

The Shadow Knows

June/July A.S. XXXV (A.D. 2001)

Newsletter for the Shire of the Shadowlands



Table of Contents

[The Finer Things in Life by Melissa Jones](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

The Shadow Notes

[Officer Reports](#)

[Officer Reports Continued](#)

[So You Don't Want To Fight by Lady Abigail](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Guilds](#)

[Combat Arts](#)

[Legal Stuff](#)

The Shadow Notes

Questions are needed for the Shadow's section: "Ask the Laurel". All questions should be directed towards Jin Liu Ch'ang a.k.a. Norman White at gn-white@tamu.edu who has offered to answer any questions you may have on anything period.

Officer Reports

From the Minister of Arts and Sciences

Greetings from the Shire of the Shadowlands

The following guilds are currently meeting:

Dance on Sunday nights on the A&M campus from 7 to 9 pm.

Spinner's and Weavers on Tuesday nights at Mistress Raisya's starting at 7pm, contact Raisya, Abigail or Hennecy if you need directions.

Garber's on Wednesday nights at Lady Melissa's, call first.

Acting Guild meets on the first, third and fifth Mondays, at Abigail and Diego's home. Please contact Diego for directions.

Until we have rooms on campus the following guilds are meeting by appointment:

Middle Eastern Dance - contact Abigail - there are currently 3 people who are learning to dance on Thursday nights, but a second meeting time can be set up until a larger space can be found.

Drumming - contact Diego

The Shire will present an A&S Collegium in August, at the College Station Conference Center. We are in the process of getting everything set up and would like to invite anyone who would like to teach a class to contact either Abigail or Melissa.

I will be stepping down in July, as my two years are more than up. Melissa has offered to take the position, and will be applying soon.

In Service,

Abigail Pinel

Minister of Arts & Sciences

Shire of the Shadowlands

Officer Reports Cont.

From the Chronicler

Lots of confusion going on right now. Who oh who will take my office? Right now we are in the process of deciding who will take Reeve and who will take Chronicler. So perhaps there will be a new Chronicler next month. We'll see...

In Service,
Melissa Broyles

From the Historian

Same historian report as always...nothing. Maybe I'll finish it by the Shadowlands twenty-fifth year bash.

Jilleighanne

From the Archery Marshal

Well, we have managed to squeeze a few practices in between downpours. And we have newcomers shooting too (hooray)! Practices are in the process of being moved to the A&M archery range, which is hidden behind the west campus tennis courts. Practices are still on Saturday, assuming we are not all gone to an event. If anyone is interested in giving archery a try, we have plenty of loaner gear.

Lady Moreg Cochrane

So You Don't Want to Fight

(or What Else Can I Do in the SCA)

Many people are drawn into the Society because they saw something at a demonstration that they found intriguing. Often this is the fighting, but not always. Or perhaps you've tried fighting, but didn't care for it (or the bruises). What else can you do? Many people don't immediately see the world beyond the lists, but it is there, and it's really not that hard to find.

When I first joined the Society, I was interested in the clothing, and the idea that I could be a swashbuckling fencer. What a great idea! I can wear neat clothes and fence in them too. I even attended several fencing practices. I tried to get over my need to bounce around the list field like a ballet dancer. I was considering what color trigger to buy for my first set of armor, and what blade I wanted (and could afford) for my first weapon. Then one day my knees hurt too bad to fight. So I sat out that night. Then my natural laziness took over and I decided that I'd rather spend my money on silks and velvets to wear, rather than on armor and weaponry. So, what was I to do? I went to my next several events and sat by the list field and watched the fighters, or wandered around the event site, thinking, "This isn't quite as interesting as I thought it would be."

I began to carry my embroidery projects to events. Next came a hat I was working on, then a veil I was hand hemming. I sometimes bring my spinning wheel to close events, and now I always carry my drop spindle with me. I've been known to knit or make lucet cord (both of which are excellent things to do in Court, once you don't have to watch your hands). Any reasonably portable project will do to bring to an event. I now always have something to do, whether I've brought a basket

full of projects, or just my drop spindle and a small piece of blackwork embroidery, and I enjoy events much more. I feel more like I've stepped back in time if my hands are busy. Other people bring their chain mail, or wood to whittle, or cards and games to play, whatever you feel like carrying and keeping up with.

Musicians can carry their instruments and play solo for their companions, or look for their fellow music-makers to form small groups. Bardic pieces are often very welcome to those wishing a little entertainment. Dancers can often team up with musicians (live or taped) and appropriate a corner of the event hall, or a level spot of the site to dance at. Bardic and drumming circles often last far into the night.

Many events also offer classes in an art, science or some aspect of the Society. Don't be afraid to take one even if you don't think you're interested in that subject, you might find an interest in a field you had never considered. Classes about the Society (Seneschal and Reeve classes and persona development classes) are good ways to learn more about the Society, and what you can do in it.

But not everyone has a portable art that they can carry, or is at an event with classes offered. What to do then? Service! There is always something that needs to be done at events. Find the kitchen and ask if they need help. They won't always need help, but often an extra pair of hands is welcome, especially if there is a great deal of chopping or stirring to be done. Most feasts are in need of servers, check with the head cook, or feast steward to see where you can help. Gate guards are often in short supply as well, or welcome the company of another person to help pass the time. Find the event steward (autocrat) or someone helping them and see if they need help. Often, an extra person on security, or privy duty (checking that trashes are emptied and tissue is full) is welcome. Extra peo-

ple setting up and cleaning up are often needed as well. HOWEVER, do not be offended if the head cook or event steward seems to be short or brisk with you. They often are running on adrenaline and are just trying to get everything done, right NOW. Don't let this stop you from asking if you can help, but try not to ask when someone is right in the middle of a task or another conversation. The local seneschal or nobility can often tell you where help is needed as well, and they often aren't quite as busy. If there are horses at the event, ask if you can help out. The equestrians often need a hand setting up and maintaining their courses, and frequently welcome the help. Helping on the ground is also a good way to get to know your local horse folk, if you are interested in doing equestrian activities. Finally, if there are any children's activities, the Minister of Children often needs a hand, even if it's just as an errand runner or an additional set of eyes and hands.

Don't be afraid to get involved in something new. Everyone was once at the stage you're at, and most people are happy to share what they know, whether it is how to embroider a shirt cuff or how to serve a good feast. Just get out there and do something.

In Service

Abigail Pinel

(Andrea Scott)

Calendar of Events

July 2001

6-8 Coronation—College of Three Bridges (Arlington, TX)

13-15 Ansteorran Heraldic Symposium—Three Bridges & College of Heraldry
(UTA Campus)

20-22 Kingdom Dance Symposium—Westgate (Houston, TX)

27-29 Queen's Champion—Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)

August 2001

3-5 King's Round Table—Crossrode Keep (Big Spring, TX)

10-12 Steppes Artisan—Steppes (Dallas, TX)

17-19 Lughnasad—Loch Ruadh (Benbrook, TX)

24-26 King's Lancer/Nadaam Festival – Lock Soilleir (Clear Lake, TX)

Artisan of the Flame—Glaslyn (Denton, TX)

Guilts

<u>Guild</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>SCA Name</u>
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Mundane Name

Armory By Appointment Krag's House Lord Krag Donny Halter

Bardic By Appointment

Brewery By Appointment Liu Chiang's Place Master LiuChiang Norman White

Dance Sun. 7:00-9:00PM Rudder Ryan Passarelli

Engineer By Appointment Krag's House Lord Krag Donny Halter

Gaming By Appointment Duddley's Draw Lord Padric Pat Mullins

Garbers By Appointment Melissa's House Lady Melissa Melissa Jones

Drumming By Appointment Lord Diago Tim Scott

Belly- Thurs. Nights Abigail's house Lady Abigail Andi Scott

Dancing

Acting Odd Mon. 7:00PM Tim's house Lord Diago Tim Scott

Combat Arts

No one to make hitting each other safe.

The Shadow Knows
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