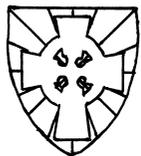
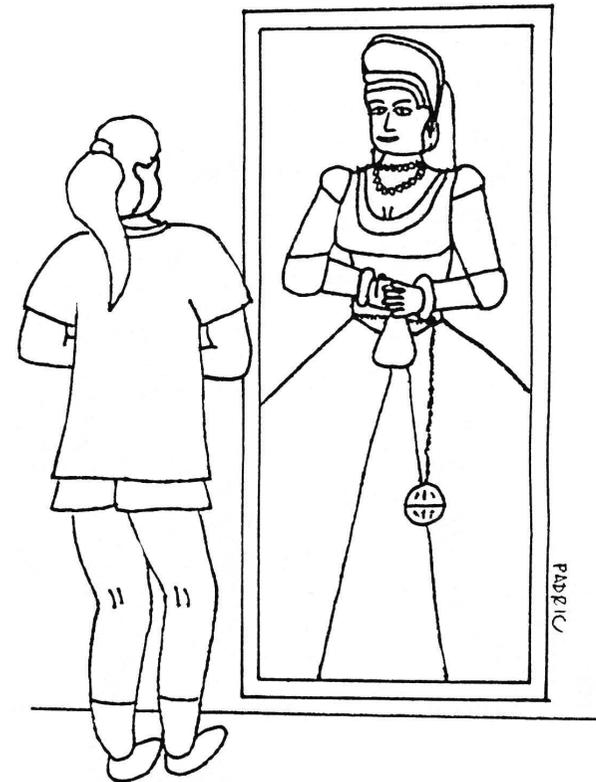


*The Shadow Knows*  
c/o Pat Mullins  
1811D Potomac Place  
College Station, TX 77840

# The Shadow Knows

September AS XLIV (AD 2009)

Newcomer's Edition



Newsletter for the Shire of the Shadowlands  
The Capital of Ansteorra

## Their Royal Majesties

Hrafn Olafsson & Elizabete di Valore della Rosa  
Traci and Curtis Baker  
crown@ansteorra.org

## Their Royal Highnesses

Owen ap Aedden & Genevria de Bette  
Eric and Jennifer Jackson  
coronet@ansteorra.org

## Calendar of Events

(From the Kingdom Calendar)

## Officers of the Shire of the Shadowlands

### Seneschal

Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr  
Paul Foster  
shadowlands.seneschal@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Lady Catan ingen Míchl  
Kristin Denton  
shadowlands.treasurer@gmail.com

### Herald

The Shire of the Shadowlands does not  
Currently have a branch herald.  
If you need assistance with heraldry please contact  
the Orbis Herald (Southern Regional Herald) at:  
southern@herald.ansteorra.org

### Chronicler

Lord Pædríc OMullan  
Pat Mullins  
shadowlandschronicler@yahoo.com  
979-492-9959

### Hospitaler

Alfrun of Shadowlands  
Morgan Wagnon  
morgan.wagnon@yahoo.com  
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### Historian

Lord Pædríc OMullan  
Pat Mullins  
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979-492-9959

### Knight Marshal (Accepting Applications)

Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr  
Paul Foster  
sir.rhodri@gmail.com

### Rapier Marshal

Conner MacGillivray  
Benjamin White  
benjamin.white@gmail.com  
339-222-2311

### Archery Marshal

OPEN  
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

### Web minister

Lady Catan ingen Míchl  
Kristin Denton  
vs.shadowlands@gmail.com

### Minister of Arts and Sciences

Lady Brigid Cunningham  
Sarah Gray  
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### QAAM Advisor

Mistress Kaitlyn McKenna  
Robbin Foster  
Mistresskaitlyn@gmail.com

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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### September 2009 (A.S. XLIV)

4-7.....Gothic War XVIII - Bonwicke/Trelac (Lubbock/San Angelo, TX)  
11-13.....Laurel's Prize - Seawinds (Three Rivers, TX)  
.....Grand Assembly of Archers - Namron/Wiesenfeuer (Norman/Oklahoma City, OK)  
18-20.....King's Lancer/Defender of the Fort - Raven's Fort (Huntsville, TX)  
.....Triumpe of the Eclipse IV - Mooneschadowe (Stillwater, OK)  
25-27.....open

### October 2009 (A.S. XLIV)

2-4.....The Battle of Three Queens II: In the Name of the Rose – Rosenfeld (Tyler, TX)  
9-11.....Namron Protectorate – Namron (Norman, OK)  
.....Harvest Faire - Gate's Edge (Houston, TX)  
16-18.....Ursae-Lyons – Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)  
.....Battle of the Pines - Graywood (Lufkin, TX)  
.....Elfsea Fall Harvest Festival - Elfsea (Fort Worth, TX)  
23-25.....Samhain Celebration - Eldern Hills (Lawton/Ft. Sill, OK)  
.....Bryn Gwlad 30th Year Anniversary - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)  
30-1.....Tourney by the Loch - Loch Soilleir (Friendswood, TX)  
.....Harvest of the Axe, Heroes Vs. Monsters - Chemin Noir/Skorragardr (Bartlesville/Shawnee, OK)  
.....Emerald Tourney - Emerald Keep (Waco, TX)

## Populace Meetings

October 6.....301 Rudder Tower  
November 3.....707 Rudder Tower  
December 1.....504 Rudder Tower

## Practices

Practice	Time	Location	Contact
Archery	Sun 4:00PM	Austin's Colony Park	Lord Bastian jed.tressler@gmail.com
Chivalric	Thur 7:30PM	TAMU Main Drill Field	Sir Rhodri sir.rhodri@gmail.com
Rapier	Thur 7:00PM	TAMU Main Drill field	Conner benjamin.white@gmail.com

## Guilds

Guild	Time	Location	Contact
Cooking	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 7:00PM	Isabelot's House	HL Isabelot isabelotdeforess@gmail.com
Dance	Sun 6:30PM	See below	Lady Morina elwenaduialloth@yahoo.com
Musicians	Sun 5:30PM	See below	Lady Brigid sarah.gray.88@gmail.com
Scribes	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon7:30PM	Kaitlyn's house	Luciana pchanjeni@sbcglobal.net

## Music/Dance Rooms

**NO ROOMS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

# The Shadow Reader

By Lord Pædric OMullan

Title – *The Other Boleyn Girl*

Author – Philippa Gregory

Publisher – Simon and Schuster, Inc.

*The Other Boleyn Girl* is the story of Mary Boleyn, the sister of Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII of England. Told in the first person, *The Other Boleyn Girl* describes Mary's life at the Tudor Court, as lady-in-waiting to two queens, Katherine of Aragon and Mary's own sister Anne. It tells of her time as Henry's mistress, bearing him two bastard children, and of the political machinations of her uncle, Duke Thomas Howard, who was determined to get his kin on the throne as the king's consort, and succeeded – twice. It tells of the downfall of Henry's first wife, Katherine of Aragon, and the ascendance and later the execution of Anne Boleyn, all from an insider's point of view.

Carefully researched and well written, *The Other Boleyn Girl* gives a fascinating insight into life at the court of Henry VIII. It includes a fairly extensive bibliography and an author's note explaining her reasoning for portions of the story not completely supported by the historical record. The book differs in many details (and seems to me more accurate) than the recent movie of the same name.

Other books about this time period and the Royals of England by Philippa Gregory include *The Constant Princess* (Katherine of Aragon), *The Boleyn Inheritance* (Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard), *The Queen's Fool* (Bloody Mary and Elizabeth), *The Virgin's Lover* (Elizabeth) and *The Other Queen* (Mary of Scots). With the exception of *The Queen's Fool*, which is about a completely fictional character at the courts of Mary and Elizabeth, all of these stories use reason and conjecture to produce a plausible story that fits the known facts. All of these books are interesting and well written, and I would recommend any or all of them to anyone seeking to increase their knowledge and understanding of court life in Tudor England.

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## The Shadow Notes

Welcome back to all who were gone for the summer!

The guild and fighter practice schedule may be subject to change as new and returning members make their needs and preferences known.

Make plans to join the Shadowlands encampment at The Battle of Three Queens II: In the Name of the Rose the first weekend in October. This will be our newcomer's trip for the year.

The Chronicler is always happy to accept submissions of art, articles, poetry, or almost anything for publication in the newsletter.

The Shire is tentatively planning to have a drum circle and revel on Friday night, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome bring a friend. Watch the Yahoo! Groups list (see below) for more information as it becomes available.

Sign up for the Shadowlands group email list at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shadowlandssca/>

Visit the Shire webpage at:  
[shadowlands.ansteorra.org](http://shadowlands.ansteorra.org)

## Thanks and Credits

"A Letter From the Seneschal" by Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr (Paul Foster), Reflections, "The Ballad of Ulsted the Unsteady", A Glossary of SCA Terms, What to Take to Your First Event, The Shadow Reader, What to Expect at Your First Event, and Who's That in the Hat? by Lord Pædric OMullan (William P. Mullins)– all rights reserved. All items used with permission from the original creators.

# Officer Reports

## From the Seneschal

See “A letter from the Seneschal,” page 15

## From the Treasurer

Hello,

I hope everyone had a good summer. I look forward to seeing everyone again.

We currently have \$5157.70 in our account as of the end of July. This puts us in pretty good shape to host the Fall Ball - Take II (they're small!) and a Kingdom-level event next fall (to be discussed at the August and/or September Populace meeting). So try to think of what Kingdom event you would like to host.

Thank you and see you next month!

*Calan*

## From the Hospitaller

Welcome back to the Shire! This month is going to be busy as we start school and prepare for newcomers! If you can, please be sure to drop by our demo September 6th as well as the Newcomers Meeting September 8th.

*-Alfran*

## From the Minister of Arts and Sciences

Look out for more updates on where local A&S meetings will be held. Music and Dance will hopefully be starting up soon, but rooms must be determined first. Scribal will continue to meet, time and location most likely remaining the same as during the summer. If this changes, watch for an announcement on the listserv. If anyone has any interest in A&S classes, let me know what you want to learn, and I'll look for information on it and a possible teacher. Also, if anyone wants to start a guild (I've heard someone wants to start belly dancing, and there's always been a slight interest in singing and drumming), make sure you have enough people interested who will show up, find a location and time, then tell me and give me updates on your meetings (as in what you do during the meetings, how many people show up). Watch the listserv for more announcements.

*-Brigid*

## From the Chivalric Marshal

**NO REPORT RECEIVED**

## Baron and Baroness

Barons and baronesses are by far the most common nobility in the SCA. Barons and Baronesses may be Landed (ruling over a Barony) or Court (Awarded by the Crown.) Their coronets may be flat-topped or have points or pearls, or may have other distinctive shapes. There's even one shaped like a sea serpent. A landed baron or baroness will usually have the arms of the barony on their coronet. They may be addressed as “Your Excellency,” “His/Her Excellency,” “My Lord Baron,” “My Lady Baroness,” “Baron/Baroness (name).”

## Knights

Knights are peers of the realm. They have shown great skill in chivalric combat, and are knowledgeable in chess, dance, and the Courtly Graces. They have sworn fealty to the Crown. Knights can be identified by the white belt, spurs, and/or gold chains that they wear. Address them as “Sir,” “Sir Knight,” or “Sir (name.) For a female knight, “Dame” or “Dame (name)” can be used, but almost never is.

## Master-at Arms

A master-at arms is equal in every way to a knight, but for whatever reason has not sworn fealty to the crown. They wear a white baldric over the shoulder instead of the white belt. Call them “Master,” Master (name),” “Mistress,” or “Mistress (Name).”

## Master and Mistress

The other peers of the realm are Masters and Mistresses of the Laurel or of the Pelican. Laurels have shown excellence in an art or science, or, more often, several. They wear a medallion depicting a laurel wreath. Pelicans are awarded for prolonged and dedicated service to the Kingdom and the SCA in general. They wear a medallion depicting a pelican rending its breast. Both Laurels and Pelicans should also be knowledgeable in chess, dance, and the courtly graces, as are knights.

## Grant of Arms

A grant of arms is a mid-level award. It may be given for service (Star of Merit), Arts and Sciences (Iris of Merit), chivalric fighting (Centurion), rapier fighter fighting (White Scarf), or archery (Arcus Majoris). Holders of an Iris or Star of Merit, or an Arcus Majoris are referred to as “Honorable Lord/Lady,” or sometimes as “His/Her Lord/Ladyship.” Centurions are called “Centurion (name)”, and wearers of the White Scarf are called “Don/Donna (name).”

## Award of arms

The award of arms is the lowest level of award which carries a title. There are many different types of award of arms, too many to name them all here. The holder of an award of arms is rightfully addressed “Lord/Lady (name),” or “My Lord/Lady.”

Having said all this, most people will understand if you get confused about titles. If you have a problem keeping track of them all, just call everyone (except, hopefully, the King and Queen at least) “milord” and “milady”. Most people won't take offence.

# Who's That in the Hat?

## A Field Guide to Identifying Rank in the SCA

By Lord Pædric O'Mullan

Part of "playing the game" in the SCA is learning and using the "Courtly Graces", including knowing who is who and what to call them. All of these people have earned their titles, and some people take them very seriously.

### The Crown

The king and queen are, for six months, the sovereign rulers of the Kingdom. One of them earned the right to rule by winning a crown tournament. They may be identified by the crowns they are wearing, large brass crowns with ten-pointed black (sable) stars. They should be addressed as "Your Majesty," "Your Grace," or "Your Majesties." When talking **about** the King or Queen, call them "His /Her Majesty," "Their Majesties," or simply "The Crown."

### The Crown Prince and Princess

The Crown Prince and Princess are next in line for the throne. One of them was the winner of the most recent Crown Tournament. They may be identified by their coronets, which are not as tall as the King and Queen's, but have the same sable star. They will serve as Crown Prince and Princess for about three months, after which they will become King and Queen. For three months out of each reign there is no Crown Prince or Princess. They may be addressed as "Your Royal Highness," His Royal Highness," "Their Royal Highnesses."

### Duke and Duchess

A duke or Duchess has reigned as Crown two or more times. They wear coronets with groups of three strawberry leaves. They may be addressed as "Your Grace," "My Lord Duke," "My Lady Duchess," Duke/Duchess (Name).

### Earl or Count and Countess

Someone who has reigned as Crown once holds the title of Earl, Count, or Countess. They wear coronets with embattled or dovetailed projections. They may be called "Your Excellency," "His/Her Excellency." My Lord Earl/Count," My Lady Countess," or "Earl/Count/Countess (name).

### Viscount and Viscountess

Someone who reigns as a territorial Prince or Princess becomes a Viscount or Viscountess at the end of their reign. Although there are no Principalities in Ansteorra there have been and may still be some who have received the title in another Kingdom. Their coronets have one, four or six semi-circular projections along the top. They may be called "Your Excellency," "His/Her Excellency," "My Lord Viscount," "My Lady Viscountess."

### From the Rapier Marshal

Rapier practice will be moving back to TAMU beginning Thursday, September 3rd at 7 PM. Practices will be at Simpson Drill Field. New fighters and those interested in learning are more than welcome to attend. Several weeks into the semester I will be holding a series of introductory classes aimed at teaching new fighters the basics of rapier fighting within the SCA. If you are interested in these classes or interested in assisting with instruction, please contact me. I am also looking for a deputy to assist in the running of practice and to insure that a marshal is present at all practices, if you are interested in helping out in this manner, please contact me.

In Service,

*Connor MacGillivray*

Marshal, Shire of the Shadowlands

### From the Web minister

Greetings!

Welcome back!

For those of you who missed the history of the Shadowlands articles that Pædric did over the previous months, it is now posted, in its entirety, on the Shire web page (<http://shadowlands.ansteorra.org>). He has done a wonderful job of covering our entire history, including the times when our various historians and chroniclers have "lost" the records! Thank you Pædric for all your hard work in putting this together.

If you will be leading any guilds or practices in the coming months and would like your own web page, please contact me and we can make the appropriate arrangements. If you would like any meetings posted on the various group calendars, please contact me ([vs.shadowlands@gmail.com](mailto:vs.shadowlands@gmail.com)) and I will make sure that they are posted. Please send me the information at least 24 hours in advance to ensure I have time to post before your event.

If you have any pictures that you would like posted on the Shire's photo gallery, send them to me with a signed permission form (<http://chronicler.ansteorra.org/Forms/PubPerm.pdf>).

Thank you and I hope you have a great semester.

*Calan*

### From the Chronicler

Welcome to all our newcomers! Welcome back to everyone who was gone for the summer! This month's newsletter is aimed at helping the newcomers get assimilated (resistance is futile!) I hope everyone finds the information interesting and useful.

*Lord Pædric*

### From the Historian

Nothing much happened of historical significance in the past month. Ya'll go win some awards and championships.

*Lord Pædric*

# A Glossary of SCA Terms

Compiled by Lord Pádríc O'Mullan

**Attend** – listen up, be quiet and pay attention

**Autocrat** – see Event steward

**Bard** – someone who performs bardic

**Bardic** – Singing, storytelling, etc. (the performing arts)

**Barding** – what a well-dressed horse wears. Do not confuse this with bardic

**Barony** – a large local group headed by a Baron and/or Baroness

**Canton** a small local group under the supervision of a barony

**Chivalric combat** – combat by armored fighters, also called armored or heavy fighting

**Court** – a gathering at an event for the purpose of making announcements, giving recognition, etc. Usually held by the Crown, or in their absence, by another ranking noble

**Crown** – the King and Queen, or their hats

**Crown Prince/Princess** – the winner of the last crown tournament and his/her consort. After ~3 months as crown prince/princess, they will become crown

**Crown Tournament** – A tournament held twice a year to determine the heirs to the crown

**Event steward** – the person responsible for planning and organizing an event

**Feast** – a meal prepared by the group hosting an event. The feast fee is not usually included in the site fee

**Feast gear** – utensils for eating feast, usually at least a plate, bowl, cup, knife fork and spoon

**Feastocrat** – see feast steward

**Feast steward** – the person responsible for planning, organizing, and cooking a feast

**Garb** – period costume

**Gate** – where you check in and pay your fees. Sometimes called Troll

**Guild** – a group which gathers to study a specific aspect of medieval or SCA activity, e.g. dance, cooking, charter painting

# A letter from the Seneschal

By Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr

Greetings!

My name in the SCA is Rhodri ap Gwythyr. I am the seneschal of the Shire of the Shadowlands, which is where you now are. The seneschal of a group is the person who has overall responsibility for all the activities the group does.

The Society for Creative Anachronism is a very large organization. There are over 40,000 members with groups all over the United States, in Europe, Japan, and Australia. There is a governing educational non-profit corporation, SCA Inc., which provides the framework for all of us.

As part of an educational non-profit, we do not require membership in order to participate in our activities. However I strongly encourage everyone who decides to join us on a regular basis to become a member. An associate membership is only \$20 a year.

One of the benefits of membership is financial. When you go to events, (large gatherings of members for revels, tournaments, classes and competitions), non-members are charged an additional \$3 to attend. If you attend only seven events in a year, less than one a month, you will save money by becoming a member.

An even more important benefit is that you are supporting the organization that provides the legal framework and insurance for our activities. The corporation is a very necessary part of our ability to recreate history within the modern world. Without it, we could not manage to do all the fun things that we are able to do within the corporation.

The SCA is a great place to have fun, meet people, and become part of an organization that believes in personal honor, integrity, and chivalry. I welcome you to come participate in the many different things we do.

their efforts, as well. Often the crown will recognize everyone who is attending their first event (that's you). Courts can range in length from less than a half hour to several (!) hours, but most courts last about an hour or less.

Most, but not all, events include a Saturday evening feast for a reasonable price. There are usually a limited number of feast servings available. If they are sold out, or if you choose not to get the feast, you may have to drive into the nearest town to get something to eat. Or you can plan to cook for yourself.

If you do get the feast, you're likely in for a treat. Feasts vary widely, depending on the group, event, and feast steward (head cook). Feasts may be potluck, or served buffet style. More often the feast is served to you at table in several removes, each consisting of several dishes. There may be bread with cheese or flavored butters, one or more types of soup, and an assortment of meat dishes and vegetable dishes, with a final remove of one or more types of dessert. You may not like every dish you are served, but you are almost sure to find something you like.

After court and feast things usually start to wind down. People who day-tripped leave for home. Others will go to bed early. There may be assorted revels, drum circle/haflas, or bardic circles. There might be a ball, a torchlight tourney, or even a performance of a play. Some people will stay in their camps and play games, drink, or just sit and talk.

There's not usually much going on on Sunday mornings. Occasionally there are activities scheduled, or some of the fighters may do pick-up fights to improve their skills or face fighters they don't see very often. Most people will just eat breakfast, pack up and head for home, looking forward to a hot shower and a long nap.

Remember that the SCA is an educational organization. If you see anything that attracts your interest, feel free to ask questions. Don't be rude, but try not to be shy either. Everyone at every SCA event was once a newcomer and most will go out of their way to make you feel welcome, and to answer questions about what they are doing or what you have seen. The hard part is sometimes getting SCA people to stop talking about themselves and their interests.

This article describes the activities that may be found at a tournament event, probably the most common event type in the SCA. However, it is by no means the only type. There are melee events, where group combats are fought, and collegiums, where classes in arts and sciences, and sometimes combat skills are taught. There are balls, where music and dancing are the primary attraction. Most important, there are WARS, large, multi-kingdom events which general include just about every activity the SCA does.

**Herald** – a person responsible for disseminating information. May be speaking for the King at court, calling combatants to the list field, or making general announcements around site

**Heraldry** – The formalized system of colors and symbols originally used to identify fighters on the field of combat

**Hold** – stop what you are doing and freeze in place. There is, or may be a dangerous situation near or involving you. Most commonly heard on the list or melee field, but sometimes heard elsewhere.

**Kingdom** – the largest administrative group size in the SCA; kingdoms vary in size from part of one US state, to several states, to all of Europe. Each kingdom is ruled by a king and queen

**Lay on** – you may begin fighting now

**Lists** – tournaments, or the field on which they take place

**Mundane** – from the modern, everyday world

**Naked** – Not wearing garb at an event, i.e. wearing mundane clothes

**Ovez** – hey, listen to me, I'm about to make an announcement.

Usually said by a **herald**

**Period** – generally, the time period between 400AD and 1600AD, the time periods encompassed by the SCA

**Populace** – the combined membership of a group. Most local groups have populace meetings once a month. Not to be confused with the homonym populous, an adjective describing how many people there were (as in 'we had a very populous populace meeting, there were thirty people there.)

**Principality** – an administrative group smaller than, and encompassed by, a kingdom. A principality is ruled by a prince and princess, who are still subject to the king and queen

**Province** – a large local group, similar to a barony, but without a baron and baroness

**Rapier combat** – a late period combat form similar to modern fencing; also called light fighting

**Revel** – Party

**Seneschal** – the leader of a group within the SCA; a group's legal representative

**Shire** – a medium-sized local group

**Troll** – see **gate**

## A Who's Who of the Shire of the Shadowlands

This is not a complete listing of Shire membership, but covers the officers and most guild principals...

**Alfrun** is a Viking lass who recently took up the mantle of Shadowlands hospitaller. Her interests include dance, music, charter painting, and textile work. If she's at an event and it's before noon, she's probably still asleep. If it's after noon, she's probably taking a nap.

**Lord Bastian Eisengart** is an archery and chivalric marshal, an archer and chivalric fighter. Bastian is squired to Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr. He makes up for his inability to grow hair on top of his head by growing it extra long on the sides and back.

**Lady Brigid Cunningham** is a northern Irish musician. Her specialty is recorder and pennywhistle, but she also plays hammered dulcimer. She can be identified by her blue and white pennywhistle quiver, which she takes to most events. Brigid is both Minister of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) and Music Guild leader for the Shire of the Shadowlands. If one has an Arts and Sciences (A&S) question, she is the person to contact. If she doesn't know the answer, she will know who to ask and where to look. As a side note, she shares an apartment with the Dance Mistress (Lady Morina), so she can relay messages if Morina is unavailable.

**Lady Catan ingen Míchil** is a 9th century Irishwoman. Her interests include most crafts concerning yarn and thread, and she will readily teach inkle weaving, knitting and Kumihimo (Japanese braiding). She is also fascinated by all the techniques used in painting charters. She plays the recorder for dance practice and will often join the dancers for a whirl about the floor (bransles and Italian are her favorite). She keeps hoping someone will move into the Shire that knows how and is willing to teach Middle Eastern Dance.

Catan is the Treasurer and Web Minister for the Shire and will be in charge of the *Fall Ball - Take II (They're Small!)* that the Shire will be hosting in January 2010.

**Connor MacGillivray** is a courtier in the court of Elizabeth I and has holdings in Scotland, London and Germany. He frequently travels to various courts about Europe for both personal business and in service to his Queen. He prefers the relative comfort of travel over land than by ship and tends to travel in the company of ladies who require protection against the

still on SCA time), where the activities can be found and who is in charge of them, and any other needed information. If a fighter is to be knighted that day, it is often done in morning court so he can be announced in the tournament by his new title. Sometimes a few other awards may be given as well.

During the day there will be many things going on, often several at the same time. Typically, there is a chivalric tournament at the list field, followed by a rapier tournament. There may be an arts and sciences competition, at the main hall if there is one, or under a pavilion. Often there is an archery competition, in a location separated from the other goings-on, for obvious reasons. Sometimes there is a knife, ax, and spear, or "live weapons" competition. If there is to be a bardic competition, it may be during the day, during feast, or at a bardic circle during the evening.

Try to checkout as many of the activities and competitions as you can. The fighting is fun to watch, but there is so much else to see. Be sure to check out the entries in the A&S competition, beautiful items hand-made using period materials and methods. The archery and live weapons ranges often have loaner equipment, and may let you try your hand or even compete. If there are merchants, spend some time perusing their wares. Merchants often have useful items such as cups, feast gear, belts, and pouches at reasonable prices. They often have garb as well, but remember that you can make garb, or have it made for you, at a fraction of what the merchants charge.

If you want to get more involved, there are many ways you can help out. The tournaments always need list heralds. If you have a loud voice, you are perfect for the job. Just find someone who looks like they know what they are doing and volunteer. If they're not the right person, they can probably point you to someone who will be happy to teach you the basics, then coach and support you as you go along. If you like to meet new people, volunteer to help at the waterbearers' pavilion. These are the people who try to make sure everyone stays hydrated, a vital service on a warm day. If you like to cook, check with the kitchen. They can usually use an extra pair of hands.

In the afternoon, there is usually a lull in the activities, as everyone rests or gets ready for court. Court may be held before, during, or after feast, depending on the schedule and the preference of the Crown or other presiding nobles.

During court, the winners of the day's competitions are recognized. Local members and others may be called before the assembled court to receive awards for service or awards for skill in combat or the arts and sciences. The organizers of the day's event are usually thanked for

# What to Expect at Your First Event

By Lord Pædric O'Mullan

It's Friday. You made it through your last class of the week, and now it's time to go to your first SCA event. After loading up the car (don't forget your sense of adventure) and topping off the gas you're ready to hit the road.

After an hour, or two or three, and a wrong turn, or two or three (Google Maps is your friend) you arrive at the event site. Usually the first thing you'll see is a big tent or pavilion by the side of the road. If it is after dark the tent will probably be well-lit. This is the gate, where you will pay your site and/or feast fees. You should get a receipt, and you may also get a site token. Your first SCA doodad.

When you are through at gate, it is time to set up camp. If you are camping with a group, you look around to find where the earlier arrivals have set up, or if you are the first, you look for a space big enough to fit later arrivals. Pitch your tent, and then it's time for supper, unless you ate on the way.

Now it's time to put on some garb, explore, and maybe meet your neighbors. Remember, always ask permission before entering someone else's camp. Over here there's a group sitting under a pavilion drinking, talking, laughing, and having fun. It's a revel. Over there is a group around a campfire singing telling stories, reciting poems. They're having a bardic circle. In the distance you hear a drum. No wait drums. Several of them. Maybe there's Middle Eastern dancing. Maybe it's just noisy people with drums. You won't know 'til you get there. Finally, you find your way back to your camp. It's time for bed. You crawl into your tent, wishing the drums will stop. Eventually they will.

It's Oh-My-God-thirty in the morning, and some joker is standing right outside your tent yelling. "Oyez, oyez! Armor inspection is now open at the list field. Morning court will commence in thirty minutes!" Don't throw things at him. That's the site herald, announcing upcoming activities. Unless the herald says "now" take time announcements with a grain of salt. You're on SCA time. Morning court **may** be in thirty minutes. It may be in an hour and thirty minutes. More likely later than sooner. There's probably time for breakfast.

As you're finishing breakfast, the site herald comes by again. Morning court is about to begin. Time to grab a chair and head for the list field, find a spot near the main pavilion and watch court.

Morning court is mostly a time for announcements about the coming day: a tentative schedule of activities (remember that everything is

unsavory elements that all too often reside in low places. He is skilled at arms and practices often and is frequently called upon to lecture on the both the art of defense as well as on matters of comportment, that so often serve as a noble's shield in courtly matters. He is well versed in dance and etiquette, a scholar of the arts of war and governance and considers himself to be somewhat of a philosopher of natural science.

Within the SCA, Connor originally hails from the Kingdom of the East and is a member of their Royal Majesties Order of the Golden Rapier for his skill at instruction and his prowess with arms. He has previously served as master instructor at the Carolingian Academy of Defense and as a Lieutenant in the Gryffon Guard, before his relocation to the Kingdom of Ansteorra. He currently serves Ansteorra as Rapier Marshal for the Shire of the Shadowlands.

**Honorable Lady Isabelot di Forens** is the head of Shire's the cooking guild. She is also the Southern Regional Treasurer, and a churgeon at large.

**Mistress Kaitlyn McKenna** is the Shire's Staff Advisor at TAMU. She is also our resident Laurel, which means she is an excellent resource for arts & sciences questions. Kaitlyn is short and kind of bossy, but she means well. She is not a fighter, but is involved in most other aspects of the SCA. Her interests include costuming, weaving, fiber arts, dance, and anything to do with the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**Lady Morina Ó Donnábhain** is the shire Dance Mistress. She is also a musician and attends charter painting. According to her roommate, Morina "has blue eyes and large boobs."

**Lord Pædric O'Mullan** is a late Elizabethan street performer and sometime Shakespearean actor. He can usually be identified because he'll be wearing some combination of red, blue, and/or yellow, the colors of his arms. Pædric is the Chronicler and Historian for the Shire of the Shadowlands. His interests include (but are not limited to) Bardic (performance arts), Heraldry, calligraphy and illumination, pewter casting and drumming.

**Sir Rhodri ap Gwythyr** is the Seneschal of the Shire of the Shadowlands, as well as our local knight. He's easy to spot, as he towers over everyone else in the shire, and wears a white belt.

# What to Take to Your First Event

By Lord Pádric O'Mullan

It is possible to show up at an SCA event with nothing but a sense of adventure, and beg or borrow everything you need to get through the weekend. I wouldn't recommend it, but it's possible. That said, you don't really need a lot of stuff to have a good time.

One of the first rules of the SCA is that everyone attending an event must make an attempt to wear period costume, so the first thing you will need is garb. This need not be a complete Elizabethan outfit, or a perfect, documentably authentic 9<sup>th</sup> century Irish costume. If you can sew, and have access to a sewing machine, you can make a simple t-tunic in just a few minutes. A t-tunic, sweatpants, and sneakers will suffice for your first event. In fact, some people never advance beyond this basic garb. Another possibility is to check with the local Hospitaller. Most groups have a Hospitaller's chest of loaner garb. You can usually make **advance arrangements** to borrow garb, either from the local Hospitaller, or from the Hospitaller of the group hosting the event.

The next thing you'll need is some kind of cup. A plain ceramic coffee cup will work, or you can check at a second hand shop for a pewter, tin, or ceramic tankard or goblet. You will also probably want to bring basic feast gear, such as a plate, bowl, and silverware. A dollar store plate and bowl and mismatched silverware will do.

Bring an ice chest if you can, stocked with bottled water and whatever else you might want to drink (please no alcohol if you are under 21). Don't forget something to eat. Many events serve a Saturday evening feast for an additional fee, but for breakfast and lunch you'll be on your own.

You will probably want something to sit on. A wood and canvas folding director's chair is period, (more or less) but if you don't have one any folding lawn or camp chair will do. A big pillow, blanket, or even a towel is better than sitting on the bare ground.

Bring sunscreen.

That covers the very basics for a day trip event in fair weather. If you plan to camp, or if the weather might not be great, you'll need some other stuff.

If you are planning to camp, you'll need camping stuff. Duh. A tent, bedding, flashlight, etc. Bring toiletries, such as soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant. If you can, find out if the site has running water. If it doesn't, bring enough water for cooking, cleaning etc. Always bring a towel. Bring toilet paper, just in case. Mosquito repellent might also come in handy.

If it is going to be cold or rainy, you will probably want a cloak. If you don't have a cloak (and I know few people do at their first event) bring a blanket to wrap up in. Bring some extra warm clothes, such as a long johns or a sweat suit, which you can wear under your garb. If nothing else, a modern mundane jacket is better than frostbite. If it might rain, bring an umbrella. It may not be period, but it will keep the rain off.

Don't forget to take any medications you might need, especially allergy meds, asthma inhaler, bee sting kit, etc. Most SCA events are held outdoors in a nature setting. Ibuprofen or Tylenol is probably a good idea.

You might want to bring something to help pass the time. Some possibilities include: an embroidery project, knitting, juggling balls or pins, musical instruments, or period games such as chess, checkers, penté or mancala.

If you like photography, take your camera. You're sure to find something to take pictures of. Plus, it will make it easier to explain the SCA to your parents and mundane friends.

Most important, be sure to take your sense of adventure. It may be hot and steamy or cold and rainy, but with a sense of adventure, you'll have fun no matter what happens.

# Poetry Corner

A song in honor of Duke Ulsted the Unsteady, four time King of Ansteorra and a former Shadowlander.

## The Ballad of Ulsted the Unsteady

By Lord Pádric O'Mullan

People let me tell you 'bout the Knight Ulsted  
He's earned a lot of honors but they don't go to his head.  
One day while he was out earning fame and great renown,  
Sir Ulsted the Unsteady won the Ansteorran Crown!

Royal, that is.  
Black Star  
Majesty.

Well the next thing you know Ulsted's upon the throne,  
His lady wife Cateau she got a title of her own.  
A lady of such grace the Known World had seldom seen,  
Cateau d'Ardenes became the Ansteorran Queen.

Fancy Chairs,  
Big Brass hats.

Then Ulsted sought to prove that it wasn't just a fluke,  
So he won the Crown again, that's how he became a duke.  
And then somebody told him that the third time was the hardest,  
So he won another Crown to make a Queen of Ebergardis.

One King, two Roses.  
That's a bouquet.

Well, thank you all for listening, my song is nearly done.  
I hope it wasn't boring, and I hope you had some fun.  
But even if you didn't, then I hope you learned one thing:  
For Ulsted the Unsteady it was good to be the King!

Long live Duke Ulsted!  
Bye-bye now.