

Newsletter of the Barony of Politarchopolis

GRIFINTAYLE



Griffintayle is published by and for the Barony of Politarchopolis. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism and does not delineate SCA policy. Griffintayle is produced by Alexandra Rapp, 43 Kinsella St Higgins ACT 2615. Griffintayle has an email version available. Secure your postal copy by subscription - \$8.00 per year. Baronial Homepage: <http://www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis>

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOV	24 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & Benevolence Crusade	25	26	27 & ƿ ƿ	28 ✠ ƿ ƿ	29	30 The Hunt and The Feast
	31 ✠ E ƿ ƿ &	1	2	3 & ƿ ƿ	4 ✠ ƿ ƿ	5 Spring Crown	6 Spring Crown
	7 IKAC ✠ E ƿ ƿ & Spring Crown	8	9	10 & ƿ ƿ	11 ✠ ƿ ƿ	12 Casual War	13 Casual War
DEC	14 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & Casual War	15	16	17 & ƿ ƿ	18 ✠ ƿ ƿ	19	20 Festival Site Prep
	21 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & Festival Site Prep	22	23	24 & ƿ ƿ	25 ✠ ƿ ƿ	26	27
	28 ✠ E ƿ ƿ &	29	30	1 & ƿ ƿ	2 ✠ ƿ ƿ	3	4
	5 IKAC ✠ E ƿ ƿ & Potluck Picnic	6	7	8 & ƿ ƿ	9 ✠ ƿ ƿ	10	11

See overleaf for legend

Other Upcoming Events:

30th October – The Hunt and The Feast
 5th-7th November – Spring Crown (Auckland)
 12th – 14th November – Casual War II

20th-21st November Festival Site Prep
 5th December - Potluck Picnic & Lazy Games Day
 28th – 30th January – St Blasius Weekend (TBC)

Please check all details are correct and contact the Chronicler to correct any errors. "Griffintayle" is published monthly, editions are printed the weekend following the Baronial Meeting. It is distributed in print and electronic forms. All submissions need to be received by the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month for general and event notices, Officers Reports by the Thursday evening of the Baronial Meeting. This is the November edition for 2004.

Politar chopolis Regnum

SCA Politar chopolis, PO Box 1294, Belconnen ACT 2617 Email politar chopolis@sca.org.au
To subscribe to the Politar chopolis email list, go to <http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/polit>

Please see elsewhere on this website for Regnum details

Regular Meetings

♥ **Baronial Meetings:** the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Check with the Seneschal for location.

⚔ **Baronial fighter practice:** Sunday: from 2:00 pm at Haig Park, O'Connor near scout hall, Fencers and heavies welcome. Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm, at Mawson Oval.

E **Rapier practice:** Sundays, starting at 1.30 pm at Haig Park O'Connor.

↘ **Archery practice:** Sundays, 10:00 till 12:00 at Tuggeranong Archery Club, Western end of Soward Way, Tuggeranong. Cost 5 gold to non TAC members Range fees to TAC members. Thursday Twilight Archery from 5:30pm also at Tuggeranong Archery Club.

& **Arts and Sciences:** Sundays - after fighter practice, same location. Wednesday - between 12:30 and 3:00pm at the Mummery. Contact the Seneschal for location details and to confirm the session is on.

δ **Guild Sunday** – every 3rd Sunday of the month. Details vary – contact A&S Minister for details.

♪ **Choir Practice:** 1st Sunday of each month, 1pm, Haig Park. Contact Crispin Sexi for details jaysen@au1.ibm.com or Ph: 6241 0919.

✂ **Stitch and Bitch:** 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at the A&S Ministers house from 7pm (southside), 2nd Thursday at the Baroness's from 7pm (northside), the 4th Thursday will run in concert with The College A&S meeting. If there are 5 Thursdays in a month the 4th will also be at the Baroness's residence and 5th will be with The College. See Regnum and below for address details.

✂ **College A&S:** Thursdays, 6pm, Room G30 in the Copeland building, ANU.

⚔ **Baronial Dance Classes:** 2-4 pm Sundays at the Scout Hall, Haig Park, Turner

✂ **Scriptoria:** Held by the College of Scribes every 2nd Saturday of the month from 1:30-4:30pm. The site does change, so contact the local Warden, Lady Morag Freyzer at Raven's Nest for details. Peynters and Limmers welcome too.

✂ **Mid week Boffer and A&S meeting:** Every Wednesday 3.30 - 5.00pm. Room 3 of the Tuggeranong Community Centre Cowlshaw Street, Greenway. Please check the notice board on entry as meeting may have been moved to a different room - will be under House Anaticula (SCA)

Upcoming Events

Casual War II

When: 6pm 12th to 14th November 2004.

Where: Innabanya Girl Guides Camp, Majura Road, Majura ACT.

Cost: Full weekend Rates (both days and feast), no accommodation \$20, Camping \$30 (tents can be hired on site), Cabin \$37 (max 20 people in 6 bunk style rooms). Day Rates, Sat/Sun \$7 etc, Feast \$7, Children 10 and under free of charge, under 16 ½ price. All bookings to the Steward.

Steward: Baron Stephen Aldred
(hunts@home.com.au)

Come for the warfare and stay for the pyjama party. There are rumblings of discontent and Politarchopolis is coming under siege from foreign forces. These armies must be repulsed by forces loyal to Politarchopolis. We promise you will have a fun day of warfare on Saturday with fortress, field, bridge and woods battles. The order of battle will be decided by the fortunes of war and game-play. The attackers win if they can take the Baronial seat (siege engines encouraged).

Site opens at 6pm Friday with a soup kitchen from 7pm. 8:30pm the generals (and their advisors) meet to determine the mornings encounters. Saturday is WAR DAY followed by the feast and pyjama party (with back to back Lord of the Rings DVD's). Sunday will involve archery, heavy and rapier tourney's followed by A&S and dance classes.

Potluck Picnic & Lazy Games Day

When: Starts 11am, 5th December 2004.

Where: TBA

Cost: Your potluck dish and a donation for the Baronial bits box.

Autocrat: Darby de Askote (Alinta Brown)

alinta@hotmail.com

Ph: (02) 6161 7734, Mob: 0421 045 472

The sun is out, summer is here and Yule approaches. Come celebrate the coming of midsummer with a lazy day outside under the shade of tall wide trees. Come share your prosperity with the barony by bringing with you a dish to share. On offer will be races and games, boffer tourney, and an open list field for any who choose to challenge another. A lounging pavilion will also be provided for those that find watching such activities exhausting. Board games, cards or books of hours decidedly welcome.

A&Sish Competitions:

Food - If you wish your potluck dish can be judged (and nothing rhymes with judged!)

Pillow – best pillow for the lounging pavilion (either your own or brought for others comfort)

Note: Plans for this event are still in the making. If you wish to set up a stall, stage a mummer's play; donate a pavilion, a pile of carpets and cushions, or banners; or even run a tourney, please contact me.

St Blasius Weekend

Proposed Event, not confirmed.

When: 28th to 30th January 2005.

Where: TBA

Cost: TBA

Autocrat: Crispin Sexi

More details to be listed when available.

Events Elsewhere

November Crown Tourney "Spring Crown"

Who: The Barony of Ildhafn (Auckland, NZ)

When: Friday 5th to Sunday 7th November 2004

Times: Site opens 3pm Friday, closes 4pm Sunday.

Where: Camp Adair, Auckland, New Zealand.

The population of Gottmark find themselves in the grip of a fierce and dark winter. Floods and earthquakes in Ildhafn lands followed by Antarctic storms in Southron Gaard while in the middle of our winter-ravaged country the sturdy Dartonians battle winds and rain and the ever-present awareness of nature. A bleak time for the whole country in deed.

Yet through the darkness the anticipation of a great event spreads light on the cold and rain sodden population.

Spring Crown, Spring Crown, Spring Crown.

From all over the country the tireless work to prepare for the first Crown Tourney to be fought in Gottmark in the Kingdom of Lochac. New banners and clothes are made, food is created and tested. Indeed a good time to work indoors during the cold dark months. As the artists create their wonders the theme of High Medieval France is foremost in the workers mind as they prepare themselves and their land for this great event.

The fine Barony of Ildhafn would like to invite the populace of Lochac to attend this great event. There will be many and varied activities and entertainments apart from the tourney itself and the grand victory feast.

A market has been organised as well as Arts and Sciences tournaments and displays, rapier combat, a cook's guild competition and more opportunity to do battle that you can shake a stick at. During the event Ildhafn will farewell a Baron and Baroness and a new pair will be invested.

The event is held secluded in the hills of Hunua south of Auckland. The weather promises to be warm, even if there is a potentially a little warn rain. The grounds are looking good and the tourney field promises to be firm.

To book for this splendid event check our website for a booking form.

www.ildhafn.sca.org/crowntourney

To contact the steward: crown@ildhafn.sca.org

or 021-303-553 or post your completed booking form to Robyn Guy, PO Box 11-593, Manners Street, Wellington.

Yours In Service
Lady Sancha da Sylva
Darton

Rowany Baronial Investiture and Yule Feast

Who: The Barony of Rowany (Sydney, NSW)
When: December 10 to 12 2004-11-01
Where: Heathcote Scout Camp, Heathcote
Time: From 6.30pm Friday the 10th.

Come celebrate the end of an era and the start of a new one at the stepping down of Corin and Keridwen as Baron and Baroness of Rowany, and the stepping up of Hrothgar and Helene, by the hands of Draco and Serena, King and Queen of Lochac. And a lot of other fun things too.

The weekend includes:

Friday night: Ball and Gaming as well as Buffet supper.

Saturday: Roman Games (with archery, pilum tossing, chariot racing, plumbata and armoured footracing). On-the-spot A&S competitions, we give you the materials, two hours later we judge your piece. An open-air feast and Courts of Devestiture and Investiture (with food served throughout), Traditional Yule Entertainment (Green Man, Boar's Head, who knows - maybe even Sun Onna Stick Players), A&S competitions, and Dancing.

Sunday: Heraldic Heavy Tourney and Light Tourney (yes, in armour) and Rapier Tourney (Lists open 9am; Tourney Starts 9:30, Round Robin tourney). Plus closing Court with the announcement of Baronial Champions.

Camping and bunks are available, with breakfasts in the mornings. NB bunks are only available if we get more than 30 bunk bookings by Dec 3, so if you want one, book one now!

Prices:

Camping flat rate, includes breakfasts: \$19
Bunking flat rate, includes breakfasts: \$33
(camping and bunking free for 5 and under)

Feast attendance ONLY: booked by 3/12 \$20
members/\$22 non-members, at the door \$23/\$25

Full weekend (Ball, lunches, feast) booked by 3/12 \$35
members/\$39 non-members, at the door \$38/\$42

Under 16 half price; five and under free.
Hardship cases will be considered.

Bookings to: bethan@sca.org.au

Or

Bethan of Brockwood (Sasha Curthoys)
11 Palace St
Ashfield NSW 2131
02 9716 5643

Out-of-towners, please contact me if you need help getting from the airport to and from the site.

Bethan of Brockwood

Steward of Rowany Yule

Stowe Faire

Who: Stowe on the Wowld (Western Sydney, NSW)
When: February 4 to 6 2005

Where: Austral Girl Guides Camp, Cnr 4th and 12th Avenue, Austral, Sydney.

Cost: \$45 mem/\$50 non-mem until 1 January 05, \$55/\$60 until week before, \$70 everyone unbooked. Please contact the steward for Day and Family rates.

Stowe on the Wowld invites one and all to a 2-day Faire. Come for the tourney, collegia, merchants, dancing, feasting and any other things we can come up with. Feel free to contact the stewards with ideas for collegia - what you can run or what you would like to run and if you would like to merchant on the weekend.

The event is fully catered from Friday night until Sunday lunch. Bring camping gear, some dorms are available however they are first come first served. Tent space available.

Caspian d'Navarre

02 9863 5868 or squire_caspin@hotmail.com

Estrella War XXI

Who: The Kingdom of Atenveldt
When: February 16 to 21 2005

Where: Phoenix, Arizona USA

The sunshine and warmth of Atenveldt beckons. Royalty, fighters, families, artisans all, are invited to our annual Estrella War held on February 16-21 2005. We are proud to feature some of the best classes, fighting, shopping and fun in the Knowne Worlde and an atmosphere that is truly becoming of The Dream. The war will be at Estrella Mountain

Regional Park located in Goodyear, Arizona. Site opens February 16 at 7am for pre-registered, noon for non-registered.

All other information and a complete list of war staff can be found at our website www.estrellawar.org

Please address all other enquiries to Lady Giliana Spencer de Windermere (Jamie Heier), email: GilianaSCA@yahoo.com, 480-614-0295 (Executive Assistant EWXXI)

Rowany Festival

When: 24-29 March 2005

Where: Crossroads Medieval Village, Sheldrick's Lane, Yass NSW.

www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival

Bookings: Keridwen the Mouse (Janelle Heron) PO Box 603, Strathfield NSW 2135

Steward: Bliss of Teine (Narelle Griffin)

festivalsteward@sca.org.au

Known World Dance Symposium 5

When: 2nd - 5th July 2005.

<http://www.sca.org.au/kwds/>

Note that this will incorporate next year's Bal d'Argent.

More details when available.

Officers Reports

Baron and Baroness

Greetings unto the populace of Politarchopolis,

Alas, the Baron no longer has his ballista! After journeying northward to the Barony of Mordenvale for Spring War, and southwards to the Shire of Bordescores for the Benevolence Crusade, which provided many targets, he has, err, gone ballistic in the promoting and providing of siege weaponry throughout Lochac. Both events were, of course, highly enjoyable and We encourage you to consider wayfaring to these events next year.

Again Edmondo did show his face at the Hunt as he and the peasants faced off against our loyal Baron Edmund who did bravely lead the noble forces. 'Beware the peasants, for they are revolting!' quoteth Edmund as the noble forces did retreat when attacked. Even as Edmund and Edmondo did confront each other during the evening, Our loyal huntsmen did present the bear as a tribute whilst We feasted.

We have hunted, but now We go to war! Casually of course, as does befit the lethargy that the summer months bring. We look forward to seeing the many forces of the Barony arrayed in fine spectacle at Casual War II.

Whilst the Baronial bits box is only *almost* empty, We ask for donations to refill it. For those who are unfamiliar with the use of these items, they given as gifts, thank yous and sometimes as prizes. As a guide to the types of items that are appropriate, we would suggest considering what you would like to receive.

Yours in Service,

Leta, Baroness

Edmund, Baron.

Seneschal

Greetings all

As the year winds down the Barony is keeping up a busy pace with events to round out October, Casual War in November and the picnic in December. As Their Majesties will be attending the War you should give some thought to making recommendations to the Crown.

We also need to prepare for the beginning of the new mundane year. So far we have bids for Valentines and St Blasius. Please think about what events you might like to run in the first half of 2005. We are seeking event stewards and bids for the Baronial tenth birthday and expressions of interest for 12th night.

As ever there are vacant offices - Hospitaller remains vacant and we may be losing our lists mistress. Please think about holding office as the Barony cannot run without volunteers who make it possible for us all to play.

Yours in Service
Stephen**M**arshal

Greetings once again,

With Spring War behind us and many memories of enjoyable battle to warm our hearts and bring a gleam to our eye it is time to look to Casual War which will soon be upon us. I would like to once again ask that anyone who wishes to run a fighting event or who has an idea for running one please contact me if I can help in any way.

Call For Armour

My thanks to Viscount Sir Cornelius von Becke for his generous offer of armour parts he was clearing out. Rest assured they will reach people greatly in need of parts to complete their sets of gear.

If anybody else is in a similar position to provide left over armour to put together sets for our new fighters I would love to hear from you.

Authorisation Cards

Would all fighters please check your authorization cards and make sure they are still valid. You may not have realized that your card has expired and it would be awkward to find out next time you turn up to fight.

Held EventsMonthly Bash – Haig Park, 17th October, 2004

Autocrat/MIC – Baron Stephen Aldred (David Hunt)

At training we ran a training tournament which was open to trainees and experienced fighters who had yet to win a tournament. There were 5 combatants in the list His Excellency, Giscard, Allan, Andrew and Todd. It was fought as a best of three round robin and every combatant won at least one passage. Overall victor was His Excellency Baron Edmund, winning all of his rounds and the final.

The Hunt and Feast – Saturday 30th October 2004,Redwood Grove

Autocrat : Baron Edmund Ale Connor (Blair Oakley)

Times : Lists and armour inspections begin at 10.30 am

At this time I have no information to provide until the event has been held but the details are available on the Politarchopolis homepage.

YiS

Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse

Politarchopolis Knight Marshal

Captain of Fence

Greetings.

A quiet month, with a highlight of a highly successful training session on 17 October when the prospect of meeting an Innigardian fighter drew a large number of Politarchopolis fencers. The Barony fencers now have access to a number of *shinei*, which are being employed for sidesword training.

No injuries were reported during October.

The Hunting of the Snark will be held as part of the College Hunt on Saturday 30 October at Redwood Grove.

A Pirate Ship Tourney will be held on Sunday 14 November for the Casual War at Innabanya. The pirate format has been trialed previously with some success and should be popular with all fighters, offering the opportunity to triple their fighting opportunities.

Date: Sunday 14 November
Place: Innabanya Guides Camp – Majura Road
Time: Lists open 11 am for an 11.30 start.

Owain Cantor ap Hugh
Captain of Fence

Herald
Greetings,

Events

No events held in October as of the day of writing, though the College Hunt & Feast is on this weekend. Looking forward to more events next month.

Device and Name Submissions

Nothing much happening with device and name submissions, but I'm hoping to hear more from a couple of people that have had an informal chat with me. Please feel free to contact me if you want to register a device or name, or even if you just want to start looking at options – I'm happy to assist!!

Quiet Month

A fairly quiet month all round, but hopefully I'll see everyone at Casual War on 13-14 November!

YiS
Lady Amelot de Akeney
Cordon Rouge Herald

List Report
Greetings good gentles,

It is with a heavy heart I inform the populace I may be leaving. At this time this is not a solid commitment however the chances of my staying in this dear and much beloved Barony are very slim.

With that said I would like people who may be interested in becoming a List mistress/master to contact the Seneschal (in writing). I am happy to continue serving the Barony in this position up until the day of departure (if there is one).

If said departure does not occur, I would be honoured if the person who was selected to replace me become, instead, my partner.

Yours in Service,
Darby de Askote

Chirurgeon
Unto the Populace,

The office of the Chirurgeonate regrets to report an injury sustained in battle (well cooking maybe). A young noble

suffered burns to her thumb and fingers, and was treated onsite but later taken to hospital, where she made a miraculous recovery and returned to camp for a good nights rest. She reported feeling much better the following day.

Thankyou to Lady Könusch von Eltz, the Chirurgeon in attendance.

Currently seeking healers, leeches, quacks and chirurgeons, actually I'm only after Chirurgeons, so if you would like to be a Chirurgeon in Politarchopolis and have a Senior First Aid Certificate give me a call (Andrew Hunt – 6286 6944).

Yis
Llewellyn de Guerre

Chronicler
Greetings and Salutations!

As always *pitiful pleading and big puppy-dog eyes* if people would like to let me know what it is they want to read about in future GT issues it would be appreciated.

Some of you have already noticed, I am sending out re-subscription forms with GT when your current subscription is due to expire. There is a current problem with the online GT subscriptions that is being looked into. If you have subscribed online sometime in the previous two months, please send me an e-mail with your details. I am not getting the online ones for some unknown reason.

Other than that, things are rocking along. I think I'm actually getting the hang of this!

Yours in Service
Alexandra

News and Notices of the Realm

Membership Numbers
Because people ask me this fairly regularly, the largest groups (by member count) in Lochac are:

Politarchopolis	87
Rowany	74
Innilgard	52
Stormhold	49
River Haven	48

This includes all cantons, colleges, etc. Innilgard has gone from 5th to 3rd place since I last counted so they appear to be the fastest growing group.

Master Delbert von Strassburg
Seneschal, Kingdom of Lochac

Volunteer Heralds for Rowany Festival

I want to draw your attention to the Rowany Festival again. Volunteer heralds are needed for the tourneys, regular calls and courts. I want to have a timetable as solid as possible as early as possible. This will give the brave volunteers as much chance to plan their Festival life around their commitments. My best hope is that everyone will work a little as a herald, in a coordinated way, and then nobody will have to work a lot.

There will be at least 8 heralds needed for the Fighter Auction Tourney. We envision a Royal Court every afternoon, and I always look for 2 heralds in a court; so that is 10 court shifts. The Fighter Auction itself is not an official herald job, but several heralds will be involved I am sure. The Rapier guys have a lot of heralds amongst them, but I would like a duty herald specifically for each tourney, so another 2 shifts there. There will be 5 morning calls for sure, and maybe some in the afternoon. The Heraldic Melee requires the teams provide their own heralds.

All up I count more than 25 shifts for individual heralds in court or tourney work. So far there are only two volunteers that have put their hands up, and I thank them very much. There is plenty of room and encouragement for junior heralds or novices to act as a second and be "blooded" into the job with a senior to guide and assist. I want this to happen very much.

I am looking for helpers, and I am happy to accept all levels of experience and expertise in heraldic matters. Citizens from all groups in Lochac are invited to volunteer, and I am sure that Festival Officers in other fields of endeavour are searching for assistance as well.

Finally, for your patience and determination to read this far, thank you.

I remain your servant,
Giles.

Please contact either Giles at
Braddon_Giles@aep.salvationarmy.org

Or

Lady Amelot de Akeney
Cordon Rouge Herald, as per the regnum.

Festival Site Prep

Site preps that are planned until Easter:
November 20th-21st
January 22nd-23rd
February 19th-20th

Set-up weekend is the 19th-20th of March 05

One of the main focus's this year will be combating the dust. Once again it looks to be a dry summer and as such Rowany is investing time and money to start gravelling some of the main roads to cut back on the dust. This will be an ongoing project, as well as seeing more walls on the guildhall, road markings, more signs and much more...

News and Notices From Politarchopolis

Blunts!

Combat blunts are available! Contact the Captain of Archers for details.

Twelfth Night 2006

The Lochac Seneschal has called for bids for 12th Night 2006 - This is a Coronation and would need to be run on either weekend of 7/8 or 14/15 January 2006. Anybody interested in running such an event? Contact the Seneschal or the Baron and Baroness to discuss.

Twilight Archery

As we are now in summer-time we are resuming the Thursday twilight shooting.

When:

Thurs evenings, sometime between 5:30 and 6pm depending on getting away from work etc.

Where:

Tuggeranong Archery Club (western end of Soward Way, Tuggeranong) \$5 for non-TAC members and mundane paper work will have to be done (no biggy, just and insurance requirement). If the weather is dodgy, don't bother unless checking that someone else will be there.

Contact the Captain of Archers for more details.

New Officer needed!

The Hospitaller position needs filling. Please contact the Seneschal if you are interested in the position.

Twilight Rapier Practice

Greetings unto thee all, now that the daylight hours are stretching and I have a house with good outdoor lighting I have been having rapier practice at my new abode (1 Macintyre Pl Charmwood) and would invite those like myself in much need of practice as well as any who think they might like to learn the art of defence to come along Monday's starting at 5:30pm going till about 8pm.

Alessandro di Falco, Captain of Archers

Anniversary

The first weekend of July marks our tenth anniversary as a Barony - to celebrate this event Their Excellencies have requested a celebratory event for the last weekend of June (This will fit in with the Known World Dance Symposium and Midwinter investiture). The event would need to have Feasting, Fighting (both kinds!), Dance and inevitably Archery. Any interested event stewards? If so contact the Seneschal or the Baron and Baroness to discuss.

Chemise Workshop

On the 7th of November 2004 at 5pm the first of the hands on underwear workshops will happen.

We will be starting with a Chemise. For \$5, yes \$5 all materials and instruction will be provided for you to make your first chemise. One chemise each, that's it, after that you make your own. They will be a simple draw string chemise that will be 100% cotton.

Where? At my house. E-mail me for the address and phone number. oonagh@actewagl.net.au

What will you find there? Apart from the cotton fabric, drawstrings and thread? We will set some machines up in the dining room and sew like made women, ironing and cutting in the lounge room. And we could have inspirational movies on while we cut, thread, iron and sew. This could degenerate into an all night movie session if we are lucky....

What to bring? \$5 for the cost of the chemise. Any extras, like agulettes for draw strings if that is what you want. Lace trim also if you want to pretty things up more.

Additionally if every one could bring a bottle of drink and some munchies, could be lots of fun.

This would then give any of the people needing a chemise for casual war at least one to go with. There is a method in my madness!

Mine is a non-smoking house so smokers please respect this.

Hope to see the same faces as at the collegium and a few others as well.

Cheers,

Deb (Mistress Oonagh)

P.S. Watch this space as timings may change, but not much if at all.

She is so Proper and so Pure

She is so proper and so pure,
Full steadfast, stable and demure,
There is none such, ye may be sure,
As my sweet sweeting.

In all this world, as thinketh me,
Is none so pleasant to my eye,
That I am glad so oft to see,
As my sweet sweeting.

When I behold my sweeting sweet,
Her face, her hands, her minion feet,
They seem to me there is none so meet
As my sweet sweeting.

Above all other praise must I
And love my pretty piggèsnie,
For none I find so womanly
As my sweet sweeting.

Anonymous, 15th Century

Ferrets in Period



This is from an illuminated manuscript from France. THE HUNTING BOOK (also known as (THE BOOK OF THE HUNT, or GASTON PHOEBUS' BOOK OF THE HUNT, etc.) was written by Gaston Pheobus, the Count of Foix and Viscount of Bearn. He was born in 1331, wrote this book sometime between May 1387 and his death in 1391. He was well-known for being an excellent huntsman, putting on good parties, and for being an all-round great guy. He wrote this book to explain how to hunt different kinds of animals, how to handle dogs, set up blinds, etc. The plate shown here illustrates how to use ferrets to hunt rabbits, and shows the hunters putting muzzled ferrets down rabbit holes, waiting for the rabbits to pop out the other end and into the nets.

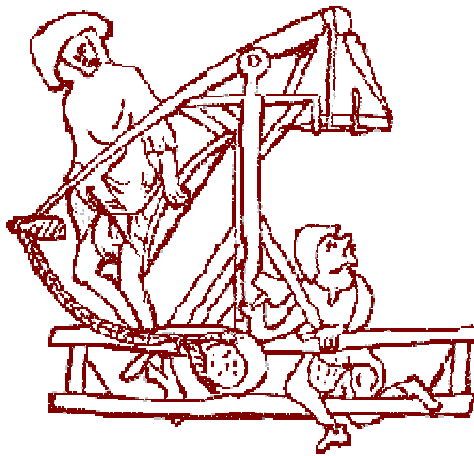


This manuscript is Ms. francais 616, and is located in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. It was reproduced in: THE HUNTING BOOK, by Gaston Phoebus, text by Gabriel Bise (after G.Phoebus), translated by J. Peter Tallon. Regent Books, Hughtext Ltd., 68 Salisbury Road, London, NWE 6NU, pages 72-73.

(extract from:
<http://www.drbeer.com/joyce/ferrets/frhistpg.htm>)

Siege: The Art of Going Ballistic

On the ancient battlefield siege armaments were a rare occurrence. If you were to watch a Hollywood movie they would have you believe different. Artillery was predominantly used for sieges and for the protection of fortifications. When the machines were deployed in support of an army it was usually restricted to river crossings and covering fire for narrow fields of fire. Alexander the Great, and many other Roman generals, used light ballistae and onagers for this very reason.



Artillery battles in ancient times were very rare but not totally unheard of, however. For example:

Onomarchus (a Phocian), placed rock throwers on steep hills behind his main force and defeated Philip of Macedon twice in pitch clashes. Philip retreated but returned “like a ram to butt harder”. He had had to recruit more cavalry to finally route the Phocians.

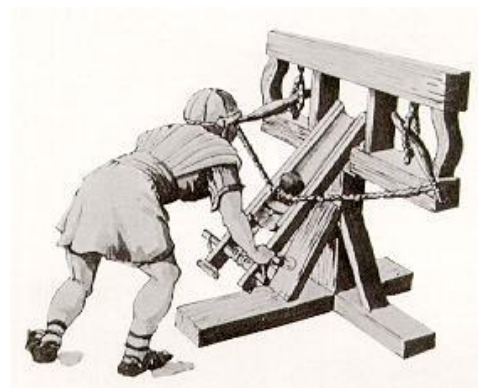
Julius Caesar made use of ballistae for river crossings and beach landings, though the ballistae were mainly used to guard encampments. A Caesarian Legion of 3000 Legionaries would be equipped with 30 ballistae, this equates to 1 ballista (scorpion) for each 100 men in the legion. These machines would have

been used to line the camp walls. Thus a 10,000 man camp would have approximately 800-meter square (3200 meters) of wall to cover. Under the rule of Trajan the number of machines increased to 60 per Legion but the Legion itself increased to 6000 men, which meant the ratio remained the same.

Even the Spartans used artillery! In one battle they placed bolt throwers on their side of a ditch, which separated them from the Achaeans under Philipoeman in the battle of Mantinea in 207BC. The intent was to soften the Achaean phalanx before combat was engaged...unfortunately, the Spartan General was separated from his phalanx who charged to soon and was repulsed at the ditch.

In conclusion having siege engines in the SCA battlefield does not conflict with history, even though engines used in battle was a rare sight I feel it brings colour and variety to the game we play.

Baron Edmund Ale-Conner
Siege Marshal Lochac.



Beginning Archery in the S.C.A.



Part 3

Selecting Arrows

Now that you have obtained a bow, you need arrows to shoot! Any wooden arrows with feathered fletches are legal for use in the SCA but you still have some decisions to make. Cedar, pine and ash are the best woods for use in arrow shafts and they can be obtained fairly easily from an archery dealer. You can choose to use three or four feathers on your arrows, plastic nocks or self-nocks (grooves cut directly into the wood for the bowstring), field points (pointed tips for better target penetration) or target points (rounded tips for use with lighter bows). You can even get fletches in a variety of colours and shapes and coloured stains for your shafts to fancy them up and make them easier to identify. You can buy them "off-the-rack" as complete arrows, or you can buy everything separately and make them yourself.

However, there are two important things that you need to know before you buy ANY arrows. Firstly, if you plan on making your own arrows do NOT use dowels bought from a hardware store or lumberyard. It is vitally important to your safety that the grain of the wood in an arrow shaft runs completely from one end of the shaft to the other. Commercially available arrow shafts are cut this way but dowels are NOT. If the grain of the wood runs perpendicular to the length, across the diameter of the shaft, there is a very serious danger of the arrow exploding when shot from a bow. There is a tremendous amount of energy stored in a bow and when the string is released; the arrow bends before it starts to move. If the grain is the wrong way at any point in the shaft, it will break there and shatter the entire shaft. The potential for injury is great, with wood splinters flying everywhere. So please.... buy only commercially made arrow shafts.

Secondly, the most important characteristic for the true flight of an arrow is its "spine". The spine of an arrow is the amount of stiffness in the shaft, measured in pounds to make it easier to match shafts to the draw weight of your bow. As I mentioned above, an arrow bends upon release of the bowstring and how limp or stiff your shaft is plays a big part in the arrow's trajectory out of the bow. If the arrow is too stiff it will bend very little and shoot to the left (for a right-hander). If the arrow is too limp it will bend more and fly to the right. It will also "fishtail" as the arrow flies, first bending one way then springing back and bending the other way again and again until the arrow reaches the target. Another warning here - if the arrow is far too limp, it will bend enough to break and shatter. When the spine of the arrow is just right, the arrow will

bend around the bow when the string is released, but it will straighten immediately after passing the bow. It will remain straight for the rest of the flight to the target. This is also known as "Archer's Paradox".

A good rule-of-thumb for selecting the right spine of shaft for your bow is take the draw weight of your bow at 28 inches, add five pounds of spine for every inch that you draw over 28 inches or subtract five pounds of spine for every inch under 28 inches. If you are using a longbow with no arrow shelf (shooting off of your hand), subtract an additional five pounds. However, if you are already using a bow rated at 35 pounds and you draw less than 28 inches, you do not need any shafts spined lower than 30 pounds. As an example, if you are using a bow rated at 47 pounds and your draw length is 29 1/2 inches you should be looking to buy shafts spined between 52-57 pounds. You do not need to match the spine exactly, because of the nature of wood it will almost certainly be impossible to get all your shafts matched precisely.

One other aspect of arrows to consider is the physical weight. Arrows are normally weighed in grains, allowing for fine accuracy in measurement. If the weight of the arrows in a group varies too much, the lighter arrows will shoot slightly higher than the heavier ones. If you can get the weights of your arrows to differ less than 20 grains, you have a fine set of matched arrows. If the weights vary less than 5 grains, you have a great set!

by THL Robin Arthur Kyrke, Forester

Contact: Captain of Archers, Alessandro di Falco



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