to read his or her own publicity and believe it. He picks and chooses what battles he'll fight because he knows he's so good he can get away with petulant behaviour. This confuses his subordinates and allies and gives the other big cheeses in the Greek army cause to resent him, which makes life harder for everybody (especially for his unsuspecting and undeserving subordinates, who end up eating whatever grief their boss provokes). As I have written elsewhere, the character Achilles is interesting because of his personal growth throughout the film; as he learns the need for humility he becomes a more compassionate leader and, I think to his own surprise, a more effective leader of his devoted Myrmidons as a result. Unfortunately Achilles learns all this by the last act of the film, after he has sent his subordinates home to safety and after his cousin Patroclus is dead.

So we've been treated thus far to:

- a megalomaniacal bully;
- a committee chair detached from the realities of day-to-day life;
- a do-it-yourself indispensable person who crashes and burns; and
- a self-aware superstar.

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## Leadership Secrets of "Troy"

by Hector of the Black Height

Recently I was re-watching the DVD of the movie "Troy". As I have written elsewhere, I like the film as a film, and as a SCAdian I have written about the interesting, positive messages I find in the movie. While watching, it occurred to me that the various major characters in "Troy" present a fascinating study of contrasting leadership styles.

Consider Agamemnon (Brian Cox in the movie). He is an archetypical autocrat, an "old style" boss from days before harassment legislation. He yells a lot and works hard to avoid listening. He wants his own way and bullies people until he gets it. His younger brother Menelaus, early on in the film, says that Agamemnon has received the riches and glory; "That's the way of the world." Clearly a set-up where he gets all the benefits is one Agamemnon can buy into! He uses people for his own aims, on both sides of the war. He runs the Trojan War from a throne-room on his ship and collects loot as his right. When he does mix with the "little people" he's in a chariot above them. His greed knows no bounds and his drive for self-aggrandisement leads to military defeat, social disaster (the sack of Troy, which he encourages) and his own death at the hands of a "little person" (the Trojan priestess Briseis) he has brutalized for his own amusement. Agamemnon is an ego with legs, and his self-centred lust for power leads to vast unhappiness for friend and foe alike and no mourners when he falls.

There is no question that Priam, King of Troy (Peter O'Toole), is a far more attractive monarch than Agamemnon. He is a compassionate leader with an evident commitment to his people and his Kingdom as a whole. He is ethical and honourable. The problem is, Priam epitomizes the downfall of the too-successful executive. He runs Troy through a cabinet or committee and has become disengaged from the meat-and-potatoes of what Troy does (and how his enemies behave), which leads to a sincere but flawed decision-making process. As Winston Churchill said, "However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results." When confronted with the Trojan horse, his son Paris (who by this stage in the film has developed a first-person appreciation of life in the trenches) advises they burn it immediately, which of course is the Right Answer. The chair-warming committee members of Priam's cabinet, looking at the problem from a more elevated perspective, advise Priam to preserve the new corporate asset. And we all know where that ends up... Priam means well as he makes repeated bad decisions; that makes his eventual fate even more tragic for the audience.

Getting one's hands dirty can be taken too far, however. Consider Ajax (Tyler Mane), the big Greek with the massive war-hammer. When he sees Achilles' ship beached and the Myrmidons in combat unsupported, he wants to get his warriors into battle as soon as possible, to help out. Does he exhort his rowers to greater efforts? Does he motivate his workers to better performance? No: he plucks a rower off his bench and takes the oar himself. Yes, he's leading by example. Yes, he's able to do the job himself better than any of his subordinates (because he's a

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## Wounded in the Line of Bardic Duty

Good song guide me, guard my tongue  
A bard's life is bitter, bowed by duty  
A safer pursuit, slaughter on battle-field  
Foes found there, are fairly won  
Daggers drawn quick and danger clear

Hidden is harm, and who brings it  
To the singer's circle, safe haven of scalds  
Tales are fire-told, times past woken  
Songs proud-sung, sounding of battle  
The long night lingers, laughter grows  
Many mouths drink, mead is passed

The fighter fumbles in, fierce drunk he  
He watches not his walking, weaves ale-sodden  
Free place finds, and forward steps  
One waits there, watching approach  
And fears his falling, for the fire is near  
A fouler deed follows, foot swings down  
On mug-marked place, mead-filled  
Horror-hailed, a hand flies out  
Brave bard parries base attack  
Hand holds goblet, under heavy tread  
But the foot is faster, falls on fingers  
Bard cries out, cradles hand  
Circle silent, mid-song  
Ruin is wrought, on rim of mug  
Bruised her hand and broken mug  
Worse wound given, whimpers bard  
Spite-spoken, "He spilled my mead!"

(written in response to a specific incident)

Submitted by — Brígiða Vadesbana (Brigid Anraith)

## Selewine's Scribings

### Populace Persona Piece—Featuring Mistress Morgan the Unknown

This day I have travelled far for I have determined that Morgan the Unknown shall be unknown no more. She is a difficult lady to find as she tends to work in the background rather than bring herself forward for notice. Her work as a weaver and spinner finally allowed me to find her as her fame in these areas had begun to be well known in larger parts of the world. In fact it was her weaving of a particular tartan that drew her to my attention first. I have gone amongst the people of the north and finally, near Emyrn Macha I have found Morgan the Unknown.

Morgan lives quietly in her rath, a walled compound with a small wooden house and some outbuildings. There are animals in the yard, a few sheep and a single cow, kept from wandering by the palisade that surrounds everything. The home is simple, a hearth with both spit and cauldron and a simple hole in the roof to let the smoke out. A slab table and some stools finish the furniture in a home otherwise filled with a large 2 beam loom. The outbuildings store grain, wool and the materials for dyeing the spun wool. She has made her dwelling place amongst the UiNiall of the Red branch, the clan and tribe of her dead husband. Morgan is a small woman with long, slightly greying hair worn in two long braids, held at the end with simple copper spirals. She is dressed simply in a liene, a long sleeveless dress, simple in cut with a few simple embellishments at the neck. On cold days Morgan wears a woollen tunic, a sleeved dress, under the leine. Morgan wears no jewellery save for a woven metal torc, which proclaims her as a woman of merit in her village, and it is clear that she is a woman who works with her hands. They are soft from the lanolin in the wool she works, but also clearly very strong. She laughs easily during our conversation but her hands are never empty. The drop spindle never stops except when she has to stir the mixture in the cauldron on the hearth.



Mistress Morgan the Unknown  
from her personal collection

She was born in Cymri, she does not know the year by the calendar but I have found that it was sometime near the 500<sup>th</sup> year of our Lord. Her grandfather claimed, with great pride I am sure, to have known Cuchulichain. I think perhaps that some of Morgan's fame as a story teller is a family tradition.

She is amused by my garb and I explain it is something I wear as part of my devotion to my God. Morgan makes her livelihood with spinning and weaving so has a good eye for cloth. She does like the fabric, and admires the fine weave but I almost wish I had some of the good wool she is wearing. It is better suited to her clime than my own. We do not speak of faith or religion, for these are not considered seemly discussion with a stranger. All she will say is "I revere the gods and goddesses of my tribe"

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While Morgan is renowned as a spinner and weaver she does not get to spend all of her time doing that. She still maintains her house in an orderly manner, cooks, cleans and sews and tends a small garden. She grows herbs and root vegetables for herself and, in a good year, to trade a little. Her needs are simple and she trades her weavings for the mutton, pork or beef she needs as well as most of the grains she does not have quite enough room to grow herself. Shellfish or fresh caught trout and salmon are also part of her diet. Mead and beer are common and wine is an occasional treat. Morgan tells me she prefers her beer flavoured with cumin, like the Gauls. She normally eats alone, simple meals prepared by her own hands but there is the occasional feast where all come together. Cooking for the feasts differs in that most of the dishes are then cooked in large pits, rather than in the cauldrons or spits on the regular day.

I am quite surprised with the easy conversation about distant people and places until Morgan explains that she travelled a lot with her mercenary husband, an axe man of some repute. It was only with his death that she settled in one place. While she has travelled by horseback she now walks everywhere. The life of a mercenary was hard but Morgan was an active part of her husband's profession. Morgan was not just a companion for her husband; she tells me there were many times that she fought as a fellow warrior by his side.

It is clear that I am keeping a very busy lady from her tasks, and while her hospitality has been without reservation I know it is not fair to long delay her in her daily labours so I gather my things and head back to the coast. My visit has been productive and I am pleased to have been welcomed so warmly. Honoured member of a powerful clan, Morgan the Unknown lives comfortably and well, her life filled with all of the daily tasks that are a part of the life of a widow amongst her husband's people. She came to them when she married but her place with them is due to her hard work, her wisdom and the skills that bring honour to her people. I know not if she misses Cymri, but it is very clear that she has a good life where she now dwells.

—Submitted by - HL Brother Selewine (mka: Lance Blades)

"If you want your name to be one of the next to fill this space then send your persona information to [brother-selwynn@shaw.ca](mailto:brother-selwynn@shaw.ca)"



Mistress Morgan the Unknown  
from her personal collection



A Sampling of Pieces Woven by Mistress Morgan the Unknown  
—photos by Morgan the Unknown