

The King's Garb



The Viking Issue

April ASXXXVI (2002 A.D.)

“It is the fool whose own tomatoes are sold to him.” - African proverb

History. It is really what our Society is about. I was reflecting on history one night after I was given a pin of an organization which I had recently become a member of. The pin belonged to my great-grandfather who was also a member of the same organization. In fact, it seems that even my great-great-grandfather was a member of the organization. I find one feels a very powerful energy when a strong connection is made with the past and that is one of the reasons why I think what we do is so enjoyable.

So, kick back, grab a glass of something tasty to drink and (hopefully) enjoy a bit of history as well as a little present in this issue of *The King's Garb*.

Your chronicler,
APMATYΣ
Armatus

From the Baron and Baroness of Myrgan Wood

Greetings all and we certainly hope that you enjoyed your holiday weekend and are quite "sweetened" because of it.

Congratulations to all those who participated in Winter War. Reports are that the Myrgan Wood forces in both rapier and armoured combat did honour the Barony with their prowess and chivalry. We are proud of you (although quite disappointed to have missed it).

At this time we are quite looking forward to discovering who will be the new Champions of Rapier and the Arts. We congratulate all who vie for these Championships. We know you do not do this lightly and thank you for your offered service to the Barony.

In service to Myrgan Wood, Avacal, An Tir and to the Dream
Raoul and Roxanne
Baron and Baroness



**Gotlandic Box-brooch
from the viking Age**

The cover is Viking carving of the Urnes period (1040-1150)

Spring Faire

April 13 - Edmonton AB

On April 13, the King and Queen of An Tir we be attending Spring Faire in the Canton of Veraquilon.

We would like to invite the subjects of Avacal to come and join Their Majesties Wilam and Siobhan in celebration at this event. The day will be highlighted with tourneys to select the new rapier and A&S champions of Borealis. There is also Princess Inga's Prize Heavy Tourney in the morning to kick things off, and game tourneys during the day.

With the King and Queen coming we would like to take this opportunity to show them how great Avacal is. Please come out and support us in showing Their Majesties a truly excellent SCA day.

Below you will find a list of contacts, and a schedule for the days events.

Site of the Event is:
Parkview Community League
9135-146 ST.
Edmonton, AB.

To register for the event and the feast please contact:
Lord Leif the Shifty
(780)457-3397
Preferably by email... wulfmania@hotmail.com

The fee for event and feast is \$15 for SCA members, and \$18 for non-members. Only 120 feast spaces available. Event fee is \$8 for SCA members and \$10 for non-members. Your SCA membership card is required to be eligible for the price deduction. Make checks payable to "ASCA Canton of Veraquilon"

The Significance of the Vikings

Whether most people know it or not, the Vikings and other raiders played an exceedingly important role in the history of medieval Europe. In fact, the feudal system itself may not have evolved as it did without the raids of the Vikings. The individual farmer would have had little protection from the raids of the Norse on his own. However, when his resources were pooled with those of his neighbours in support of his lord, the resulting group could outfit a warrior of their own to mount resistance against the ravenous hordes when combined with the warriors of other feudal units. In essence people had to unite themselves to protect themselves from a mutual enemy and by doing this, they (perhaps inadvertently) created a system of government.



A picture of a 7th century Viking Casket.

And now, a populus service announcement...

Lady Lina Joya, Myrgan Wood's Minister of Arts and Sciences is seeking a deputy to succeed her. If interested, please contact her. Necessary contact information is on page 10.

Myrgan Wood's Baronial Awards, Part 5 by Baroness Roxanne

First, a correction. Njal Dragonsworn (self proclaimed medium for Karl von Ross, former Baron of Myrgan Wood), has graciously informed us that he too has received a Hawk's Grace. In fact, he received the first one. I apologise for this and remind all that we are still trying to fill in some of the blanks of the awards roster. If you notice that anything has been omitted, please let myself, Raoul, or Brodir (Baronial Herald) know so that we can keep the records as up-to-date as possible. Thank you!

The only award left to describe is the Elm Leaf in Spring. The ELS provides recognition to those gentles who have done something (usually a single deed) that is above and beyond the call of duty. I have included here a list of that recipients I know of (in no particular order), and the stories that accompany the award. I would enjoy learning the stories that I am not familiar with. If you know any stories, please share them!

Viscountess Catriona McManus has received 2. Her first for serving as Baronial Waterbearer for three years and the second for operating the troll station all night long (literally, no exaggeration!) at the Investiture of Vik and Eirika A.S. 35.

Her Ladyship Eve de Lacy

Sergeant Ferghail received his at last year's Spring Championships which also happened to be one

of the hottest days of the year. In that heat he helped to set up the sunshade, and then the erics (single handedly) in time for the rapier tournament.

His Lordship, Squire Grimolfr Grjotgardsson

Lord Stragin received his being the busiest volunteer.

Her Ladyship Maiwen Siobhon graciously organized Gold Key (which had never been done before and was quite the job. She also assisted many new people with their first garb.

Lords Trystan of Inverness and Aethelwulf of Eldge received ELS' in response to their volunteerism at September Crown several years ago. Despite the fact that it was their first event, they helped at troll, with Chatelaine, as well as with Royal Guard duties (while everyone else ate supper).

His Lordship, Squire Phalen Gann, Champion of Ealdormere reportedly received his for being a "kook" and a general motivator to anyone interested in fighting (getting them to practice, getting them into armour, getting them to throw killing blows, etc).

Web Links

- The SCA Corporate Homepage <http://www.sca.org/>
- The Kingdom of An Tir's Homepage <http://www.antir.sca.org/>
- The Principality of Avacal's Homepage <http://www.avacal.org/>
- Myrgan Wood's Homepage <http://www.theringlord.com/mw/>
- The Catalan Atlas (excellent!) http://www.bnf.fr/enluminures/texte/atx2_07.htm

***Myrgan Wood Rapier / A&S
Champion's Tournaments***

April 6, Saskatoon, SK.

The Cavaliers have taken over! Enjoy a day of the finer pursuits of the early 17th century in honor of our Baron and Baroness. Compete with the finest swashbucklers around, or test your skills in the various arts and sciences for the honor of being Baronial Champion. Please contact the current champions with any tournament questions: (Rapier: Lord Robert rms210@mail.usask.ca , and A&S: Lady N'talia: tlv_leer@hotmail.com). Site will open at 11 am.; tournaments to start at noon. The feast will feature many later-period delicacies and will begin at 7:00 pm sharp, with dancing and music to follow. Site to close at midnight.

Where : Senior Citizen's Centre, 614 - 11th Street East (1/2 block east of Broadway Ave.)
Directions : from south and east: from 8th St, go northbound on Broadway to 11th St; take a right and the hall is in the first block on your right. From the North or west: make your way to 4th Avenue and 20th St.; carry on southbound on 4th Avenue until it turns into a bridge and becomes Broadway Avenue. Take your second left, which will be 11th Street. Hall is on your right. Fees : - feast and site : \$15; - site only : \$5 . Limit of 80 feast tix .Cash bar.

Reserve by APRIL 1 * Make cheques payable to "SCA-Myrgan Wood".

Autocrats : Mistress Fabienne l'Accusee
& Lord Philippe Sanschoix

[K. Davis-Lepage, P. Lepage

111 Baldwin Cres., Saskatoon, SK S7H 3M5 -
(306) 244 - 0215 harpsichord3@shaw.ca]

Feast: \$15 for non-members, \$12 for members

Site: \$8 (members and non-members)

Children 10 and under: \$3

Under 5 years old: free

***Armatus' Interesting Fact o' the
Month – Viking Laws***

Despite what most people think, Vikings were a very law bound group of people. Oddly enough the very word LAW in English is a Viking word. Under the Viking legal system a criminal was brought before a 'ting', a legislative assembly and court. The evidence was then presented by a group of people who stated what they thought was the truth to a jury. The jury consisted of twelve, two times twelve or three times twelve, the number increasing with the importance of the case. A 'law-sayer' explained to the jury what the law said about the crime committed and the jury then either convicted or declared innocent the accused.

If the accused was convicted by the jury he (or she) was either fined or declared an outlaw. An outlaw was forced to live out in the wilderness and was free game for his enemies.

Another method of solving disputes was a Holmgang (duel). Sagas state that a duelist was defeated as soon as his blood touched the ground. To win a duel was regarded as proof that you were right, because the gods always helped the "right" man to win.

A final method of resolving disputes was an ordeal by fire, the 'carrying of (hot) iron' (Old Norse: Járnburdr) The most common method involved grabbing a piece of iron from boiling water and walking 9 paces carrying it in ones hands. One variation involved walking 12 paces on red-hot irons which could prove innocence if after 3 days the feet were inspected and the wounds were found clean, that is, without infection. Harald Gille, king of Norway from 1130 - 1136, "proved" his right to the throne walking on hot iron.

European Accounts of the Vikings

From The Annals of St. Bertin

- ❖ 843 A.D. Pirates of the Northmen's race came to Nantes, killed the bishop and many of the clergy and laymen, both men and women, and pillaged the city. Thence they set out to plunder the lands of lower Aquitaine. At length they arrived at a certain island [the isle of Rhé, near La Rochelle, north of the mouth of the Garonne], and carried materials thither from the mainland to build themselves houses; and they settled there for the winter, as if that were to be their permanent dwelling-place.
- ❖ 844. The Northmen ascended the Garonne as far as Toulouse and pillaged the lands along both banks with impunity. Some, after leaving this region went into Galicia [in Northern Spain] and perished, part of them by the attacks of the crossbowmen who had come to resist them, part by being overwhelmed by a storm at sea. But others of them went farther into Spain and engaged in long and desperate combats with the Saracens; defeated in the end, they withdrew.
- ❖ 845. The Northmen with a hundred ships entered the Seine on the twentieth of March and, after ravaging first one bank and then the other, came without meeting any resistance to Paris. Charles [the Bald] resolved to hold out against them; but seeing the impossibility of gaining a victory, he made with them a certain agreement and by a gift of 7,000 livres he bought them off from advancing farther and persuaded them to return. Euric, king of the Northmen, advanced, with six hundred vessels, along the course of the River Elbe to attack Louis of Germany. The Saxons prepared to meet him, gave battle, and with the aid of our Lord Jesus Christ won the victory. The Northmen returned down the Seine and coming to the ocean pillaged, destroyed, and burned all the regions along the coast.
- ❖ 846. The Danish pirates landed in Frisia. They were able to force from the people whatever contributions they wished and, being victors in battle, they remained masters of almost the entire province.
- ❖ 847. The Northmen made their appearance in the part of Gaul inhabited by the Britons and won three victories. Noménoé [a chief of the Britons], although defeated, at length succeeded in buying them off with presents and getting them out of his country.
- ❖ 853-854. The Danish pirates, making their way into the country eastward from the city of Nantes, arrived without opposition, November Eighth, before Tours. This they burned, together with the church of St. Martin and the neighboring places. But that incursion had been foreseen with certainty and the body of St. Martin had been removed to Cormery, a monastery of that church, and from there to the city of Orleans. The pirates went on to the château of Blois and burned it, proposing then to proceed to Orleans and destroy that city in the same fashion. But Agius, bishop of Orleans, and Burchard, bishop of Chartres, had gathered soldiers and ships to meet them; so they abandoned their design and returned to the lower Loire, though the following year [855] they ascended it anew to the city of Angers.
- ❖ 855. They left their ships behind and undertook to go overland to the city of Poitiers; but the Aquitanians came to meet them and defeated them, so that not more than 300 escaped.
- ❖ 856. On the eighteenth of April, the Danish pirates came to the city of Orleans, pillaged it, and went away without meeting opposition. Other Danish pirates came into the Seine about the middle of August and, after plundering and ruining the towns on the two banks of the river, and even the monasteries and villages farther back, came to a well located place near the Seine called Jeufosse, and, there quietly passed the winter.
- ❖ 859. The Danish pirates having made a long sea-voyage (for they had sailed between Spain and Africa) entered the Rhone, where they pillaged many cities and monasteries and established

themselves on the island called Camargue. . . . They devastated everything before them as far as the city of Valence. Then, after ravaging all these regions, they returned to the island where they had fixed their habitation. Thence they went on toward Italy, capturing and plundering Pisa and other cities.

From Abbo's Wars of Count Odo with the Northmen in the Reign of Charles the Fat

885. The Northmen came to Paris with 700 sailing ships, not counting those of smaller size which are commonly called barques. At one stretch the Seine was lined with the vessels for more than two leagues, so that one might ask in astonishment in what cavern the river had been swallowed up, since it was not to be seen. The second day after the fleet of the Northmen arrived under the walls of the city, Siegfried, who was then king only in name but who was in command of the expedition, came to the dwelling of the illustrious bishop. He bowed his head and said: "Gauzelin, have compassion on yourself and on your flock. We beseech you to listen to us, in order that you may escape death. Allow us only the freedom of the city. We will do no harm and we will see to it that whatever belongs either to you or to Odo shall be strictly respected." Count Odo, who later became king, was then the defender of the city. The bishop replied to Siegfried, "Paris has been entrusted to us by the Emperor Charles, who, after God, king and lord of the powerful, rules over almost all the world. He has put it in our care, not at all that the kingdom may be ruined by our misconduct, but that he may keep it and be assured of its peace. If, like us, you had been given the duty of defending these walls, and if you should have done that which you ask us to do, what treatment do you think you would deserve?" Siegfried replied. "I should deserve that my head be cut off and thrown to the dogs. Nevertheless, if you do not listen to my demand, on the morrow our war machines will destroy you with poisoned arrows. You will be the prey of famine and of pestilence and these evils will renew themselves perpetually every year." So saying, he departed and gathered together his comrades.

In the morning the Northmen, boarding their ships, approached the tower and attacked it [the tower blocked access to the city by the so-called "Great Bridge," which connected the right bank of the Seine with the island on which the city was built. The tower stood on the present site of the Châtelet]. They shook it with their engines and stormed it with arrows. The city resounded with clamor, the people were aroused, the bridges trembled. All came together to defend the tower. There Odo, his brother Robert, and the Count Ragenar distinguished themselves for bravery; likewise the courageous Abbot Ebolus, the nephew of the bishop. A keen arrow wounded the prelate, while at his side the young warrior Frederick was struck by a sword. Frederick died, but the old man, thanks to God, survived. There perished many Franks; after receiving wounds they were lavish of life. At last the enemy withdrew, carrying off their dead. The evening came. The tower had been sorely tried, but its foundations were still solid, as were also the narrow bays which surmounted them. The people spent the night repairing it with boards. By the next day, on the old citadel had been erected a new tower of wood, a half higher than the former one. At sunrise the Danes caught their first glimpse of it. Once more the latter engaged with the Christians in violent combat. On every side arrows sped and blood flowed. With the arrows mingled the stones hurled by slings and war-machines; the air was filled with them. The tower which had been built during the night groaned under the strokes of the darts, the city shook with the struggle, the people ran hither and thither, the bells jangled. The warriors rushed together to defend the tottering tower and to repel the fierce assault. Among these warriors two, a count and an abbot [Ebolus], surpassed all the rest in courage. The former was the redoubtable Odo who never experienced defeat and who continually revived the spirits of the worn-out defenders. He ran along the ramparts and hurled back the enemy. On those who were secreting themselves so as to undermine the tower he poured oil, wax, and pitch, which, being mixed and heated, burned the Danes and tore off their scalps. Some of them died; others threw themselves into the river to escape the awful substance. . . .

Meanwhile Paris was suffering not only from the sword outside but also from a pestilence within which brought death to many noble men. Within the walls there was not ground in which to bury the dead. . . . Odo, the future king, was sent to Charles, emperor of the Franks, to implore help for the stricken city. One day Odo suddenly appeared in splendor in the midst of three bands of warriors. The sun made his armor glisten and greeted him before it illuminated the country around. The Parisians saw their beloved chief at a distance, but the enemy, hoping to prevent his gaining entrance to the tower, crossed the Seine and took up their position on the bank. Nevertheless Odo, his horse at a gallop, got past the Northmen and reached the tower, whose gates Ebohus opened to him. The enemy pursued fiercely the comrades of the count who were trying to keep up with him and get refuge in the tower. [The Danes were defeated in the attack.]

Now came the Emperor Charles, surrounded by soldiers of all nations, even as the sky is adorned with resplendent stars. A great throng, speaking many languages, accompanied him. He established his camp at the foot of the heights of Montmartre, near the tower. He allowed the Northmen to have the country of Sens to plunder; and in the spring he gave them 700 pounds of silver on condition that by the month of March they leave France for their own kingdom. Then Charles returned, destined to an early death.

From The Chronicle of St. Denis Based on Dudo and William of Jumièges

The king had at first wished to give to Rollo the province of Flanders, but the Norman rejected it as being too marshy. Rollo refused to kiss the foot of Charles when he received from him the duchy of Normandy. "He who receives such a gift," said the bishops to him, "ought to kiss the foot of the king." "Never," replied he, "will I bend the knee to anyone, or kiss anybody's foot." Nevertheless, impelled by the entreaties of the Franks, he ordered one of his warriors to perform the act in his stead. This man seized the foot of the king and lifted it to his lips, kissing it without bending and so causing the king to tumble over backwards. At that there was a loud burst of laughter and a great commotion in the crowd of onlookers. King Charles, Robert, Duke of the Franks, the counts and magnates, and the bishops and abbots, bound themselves by the oath of the Catholic faith to Rollo, swearing by their lives and their bodies and by the honor of all the kingdom, that he might hold the land and transmit it to his heirs from generation to generation throughout all time to come. When these things had been satisfactorily performed, the king returned in good spirits into his dominion, and Rollo with Duke Robert set out for Rouen.

In the year of our Lord 912 Rollo was baptized in holy water in the name of the sacred Trinity by Franco, archbishop of Rouen. Duke Robert, who was his godfather, gave to him his name. Rollo devotedly honored God and the Holy Church with his gifts. . . . The pagans, seeing that their chieftain had become a Christian, abandoned their idols, received the name of Christ, and with one accord desired to be baptized. Meanwhile, the Norman duke made ready for a splendid wedding and married the daughter of the king [Gisela] according to Christian rites.

Rollo gave assurance of security to all those who wished to dwell in his country. The land he divided among his followers, and, as it had been a long time unused, he improved it by the construction of new buildings. It was peopled by the Norman warriors and by immigrants from outside regions. The duke established for his subjects certain inviolable rights and laws, confirmed and published by the will of the leading men, and he compelled all his people to live peaceably together. He rebuilt the churches, which had been entirely ruined; he restored the temples, which had been destroyed by the ravages of the pagans; he repaired and added to the walls and fortifications of the cities; he subdued the Britons who rebelled against him; and with the provisions obtained from them he supplied all the country that had been granted to him.

March Business Meeting Minutes

Minister of Arts and Sciences

-March classes are as listed in March's Garb

Exchequer:

-\$4000 in account

Chronicler:

-new Garb is out
-mailed hard copy Garbs are available on an individual basis if there is no access to the internet or business meetings

Master of Stables:

-please return group armour
-fight practice as usual, waivers now required each and every time a non-member wishes to fight

Deputy Chatelaine:

-medieval movie night is proposed
-a 'demo trunk' is being assembled, if you have anything to donate to it, please do

Herald:

-House Willowmere completed name and badge submissions

Seneschal:

-looking for a new Constable
-the shop is to be financed by proceeds of the 'feast for the public'

Baron:

-Baronial reign will last three years at which time a vote of confidence will be held
-submit award recommendations before A&S event and Spring Faire if possible

Other Business:

-Choir practice next Tuesday

Events

April

Myrgan Wood's Championships - April 6
Borealis' Spring Faire in Veraquillon - April 13
Bitter End - April 20
Beltane in Montengarde - April 27

May

Pillage Practice & Tea in Sigelehundas - May 4
Borealis Collegium - May 11
Crown - May 18
Cold Keep - May 25

June

Coronation Tournament - June 1
Dragon Slayer in Montengarde - June 15
Quad War - June 29 to July 1

July

Turkish Picnic in Myrgan Wood - July 6
Celtic Games in Myrgan Wood - July 13
Coronation - July 20

Regular Events

Monthly Tavern & Business Meeting held first Wednesday of the month in the Unitarian Hall (912 Idylwyld Dr. North) at 7pm.

Fighting Practice is held:

-every Sunday at 2pm on the UofS campus
-every Wednesday at 7pm, at City Park Collegiate

Myrgan Wood Officers List

Baron and Baroness: Their Excellencies Don Raoul and HL Roxanne Delaroche (mka Duane and Tracy Walker) Ph:651-2599
duane.walker@sk.sympatico.ca

Seneschal: HE Chikaku Kawa no “Shunzei” (mka Constance Gignac) Ph:664-6495
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Master of Lights: Position vacant

Herald: Brodir Skjardisson (mka Wil Yannacoulis) Ph: (306)-764-2495
willie-the-greek@shaw.ca

Constable: Position vacant

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Champion of Sword: HE Gareth Bydaweyr (mka Garry Gignac) Ph:664-6495
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Rapier Champion: Robert of Clan Gunn (mka Robert Simpson) Ph:852-9252

Champion of Arts and Sciences: N'talia (mka Ronnie Leer) Ph:(306)-728-3139
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Champion of Lights: Vongtavian

Other Assorted Contacts

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Inga the Unfettered

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