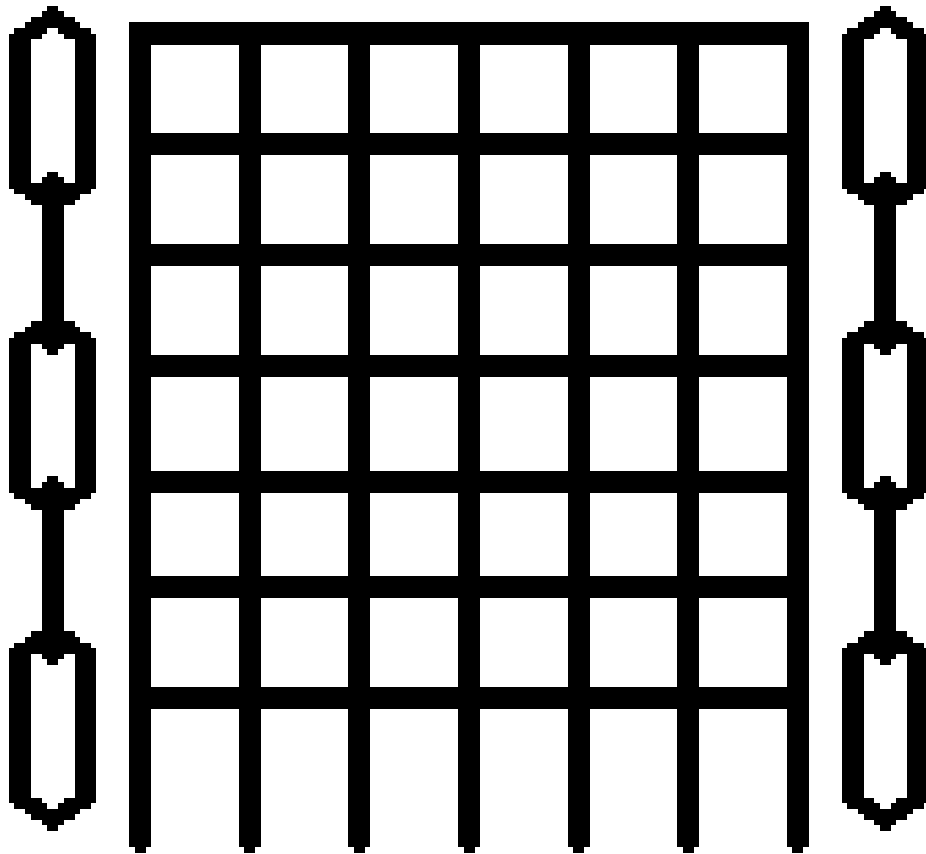


# The Portcullis

34



Shire of Cold Keep  
(Prince George, BC)

August 2004

Vol. III No. 4

# Royalty

**Their Royal Majesties of An Tir  
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queen@antir.sca.org

Their Majesties maintain a single mailbox. Please send only one copy of your message to one address.

**Their Highnesses of Avacal  
Murchad macArtgal and Morrigan Clubfoot**

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Calgary, AB T2E 0J9  
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Their Highnesses maintain separate mailboxes. Please send two copies of your message as appropriate.

**Tanist and Tanista of Avacal  
Vik Vikingsson and Inga the Unfettered**

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Their Excellencies maintain separate mailboxes. Please send a separate copy of your message to each if appropriate.

# Officers of Cold Keep

## **Seneschal**

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## **Arts and Sciences**

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## **Interim Master of Blades**

Thest Bloodwyn

## **Captain of the Bow**

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## **Chronicler**

Lord Brynach ap Rhys  
archer77@telus.net

# Champions of Cold Keep

## **Heavy**

HL Nathaniel De Rennes

## **Rapier**

Vincent Pendragon

## **Archery**

Lord Markus Pheilsmid

## **Arts and Sciences**

Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha

# Regular Meetings

## **Council Meetings**

Third Monday of each month at Lord Eggbert's house at 7:30pm

## **Fighter Practice**

Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm and  
Sunday at 1pm in the Research  
Laboratory Building Rotunda at UNBC

## **Socials**

First Wednesday of each month at Lord Eggbert's house

# From The Seneschal

Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha

Greetings good Gentles of Cold Keep!

It is with much gladness that I bring you this latest report. I would like to congratulate the entire shire for the effort put into the Canada Day demo. There was fabulous turnout, and the weather gods shone down upon us until the exact right moment. Everyone who worked the crowd, handed out pamphlets and cards and participated by working the table or fighting - Thank You! It is by these great deeds that we will become more recognized and grow our ranks. Thank you, Lord Brynach for taking the bull by the horns on this demo and helping to get it running!

I would like to remind all officers of the importance of reporting, both monthly at council meetings and quarterly to principality. For monthly reports, please submit them to the Chronicler as well as myself (yes, we will both take electronic reports). Please cc: your quarterly principality reports to me as well.

Thanks also to our new shire officers. Thest is stepping up as Master of Blades, and Lady Niamh ingen Raigillig is taking over as Mistress of Arts and Sciences. I know we can expect much enrichment to our shire from these officers.

I hope that everyone who attended Clinton this summer has good memories and better stories - there are many of us who would love a recap - perhaps you'd like to submit your thoughts for publication?

Alas, summer is almost at an end, and for many of us, that means back to reality. Let's all endeavour to keep summer in our hearts to warm our hearths this winter.

In Service,  
Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha  
Seneschal Cold Keep

# Cold Keep Web Site

[http://www.geocities.com/trad\\_archer77/ColdKeep/ColdKeep.htm](http://www.geocities.com/trad_archer77/ColdKeep/ColdKeep.htm)

# Wolfpack Web Site

<http://www.varghala.com/>

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## Calendar

<b>August</b>		
21	Avacal Investiture	Sigelhundas
27-29	Forest War V	Coill Mhor
28	Flight or Fancy - A Dandy Event	Borealis
<b>September</b>		
3-6	An Tir September Crown Tournament	Dragon's Laire
10-12	Harvest Feast	Bitter End
10-12	Peasants Revolt	Ravensweir
18	Michaelmas Feast - U of A Classes	Loch Dorr
17-19	Tir Righ Fall Coronet	Ramsgaard
24-26	An Tir Bardic Championship	TBA
25	Birthday Bash	Traitor's Gate
<b>October</b>		
1-3	Vinfest VI	Vinjar
9-10	Myrgan Wood Silver Jubilee	Myrgan Wood
16	Late Period THUA	Harrows Cross
23	Samhain	Montengarde

# Officer's Reports

## Herald's Report for June and July

At June Coronet, held in Montengarde, HL Jajiradai Batu (formerly Eibhear O'Seanachain) stepped down as Sanguinarius Herald, and HE Sir Steinn Vikingson took over the office. The heralds of Cold Keep welcome Steinn Sanguinarius, and stand ready to assist him in his new office.

In June, an Introduction to Heraldry workshop was held in The Gap (Fort St James). There was much interest, and three young gentles have come forward seeking assistance in creating names and designing devices for themselves.

Huzzah! A new deputy has stepped forward into the Heraldic fold – thanks to Khudukha, and welcome.

## Chronicler's Report for June and July

As required or encouraged, *The Portcullis* is sent to the King, Queen, Crown Prince, Crown Princess, Prince, Princess, Tanist, Tanista, Kingdom Seneschal, Kingdom Chronicler, Principality Seneschal, Grete Boke, and the Principality Chronicler. Of these, as I understand it, only the last will accept an electronic copy. Printing and mailing costs for the previous issue (3.3) amounted to \$13.81.

I would like to thank my regular contributors to *The Portcullis*, Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha and Lady Brigit ingen Meic Thíre Ruaidh, for excellent articles. If you have something you would like to share with the rest of the Shire, please forward it to me at [archer77@telus.net](mailto:archer77@telus.net).

I am still looking for a deputy. If you are interested, please contact me.

## Web Minister's Report for June and July

If you would like to post a biography of your persona, please send the information to me. You should include your name, photo of yourself (in garb, preferrably), device (both a blazon and image, if you have them), awards (list any awards you have received), responsibilities (including offices, but could also include marshallate information, etc.), interests (what do you enjoy doing in the SCA?), persona history (tell us where you're from, what time period, what you do for a living, etc.), and anything else (anything that doesn't fit into the above categories).

Data transfer problems turning off the web page for brief periods of time are currently being resolved. If you encounter this problem, please let me know. This concern does not affect the Cold Keep Forum. The Forum has been functioning normally.

Using image compression software, I have reduced the file size of many of the images on the web site. This has increased the remaining web page space without drastically reducing image quality.

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## Natal'ia's Notions

Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha

I think the saying is "ask and ye shall receive". Well, I asked for you to send me your questions, and I did receive. I only received one response, so you can still send your questions to me for next month, but for now, I present to you, the question of the month:

*Dear Natal'ia,*

*I just came back from the Clinton War and I am curious about the history of a tradition I learned about while there. What exactly is a cloven fruit? Where does one find them? How do they work? I'd like to know all the ins and outs of this fine SCA tradition before I get to worn out.*

*Sincerely,*

*M'lord Slightly Chapped*

Well, Slightly Chapped, the cloven (or cloved) fruit can be one of the most frightening and exciting 'games' we play in the SCA, however, I had to do a little digging to answer your question. In the Spring 1986 issue of Tournaments Illuminated (AS XXI), Alexandre sur le Mer explains what he believes to be the origin of the game:

- ★ "The time: AS VIII. The place: the Canton of the Towers in the Barony of Carolingia of the East Kingdom (Boston, Massachusetts). The occasion: a small Christmas revel autocratted by Alizaunde de Breguef. Attendance: approximately 30 (the numbers vary depending on which survivor you talk to, and the records are lost in the infinite corridors of time). She had researched all of the social-type Christmas and festival customs seeking a medieval answer to Spin the Bottle, and was pleased with none of them...Then she found another custom. This one was French, from the time of the Crusades. A knight who wished to make it plain to a maid he was courting that his intentions were serious would create a pomander for her by studding a citrus fruit, usually a lemon, with whole cloves. This was much more costly than it sounds, for at the time the only citrus in Europe came from the Holy Land by ship; and the cloves

were worth literally their weight in gold due to their scarcity. As you may guess, this was a gift which was neither given nor accepted lightly. Alizaunde felt that this custom, slightly modified, had definite possibilities. She prepared a lemon for her event. At the revel, Alizaunde explained how the custom was to work... The person who has the clove lemon selects a person of the opposite sex and presents it to him/her. The recipient removes a clove from the lemon, bites the clove (this sweetens the breath), and then kisses the giver for as long and in what ever way the recipient chooses. The recipient then takes the lemon, finds a person of the opposite sex, and so on. (Tournaments Illuminated, Spring 1986, AS XXI, No. 78)

Now, before you run off and buy a lemon and some cloves and consider yourself educated on this fine tradition, keep in mind that without evolution we would all still think the world was flat. Uh...

Anyhow, the original game may have been using a lemon, but now it is more common to see oranges. I personally think this is because oranges are easier to stab cloves into, but that's just my opinion. There have been instances of other fruits being cloved. I have seen apples, oranges, pears, limes, lemons, bananas, those mutant mini bananas, watermelons, pumpkins, mangos, grapes and even a cloved turnip.

It is important to know how to make a cloved fruit, as well as how to properly play the game. There are some good 'rules' that are designed to keep all participants happy and safe.

- ★ When you pick your fruit, be gentle with the insertion of the cloves. Aggressive stabbing can lead to drippy fruit, and even worse, broken cloves. All cloves have a little bulby thing on top of the stabby-inny part. If you break the bulby part, the clove is useless.



- ★ When you approach a member of the opposite sex to offer the fruit, understand that the recipient is in control of the action. The recipient may do a number of things upon presentation of the fruit. These include:
  - ▶ Politely not accepting the fruit: Do not be offended if your quarry does not accept the fruit. There could be a number of very valid reasons why. She may be married, or ill, or underage, for just a few examples. Be equally polite and excuse yourself to find another participant
  - ▶ Pulling the clove by hand, and not biting it at all: This is generally a signal that the recipient is not interested in kissing on the mouth. It is polite to ask at this point, "And where may I kiss you?" Follow the lead of the recipient. She may offer a hand, or cheek or somewhere else innocuous and discrete

- ▶ Pulling a clove by hand and biting it, or pulling a clove by the teeth: This is usually an acceptance of a mouth to mouth kiss, but you should still wait for the recipient to let you know what is appropriate.
- ▶ Taking the last clove: be wary of offering a fruit with only one clove left. In many circles this is considered an invitation for something more
- ▶ Taking a huge bite out of the fruit: Like a fruit with only one clove can mean you are interested in more than kissing, this can mean the recipient is interested in a little more than a kiss. Unless this is someone you'd like to awaken next to in the morning, my suggestion would be to run in the opposite direction.
- ▶ Pulling the clove by hand, and then pulling you into a very friendly kiss: It's entirely possible your quarry doesn't like the taste of cloves. They are rather strong.

While generally, the recipient is in charge of the kiss, it is good and courtly manners to let the lady decide the magnitude of the kiss if she is the giver of the fruit. Again, the phrase "And how may I kiss you, M'Lady?" will go miles.

Communicating at every step of the way is critically important at events like Clinton where there are a great number of people from all over BC. Some people at big events like Clinton will have absolutely no SCA experience, or no SCA experience other than the big event. Be patient and communicate!! Not everyone will have the same level of comfort as you do with kissing. Some may be more comfortable, and some will be less so.

Cloved fruit is not just a kissing game. It's also a wonderful way to greet and meet new people and make new acquaintances. If you are courteous and polite, you will become known as someone who plays the cloven fruit game and is a safe participant.

I hope that clears up some of the mystery of the cloved (or cloven) fruit. M'lord Slightly Chapped. There are many other kissy-type games that are played in the SCA that I'm sure you will learn more about as you get more involved.

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## Heraldic Myth # 32

courtesy of Baron Modar Neznanich

**You have to have an Award of Arms before you can register your heraldry.**

This is false. Anyone may register heraldry. Until they receive an Award of Arms (or higher award), it is called a "heraldic device" instead of a "coat of arms". Only the terminology changes when you become armigerous. (You are also NOT required to be a paid member of the SCA to register your heraldry)

# The Heraldic Voice

## What Colour is Your Unicorn – or, How the Rule of Tincture Works

Lady Brigit ingen Meic Thíre Ruaidh

So you want a purple unicorn? With a golden horn and silver hooves? On a green field? Unfortunately, we can't let you do that...the only thing that would stand out, and only at close viewing distance, would be the horn and hooves.

When designing a device, what colours (called “tinctures” in Heraldese) are used and how they are used is at least as important as the objects they are used on. Think about what your favourite colours and colour combinations are, and think about how you may want to include those in the design. Remember that, while heraldry is limited to a few basic tinctures, they can be used in a wide variety of combinations: if one doesn't work for you, try something else. Just be sure to follow the Rule of Tincture, which defines what colours we use in the Society, and in what combinations.

All the elements of a design (field and charges) must be clearly identifiable, and have good contrast with every other part of a design. Colour charges cannot go on colour field, nor metal charges on a metal field. Good contrast exists between colour and metal. A combination of black field and powder blue unicorn, though it seems to have good contrast, will result in the design being returned: no matter what shade may be used, blue is blue is blue, and proper heraldic blue is a bold colour, not a pastel.

Note that this refers to contrast between field and charges, not contrast of a divided field. A field evenly divided into gules and sable was a common treatment in period, and the field of An Tir's device is chequy Or and argent (though this would no longer be allowed due to identifiability problems).

The Colours (dark)	The Metals (light)
Azure (blue)	Argent (silver or white)
Gules (red)	Or (gold or yellow)
Purpure (purple)	
Sable (black)	
Vert (green)	

There are also a group called “furs” because they represent mink tails (“ermine”) or squirrel skins (“vair”); these are considered neutral – a colour if used with a metal charge, or a metal if used with a coloured charge.

Occasionally, a charge is registered as “proper”. This indicates that the tincture of the charge is an Exception to the Rule: a “tree proper” is green on top and brown on the bottom; a “flamingo proper” is pink. Note that only charges with consistent or traditional colouring can be registered as proper – a horse cannot, as horses come in a variety of colours; a cross cannot because crosses have no traditional colour.

So, make your unicorn purple if you like, but be sure to put it only on an Or field, or an argent one, or even on ermine (which would be considered “argent” in this instance).

## The Rules to Remember

There are rules that heraldry must follow. The rules the Society uses – The Rules for Submission - are based upon the rules used in regular, real-world heraldry, plus a few extra for flavour. These are not suggestions, or guidelines, but rules (called the Rules for Submission), and following them ensures a submission will not be returned for an easily corrected flaw. Here they are, in plain language:

- 1] **Keep it Simple** (also known as "Armorial Simplicity")  
Simply put, all armory must be simple in design. A device should not exceed a total of eight elements (tinctures and charges; charges are pictorial representations – animal, plant or other objects - or geometric shapes – cross, bar, diamond - that make up the design of the armory)
- 2] **Rule of Tincture** (also known as "Armorial Contrast")  
All armory must have sufficient contrast to allow each element of the design to be clearly identifiable at a distance: colour on metal or metal on colour is acceptable, but NOT colour on colour or metal on metal
- 3] **Big, Bold and Butch** (also known as "Armorial Identifiability")  
All elements used in a design should be drawn large and bold to preserve the individual identifiability of each element from a distance (20 yards by Society standard)
- 4] **Period Style** (also known as "Obtrusive Modernity")  
Armory may not use obviously modern designs (such as the Nike “swoosh”, the Chevy “cross”, etc). "Modern" is defined as anything outside the period of the Society.
- 5] **Fieldless Style** (also known as "Fieldless Style")  
Fieldless armory has no fixed background (or “field”) tincture, so that the charges may be put on any colour background. This is especially useful for badges.  
Fieldless armory must form a self-contained design: the design must have all its elements touching and cannot use the edges of the field to define the shape of charges (eg any of the geometrical charges that extend completely from one side

of the field to the other).

6] **Exceptions** (also known as "Documented Exceptions")

Some designs may be registerable even though they violate one or more basic rules of registerable armory design, as long as adequate documentation (including date, place, and reputable source of information) is provided to show that such a design or element was used or was likely to have been used in period armory.

7] **The Rule of Toyota** (also known as "You Asked For It, You Got It")

The rule that seems to break all the rules. Sometimes a design may be submitted and registered that is not in the best of taste or style, but does not violate any of the Rules for Submission. The College of Heralds feels that, if the submitter really wants that design, and there is no reason to return it, it should be registered, no matter how ugly it may be heraldically.

Not sure if your design is "legal"? When in doubt, ask a herald – that's what we're here for!

Do you have a question about heraldry? Let me know, and I will address it in a future article.

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## Before the Edwardian Conquest, Did Welshmen Wear Pants?

Lord Brynach ap Rhys

Researching the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods of history, as with any research, begins with a question. This question, no matter how odd, often leads to other questions.

As an example, let us use the title as a starting point. Did Welshmen wear pants prior to the Edwardian conquest, in 1283? This seems a simple enough question. Punching the terms "wales welsh pants 1283" (or any variant thereof) into a web search engine gives very little useful information. Furthermore, anyone can publish anything on the web and call it fact. Make sure your information comes through verified sources, such as books and journals. However, the web is a useful starting point, if you know where to look. Stefan's Florilegium is an excellent place for research novices to begin. Not only does it contain information on a wide variety of topics from people all over the SCA, but it is easily searchable. Clicking on the 'Clothing' link on the front page, then clicking 'Wales' gives us a single letter written by "Tangwystyl". (If you were not aware prior to performing this research, HE Tangwystyl verch Morgant Glasfryn is one of the best

sources of information on Welsh culture in the SCA.) We'll assume we are a novice, and not aware of Tangwystyl's reputation. In her letter, she briefly describes information on Welsh clothing; tunics, cloaks, and shoes. She also says "Welsh clothing did not differ drastically from that of their neighbors". This information is important if you're creating 12th century Welsh garb. However, there aren't any specific references to pants.

Using the Stefan's Florilegium search engine with the term "wales" gives 414 hits. One search result that catches the eye is a section on 12th century Britain. Within this section is a listing for the book "The Itinerary through Wales; Description of Wales" by Giraldus Cambrensis.<sup>1</sup> Giraldus Cambrensis (or Gerald of Wales) was a twelfth century churchman and author. The original text was penned in Latin, yet modern English translations are available.

Searching for this book in the University of Northern British Columbia or College of New Caledonia online library catalogue turns up nothing. However, this book is fairly inexpensive to receive through interlibrary loan. The blurb on the back of the book says, "The Description offers us a detailed and fascinating picture of the day-to-day existence of ordinary Welshmen...what they ate and wore". This book sounds like a promising possibility. In it, Gerald describes several Welsh customs, such as their treatment of guests, dining habits, and oral hygiene. He writes, "They keep on the same clothes which they have worn all day, a thin cloak and a tunic, which is all they have to keep the cold out." This does not answer our initial question, yet reading this book gives a glimpse into medieval Welsh lifestyle.

At this time you can easily start documenting your research, especially if you're submitting this for an arts and science competition. Write down the title, author, translator, editor, publication date, publisher, and publication city of the book. If it's a journal, also include the journal name and page number. For standard arts and science book and journal citations, I recommend either "The Little Brown Handbook" or "The Chicago Manual of Style".<sup>2,3</sup> These books have many examples of proper citations.

So, what was initially a simple question has turned into quite a project, proving that not all information can be found as easily as performing a simple web search. Much can be gathered through prior research work, so we do not have to reinvent the wheel. (Check out the Cool Web Pages section.) Yet collecting further information requires a bit of sweat and toil.

But, what was the answer?

Finally, after going through several more books, including two more interlibrary loans, I found what I was looking for.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup> Yes, Welshmen did wear pants. In fact, in Welsh court, pant length was an indication of status: those wearing longer pants had higher status than those with short pants, or none at all. Interestingly, the sergeant-at-arms

wore the longest pants, not the king. The sergeant-at-arms was responsible for protecting the court in its travels, and earned the longest pants.

Did a Welshman who didn't wear any pants have no status? Well, that's another question and another research project. Enough for now.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. Cambrensis, Giraldus. *The Journey through Wales and the Description of Wales*. Trans. Lewis Thorpe. Toronto: Penguin, 1978.
  2. Fowler, H. Ramsey, ed. *The Little Brown Handbook*. 4th ed. Glenview: Scott, 1989.
  3. University of Chicago Press Staff, ed. *Chicago Manual of Style* 14th ed. Chicago: Univ of Chicago, 1993.
  4. Huws, Daniel. *Peniarth 28: Illustrations from a Welsh Lawbook*. Aberystwyth: The National Library of Wales, 1989.
  5. *The Mabinogion*. Trans. Lady Charlotte E. Guest. Toronto: Dover, 1997.
  6. Jenkins, Dafydd. *The Law of Hywel Dda*. Llandysul: Gomer, 1986.
  7. Charles-Edwards, T.M, Morfydd M. Owen, and Paul Russell, ed. *The Welsh King and His Court* Aberystwyth: University of Wales Press, 2001.
-

# Cool Web Sites

Stefan's Florilegium, <http://www.florilegium.org/>

NetSERF, Beau A.C. Harbin, <http://www.netserf.org/>

On-line Reference Book (ORB) for Medieval Studies, Kathryn Talarico,  
<http://www.the-orb.net/>

The Labyrinth, Martin Irvine and Deborah Everhart, Georgetown University,  
<http://labyrinth.georgetown.edu/>

University of Northern British Columbia's Geoffrey R. Weller Library, <http://lib.unbc.ca/>

College of New Caledonia Library, <http://www.cnc.bc.ca/library/>

Compleat Anachronist, SCA, <http://www.sca.org/ca/>

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