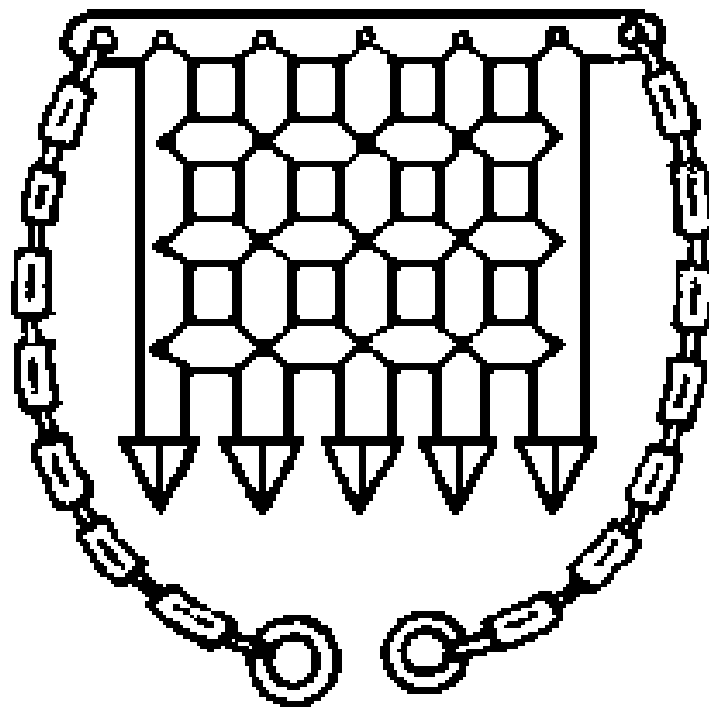


# The Portculis

3.6



Shire of Cold Keep  
(Prince George, BC)

October 2004

Vol. III No. 6

# Royal ty

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

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

**Their Royal Highnesses of An Tir  
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Their Royal Highnesses maintain a single mailbox. Please send only one copy of your message to one address.

**Their Highnesses of Avacal  
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Their Highnesses maintain separate mailboxes. Please send two copies of your message as appropriate.



# Officers of Cold Keep

## **Seneschal**

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## **Exchequer**

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## **Interim Master of Blades**

Thest Bloodwyn

## **Arts and Sciences**

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## **Chatelaine**

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## **Captain of the Bow**

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## **Chronicler**

Lord Brynach ap Rhys  
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# Champions of Cold Keep

## **Heavy**

HL Nathaniel De Rennes

## **Rapier**

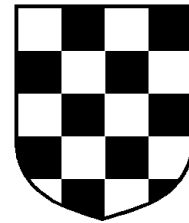
Vincent Pendragon

## **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

# Cold Keep Web Site

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

# Wol fpack Web Site

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

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## Calendar

October		
23	Samhain	Montengarde
30	St. Crispin's Rapier Tourney	Tir Bannog
November		
6	Ferret's Feast	Valley Wold
13	Skull 'n Crossbones Tavern	Sigelhundas
20	Snowflake Revel	Cold Keep
20	Theme Feast/Bop and Die	Bordergate
26-28	Avacal Coronet	Borealis
December		
4	Yule Feast	Borealis
11	Yule	Cae Mor
january		
15	Montengarde 12th Night	Montengarde
29	War Practice and Homme Polo	Myrgan Wood

# From the Seneschal

## Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha

Ah, October! For real life reasons, October is my favourite month of the year. In the Society, we find ourselves winding down our outdoor activities for the year, and starting to make plans for Arts & Sciences projects to wile away the winter months. Which reminds me that there are only 4 months left until the next Cold Keep Arts & Sciences championship. I would encourage all members of the shire to work on some projects over the winter months to prepare for the Championship. It would be a shame if apathy got the better of us again this year, and speaking as the current champion, I would love to pass the torch to another member of the shire, and not serve a third term. I would also encourage our other shire champions to step up to the plate and fulfill their duties. I know our Archery champion, Lord Markus, is offering a class on building quivers in the near future, and thank him for the work he is putting into his role as Archery champion.

Thank you to all those gentles involved in putting on the Newcomer's Workshop in September. There was good turn out, and I look forward to us having another similar offering in the spring. I would encourage all members of the shire to take an active part in the learning that is being offered, both by members involved in the Newcomers Workshops, as well as those offerings organized by Lady Niamh, the Arts & Sciences officer. There comes a time in all our game when we must become responsible for developing our interests. It is by fostering those interests that we truly understand the culture we aim to recreate. There is immeasurable talent in this shire, and the willingness to share it is there. Take charge of your own destiny and seek out a teacher in an area that interests you, and watch the entire shire benefit from your involvement!

It is with pleasure also that I recognize the efforts of our own, and congratulate HL Tatiana the Outspoken for her contributions to Principality. Over the summer, she developed a handbook for branch Chatelaines. I know this book will become a valued commodity for all Chatelaines throughout Avacal, and thank her for the time and thought she put into the book.

In service,  
Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha  
Seneschal Cold Keep

## September officers Reports

Herald

1) In the matter of the Shire badge, I have received four responses. The preference seems to be for the five mullets (stars), with the majority preferring Or on sable (gold on black). There is a conflict problem, however, and we need to discuss a way to clear the conflict. If we want to keep to the same basic design, we we may add more stars (which has the danger of making them too small to be distinguishable), change the arrangement of the stars (a circle will conflict) , make the badge "Fieldless", or add a border.

2) In the matter of the token badge, the original idea of a tower with a flame issuing from its roof is a good one, and registerable; however this too has a conflict. It may be possible to clear the conflict by separating the flame and the tower, or by adding a bordure. A change of design to simulate the flaming tower may also work; keeping the sable (black) field and adding a bordure embattled argent with the flames proper as the main charge.

I have glanced through the O&A but haven't done a thorough check on any of these suggestions yet.

(\*note - I hope to have these various designs at least drawn out by the meeting, if not coloured)

chief archer

Official archery season is drawing to a close. End of season is end of October. If you want to improve your official score, try to get out to archery practice. We will try to hold as many as time and weather permit before end of season.

We are still waiting to hear from Brigid about the indoor archery site. Hopefully we will get to use this site over the winter.

Asa has invited all to come out to shoot indoors with her at Vanderhoof, at the indoor site there (a school, I believe).

## October officers reports

herald

1) In the matter of the Shire badge, I have gone with what seems to be the popular choice, "Azure, five mullets in cross Or", and it seems to be clear. If it is so agreed at this meeting, I will submit the badge for registration.

The fee is \$16, payable in Cdn funds for this registration.

2) In the matter of the badge for the Light of the North, there is still some question as to whether we can register "Sable, in pale a flame proper and a tower argent", so I am asking for a consensus as to whether we submit that, and leave it up to Laurel Queen of Arms to decide on its registerability, or should we submit instead "(Tinctureless) In pale a flame and a tower"

3) I would like to offer a very belated thank you to Ceowulf for donating an entire print copy of the Avacal Roll of Arms to the Shire.

Chief Archer

Nothing of great significance to report, except that the scoring season is about to end, and we do not have an indoor range for the winter. We may have to make the trek out to Vanderhoof to shoot there.

## Chatelaine

We are holding our social on the first Wednesday of each month. Our council meetings are held on the third Monday of each month.

The last month has been busy for the shire. We held a stitch and bitch and made about 22 tabards for the gold key. More activities are being planned for arts and science.

We held a Newcomers day at the Arts and Science building. It was well attended and a great success for the shire.

Fighter practice is being held at UNBC on Tuesday and Thursday starting around 6:30pm. Rapier and heavy is being held at the same time. There is a good turnout most nights.

Archery is still taking place. Check the forum out for times and dates. We are still in need of a place to hold practices in the winter.

## from the principality of avacal chatelaine her Ladyship tatiana the outspoken

I would like to announce the working online reporting form and the new Avacal Chatelaine Handbook. Both can be found at <http://ca.geocities.com/avacalchatelaine> The handbook will be made available to all areas in hardcopy by November Coronet at the latest. There will be a demo handbook coming as well, just not sure when, exactly.

Please email me with any questions: [avacalchatelaine @ shaw. ca](mailto:avacalchatelaine@shaw.ca) \*remove the spaces\*



## The Heraldic Voice by Brigit ingen Meic Thire Ruaidh

### The Voice Herald

Everyone is familiar with visual heraldic display: banners and flags, pennons and devices. There is another side of heraldry that is not visible, and that is voice heraldry. The announcements that are cried around an event site, the introduction of tourney combatants and the proclamation of the victor in each bout, and the formal pronouncements at Court are also heraldry.

The voice herald has quite a different role to play than a book herald. Where the book herald uses research for documentation, and artistic skill to illustrate his craft; the voice herald relies on her voice and her ability to ad lib.

**Court:** this is the most formal form of voice heraldry: usually the herald stand behind or beside the thrones or baronial seats and calls forward from the assembly those people who are being recognized or who have requested to make a presentation before the Court. Court heralds usually read the text of an award scroll, or the wording of an oath being given or received. Sometimes the herald prompts those participating in the oath by reading their part aloud and having them repeat it.

The most important thing for a court herald to remember is that he is not the centre of attention: that position belongs to the Crown or the representatives of the Crown who are holding court.

**Feast Heraldry:** sometimes present at feast events, the feast herald announces the courses (remove) and what dishes the course consists of. It is also becoming more common for the ingredients to be named as well. If there are any performers to entertain during the feast, the feast herald would announce them as well.

**Field Heraldry:** possibly the most noticed (with one exception – see Event Heraldry below). Field heraldry is usually done during heavy combat tourneys, though occasionally you will hear a rapier tourney heralded. It is vital for the herald to know who is fighting, and to be able to recognize the shield device and/or armour of the victor to pronounce his victory. The field herald typically introduces the participants, calls them to the field or advises them to stand ready, and requests the salutes to the Crown, to the inspiration and to the opponent.

**Event Heraldry** (also known as Town Crying): possibly the most disliked heraldry is that 9:00 am wakeup call after a long night of celebrating. That is the event herald doing her job. The event herald also cries to the assembled populace any announcements regarding meetings, the time of various events, and other information they need to know for the day. Event heralds often travel around the event site, repeating their announcements several times to ensure everyone will hear it.

## Tricks of the Trade

**Posture** Stand straight, but relaxed. This keeps your windpipe straight, which allows your voice to come out louder.

**Breathing** Breathe deep, from the diaphragm (below the ribcage). This increases the volume of your voice, and reduces the frequency of the breaths you need to take. As you speak, draw your voice up from the diaphragm and project it out to the audience.

**Pitch** Drop your voice a bit, speak at a lower pitch. This lessens the strain on your voice so it won't start 'cracking' while there are still a dozen announcements to be made. It will also reduce the strain on your throat. When your voice gets tired, your pitch may rise from fatigue, and you may end up with a sore throat or laryngitis.

**Presence** Just as you need to project your voice, you also need to project your presence. Be visible – if the audience can see you, they will be able to hear you better as well. It is important that everyone can hear what you are saying – make sure they notice you.... but remember, you are not the “star” of the show, only the announcer.

**Enunciate** Slow down and speak clearly. Your voice has to travel some distance, be heard over other noises, and be understood. Do not turn in circles as you speak, or use your hands as a megaphone: either of these will muffle your voice to anyone not directly in front of you.

**Pronunciation** Every herald, once in a while, comes across a name they are unfamiliar with and do not know how to pronounce. In most combat tournaments, phonetic spellings of names are added to the list cards along with the true spelling, form of address and other relevant information. In all cases, if you are not sure, ask! You and the person you are announcing would much rather have his name spoken correctly the first time.

So there you have it – the true Heraldic Voice. Next time that event herald wakes you up at 9:00 in the morning, consider how well he is doing his job, and refrain from throwing things at him.



## Natal'ia's Notions

Lady Natal'ia Volkovicha

This month's letter asks a question that has been troubling scholars for many a year. It is sensitive subject matter, so I would warn those who like mutton or lamb chops, there is much discussion of livestock ahead.

*Natal'ia,*

*I would like more information on that age old question....Scotsmen and sheep. What is the ratio, in medieval times, between the population of:*

*Scotsmen and sheep*

*Englishmen and sheep*

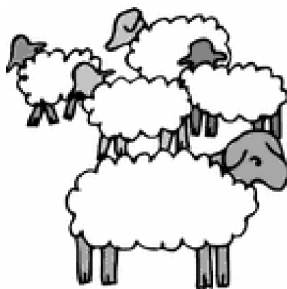
*Welshmen and sheep*

*Frenchmen and sheep*

*Just for comparison....*

You've posed a brilliant question, random gentle who by my choice shall remain anonymous. I actually had to do a little research to find out this information, and believe me, I attempted to find StatsMedievalEurope on-line, but to no avail. In Hamish MacTavish's definitive work on Scottish sheep husbandry practice, he states, "The average Scottish household consisted of a regular family unit. There was a husband, wife and average of 6.75 children, as well as a livestock pen that housed the husband's flock of sheep. Although considered an obscure law in our day, in the Middle Ages, a husband was guaranteed at least 4 concubinal sheep, additional to any other sheep raised for wool or food." (MacTavish 203). MacTavish further claims that an apocryphal document, called the Magna Sheepa, guaranteed the rights of sheep across what is now considered the British Isles. I wouldn't put too much credit to that, however, as an extant copy of the document has never been found. MacTavish has no definitive ratio for Scotsmen to sheep, however, if we assume that each Scotsman exercised his right to concubinal sheep, the ratio would have been at least 1:4.

The right to concubinal sheep is not limited to Scotland, however. Gwogan Smith, a famed Welsh historian, suggests that sheep were as common as blades of grass in Medieval Wales. Which leads me to ask, 'why wasn't it called Sheep, then? Were there actually Whales in Wales?' Thankfully, Smith answers that in his latest book, *The Whales of Wales*, stating "The common field whale was frequently sighted in Medieval Wales, until hunted to extinction by Scotsmen seeking sheep" (*The Whales of Wales* 23). He further explains, "Many Welsh householders kept whales, fattening them up for winter consumption. Because of their lovability, Welsh children were often devastated when their beloved pet, Spouty, would be slaughtered for fuel and food in the winter. It has been recorded that the devastation ebbed once wrapped in blankets woven from whale blubber protected them from the harsh winters" (*The Whales of Wales* 145). Smith doubts the veracity of claims that sheep existed in Wales, and although there is some suggestion that Scottish Gypsies brought them into Wales to breed them with the larger Welsh Common Whale, there is no recorded documentation of this ever occurring (*The Myth of the Sheep* 374). For our purposes, Smith would have us believe the ratio of Welshmen to sheep was 1:0.



Curiously, French author Pierre Lemieux suggests that in the medieval period, sheep were more common for searching truffles than pigs were. His contention that "due to the smaller stature of the medieval sheep, the habitant was able to hide the sheep in his trousers if he was caught truffle hunting on his seigneur's land" (Lemieux 3981). The ability to 'stash' the sheep made them more desirable than pigs, which tended to squeal loudly, and often tear free of the habitant's pants. Lemieux is quick to comment (and pardon my poor French translation), "The French are different of the Scot repugnants, of the fact they never imagine the behaviour dirty with the sheep they hide in their pantaloons" (439). Despite this assertion, Lemieux suggests there were at least 3 sheep in every French household: one for wool, one for food and one for truffle hunting. This the ratio of Frenchmen to sheep can be assumed to be 1:3.

Finally, through interlibrary peril, I tracked down John Baker's volume on 18th Century England. It was as close as I could find to referencing the Medieval period, and he does suggest English practices dated to antiquity. On the subject of sheep, Baker states, "Sheep were bred for their use in England. During the 18th century, sheep began to grow larger. While some scholars suggest this was because of the increased desire for wool production, recent research has proven sheep were being grown bigger as part of an elite military program, T.E.A.T.S (Tactical Espionage Agent Troop Sheep). The larger sheep were supposed to be released in herds to the French countryside to ravage Napoleon's armies, and return intelligence information to English commanders (Baker 721). Baker suggests, "This military program actually benefited the English peasant, as it ended the need to keep large flocks of little sheep, as had been done in the Middle Ages. The larger sheep were a practical addition to each farm, providing more meat and wool and less butchering mess to busy peasants" (789). While I'm not a mathematical genius, my assumption would be that a 'large flock of little sheep' would consist of at least 10 little sheep, which would make the ratio of Englishmen to sheep 1:10.

Well, Anonymous, I hope this article has answered some of your questions about sheep in the Medieval period.

Sources:

- Baker, John. *Why the women starved: Love in the pastures*. London: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Lemieux, Pierre. *Pourquoi les moutons sont préférables aux porcs de truffe: Au travail, à la maison, au jeu*. Beaumont-sur-mer: Livres faux que nous vendons aux Anglais stupides press, 1976.
- MacTavish, Hamish. *My Friend, My Lover, My Sheep*. Glasgow: Completely Fake Press, 1963.
- Smith, Gwogan. *The Myth of the Sheep: Fact or Fiction?*. Swansea: Llywellyn's Bogus Rarity Press, 2003.
- Smith, Gwogan. *The Whales of Wales: A lesser known fact*. Swansea: Llywellen's Bogus Rarity Press, 2004.

Just a reminder to anyone else reading, I'd be happy to answer your questions in next issues "Natal'ia's Notions". Keep them coming!



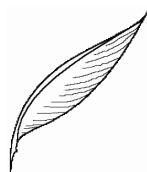
## Heraldic Myth #28

### **The use of dragons is restricted.**

(A – You can't use a dragon unless you're from the Middle Kingdom because that's their symbol. B – You can't use a dragon if you're from the Middle Kingdom. C – You can't register a dragon because they've all been used up.)

All of these are false. Neither the Middle Kingdom nor anywhere else restricts the use of dragons as a heraldic charge. And while a large number of devices have been registered that have dragons on them, it is still possible to register a device that has a dragon.

There are only two restrictions on dragons. 1) You may not use an Imperial Dragon (five-toed Chinese Dragon) as that is the symbol of the Emperor of China. 2) You may not use a Royal Dragon (four-toed Chinese Dragon) as that is the symbol of the Ruler of Korea.



# Disclaimer

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