

Tales from the Mist

Website: www.sca-wintermist.org
Also look for us on FACEBOOK

FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings Wintermistians

As we start the New Year I've been re-familiarizing myself with my duties as a seneschal. My job not only encompasses the responsibilities that are obvious such as: warranting officers, running meetings, and over-seeing the running of events, I also have the duty of settling disputes. Now what exactly qualifies as a dispute? An example would be an issue that involves another shire member which can't be handled through civil means. Whenever you have a large group of people that come together at any given time, people invariably will misunderstand one another, or have a conflict of interests, that's just the way it is. When this happens, it's up to you to determine whether or not the issue is worth pursuing. Sometimes letting something go, and sleeping on it, will lessen the impact of such an event, and you can begin to look at the problem with a clearer head. If however the issue becomes something that needles at you and you find that you simply can't move on, that's when it's appropriate to call me. It happens, such things should not deter you from enjoying your hobby, so let me handle it, because it's my job. But try to remember that we are a society that's foundation is based on courtesy, chivalry and honor, learn to identify when conflicts start to arise, because most of the time it's just two people with a difference of opinion. Stay away from issues you know are sensitive for some people, such as religion, and politics. We can avoid a lot of conflicts if we all just took some time to listen and learn to curb our natural knee jerk reactions. Feel free to call or email me at any time however, I'm always willing to listen, give advice, and strive for a solution.

~THLady Kali Raqs Xahar

FROM THE CHRONICLER

The question was asked on our Facebook group regarding some of the requirements for submitting pictures/photos to the newsletter, mainly when a Model Release Form is needed. This has been a question for many territorial chroniclers and can be a bit confusing to understand. A lot of rules have been put in place because of various law suits over the years that the SCA has had to handle and therefore new rules were created to protect our group from these suits.

I looked back over all the discussion among the territorial chroniclers and the kingdom chronicler from a while ago when the question had come up. What was determined was that the medium in which the newsletter is printed defines what requirement is needed.

- **Printed Newsletters:** a newsletter that is to be printed to create a hard copy requires that any photo in which a person's facial features are identifiable, i.e. not covered by veil, helm, shadowing or other means, *must* be accompanied by a SCA Model release form, regardless of where the picture was taken. The reason for this is that once printed, the newsletter cannot be unprinted.
- **Electronic Newsletters:** electronically published newsletters, however, are a little less strict because the photos can be removed upon request. However there are still *some* restrictions just to be on the safe side. In the case of electronically printed publications, an SCA Model release form is needed if the photo is a portrait style of a person *and* taken in a private venue or a private space, aka camp. Portrait-style refers to a picture where a person or small group of people are the subject of the photograph. Beyond these requirements the only other requirement is that no children's faces are allowed to be shown in any published newsletter, whether electronic or in print.

For Tales from the Mist, I follow the rules for Printed Newsletters because I *do* print hard copies for those who have difficulty accessing the newsletter online. Regardless of the model requirements, all photos and creative works need to be accompanied by a release from the contributor.

~Lady A'isha al-Raqqasa

CAID CALENDAR

- Jan 12: Angels Melee
- Jan 17: Winter Weekend, Calafia
- Jan 19: Unbelted Tournament, Gyldenholt
- Feb 2: Filthy Dirty Collegium, Isles
- Feb 2: Poll na Gainmhe Anniversary, Calafia



WINTERMIST CALENDAR

- Jan 4: Brewers FM
 - Jan 9: Shire Business Meeting Tony's Pizza on Mt. Vernon Ave 7:00 pm
 - Jan 12: Leatherworkers FM
 - Jan 15: Fiber Arts/aka String FM
 - Jan 19: Woodworkers FM
 - Jan 24: Bardic Practice
 - Jan 29: Illumination FM
 - Jan 31: Newsletter Articles Due
 - Sundays at 10 am Fighter Practice at Patriot's Park
 - Thursdays at 5pm: Sewing Circle
- (FM=Fellowship Meeting)

January Herald's Report FROM SOW TO POW- MORE THAN A NAME CHANGE

At this month's council meeting the membership will be asked to petition the Royals and the Kingdom to change our status from the Shire of Wintermist to the Province of Wintermist. This is more than just a name change and the reason I stated the "membership" and not the "populace" is because you have to be a member of the SCA to vote on this issue. To help you understand the issue is I will explain what we have been and currently are and what we might become.

In 1988 a group of people met in Bakersfield and decided to form a chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. This group was led by former society members who had come to this area and wished to continue the game they enjoyed. As it turned out a group (shire) had existed here but had gone dormant (Darkwell). With the new blood the Kingdom allowed us to activate as the Shire of Wintermist.

The regulations in Corpora for a shire require a minimum of six members, officers including at least a seneschal, herald and/or marshal or exchequer approved by the Kingdom, registered name and device for the group and to run at least three events a year (one of the events may include a council meeting). Since this group is so small it does not have a ceremonial representative (Baron &/or Baroness) and cannot give out awards to its members. Over the past 24 years we have prospered to the stage we are at now. Our membership now numbers over 50, we have a full slate of officers and we have a history of successful events- Knewbie Knockabout has run for over 20 years as an example. We have also hosted Kingdom level events through the years the latest being Crown Tourney last year. At different times in the past we have hosted Coronations as well as Collegiums successfully.

We are a unique jewel in the Crown of Caid in that we have not advanced beyond the status of shire. Whether that is because of our individualistic natures or in spite of it is not to be debated here. What is clear is that no individual or couple has garnered the support of the populace to be selected as the ceremonial heads of the political unit known as the Shire of Wintermist and to change that to the Barony of Wintermist. A viable solution to this has turned up that gets us equality with the baronies in the kingdom without the ceremonial head- to form a Province.

Province: equivalent of a barony without the ceremonial representative. (Corpora, page6)

The requirements for a province are six and are listed in Corpora on page 7, part 5.

- At least 25 sustaining members.
- A full list of officers acceptable to the Crown
- Name and device registered with the College of Heralds
- A history of activity and events
- To successfully run Kingdom level events
- Consensus favoring advancement in a petition to the Kingdom.

Wintermist has met five of the six requirements to form a Province. What we are now asking the members is if they wish to advance to the next level. At the officers' meeting we decided this is a win-win situation for our group. Becoming a Province sheds the "little" title of being a shire and gains parity with the baronies. This rewards us for having the membership and abilities we have so amply demonstrated over the years. A Province is a unique situation in the SCA- at this time there are only six in existence and none in Caid. (The book of Kingdom Law will have to be amended). And for those who are worried if the Province cannot be sustained the worst that would happen is that we are returned to shire status. Without the ceremonial head we still cannot give awards but we still have our Companies and Guilds to give acknowledgements as we presently do.

We are as big, or bigger, than some baronies in this Kingdom, let us now receive the equality our size and efforts deserve.

~Master Manus leDragonier,
Wintermist Pursuivant

Want to submit an article but don't know what to write? Research an aspect of history and tell us about it!

FELLOWSHIP OF THE STRING

I have decided that unless someone else wants to step in, then I will continue to be the chancellor for the fiber arts fellowship, but I am asking the members for feedback. What would you like to do? Would you like to meet more or less often? Perhaps change the day of the meeting? See our group page and leave your answer there for me. If there are not too many responses, I most likely will cut back to a quarterly meeting. Meanwhile the January meeting will take place at Lord Bolo's house as usual. I would like to play around with the technique of naalbinding aka Norse knitting. This technique uses a large tapestry style needle in which one can create fabric through a series of knots. Historical pieces have actually been mistaken for crocheting and knitting. Come join us if you would like to learn more!

~Lady A'isha al-Raqqasa

FROM THE CHATELAINE

Greetings from your Deputy Chatelaine!

I have an idea for a project I would like to undertake, which I feel would greatly help in the job of recruiting newcomers. I need your help to make it happen. I want to create a book of common personas which would include pictures of people in garb, as well as some information about the type of persona shown. In order to do this, I need people with well developed and researched personas to volunteer a little bit of their time. I would need some specific information on your persona such as your geographical information, time period, socioeconomic class, and the names of your garb pieces. After we have had a chance to look over the information, Lord Miklos and I will be setting up times to take photographs of you in your garb with all your accessories to include in the book. Not only would you be doing a good deed by helping out our recruitment efforts, you get a nice professional portrait of yourself in garb in exchange for your time! If you would like to help with this project, please submit persona information to me in person, by email or in the Facebook group as soon as possible, so we can get this project rolling. Thanks for your time!

~Piroska Miklosne

Know how to draw, or are you good at doodling? Next time submit something and fill this space with art!

ILLUMINATION FELLOWSHIP

Illuminations will be having a beginners' scroll/calligraphy class Tuesday 29th starting about 6:30 PM, at my home (see Lady Kat or Lady A'isha for contact info). If you have artist supplies, please bring them, although I do have a limited amount of paint/brushes/paper to share. The class will cover beginners' initial needs re paints/brushes/paper etc. Take the scare out of the scroll, come find out a few whys and wherefores. It isn't nearly as hard as it looks. If you enjoy creating and have an artistic bent, come on over. If you just want to hang out, that's OK too. The more the merrier. If you want to purchase supplies before coming, check out Michaels or Beverly's for gouache paint. Any paper purchased should be a vellum finish and acid free. Strathmore does a Windpower Vellum Bristol pad. Check on-line re discount coupons and save some money. A small pack of the finer headed nylon/acrylic brushes for about \$5 will start you off until you decide which sizes suits your style.

~Lady Katherine of Hornechurch

CLOTHIER'S FELLOWSHIP

Greetings Clothiers and all interested people!

The last Thursday of the month, the 28th I will be holding the chair cover class. Learn how to cover that modern camp chair to make your encampment look less modern. Bring paper or material to draw out your pattern. 4-5 yards is plenty, and if you want a more accurate pattern bring your camp chair as well.

I hope to see lots of you there. Also, for anyone interested in working on a project we have open sewing nights on Thursdays at Stacey's house. Ask on the facebook page for the address if you don't have it.

In the continuing effort to have loner garb that is suitable and fits adults, our company of Clothiers has offered to make one item a month as long as we get donations of fabric. 3-4 yards will make a tunic. So clean out those bins and do something nice for the Shire! You may bring any fabric donations you have to any of the business meetings.

~YIS, Estrith Rasmusdatter

Arts & Science Categories:

January:

Jewelry

Surface Decoration

February:

Armor

Compositional

MARI'S INTRO TO THE SCA

It was two years ago, almost exactly. I had just returned from winter break a few days ago when I heard about WinterCon from my friends. It was a gaming convention. I had always wanted to go to one of those events, but being a shy person I found it hard to start. I looked at the list of events with my boyfriend at the time. "Hey look! Make your own chainmail dice bags at 9 am. I want to go do that!"

So instead of going to one of the game tables first thing in the morning, we headed up to get our token then down the stairs into the craft room at the University Union. Sitting at a bench was a man wearing a tunic, taking apart a large chainmail shirt with pliers into medium sized squares. There were a few other people there as well, some in similar renaissance-fair clothing. They were all talking about armor and the different types of chainmail when my friends and I sat down.

I didn't know where to start but the man who was taking the chainmail shirt apart set down the shirt and helped us start our dice bags. We each had a set of pliers and worked on putting all the little rings back together. It was a rather simple design but still time consuming to add just a few lines. I asked him where the chainmail shirt came from that he was taking apart. He mentioned that he had made it many years ago for "garb" and that it was already falling apart. Why not use it for something else?

I sat there working on my dice bag for a good hour. By that time one of my friends had gone up to join a different game. My boyfriend was still there, and we asked the man his name and if there was anything else he was doing that day. He mentioned his name was Jed and that he was going to also help people make vambraces as well as give instructions that afternoon on how to make mead. He was waiting for his wife to come down from manning their table up in the main hall before he started with the vambraces. By that point I was hooked on this craft thing. I waited until I could see this wife of his. I expected someone older and tall and perhaps on the larger side.

And then she came downstairs, all bouncy and excited. Rosie was her name and she was young and cheery. She had found more leather strips for lacing material, and had put away some of the display... whatever that was. I spent most of the morning up till early afternoon with them before I asked : How do you know all this stuff? And where did you get those clothes?

"The SCA. It stands for the Society of Creative Anachronism. It's a non-profit historical society where we try to learn about the Middle Ages in not just the history but the crafts, people, and fighting of the time period."

Now, I had always had a delight for medieval history. Not as a major study, but just the romanticized ideals. Rosie then went on to explain that she had made the clothes herself and it was part of her persona. Jed also had made his clothes as a part of his Anglo-Saxon persona, which we later found out was called Godric. After the vambrace class, we offered to help Rosie bring things up to her booth that we had previously missed. She let us, and we went to go see it.

It was nothing more than a few long tables opened up. But there were things on it. A lot of things: a polished helmet, some gauntlets, a rattan sword and a handmade forged short sword. There was a beautiful bow there as well, pictures in a photo book of people fighting, along with food and crafts. She also had beautiful framed calligraphy, one with her arms on it. Later I found out it was her Pelican Award. There were more items, such as cutlery made in period style but I have forgotten a lot of it. But I couldn't help but look at the armor. Rosie told us to wait a moment and she'd show us her armor. We looked at the various items on the table while she went to change.

She was wearing a beautiful white brocade dress before, but now she was totally different. She had gotten into her armor, which was in my eyes, beautiful. It was a golden lamellar coat in the Moorish horseman style, with leather bazubands and hidden leg armor held with wool wrapping. She had two clam gauntlets and showed us how she fought with a glaive. I was enchanted. Here was an organization where you can do beautiful art, read books, learn crafts, cooking, singing, dancing, and fighting. And if you do all of those things, no one will bat an eye.

They invited me over to fighter practice that Saturday in Pismo Beach. Jed's knight (who lived two and a half hours away) was going to be there and so were other members of this organization. It was made clear that we were more than welcome if we wanted to go.

I went. Jed and Rosie are now some of my dearest friends in the world. I met so many wonderful people in the SCA so far, and I know I will meet many more. This was only possibly because of two very friendly people who went out of their way to interest and welcome new people. This is the beginning of my 3rd year having known of the SCA. I am so glad that they did.

-Mari inghean Cuan

Don't know what to submit? Do like Mari did—write up your first intro to the SCA

Wintermist Officers



Seneschal: THL Kali Raqs Xahar email: seneschal@sca-wintermist.org
Deputies: THL Tahira Al-Fahida and Lord Gwyon Pengrych



Arts & Science: Lord Da'ud ibn Ma'bad email: arts@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy A & S: Lord Bolo Longcaster & THL Galen de Leon



Chatelaine: Lady Elena verch Gwalchmai
Deputies: Piroška Miklosne



Chirurgeons in Training: Mihr of Wintermist & Jani Shirazi



Chronicler: Lady A'isha al-Raqqasa email: chronicler@sca-wintermist.org



Constable: Lord Johnathon Sawyer



Exchequer: Sunnifa Jonsdotir email: exchequer@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: Mari Inghean Cuan



Herald: Master Manus le Dragonier email: herald@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: a Flourish of Heralds



List Mistress: THL Katherine of Hornechurch email: lysts@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: Lord Lothar von Schwartzschild



Marshal: THL Ketill Olafsson email: marshal@sca-wintermist.org
Deputy: Lord Johnathon Sawyer



Webwright: Lord Miklos Bako
Deputy: Kinson Ravenlock



Current Champion of
Wintermist and Protector of
the Flock



Lord Alexander Æthewulf

Photo by A'isha

Articles should be submitted to the chronicler, either in person or by e-mail (chronicler@sca-wintermist.org), and non-officer related articles should be accompanied by a media release form to allow permission to publish in Tales from the Mist. "Tales from the Mist" is created using MS Publisher templates. This month's template is called "Seasonal".

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