

# The King's Garb

The Moorish Spain Issue - November ASXXXVII (2002 A.D.)

Well, this issue was certainly a tale of good intentions going somewhat awry. You see, I decided to do an issue on Moorish (Muslim) Spain when I read a bit about it. Then I got sick. Then the Garb didn't get much work done on it. Which is really too bad because I think it is such an interesting little corner of history.

I find it particularly interesting as a comparison to modern times. Moorish Spain was a center of religious tolerance (at least for its time) whereas Europe at the time was the opposite. My, how the tables have turned. Please don't look at this or interpret this in anyway of taking sides in modern politics as it is only a matter of history. I have my opinions and I am sure you have yours, but neither are in this issue. Do remember though, those who don't know history are condemned to repeat it. That is what my high school history teacher said at least. Enjoy.

Your chronicler,  
APMATYΣ  
Armatus

## *Poetry from the "24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" of Myrgan Wood*

### **An Anniversary Kiss**

At Anniversary I was given cloven fruit  
I thought I'd follow suit  
Approaching a Miss  
Seeking a kiss  
Instead my arse got a boot!

By Hamish MacCarraig

### **What time means**

24 seconds  
The populace cheers.  
24 minutes  
The championship duels are fought.  
24 hours  
The event flirtation blossoms.  
24 days  
The tapestry is researched and planned.  
24 months  
The new fighter becomes a squire.  
24 Years  
The Barony celebrates.  
The glory is greater than the sum of all the  
seconds!

By Anna of Rowanbury

## Events leading up to the Muslim conquest of Spain.

(Edited from - <http://herso.freesevers.com/moors.html>)

After the sudden death of the Visigothic King Witiza (701-711), a rebellious baron and powerful chieftain called Roderic (also known as Rodrigo), with support from within the palace, seized the throne and proclaimed himself king. The church leaders reluctantly gave their blessing to the coronation, realizing that to do otherwise was to incite further fragmentation of a country already in great turmoil.

Roderic's first task was to travel north to suppress the rebel Basques. He knew that if they broke away from his control, other regions would follow their example and his kingdom would soon collapse. In the meantime, the sons of the late King Wittiza appealed to the Muslims of North Africa for assistance against Roderic. The Arab commander Musa however, had other plans.

In the year 710, a scouting party of 700 Muslim Berbers led by the Berber leader Tariq ibn Ziyad, entered southern Spain and met with little resistance as they established control over the coastline. 20,000 or so non-Muslims within Spain, who welcomed the newcomers as allies rather than conquerors, aided them willingly. Apart from Roderic's enemies, this number included many persecuted Jews and peasants, who hated all Visigoths.

The Visigoths were so busy fighting amongst themselves, they were slow to realize what was really going on. When word of the invasion was finally sent to Roderic, he quickly returned to the south with a small band of men. They were easily overwhelmed and defeated in an ambush and Roderic was killed by Tariq's men on 19th July 711.

This initial incursion was followed in 712 by a mainly Arab force of 18,000. The non-Arab portion of this number included more Berbers, Egyptians, Yemenis, Syrians and Persians. After many bloody revolts and power struggles, the Arabs took control in 788. The Berbers, despite their assistance in the successful reconnaissance mission, were soon reminded of their subordinate status in the Arab Empire and were virtually treated as second class citizens.

For the next 300 years or so, despite periods of instability, Andalusia flourished as a center of learning, culture and trade under Arab rule. In the year 1090, a dynasty of Berbers called the Almoravids seized power from the Arabs. In 1147 an opposing dynasty of Berbers called the Almohads muscled their way into power.

In 1237, the Arab controlled Nasrid Sultanate overthrew the decaying Almohad Empire and began building the Alhambra in Granada. By this time, all that was left of 'Moorish' held Spain was the southwest corner of the Peninsular. The Christians in the meantime continued their push southward until they finally moved in on Granada in 1492.

## November Coronet

Their Highnesses Prince Ivar and Princess Asney invite you to attend them in Sigelhundas, November 30th to choose the heirs to the thrones of Avacall! The tournament and feast will be held at All Saints Anglican Church, 142 Massey Rd, Regina, SK. The hall will open at 8am. Directions to the Sunday Curia will be provided at event.

Feast: \$16 (\$3 discount with membership) / children 1/2 price

Site fee only: \$8 (\$2 discount with membership) / children under 13: no site fee

A non-perishable food donation at the door for the food bank will get you \$1 off. Please make cheques payable to "QCSCA"

Tentative and very flexible schedule (at the whim of Their Highnesses):

8:00 - Site Opens

8:30 - 9:30 Pelicans' Council

9:30 - 10:30 Laurels' Council

10:00 - Armour inspection begins; Lists open

10:30 - 11:30 Knights' Council

12:30 - Armour inspection ends; Lists close

1:00 - Invocation of the Lists; Coronet tourney begins

4:00 - Investiture of Tanist and Tanista

4:30 - 5:30 Squires' Tourney

5:30 - 6:30 Noble Estate

7:00 - Feast begins

12:00 - Site Closes

Court between removes

Sunday curia: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Coronet tournament will be standard double elimination format.

Restrictions:

- 1) If a fighter uses both a 2 handed weapon and a buckler, that buckler may not extend beyond 1" past the wrist.
- 2.) Low profile thrusting tips will be of a colour which contrasts to both the sword and its edging tape.
- 3.) Each weapon will be limited to three striking surfaces.

In order to enter into this coronet list, each fighter must present (or have on file) a standard tourney tile. No fighter will be allowed to fight without proper representation on the list board (via a tourney tile) unless special dispensation is granted by Their Highnesses. If you have any questions regarding this tournament, please contact Their Highnesses. When making reservations please include your SCA name, Mundane name, Location, and if you will be eating.

To make reservations, ask questions, request crash space, etc contact Sedgha

O Faelain: Ryan Summers; 3403 Jenkins Dr E, Regina, SK, S4V 1C7 at (306)789-6735, or email: [sedgha@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgha@hotmail.com)

For inquiries about food allergies please contact Thomas de Monet at

(306)789-3185, or email: [thomas\\_de\\_monet@hotmail.com](mailto:thomas_de_monet@hotmail.com)

## **Al Maggari: Tarik's Address to His Soldiers, 711 CE, from *The Breath of Perfumes***

When Tarik had been informed of the approach of the enemy, he rose in the midst of his companions and, after having glorified God in the highest, he spoke to his soldiers thus:

"Oh my warriors, whither would you flee? Behind you is the sea, before you, the enemy. You have left now only the hope of your courage and your constancy. Remember that in this country you are more unfortunate than the orphan seated at the table of the avaricious master. Your enemy is before you, protected by an innumerable army; he has men in abundance, but you, as your only aid, have your own swords, and, as your only chance for life, such chance as you can snatch from the hands of your enemy. If the absolute want to which you are reduced is prolonged ever so little, if you delay to seize immediate success, your good fortune will vanish, and your enemies, whom your very presence has filled with fear, will take courage. Put far from you the disgrace from which you flee in dreams, and attack this monarch who has left his strongly fortified city to meet you. Here is a splendid opportunity to defeat him, if you will consent to expose yourselves freely to death. Do not believe that I desire to incite you to face dangers which I shall refuse to share with you. In the attack I myself will be in the fore, where the chance of life is always least.

"Remember that if you suffer a few moments in patience, you will afterward enjoy supreme delight. Do not imagine that your fate can be separated from mine, and rest assured that if you fall, I shall perish with you, or avenge you. You have heard that in this country there are a large number of ravishingly beautiful Greek maidens, their graceful forms are draped in sumptuous gowns on which gleam pearls, coral, and purest gold, and they live in the palaces of royal kings. The Commander of True Believers, Alwalid, son of Abdalmelik, has chosen you for this attack from among all his Arab warriors; and he promises that you shall become his comrades and shall hold the rank of kings in this country. Such is his confidence in your intrepidity. The one fruit which he desires to obtain from your bravery is that the word of God shall be exalted in this country, and that the true religion shall be established here. The spoils will belong to yourselves.

"Remember that I place myself in the front of this glorious charge which I exhort you to make. At the moment when the two armies meet hand to hand, you will see me, never doubt it, seeking out this Roderick, tyrant of his people, challenging him to combat, if God is willing. If I perish after this, I will have had at least the satisfaction of delivering you, and you will easily find among you an experienced hero, to whom you can confidently give the task of directing you. But should I fall before I reach to Roderick, redouble your ardor, force yourselves to the attack and achieve the conquest of this country, in depriving him of life. With him dead, his soldiers will no longer defy you."

### ***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/>

## Twelfth Night Barony of Montengarde

January 18, 2003 Calgary, AB

Come join the Barony of Montengarde for the celebration of Twelfth Night on January 18th, 2003! Who will be the new Rapier Champion of Montengarde? Join Their Excellencies Thorwulf and Sine, Baron and Baroness of Montengarde as they witness the grace and skill presented by those who would protect them. The tournament will be run by two-time champion Lady Gemma Meena of Cur Elmo's Keep, Cadet to Don Raoul. Lady Hero, Arts and Science Champion of Montengarde, will be hosting an Arts and Science display. Please bring your finest work to Twelfth Night and listen to the ohs and ahs of the populace! Lord Malabar Membro Spacata, DragonBlinder of Montengarde, will be hosting an Archery Prize Tournament in the morning. The best of the best will be at the range to test their mettle against the Champion's devious targets. There will also be a Heavy Prize Tournament run by Hrothgar, Squire to Sir Thorwulf and DragonSlayer of Montengarde. Challenge your might and chivalry against the finest fighters in Avacal. An amazing feast with many period recipes to follow. Plus the naming of the new A&S and Service champions of Montengarde. There will only be 150 seats for the feast so get your reservation in right away.

Site: Beddington Heights Community Hall (375 Bermuda Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, T3K 2J5). Hall will be open at 10:00a.m. and close at Midnight. Feast will begin at 6:30.

Archery will be held at the Calgary Archery Range, 5905 11st St. SE Bay 1 in Calgary. All other tournaments will be held at the Beddington Heights Community Centre.

There will also be a lunch served by Lunch Lady Caitlin with proceeds going towards the Principality Travel Fund.

Fees: Feast: \$20.00, with membership: \$18.00

Site only: \$7.00, membership: \$6.00

Make cheques payable to: MSCA

The contact for reservations is:

Eibhear O'Seanachain

(mka Ryan Schriml)

76 Big Springs Hill

Airdrie, AB

T4A 1L3

fonebone@telusplanet.net

For more information please contact the autocrat team:

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## ***Religious Tolerance in Moorish Spain***

Edited from: <http://www.nyu.edu/classes/peters/islam/spain.htm>

Those who remained Christians and Jews under the Muslims were governed by a covenant called the dhimma. This was a contract, originally drawn up by Muhammad himself with respect to the Jewish oasis of Khaybar near Medina, and subsequently enshrined in a more detailed form in Islamic religious law. The dhimma guaranteed to the "People of the Book," that is Jews and Christians who also possessed revelations from the same God worshipped by them and the Muslims, the continued practice of their religion, provided, of course, that they did not attempt to proselytize, expand, nor call public attention to their rites. But the dhimma should not be romanticized: it was also an arrangement dictated by the conquerors to the conquered, and it imposed upon the latter a head tax (which I believe was to match the Islamic 'tax' of donating 1/40<sup>th</sup> of ones possessions to the poor & needy) not paid by Muslims and further restricted their civil privileges and opportunities: no Jew or Christian, for example, could rule over Muslims.

Thus the religious law. Since it was from God, was and remains unalterable, and it still dictates how Jews and Christians are to be treated in present-day Islamic states, those professing to be governed by religious law, Iran, for example, or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. But since the dhimma contract is religious and not civil law, and since throughout most of Islamic history the effective rulers were civil rather than religious authorities, the actual treatment of Jews and Christians under Muslim control turned out to be largely a matter of either public opinion or princely pragmatism rather than of principle. This was obviously so in Moorish Spain.

How, then, did the Jews and Christians actually fare living in Arab and Muslim al-Andalus? First, it is important to note that there was a high degree of cultural assimilation in both groups. The Christians and Jews living among the Muslims rapidly chose to speak Arabic rather than their own dialects of the emerging Romance tongues, to dress, eat, sing and dance like the Muslim Arabs and Berbers. Indeed, the Christians living in Muslim Spain came to be called "Mozarabs," a romance version of musta'rab "Arabized" or "made Arab." And even though they were not called such, the Jews of al-Andalus were as "Mozarabed" as the Christians—perhaps more so—though they were treated, or acted, somewhat differently

To put it as simply as possible, in Spain the Jews seem to have done considerably better under the Muslims than the Christians, at least for a time. We do not know much about the two hundred years immediately following the conquest, but from the beginning of the tenth century to the middle of the twelfth, the Jews who lived under Muslim sovereignty in al-Andalus enjoyed what is correctly called a "golden age." They enjoyed political power and influence and shared fully and profitably in the rich cultural and intellectual life of al-Andalus. They produced philosophers, physicians and poets who spoke Arabic, wrote in Hebrew and Arabic, and even wrote in Arabic about Hebrew.

Christians, on the other hand, the Mozarabs already referred to, seem not to have done well at all. They were not persecuted in any discernible way, but they were clearly in decline, in numbers, influence, prosperity and culture. Why the difference? In both cases there was, as has been said, a high degree of cultural assimilation. In many cases, though neither Jews nor Christians want to talk about it, considerable numbers from both communities went over to Islam: some drifted, some slid, some rushed from one form of monotheism to another. It seems that the Jews had no better alternative than to stay and advance and as such prospered while Christians could simply move north into France if desired.

## ***Armatus' Interesting Fact o' the Month – The Science of the Moors***

In addition to the high degree of religious tolerance, the Moorish Spain was likely the brightest light of science in Europe at the time. For a start, educations was well supported with ~800 public schools in the city of Cordova. Public funds were even used to house and feed poorer students. Jews, Christians, and women were also welcome in addition to Muslims.

Achievements shared with the rest of the Arab world include:

- Astronomy: used places of worship for observation, figured out what a shooting star was, found the eccentricity of the earth's orbit, accurately determined the length of 1 year, researched the height of the atmosphere and its changing density
- Alchemy: made the first gunpowder fired artillery
- Physics: invented the pendulum clock, researched specific gravities, optics, electricity, & geology
- Medicine: though hampered by the Islamic condemnation of dissection of humans, thus making advances in surgery difficult, practical medicine and drugs were quite advanced for their time

## **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, 144 Kirk Hall
- every Wednesday at 7pm, at City Park Collegiate

## **Events**

### **November**

- Grand Ithra in Montengarde - Nov. 9
- Theme Feast/Bop & Die - Nov. 16
- Coronet Tourney in Sigelhundas - Nov. 30

### **December**

- Yule Feast in Veraquilon - Dec. 7
- Winter Rose in Bitter End - Dec. 14

### **January**

- 12th Night in Myrgan Wood - Jan. 4
- An Tir Coronation in Adiantum - Jan. 10-12
- 12th Night in Montengarde - Jan. 18
- 12th Night in Sigelhundas - Jan. 25

## ***Business Meeting – Oct. 6***

### **Officer Reports:**

Minister of Arts& Science:

- going through files
- monthly classes for the public are planned
- looking for interesting topics for classes

Chatelaine:

- short of student numbers for ratification
- 6 new people at last tavern

### **Taverns:**

- November & December planned, put after then the viability of putting them on will be considered due to lack of interested tavern keepers

### **New Shire:**

- Medicine Hat looking to become a Shire of Myrgan Wood

### **Fighting & Authorizations:**

- all fighters must be authorized again, as the list of those authorized has apparently vanished

### **Gifts for Royalty:**

- Baron & Baroness are looking for gifts from the populace to give to Royalty. Your handiwork could be in Royal hands!

## 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](mailto:duane.walker@sk.sympatico.ca)

**Seneschal:** HE Chikakukawa no Shunzei (mka Constance Gignac) Ph:664-6495 [cognac1@shaw.ca](mailto:cognac1@shaw.ca)

**Deputy Chatelaine:** Hamish Mac Carraig (mka Pat Nixon) Ph: 384-9121 [sean131@yahoo.com](mailto:sean131@yahoo.com)

**Exchequer:** Dezzrienne Dragnova (mka Dezzrienne Windecker) Ph:384-1716 [dragnova@shaw.ca](mailto:dragnova@shaw.ca)

**Chronicler:** Lord Armatus (mka Andrew Bennett) Ph:244-7601 [armatus@hotmail.com](mailto:armatus@hotmail.com)

**Minister of Arts and Science:** Position vacant

**Master of Stables:** Lord Artorius (mka Spence Robinson) Ph:242-9751 [artorius@hotmail.com](mailto:artorius@hotmail.com)

**Master of Lights:** Position vacant

**Herald:** Position vacant

**Constable:** Ewan of Loch Fynne (mka Tony Canevaro) Ph: (306)-682-4810 [ewanof\\_loch\\_fynne@hotmail.com](mailto:ewanof_loch_fynne@hotmail.com)

**Chirurgion:** Lady Zared Mackeen (mka Kyla Keeping) Ph:(306)-863-2939 [kylakeeping@hotmail.com](mailto:kylakeeping@hotmail.com)

**Master of Web:** Kurtis Wagner (mka Rodney Brazeau) Ph:931-9258 [bandersnitch@hotmail.com](mailto:bandersnitch@hotmail.com)

**Gold Key:** Maiwen Siobhon (mka Sheridan Pohl) Ph:373-3357 [shooie@sprint.ca](mailto:shooie@sprint.ca)

## Other Assorted Contacts

### King & Queen of An Tir:

Nicholaus and Alyssia (Jerry and Alisa Fries) (425)-806- 2792

[king@antir.sca.org](mailto:king@antir.sca.org)

[queen@antir.sca.org](mailto:queen@antir.sca.org)

### Prince & Princess of Avacal:

Ivar the Black

(mka Trent Fehr)

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Asney Grimolfsdottir

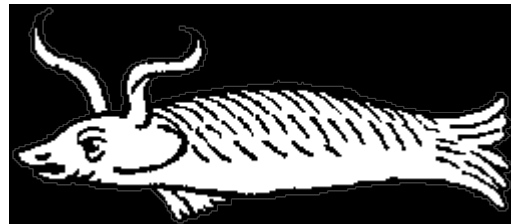
(mka Christine Blahut)

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### Contact for House Willomere (Prince Albert):

Brodur Skjardisson (mka Wil Yannacoulis)

Ph: (306) 764 2495 [willie-the-greek@shaw.ca](mailto:willie-the-greek@shaw.ca)



The position of the Herald is open, please contact the Seneschal or Baron/ess if you would like to try your hand at a baronial office

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