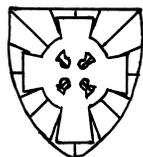
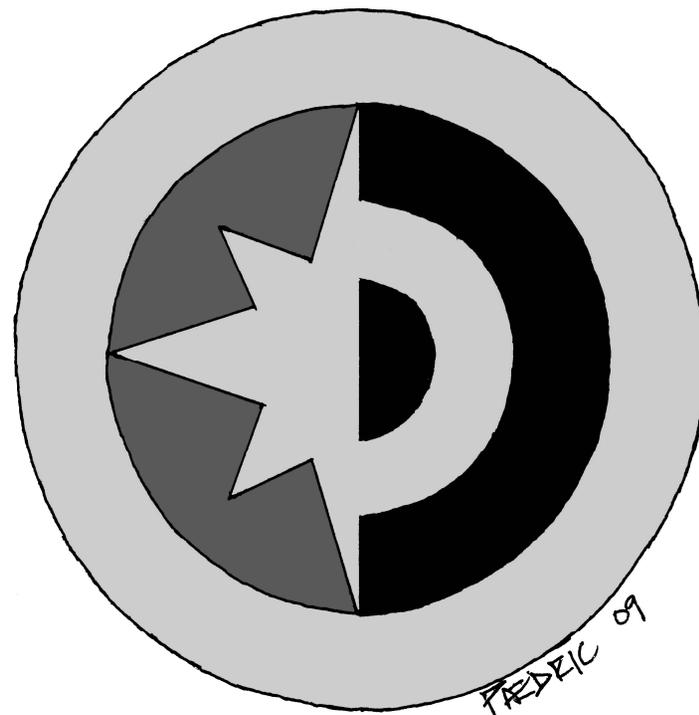


The Shadow Knows
c/o Pat Mullins
1811D Potomac Place
College Station, TX 77840

The Shadow Knows

April AS XLIII (AD 2009)



Newsletter for the Shire of the Shadowlands

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OPEN
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Calendar of Events

(From the Kingdom Calendar)

April 2009 (AS XLIII)

3 – 5A Day In ... Raven's Fort (Huntsville, TX)
10 – 12**Defenders of the Rose Shadowlands/ Tir Medoin**
.....(**College Station/ Temple**)
Wiesenfeuer Baronial - Wiesenfeuer (Oklahoma City, OK)
17 – 19Stargate Baronial – Stargate (Houston, TX)
Defender of the Flame – Glaslyn (Denton, TX)
24 – 26Lysts at Castleton – Multi-group Event (Austin, TX)
Champions of Bonwicke – Bonwicke (Lubbock, TX)

May 2009 (AS XLIII)

1-3.....Loch Guardian - Loch Soilleir (Clear Lake, TX)
Eldern XXXI - Eldern Hills (Lawton/ Ft. Sill, OK)
Guardian of the Tor XVII - Dragonsfire Tor (Stephenville, TX)
8-10.....Bordermarch Champions XXXII - Bordermarch (Beaumont, TX)
Machiavelli's Revenge II - Blacklake (Midland, TX)
Beltane - Namron (Norman, OK)
15-17.....Coronation/King's Champion - Rosenfeld (Tyler, TX)
22-24.....Steppes Warlord - Steppes (Dallas, TX)
29-31.....Queen's Champion - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)

Populace Meetings

April 7MSC 145
May 5.....Rudder Tower 507

Practices

Practice	Time	Location	Contact
Archery	Sun 1:00PM	Austin's Colony Park	Bastian jed.tressler@gmail.com
Chivalric	Thur 7:30PM	TAMU Main Drill Field	Bastian jed.tressler@gmail.com
Rapier	Thur 7:00PM	TAMU Main Drill field	Diederich gesegnet@yahoo.com

Guilds

Guild	Time	Location	Contact
Cooking	2 nd Tues 7:00PM	Isabelot's House	Isabelot isabelotdeforess@gmail.com
Dance	Sun 6:30PM	See below	Kaitlyn mistresskaitlyn@gmail.com
Musicians	Sun 5:30PM	See below	Brigid sarah.gray.88@gmail.com

Music/Dance Rooms

Sun Apr 5.....MSC 212
Sun Apr 12.....**CANCELLED**
Sun Apr 19.....MSC 229
Sun Apr 26MSC 212
Sun May 3.....MSC 212
Sun May 10.....MSC 212
Sun May 17.....MSC 212
Sun May 24.....MSC 212

This is *The Shadow Knows*, a publication of the Shire of the Shadowlands of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA). *The Shadow Knows* is available from Pat Mullins, 1811D Potomac Place, College Station, TX, 77840 or online at <http://shadowlands.ansteorra.org/>. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA) and does not delineate SCA policies.

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Thanks and Credits

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The Shadow Notes

Congratulations to Tuathal O'Sheils, who won the novice Rapier Tournament at Gulf War.

Congratulations to the Shire's rapier fighters, who acquitted themselves so well on the battlefields at Gulf War that they were awarded the Queen's Battle Pennant.

Morina, Alfrun, and Lady Lorien helped teach dances at Gulf War. Good job!

The office of Archery Marshal is open and accepting applications. The office of Rapier Marshal will soon be open, applications will be accepted through Saturday May 2nd. The office of Seneschal will be opening in August. An application for any of these offices can be found at <http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

Thanks to all who have helped with advance preparations for Defenders of the Rose. The feast will, I am sure, be excellent, and the Shire's new lyst field is BEAUTIFUL!

It's not too late to have your arms or device added to the Shire's new Lyst Field. All it takes is a contribution of time and effort, or a monetary donation toward future expansion of the lyst field. (And heraldically acceptable arms or device, which the Herald can help you design.)

We will need all the help we can get setting up for, and tearing down after, Roses. Set up begins at noon, Friday April 10th. Tear down will be Sunday morning before and after Roses Court. Even if religious obligations will prevent you from attending part or the entire event please come help if at all possible.

I would suggest holding a contest to name the new lyst field, but I am afraid the winner would be "Stephen Colbert".

Mark your calendars now for Ansteorra's 30th Year Celebration coming up in July, and plan on joining Shadowlands encampment for this festive occasion.

Just curious. Would anybody be interested in receiving *The Shadow Knows* as an attachment direct from the Chronicler? If so, send me an email at shadowlandschronicler@yahoo.com and specify duplex or single-sided version.

Be on the lookout for a place to hold dance practice. With summer coming, then the remodeling of the MSC, rooms on campus may be hard to come by.

Officer's Reports

From the Seneschal

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

From the Treasurer

Everything seems to be going well. We're getting real close to Defenders of the Rose, so if you're able to be there make sure to sign up to work gate, so Tir Medoin doesn't have to do it all! Hopefully the sign-up list will be making the rounds soon. If you are unable to attend, there will be plenty of opportunities to help us make preparations. Hope to see you all at Roses!

Catan

From the Hospitaler

There hasn't been too much going on this month, although I have responded to some individual e-mails from possible newcomers. All the rooms needed in the MSC have been reserved that can be per the needs of the shire. Please let me know if there are events that would be good to find new recruits!

Alfrun

From the Web Minister

Hello, everyone. I'm still trying to find the time to upload pictures, but I hope to have that under control soon. If any of you have pictures from War, or anything else, send them on and I'll try to add them. Other than that, there's not much going on. As always, if you have anything you want listed on the Calendar or the web site, let me know.

Catan

From the Minister of Arts and Sciences

Watch out for upcoming scribal guild meetings. Charters have been obtained, and will soon make their way into the Shire. Drumming also should have some more practices as well.

Brigid

From the Archery Marshal

Archery continues to happen, weather and time permitting. There is some talk of moving the archery practice latter in the day so that there is more usable time on Sunday. Let me know what you think on

this. Otherwise, everything is fine; pay no attention to the man with the arrows.

Bastian

From the Chronicler

Well, I'm 2 for 2. Not exactly a record, but I'm on the way. In this issue I have started publishing the History of the Shadowlands, kindly submitted by the Shire Historian, uh, me. I will be accepting submissions for the War Correspondent competition until Friday, April 24. Keep (start) those cards and letters coming. Many thanks to Kolfinna and Orazio for your submissions!

In service to the Dream,

Lord Pædric

From the Acting Chivalric Marshal

We had a small but proud showing of Shadowlands chivalric fighters at Gulf War, let's work on getting more of us out to events in the coming year. We will be continuing to practice Thursday nights on the drill field at 7:30. The second set of lights is fixed, as is some of the loaner armor. We can suit up to 3 folks in loaner gear right now I think. If anybody is interested in trying it out, or bringing friends to give it a try, remember groin protection is required for both male and female combatants, and a towel, hood, or skull cap is a good thing to have on hand.

Bastian

From the Rapier Marshal

Greetings Fellow Shadowlanders!

Do you hear the sound of boots in the distance, accompanied by voices lifted up in songs of victory? That's the sound of the local rapier contingent returning from the fair lands of Gleann Abhann. Our shire sent ten rapier fighters to support the Ansteorran war effort this year, and we return with many tales of victory. Five of our swordsmen were on the team that won the 6 Men Melee Tourney. Stephen O'Crowley tied for prime recognition in the area of prowess in the Trimaris Tournament of Trifold Renown with seventeen victories in the bear pit. Crowley also advanced to the finals of the Everyman Tourney, where he was defeated by Dominyk Wolferam from the Kingdom of Atlantia. Tuathal O'Sheils proved victorious in the Novice Tourney, and both Crowley and I won our respective matches in the Rapier Champions List. While our army marched to victory both upon the open field and within the ravine, our unit acquitted itself so well that Her Royal Majesty Elizabeth Seale awarded our shire with the Queen's Battle Pennant.

You can hear firsthand accounts of all these events and hone your own skills with a blade at our weekly rapier practice which begins at 7:00 on Thursday evenings at Simpson Drill Field.

My office remains open for applications through Saturday, May 2nd. In order to apply, you must fill out the application for office (<http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>) and send it along with a copy of your SCA membership card and your fighter authorization card to the Southern Regional Rapier Marshal and the local Seneschal. I would greatly appreciate it if you would also send me a courtesy copy. You MUST be an authorized rapier marshal in order to apply. If you are not an authorized marshal and would like to become one, please contact me.

Lord Diederik Andrieszen
Shadowlands Rapier Marshal

From the Historian

Well, I have started compiling the history of the Shire of the Shadowlands, which will be published in four parts between now and July. My primary source has been back issues of *The Shadow Knows*, and there are a lot of holes in my information. If anyone can help fill those holes, it would be greatly appreciated. Especially, right now I am looking for the winners of Shadowlands various competitions over the years. For example, we have been having Bard of the Shadowlands competitions since 1983, but for whatever reasons many of the winners were never recorded in *The Shadow Knows*. The same is true for Artisan of the Shadowlands. Some of these I can fill in from memory, although my memory may be faulty. (I know I won Artisan the same year Lord Madog of Glastonbury won Bard, but I don't remember exactly which year that was; I think it was AS XXXVII). If you have any information that might be helpful, please help. I think the seneschal's box may cover some of it, but...

Pædric

From the Music Guild Principal

There's been a distinct lack of musicians showing up to guild practices, but hopefully that was due to Gulf War preparations, and I hope to see more people showing up. I plan to continue working on the dance music, and increase our repertoire to other dance pieces (whether the shire does them or not, since other groups might) and non-dance pieces as well for performance use or background noise at events.

Brigid

MONDAY.

By Koltinna in Kyrii

Caught in the dark hours of morning, the stragglers from our camping group drag their muddy feet into the tent. Minds and bodies exhausted from driving, packing, and who knows what else, there is barely enough energy among us to do more than throw blankets on the floor and curl up in some semblance of a bed. We sleep, lulled off by the constant patter of water on canvas, hoping that the heavens will have been wrung dry by sunrise.

We are not so fortunate. The constant force of nature has not only refused to leave, it has also welcomed itself into the tents. As each of us slowly regains consciousness, we begin our individual rituals of mumblings and grumblings, stretching and sighing, only to be rudely interrupted as our socks take dives into pools of frigid water. Defeated, we retreat to the bed in the center of the tent. We huddle together on our warm, dry island and wait for the rain to subside so we can begin our day.

Gradually, the sun begins to peek from behind clouds. Following suit, we peek our heads from the tent and start to salvage what is left of our saturated campsite. Boxes escape from claustrophobic back seats and the remaining tents emerge from the ground. We plod around for the rest of the afternoon. Cloths are wrung out, mud is clapped from shoes, wood is split for the fire, "hellos" are called out to neighbors. The campsite takes shape.

Quietly, our stomachs begin to hum for filling. But, before we can have dinner, the dinner needs a kitchen, the kitchen needs a tent, the tent needs instructions, the instructions need space to work, the space needs the currently occupying car to move, the car needs the cargo within to be unloaded, the cargo needs a place to live, the place to live is the kitchen tent... We are trapped in a loop of endless to-dos. Any hopes we entertain of having dinner ready on time reluctantly take their place on the shelf (next to the hopes of starting anything on time at Gulf Wars), and we grimace as the hum of our stomachs strengthens to a roar. Meanwhile, newly-made friends dance in and out of our site, singing praises for the meals their stomachs have almost finished digesting.

Evening has come, and the stars shine through a canopy of pine trees. Orion chases the sisters. Sirius follows his master. Cassiopeia reclines in her chair. Our stomachs have been sated, and we now inch our chairs closer to our fledgling campfire. The veterans of this war are away—greeting old friends or something like that. The rest of us look around for something to do. We are finally here. We are at Gulf Wars. But, what do we do? Unfamiliar with people, locations, traditions, we settle by the fire. In part, because our bodies demand, and in part, because we know not where to go. They say there is magic in Gulf Wars. In the people, in the place. It's a magic that finds you. It's a magic that keeps you. It found us.

She bounces over from a neighboring camp, drums in hand. One for her and one for me, we ask the drums to sing. Never before have I played such an instrument, but she is insistent—I will learn. Slowly, and painfully, she drags me through the rhythms. As someone climbing out of a sleepy stupor, my rhythms slowly wake to meet her own. We pound a heartbeat through the trees. Soon, a fellow appears. Drum in one hand and chair in the other, this unknown stranger joins our circle. He begins to play. Our heartbeat is now his own. He is no longer a stranger, but a friend. More people join, called by the rhythm of our drums. Singers, dancers, listeners all, we welcome the night and smile. This is home.

It seems like hours that we play. But, it does not matter. We are safe, we are calm. No matter the rush of the day, the frustration that was brewing. Our heartbeat has begun.

Our bodies, however, won't allow us to stay lost in this dream forever. Eyes begin to droop, hands tire, babes are laid to sleep. One-by-one, people fade back into the trees to return to their camps. Our heartbeat slows and quiets, but it does not stop. The rhythm we have created is the rhythm of the War. It is the rhythm that unites us; it is the rhythm that fills us. It calls us from our homes and leads us to fight for our Kingdoms.

Poetry Corner

I Hear the War Drums Beat Upon the Wind

By Orazio da Assissi

I hear the war drums beat upon the wind
Lighting in me a smold'ring, sable fire
I'll follow this melody to its end
And fight for my great kingdom and my shire

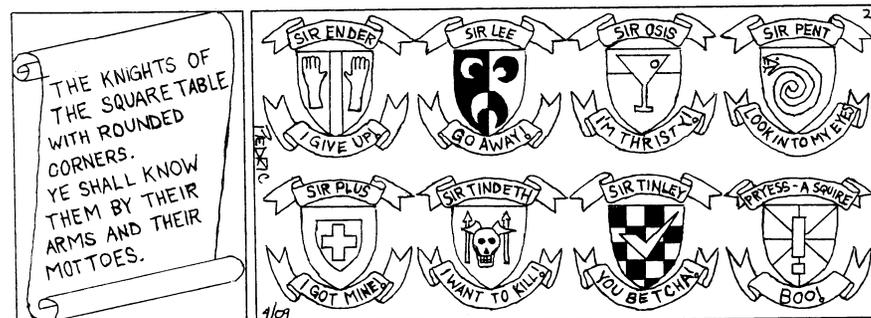
The time has come, my honor now at stake
Ansteorra creates its battle rows
And my kingdom's spirit they cannot take
I dip my blade in the blood of my foes

After the battles lost and battles won
All those who call our noble kingdom home
Turned west homeward beneath the setting sun
Shouting "Victory!" wherever they roam

So stoke the sable fire within your heart
Until, to war, again, we all depart

Press the Unexpected

By Paedric



History of the Shadowlands

Compiled by Lord Pædric O'Mullan

Prologue

This is a concise history of the Shire of the Shadowlands, being a true and factual account of the events, activities, and general goings-on of this fair Shire from its earliest days unto the present time, along with the Shire's Seneschals and Chroniclers. It has been compiled through careful study of the annals by Lord Pædric O'Mullan, Chronicler and Historian. Begun on this, the Ides of March, in the Year of our Society XLIII.

Part 1 – The Very Early Years

AS XII (77-78)

The very earliest days of the Shire of the Shadowlands are, appropriately enough, shrouded in the mists of time. According to some records, the Shire was officially founded in September of AS XII. There must have been meetings. At least one, probably more, possibly several. During this time were a name chosen and a slate of officers filled. The Shire device was submitted to the Heralds in November of AS XII, which means the name was submitted at or before that time. But of other details of these very early days, I know not. There are many still living who know more of these times than I. It is to be hoped that some will step forward with information to fill these gaps in my knowledge.

Written annals of the Shire of the Shadowlands begin in February of AS XII with the first issue of *The Shadow Knows*. Therein is mentioned the Shadowlands first organized participation at any event, which was at Elf Stomp in the Barony of Stargate, probably in September of AS XII, and the Shire's participation in the SCA demo at the Texas Renaissance festival. Also detailed in this missive is the story of the first event held in the Shire of the Shadowlands, which was a Newcomers Revel. Although it was expected to be attended only by members of the Shire, newcomers, and a few invitees, many others came as well. Prince Sean MacFlamm and Princess Katherina von Alyssin, first Prince and Princess of the newly formed Principality of Ansteorra, attended and held court. This was on the 21st day of January, in the Year of our Society XII. The event was reportedly a huge success, and from that day forward the Shire of the Shadowlands became famous for the quality of its revels. And in those days was Charles Corwinson the Seneschal of the Shire of the Shadowlands, and Milo O'Shawlin was the Chronicler. In February of this same year did 16 Ansteorran travel far to the west to join the Aten Army in war against the kingdom of the West. Fully a quarter

of these hailed from the Shadowlands. It was here that the Sable Star first made its presence known, as eight warriors clad alike in golden tabards blazoned with a black star rallied under the Aten Sun banner, and of those eight, three were Shadowlanders, and they were Otto the Merciless, Charles Corwinson, and Godfrey Fosse. Details of this momentous event are found in the April AS XII issue of *The Shadow Knows*, and corroborated in the memoirs of Lady (now Countess) Tessa of the Gardens. In the "Events that Cometh" section of this same issue are mentioned two Shadowlands events, King's College/University of Ansteorra to be held in April, and Tax Day Tourney One Month Late in May AS XIII. The Outcome of these events is not known, alas, as the annals fell silent for many months.

AS XIII (78-79)

In February of AS XIII a new Chronicler did publish *The Shadow Knows*, and that was Alec Ravensquill. It told little of what had gone before, except to say that a plague of finals had descended upon the Shire. Among coming events it mentioned a Newcomer's Revel, to be held in February, and King's College of Ansteorra to follow in March, both in the Shadowlands. And again the voice of the Shadowlands fell silent, albeit briefly this time. In March of that year Godfrey Fosse advanced to the rank of Laurel, the first peer in the Shadowlands.

In May of AS XIV came a short missive introducing a new Chronicler, Buchwald Flashingquill, and telling of an event just past, and one soon to come. On April 30 the Shire held a New Year's Eve Revel, marking the passing of the Year of our Society XIII. The SCA year, as all should know, begins on May 1st, which marks the anniversary of the May Day Revel at which the Society began.

AS XIV (79-80)

In June was scheduled a Midsummer Revel in the Shadowlands. Also in June AS XIV did Sir Jonathon deLaufeson, called Macebearer, take the crown as the first sovereign King of the new Kingdom of Ansteorra. It should be noted here that in the final round of the first Ansteorran Crown Tournament Duke Jonathon did defeat Lord Otto the Merciless, of the Shire of the Shadowlands. Lord Otto's consort that day was Rowen of Camphire, who would go on to later win fame and glory in her own right. And in August did the Shire hold ANOTHER revel (and did not even bother with a reason).

In September did the Shadowlands hold ANOTHER revel, this one a Newcomers Revel, which forty people attended, including a dozen new to the SCA. Also in the September missive was a report on several heraldic submissions, including the Shire of the Shadowlands device, which was then

at the Kingdom level. And in those days did Lord Otto the Merciless succeed his brother Lord Charles as the Shadowlands Seneschal.

In October of AS XIV *The Shadow Knows* did publish a Domesday Boke listing 56 members of the Shire. Tragedy struck the Shadowlands that month as LaShan Muhlinghaus, one of the Shire's newcomers, was found murdered in her home.

Also in October, at an All Hallows Eve Revel, was Buchwald Flashingquill given the first Meritorious Order of the Shire of the Shadowlands (MOSS), apparently for publishing a newsletter for five consecutive months, a feat neither of his predecessors could match. It was said the award would be given at each local event (and if you didn't notice, they were having a revel almost every month).

And in December of that year the Shire had a Yule Revel.

That January the Shadowlands hosted King's College/University of Ansteorra, the third of its kind. In those times King's College was Shadowlands' yearly event, not the Kingdom level event it has become. Of course, there was a feast and revel that Saturday night. And Lloyd von Eaker and Joselyn Allyne Reynard were the second to wear the Stellar Crown.

And in February of the same year there was NO revel.

In March the Shadowlands held an A&S Faire in conjunction with StageCenter's production of Richard III.

And on April 31 (a neat trick, if I may say so) the Shire of the Shadowlands held a New Year's Eve Revel. And so ended the Year of our Society XIV.

AS XV (80-81)

In May of AS XV the Arms of the Shire of the Shadowlands were officially registered at the Imperium level. Also in May, the Shadowlands hosted the kingdom for Ansteorra's third Crown Tournament. Sir Jan w Orzeldom won that day, and in June, he and Mistress Kemreth Danil became the third pair to reign over Ansteorra.

In September of that year the Shire held a Newcomer's Revel. Nearly 60 people attended. Also in this month, according to some records, did the Shadowlands achieve full and official Shire status.

And in October was held an All Hallows Eve Revel, at the Texas Renaissance festival.

And in December was held a Yule Revel. Also in December did the Chronicler, Lord Buchwald Flashingquill, retire, having served long and well in that office. And then Waldre Kenwolf was the Chronicler.

And in January were crowned Sigmund the Wingfooted and Sieglinde Syr, the fourth King and Queen of Ansteorra.

In February of that year the Shire of the Shadowlands did host King's College/University of Ansteorra, and that was the fourth. At King's College

was Anna Czujneja elevated to the Order of the Laurel, and she was the second peer in the Shire of the Shadowlands.

In April of that year did the Shadowlands host Tax Day Tourney II, at which the list was a melee format with two-man teams. The competition for the title "Impeccable Reprobate of the Shadowlands" (IRS) was a tie between the "Stargators", Lord Vlad Ravna called Starkraven and Torin Earthsheart, and "Large and Ugly", Lord Sean de Carew and Olaf Armcrusher. Third place and the title "Defenders of Otisburg", (DO), went to "Bringers of Death", Lord Ricardo de Pisa and Lief Wadason. For those who do not know, in those days the Shadowlands had an alternate persona, the Shire (sometimes Barony) of Otisburg, which involved much silliness. The prize for the Defender of Otisburg was a helm covered with blue and black shag carpet and decorated with gold dingle balls.

Also in April did the Shire hold a demo at Oakwood Middle School.

Thus did the year AS XV draw to a close.

Part 2 – The still early, but not quite SO early years

AS XVI (81-82)

On New Year's Day of AS XVI the Shadowlands did hold another demo at Oakwood Middle School, in conjunction with their Medieval Fair. And in this month was formed a Swashbucklers Guild, the Fellowship of Errol. And in June did Mistress Anna Czujneja succeed Lord Otto the Merciless as seneschal.

In September of that year was held a Newcomer's Revel and Shadowlands Warlord Tourney, at which Caradoc ap Owain received a MOSS. A week later, at the Tax day Audit Tourney, Olaf Armcrusher once again (but by himself this time) won the title "Impeccable Reprobate of the Shadowlands" and Sir Elzasif Ironhand, reigning Queen of Ansteorra (of which she was the fifth) finished second in the tourney, and received the (dubious) title "Defender of Otisburg" for which the prize was a shield covered in blue and black shag carpet and decorated with gold dingle balls. Hrabia Jan w Orzeldom won the Chess tournament and Lady Tamara Perovaronova won the Backgammon Tournament.

In November of that year did the Shadowlands host a Dance Workshop, the first of its kind in these lands.

In February of that year the Shadowlands did host the fifth King's College. And it was around this time that Lady Waldre Kenwolf stepped down as Chronicler, and Mistress Anna Czujneja stepped down as Seneschal, and Mistress Anna became the Chronicler and Corrinne O'Daugherty became the seneschal of the Shadowlands.

And in April did the Shadowlands host Tax Day Tourney III, but no records of the outcome remain. Also in this month did the Shire perform a Demo at the Oakwood Middle School Renaissance Fair, and so ended AS XVI.

AS XVII (82-83)

Little is known of the early months of AS XVII, but a Summer Revel was held during the summer (a most auspicious time for it). By October Stiller Teilhaber was the Seneschal, and Mistress Anna Czujneja published her last newsletter before stepping down.

And in December Lady Waldre Kenwolf was the Seneschal, and Gregaoir MagAonguis was the Chronicler.

In February of that year did the Shadowlands again host University of Ansteorra/King's College, the sixth of its kind, and that was the last University of Ansteorra, before King's College went on the road.

And on April 31 (still a neat trick) did the Shire hold a New Year's Eve Revel, and so passed a rather uneventful year.

AS XVIII (83-84)

On May 14-15, in the Year of our Society XVIII did the Shire of the Shadowlands host its first Tournament of the Round Table, to find the most well-rounded fighter in the realm. Master Telbyrn Morningstar and Sir Tarl Mapt tied for that honor. And the rains did fall. A lot.

In August of that year did the Sterregazer's Gylde have an unofficial *Sterre Partie* at Lake Somerville to coincide with the Perseid meteor shower. Also in August did Lady Waldre Kenwolf step down as Seneschal, and then was Lord Doyel Mor-Ser the Seneschal.

In November did the Shadowlands host the Feast of St. Martin, at which was held the first recorded Title Bard competition for the Bard of the Shadowlands. Alas, no record was made of the winner of this competition.

In February of that year did Lord Gregaoir MagAonguis step down as Chronicler, and the new Chronicler was Lady Rosamond Carmody. And in these days was *The Shadow Knows* often filled with interesting and learned articles about various and diverse subjects, but little information about the events, revels, and other activities of the Shire.

In April the Shadowlands scheduled the second Round Table Tourney, but no records of it remain. And so did another year come to an end.

AS XIX (84-85)

In June of this year was Moira the chronicler.

In October of this year did Falke von Rheinfels receive a White scarf, becoming the first Don in the Shadowlands.

In November of this year was Nichole Alicia Marie du Beaumains the Chronicler.

And in April was Catherine Marie d'Evreux the Chronicler.

Also in April did the Shadowlands host the Round Table Tournament, and this was the third. And so another year was passed.

The Shadow Reader

By Lord Pádric ÓMullán

Title – *Deus Lo Volt*

Author – Evan S. Connell

Publisher – Counterpoint Press

Deus Lo Volt (God Wills It) is one of the most interesting works of historical fiction I have read in many a year. It is an account of the Crusades, written in the style of a medieval chronicle, in the voice of a French nobleman from the court of King Louis IX (St. Louis) of France, Baron Jean de Joinville.

The story covers the whole of the Crusades, beginning with Peter, the holy hermit, and Pope Urban, preaching holy war in Clermont and across France in 1095. It tells of the conquest of Jerusalem, and later of its fall to Saladin. It describes the adventures and misadventures of Richard the Lionheart, Phillip Augustus of France, and Frederick Barbarossa, as well as the Children's Crusade and the Albigensian Crusade. The tale concludes with the failed attempt of King Louis IX to recapture the Holy City in the mid-1200s, and his return to France.

Overall the narrative spans more than 150 years. This is a story filled with miracles and brutality. Not only the battles are described, but the political intrigues which took place when so many of the leaders of Europe were gathered together. Heroic deeds, cowardice, betrayal, duplicity and bloody battle are all included, sometimes in great detail.

I cannot claim to be an expert on the time period of the Crusades, but what I read in *Deus Lo Volt* corresponds closely to what I do know, and what I could find in my various history texts. Evan S. Connell clearly researched this work very carefully. He often cites his sources of information which reads like a Who's Who of medieval chroniclers. Princess Anna Comnena, Raymond d'Agiles, William of Tyre, Fulcher de Chartres, Matthew Paris, Odericus Vitalis, and many others are mentioned by name, and not just Christian chroniclers, but many Muslim chroniclers as well, such as Ibn al-Athir and Usama ibn Munqidh.

It is my opinion that, if *Deus Lo Volt* had been written in modern English, with an index and bibliography appended, and the anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiments removed, (remember, it IS written from the viewpoint of a medieval Christian), it could serve as a text for a junior or senior level college history course on the Crusades. As it is, however, it is a well-written and compelling tale which I found very difficult to put down. If you like historical fiction, or are interested in the time period of the Crusades, or even if you are looking for an SCA name from that time period, I would highly recommend this book.