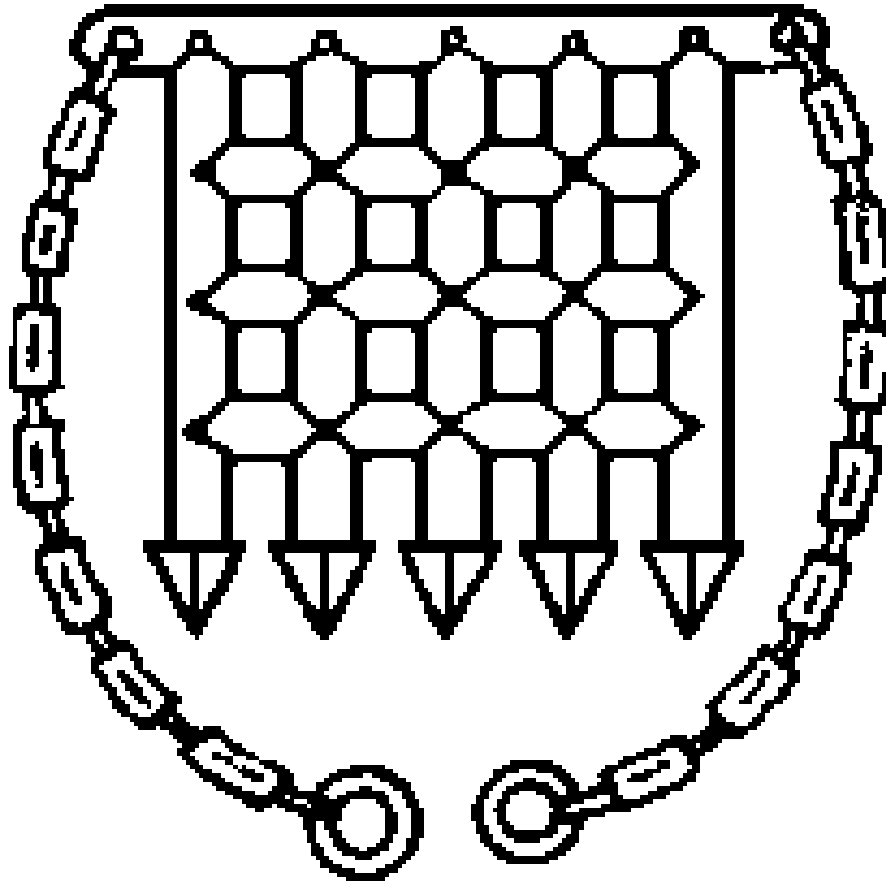


The Portcullis



Shire of Cold Keep
(Prince George, BC)

August 2005

Volume 4 Issue 4

Royalty

Kingdom of An Tir

Their Royal Majesties of An Tir
Uther Schiemann der Hount and Angharad Drakenhefd

Tony Lynch
36417 Colbert Street
Newark, CA 94560

king@antir.sca.org

Alisoun Lamb
3611 - 71st Ave NE
Marysville, WA 98270

queen@antir.sca.org

Their Royal Majesties maintain one mailbox. Please send only one copy of your message.

Principality of Avacal

Their Highnesses of Avacal
Einar Vikingson and Ifatahyo al-Jenne

Ivan Williams

avacal-prince@antir.sca.org

Chriss O'Toole
524 Queensland Dr SE
Calgary, AB T2J 4G6

avacal-princess@antir.sca.org



Officers of Cold Keep

Seneschal (Acting)

HL Brigit ingen Meic Thíre Ruaidh
celticwolf@telus.net

Exchequer

Lord Eggbert the Ready
goldingspg@shaw.ca

Master of Stables

Lord Brennen MacDonald
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Chatelaine

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Arts and Sciences

Bantiarna Niamh ingen Raigillig
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Captain of the Bow

HL Vladimir Andreivich Aleksandrov
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Chronicler/Webminister

Lord Brynach ap Rhys
archer77@telus.net

Champions of Cold Keep

Heavy

HL Vladimir Andreivich Aleksandrov

Rapier

Argan Greygrove of Lionsdale

Archery

Lord Brynach ap Rhys

Arts and Sciences

Asa Sviensdottir

Gatherings

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 Fort George Park

Archery Practice

Prince George: Sunday at noon off the
Hart Highway at the end of Perrin Heights
Vanderhoof: Check the Cold Keep Forum

Socials

First Wednesday of each month at Lord
Eggbert's house

Cold Keep Web Site

http://www.geocities.com/trad_archer77/ColdKeep/ColdKeep.htm

Wolfpack Web Site

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

Calendar

August		
20	Silverwolf	Borealis
27-28	Summerfest Demo	Cold Keep
26-28	Archery Extravaganza and Champions	Sigelhundas
26-28	Forest War VI	Coill Mhor
September		
2-5	September Crown	Aquaterra
9-11	Harvest Feast	Bitter End
17	Feast of Avalon	Rhuddglyn
24	Harvestide Festival	Cold Keep
24-25	An Tir Bardic	Three Mountains
30-1	Vinfest	Vinjar
October		
7-9	Myrgan Wood Anniversary	Myrgan Wood
15	Samhain	Montengarde
15-16	XVIII Annual Freezeoff	Ramsgaard
22	Theme Feast / Bop & Die	Bordergate
November		
5-6	Ferret's Feast	Valley Wold

Harvestide Festival

September 24, 2005
Shire of Cold Keep
Prince George BC

Take a break from gathering up the crops and come join us in Cold Keep for the Harvestide Festival. There will be feasting and merriment abound. During the day join us for various classes. In the evening there will be a potluck feast with a prize for best period dish, followed by a tavern night. Please include a list of ingredients included in any dish brought to the feast in consideration of those with sensitivities/allergies.

We will be having a heavy fighter tournament during the day. The winner will be crowned this years Protector of the Harvest.

We shall also be hosting gaming throughout the evening, as well as a populace choice bardic and A & S competition (previous A & S entries may not be resubmitted). A fundraising auction will be held and all donations are appreciated.

Class listings and updates will be available at:
http://www.geocities.com/trad_archer77/ColdKeep/harvestide.htm

Please bring a donation of non-perishable crops (ie canned goods) for those whose fields withered this year.

Site opens at noon September 24th and will close at 11pm.

Site Fee \$6: adults; \$5: 7-16 yrs; 6 & under free. NMS Fee applies as per Kingdom Law.
Please make checks payable to the Shire of Cold Keep.

Autocrat:

Suna (mka Susan Hardy)
Email: suehardy@yahoo.com
Phone: 250-640-9337
71D-2131 Upland St
Prince George, BC, V2L 2V8

Site Info:

Kinsman Hall
777 Kinsman Place
Prince George, BC

Directions to Site:

From the south take Highway 97 until you reach 5th Avenue, take a left at the lights. Drive through one more set of lights and take the second left onto Stuart Drive. Almost immediately make a right onto Kinsman Place.

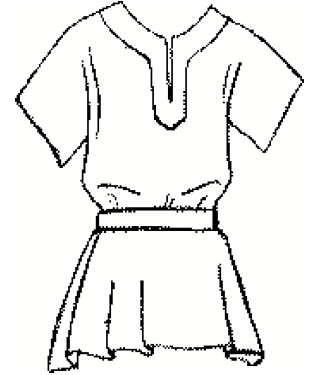


Natal'ia's Notions

Slightly-more-than-Basic Garb

Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha

Perhaps this is late in coming, as it is almost the end of event season, however, it never hurts to get the word out. You should be comfortable at events! You should be happy and snug in your garb at events! And perhaps, most importantly, you should be wearing an attempt at pre-17th century clothing at events. Of course, what you wear will be highly affected by what type of persona you develop, but regardless of what you eventually decide, you need medieval garments as soon as possible. This doesn't mean you need to go out tomorrow and make a complete Tudor or Italian Ren., it just means you should think about what you want to wear.



Garb needs to be appropriate for the activities you plan to participate in. Think of it like you would modern clothing. We have business wear, formal wear and casual wear. Just like you wouldn't wear a ball gown to Summit Lake, you might not want to wear Elizabethan garb to a camping event.

Take some time and look around at events at the different type of garb. Flip through some of the resources available to give you an idea of what garb fits what period. Remember, the key to great garb is being comfortable in it. If you are a man, and think tights are for girls, you may chose to avoid later periods. Ask people about their garb, about embellishment, and fabric choice. People love having their garb admired. It makes them excited and then they will tell you all about it. Try it sometime.

A great basic garment is the tunic. It is a unisex garment that was worn pretty much universally across western Europe in the early period. There are just as many ways to construct a tunic as there are other names for it, but really, the tunic was where it was at for at least 400 years. Tunics fit like a shirt, and are very comfortable. They can be long, or short, warm or cool. They can be easily dressed up with embellishment or trim, and are a quick and easy way to garb yourself.

There are many different patterns for tunics, if you are capable of sewing. I will list a few of the internet sources you may choose to use at the end of the article. Modern commercial pattern companies are beginning to cater to re-creationist needs, but so far there are not really any efficient tunic patterns. However, if you are considering a later period, many commercial patterns are quite good and easy to alter to remove zippers and other modern additions.

An important consideration when making medieval garments is fabric choice. The weight and drape of modern fabrics is not often equivalent to that of medieval fabrics, and considering this difference when choosing fabric will make a huge difference in how your medieval clothing looks when it is completed. So let's discuss fabric. You will always have better drape and hang from a natural fibre fabric. Cottons, Wools, Silks and Linens will all drape better than their synthetic counterparts. Not only that, but natural fibres are kinder to you – they keep you cool in the heat and warm in the cold and they are more durable. Unfortunately, most natural fabrics are also more costly than synthetics, but if you are shrewd and 'shop the sales', even in a limited market like Cold Keep, you can have some fabulous finds.

Blended fabrics (poly-cotton, poly-wool, rayon-linen) blends are usually less expensive than 100% natural fabrics. They are easier to find, and nearly as durable as a 100% natural weave. Some blends don't wash as well as natural fabrics, but pre-washing will warn you of any anomalies you may need to consider. Fabrics that you need to avoid at all costs include velour, stretch velvet, 100% polyester, rayon and broadcloth! Velours and stretch velvets cling and stretch and just act strangely; polyester does not breathe and retains stains; rayon shrinks unevenly and broadcloth has such an insignificant weight that it clings and catches, even on silky underwear.

Don't hesitate to ask people for help, or ask them about their fabric choices and patterns. Particularly when you are still looking for garb, asking the people you see in medieval clothes about their choices may help you to clarify your own choices. Don't be shy about asking to take photos. When you can line up a row of garments beside each other you can get a better idea of what appeals to you, and what will suit your figure, comfort level and own personal ideals about clothing. An important question that rarely is asked is "why did you chose this garb?" – this can offer insights that you may not have considered.

Websites with Tunic Patterns:

http://www.virtue.to/articles/tunic_worksheet.html – Practical Worksheet for Tunic Construction
<http://www.forest.gen.nz/Medieval/articles/Tunics/TUNICS.HTML> – T-Tunic, the period way
<http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/viktunic.html> – Viking Tunic Construction
<http://www.pipcom.com/~tempus/sewing/ttunic.html> – T-Tunic
<http://sca.warhawkhobbies.com/ttunic.htm> – Costuming a T-Tunic
<http://easygarb.freewebsite.org/tunics.html> – 2-hour Tunic
<http://www.stcarol.org/fitptunic.htm> – Forward into the Past – All Purpose T-Tunic
<http://members.aol.com/Predslava/GiliarovskaiaPatterns.html> – Patterns and Instructions for Medieval Russian Costumes (It has a good tunic pattern)
<http://www.silverdor.org/viking/underdress.html> – Viking Underdress

Other Resources:

<http://www.alteryears.com/> - Alter Years Patterns – a variety of historical patterns – watch for things that are out of period!
<http://www.richardthethread.com/patterns.html> – Richard the Thread – many medieval, gothic, renaissance and Elizabethan patterns
<http://www.wingeo.com/100Series.htm> – Wingeo Patterns – Many a whole range from Vikings to the renaissance.

Local Fabric Stores:

Fabricland – if you have a membership, chance are, they are having a sale. Many types of wool and linen available year round – and often at 70% off!
Walmart – It's hard to even find cotton in Walmart, but if you spend time there, you'll sometimes find a treasure. Has some trim worth considering.
PG Sewing – Mostly caters to quilters, but has huge amounts of trims.

This should get you started – it gives you something to think about a chance to consider fabric choices. For the more daring among you, it may even be the jumping off point for a new and exciting life filled with new garb. For the rest of us, though, next month, I'll step you through my favourite tunic pattern. I just need to work out some math on it, and get some drawings finished.

Summerfest Demo

Date: August 27-28, 2005

Time: 10am till 5pm

Location: Downtown 3rd Ave and George St.

Democrat: HL Brigit ingen Meic Thíre Ruaidh, celticwolf@telus.net

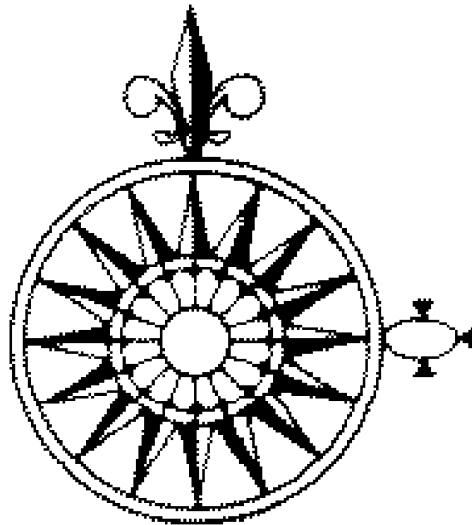
Alternate contact: George georgemackay@shaw.ca

The time has come again for us to attend for another summer demo to show both our support for the city and also our support for what we love to do. We are in need of fighters in Heavy and Rapier as well as anyone who could show off our more demur and artistic side of A&S. Items of interest are always appreciated.

Volunteers are also needed to man the booth and supply liquid refreshments to our no doubt weary fighters.

As always putting our best garb forward would indeed help as well to entice the public to look and listen to what we can tell them about ourselves and our Society.

Lets try to make this Demo a great one.



Ask Uncle Vlad

HL Vladimir Andreivich Aleksandrov



make up something that sounds plausible.

Greetings, Gentle Readers. Yes, it is once again time for that Sage of the Society, your very own Uncle Vlad, to emerge groggily from the Vladcave and attempt to illuminate your minds and lives by answering your questions about any aspect of life in the SCA, from the sublime to the mundane (or even the Mundane, if you get my drift). Got a question about anything SCA-related? Anything at all? Fighting, politics, philosophy, etiquette, why there are so many Norse personae everywhere - just ask your ol' Uncle Vlad, and if I don't know the answer or can't find it, then I can assuredly

Well, on to this month's question:

Dear Uncle Vlad,

I've been hearing about Knights and Masters-at-Arms, and am a bit confused. If they are both part of the order of Chivalry, what's the difference between them? Can you switch from one to the other? And back again? I've heard about people doing this, and I am confused. Please help me.

I am curious, white (belts, that is)

Dear Curious White,

Your question is indeed a tricky one, as the Society is in many ways a somewhat plastic organism, and its practices and beliefs tend to change over time. But a hardcore traditionalist rebel like Uncle Vlad would never let modern practice (based in large part on people's modern, that is, 21st-century, ideas of fealty and social conduct) get in the way of some good old SCA-historical practice and beliefs.

It would do to begin by looking at the origin of the Order of the Masters at Arms. It all started wayyyyyyy back in the Olden Days, then the SCA had only recently crawled up out of the primordial ooze, albeit already with very defined concepts of honour, chivalry, fealty and all that good stuff that Uncle Vlad breathes in through his life support tube. The first Masters at Arms were in fact created all the way back in A.S. 2 (1968, to save you the math), at the 12th Night Coronation of the Kingdom of the West. King William (I think) held the first big knighting ceremony, but there was a wee problem. One of the people he was planning on knighting felt very deeply that his real-world religious oaths made him unable to swear fealty as a Knight. This person was Duke Richard the Short (aka Duke Richard of Mont Real). So instead the rank of Master at Arms was created so that Richard could be a member of the Order of Chivalry without swearing fealty to the Crown. And a whole new subspecies of Peer was born.

Now, traditionally, this rank was intended for people who were unable, who just couldn't swear fealty, and it probably was never imagined that it would later be used by people who just didn't wanna swear fealty to the Crown. The early members of the Order were folks who felt that they had other binding oaths that made them unable to swear fealty in good faith. Primarily these were real-world religious or military oaths. The language of the early knighting ceremony makes this pretty clear:

".but, if one of this company shall not give his fealty, or if through prior

commitment, he may not give this fealty, as this would wound his honour, then may he yet be awarded acclaim; and this acclaim shall take the title of `Master'.."

However, it is now not at all uncommon for people to take the accolade of Master at Arms for the simple reason that they don't wish to swear fealty. Note that, like members of the Orders of the Laurel and Pelican, that this does not mean that they cannot swear fealty, merely that they are not being required to, as Knights are required to. They are completely free to swear fealty to the Crown anytime they want.

So, for all that, the Master at Arms gets a spiffy white baldric to wear vice a spiffy white belt, and does not wear the heavy gold chain (symbolising the weight of permanent fealty to the Crown) that the Knights do. However, by tradition, even when sitting on the throne as Sovereign, a Master at Arms may not make a new Knight. If a Knight is to be made during the reign of a Master at Arms, then a Knights hand must be touching the sword that is used to perform the ceremony. It is one of those little warm fuzzy touches that makes the SCA so cute. Otherwise, Knights and Masters are identical, both being members of the Order of Chivalry. Let's look at what Corpora has to say about this¹:

VIII.A.4 Patent Orders

a)The Chivalry consists of two equal parts, the Order of Knighthood and the Order of Mastery of Arms. No one may belong to both orders at one time. When a member is admitted to the Chivalry by the Sovereign, the choice of which order to join is made by the new member.

Well, that seems pretty clear, to Uncle Vlad at least. You are either one or the other, and while one can imagine a person making a switch from one to another (like maybe you are a Knight who feels that other vows or oaths make you unable to continue as a Knight, or contrariwise a Master may have his restrictions lifted so that they feel free to swear fealty to the Crown), it is difficult to condone regular switching back and forth from reign to reign, based only on one's feelings towards the latest Sovereign. But Uncle Vlad has been led to understand that this is in fact the current number one reason for becoming a Master instead of a Knight, and he has both seen and heard about people giving up the Belt for the Baldric for a reign, only to don the Belt again the next reign. Uncle Vlad sees it and is unamused.

Especially since it is so unnecessary. And unnecessary for members of both orders. Masters at Arms may freely swear fealty if they wish - they just don't have to, the way the Knights do. And, for the Knights, the decision to `take the baldric' so that they do not have to swear fealty in a given reign is based on a common misconception as to just who or what they are swearing fealty to.

You see, most people (and most Knights) think that swearing fealty to the Crown means swearing fealty to the person wearing the Crown. There is a real and distinct difference in swearing fealty to a symbol or an office, and swearing fealty to an individual. Uncle Vlad has never sworn fealty to the Crown, and never will unless he were, through some freak administrative error, elevated to a Peerage himself, because he has sworn fealty to an individual - his Knight. However, were he to be honoured with the accolade of Chivalry, he would freely swear fealty to the Crown - not to any individual Sovereign, but to the institution of the Crown. Having done that, he would feel free to never have to swear fealty to any individual Sovereign, as his permanent oath to the Crown has already been made. That isn't the way most people see the Knight's oath of fealty, probably including most Knights, but that is a very valid way to view the oath to the Crown, and this view is supported by SCA tradition and precedent. Let us go back to that very first knighting ceremony²:

".And that the Crown may endure, and our Kingdom prosper, these Gentlemen will be asked to give fealty. not to the King, who shall, in his time, pass from the Throne; but to the Crown ."

You see, it was intended that way from the start! The fealty link between Knight and Crown is between the Knight and the Institution, no matter who is sitting there at the time, and not to the individual Sovereign. So that makes the current precedent of exchanging the belt for the baldric when a Sovereign comes along that said Knight just can't get along with not so much a high-minded philosophical act as a way to publicly express disdain for said Sovereign. And Uncle Vlad thinks that that is just in bad taste, and is really conduct unbecoming a Peer of the Realm. If you really can't stand the current Sovereign, just make yourself scarce for a while. It is the classy thing to do.

And for you, Curious, I hope this has answered your question to some degree. Uncle Vlad's advice to you is - should the day come when you are offered the accolade of Chivalry, think really long and hard and seriously about which way you want to go, and once your decision is made, stick with it. It shows strength of character. Of course, this is all just Uncle Vlad's personal opinion, no matter how well supported and sensible it is.

Well, Gentle Readers, that's the end of Uncle Vlad's pontifications for another month. I hope we all had fun together. Please, if you have a question, send it in to Uncle Vlad, and he will answer it in the manner to which you have all become accustomed.

Have fun and earn lots of XP!

Uncle Vlad
Ex Tenebras ad Luce

References:

1. "Society of Creative Anachronism Organizational Handbook", Revision April 16, 2005.
2. rec.org.sca, Master Randall of Hightower, 8 May 1981.

Of Note

Some clip art used is from Lord Kyl's Clipart Web Page: <http://clipart.lordkyl.net/>

Chronicler Comments

Lord Brynach ap Rhys

Thank you for reading the August 2005 issue of The Portcullis; of, by, and for the populace of the Shire of Cold Keep!

In this issue, Lady Natal'ia returned with a new "Natal'ia's Notions" after an all too long hiatus. Uncle Vlad answered another question with his sage advice and noble wit. In October, I hope to bring you articles both from regular contributors and new voices.

Brynach ap Rhys, Cold Keep Chronicler and Webminister

Vacant Shire Offices

The **Herald** is the chief heraldic officer of the Shire. The responsibilities of the Herald shall include: facilitate the timely processing of registration of arms, devices and badges of the populace of the Shire; advise the populace on matters of ceremony and protocol; encourage the practice of heraldry within the Shire; and be responsible for official announcements at Shire events.

The **Master of Blades** is the rapier officer for the Shire. The responsibilities of the Master of Blades shall include: facilitating the education of the populace in rapier combat with the aim of encouraging authentic, safe, fair and chivalric combat to the greatest extent possible; enforcing the rules for period rapier combat; and enforcing standards for safety and equipment for period rapier combat.

The **Chirurgeon** is the chief first aid officer for the Shire. The responsibilities of the Chirurgeon shall include: providing voluntary first aid at Society events including, but not limited to, tournament combat; and notifying attendees of health and safety concerns at Society events.

The **List Minister** responsibilities shall include: maintain a listing of all authorized fighters and marshals in the Shire; and organize and coordinate the Lists.

The **Pied Piper** is the officer in charge of encouraging opportunities for entertainment and education of SCA participants under the age of 18. Duties include: serving as an information officer for safety issues effecting children and teens at events; organizing activities for children at Shire events; educating children on age related topics on aspects of the Society and our historical period of study; and sharing knowledge with interested persons on children's activities.



Disclaimer

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