

Newsletter of the Barony of Politarchopolis

GRIFFINTAYLE



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, 47 Mockridge Crescent Holt ACT 2615. A free email version is available. Secure your postal copy by subscription - \$8.00 per year. Baronial Homepage: <http://www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis>

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
M A R	28	1	2 & f w	3 x r	4	5 AARF Feast	6 BARONIAL DAY IKAC ♪ x E w H &
	7	8	9 & f w	10 x r	11	12 r	13 x E w H &
	14	15	16 & f w	17 x r	18	19	20 x E w H &
A P R	21	22	23	24 Rowany Festival	25 Rowany Festival	26 Rowany Festival	27 Rowany Festival
	28 Rowany Festival	29 Rowany Festival	30	31 ♥	1	2	3 BARONIAL DAY IKAC ♪ x E w H &
	4	5	6 & f w	7 x r	8	9 r	10 x E w H &
	11	12	13 & f w	14 x r	15	16	17 Chess Tourney x E w H &

See overleaf for legend

Other Upcoming Events:

5th March - Ancient Arts Fellowship Feast (AARF)

24th - 29th March - Rowany Festival

17th April - Chess Tourney

23rd - 24th April - Southern University & Guild Weekend (Caimfell)

30th April - New Years Celebration

14th May - Flametree Ball (Colles Ardorum/St Malachy)

15 May - Minotaur Maze Tourney

10th June - Cold War Trinity (Rowany)

25th-26th June - Baronial 10th Anniversary Bash

24th July - Token Tourney

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 March edition for 2005.

Politarchopolis Regnum

SCA Politarchopolis, PO Box 1294, Belconnen ACT 2617 Email politarchopolis@sca.org.au
 To subscribe to the Politarchopolis 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.

⚔ **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.

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

⚔ **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 Raven's Nest 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 above 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 Freyser at Raven's Nest for details. Peynters and Linners 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

Chess Tourney

When: Sunday April 17th, Belconnen
Rapier inspections at 12noon for a 1pm start. Heavy inspections at 1pm for a 2pm start.
Where: Diddams Close off Ginninderra Drive next to the lake.
Autocrat: Rhodri Ysogleig Email: rob@rthoward.id.au
Phone 6278 5716

Details: Of late there has been growing concern on the part of her excellency Baroness Leta that his excellency Baron Edmund's grasp of strategy may not be what it once was, what with starting wars with many of the shires surrounding our fair Politarchopolis. To this end a Challenge has been laid unto our Baron, a challenge of strategy. They shall meet this Challenge on the chess table with some of the rules modified just to make the game a little more interesting for the populace.

The games will be fought out with each piece on the board being represented by one of the fighters from within the barony. When a square is being contested on the board those fighters will take to the list field to decide the outcome, the piece being represented by the fighter who wins remains in the square. In chess not all pieces are equal and have their own rules, so to in this challenge.

The rules for the individual pieces are as follows: -

Pawns - Fights with a Spear
Rook - Fights with a Glaive
Knight - Fights with sword and shield. Is allowed to take two blows to the legs (The first blow disables the horse, the second takes the leg)
Bishop - Fights with a Mace
Queen - Has choice of weapons
King - Fights with Great Sword.

There will also be an opportunity for those who practice the noble art of defence to participate. The rules for those fighters will be determined and advertised shortly.

Minotaur Maze Tourney

When: Sunday May 15th 2005
Where: Corner closest to Holy Grail in Glebe Park, Civic
Time: Lists Open - 12.30 to 13.00
Armour Inspection - 12.30 to 13.15
Tourney starts 13.15
Autocrat: Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse
MIC: Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse
Details: TBA This is a heavy only tourney.

Baronial 10th Anniversary Event

When: 25th and 26th June 2005
Website: <http://www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis/bbb>
Details: Check the website for more details when they come to hand.

Token Tourney

When: Sunday 24th July 2005
Details: TBA This will be both a rapier and heavy tourney.

Events Elsewhere.

Ancient Arts Fellowship Feast

When: 5th March 2005, 6pm
Where: Pensioners Hall, Cnr Marcus Clarke Street & Barry Drive
Cost: \$10 for SCA or AAF members, \$15 non-members

The Ancient Arts Fellowship would like to advertise our first feast of the year to members of the Barony of Politarchopolis. The Feast is on the 5th of March at 6pm and is being held at the Pensioners Hall, cnr Marcus Clarke St & Barry Drive. The cost is \$10 for members of the SCA or AAF and \$15 for non-members. The courses will include such fare as Haslet, Braised Beef, Lasagne with Cheese, Cider Baked Lamb Stew, Honey Roasted Root Vegetables and Summer Berry Crumble. My phone numbers are 6242 4882 or 0403 703 289.

Thanks,
Sarah Brown

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

Southern University & Guild Weekend

Who: Proposed Canton of Cairnfell (Ballarat, VIC)
When: 23-24th April 2005
Where: Eureka Hall, Eureka Street, BALLARAT, Victoria

Next to Eureka Caravan Park (03 5331 2281) and other accommodation. Some billeting available.

Cost: members \$30 non-members \$35. Day rate available. Children under 5 free, 6-16 half price. NOTE. There may be an additional charge for some collegia.

Bookings: To Ava Del Mas (Meagan Luc) ph. 03 5342 0225.

Lochac is invited to the Lochac Southern University and Guild Weekend. The incipient Canton of Cairnfell, sponsored by Stormhold, invites all to attend this wonderful weekend of Arts and Science.

NOW down to business!!!!

Is there anyone out there who would like to share their knowledge and run a collegia? Suggested topics include

Basic brewing

Mulled wine (this is running)
Scribal arts
Tablet weaving basic and advanced
Veils
Basic embroidery stitches
Bayeux tapestry
Dancing
Cooking

The list of possibilities is endless.

Please contact Lady Eyrika von Teklenburg (Sharon Bowman) 03 5346 1587 or Email: rsbowman@netconnect.com.au

Flametree Ball

Who: Proposed Shire of Colles Ardorum and the College of St Malachy

When: 14th May 2005

Where: Bulli Masonic Hall (same as last year) 282 Princes Highway Bulli 2516 NSW

Time & Price: to be announced (although no doubt around the same as last years.)

The proposed Shire of Colles Ardorum and the college of St Malachy are pleased to announce that this year's Flame Tree Ball will be held on the 14th of May.

We are still working out budgets and the like for more information see the website.

http://www.sca.org.au/st_malachy/calendar/flametree.html
["http://www.sca.org.au/st_malachy/calendar/flametree.html"](http://www.sca.org.au/st_malachy/calendar/flametree.html)

This will be updated regularly.

Dance Classes are to be held on the day of the ball (14th of May 2005) at the venue starting at 2pm. The end time is to be confirmed.

Bookings by post are to be sent to The Flame Tree Ball Steward, University Mediaeval Society PO Box U100, Wollongong University NSW 2522.

Email the steward at:
a_dellamorot@optusnet.com.au

YiS
Alessandra Dellamorot
Colles Ardoran Chronicler

Cold War Trinity

Who: Barony of Rowany (Sydney, NSW)

When: 4pm Friday 10th June 2005 to midday

Monday 13th June. It is the queen's (British one that is) birthday long weekend (for everyone but WA).

Where - Tara Girl Guides, End of Taylors Road, Silverdale

Cost: \$80 per person with dorms an extra \$10. We only have 25 dorms this year so Out-of-Towner's have preference so book now. I will give you a full 6 weeks before I open it to everyone.

Why: Because you Love It.

The Barony of Rowany is proud to announce:

Once again brave champions gather to prove their prowess while beautiful damsels watch with admiration and blah blah blah.

What is really going on? Two days of fighting war without the usual half a day of organising. I will be Marshalling so if your not ready, we are not waiting!!

Also including:

Dancing
On Site A&S competitions
Catered Lunch and Breakfasts and two feasts.
Boat racing and other dubious activities and more and more.

Who do I book with? Berenger of Nancy (Brendan Gill) on 0407 201 223 or e-mail brendan_of_menai@yahoo.com.au or mail to 254 Toongabbie Road, Girraween NSW 2145. Use my real name this is a work address.

Why has it gone up? Because of inflation. The theories of inflation can be seen on:

commerceforidiots@shelteredworkshop.com.au

See you all there it will be ace.

Berenger of Nancy

Known World Dance Symposium 5

Who: Barony of Rowany

When: 2nd - 5th July 2005.

Where: Sancta Sophia College, 8 Missenden Rd, Camperdown NSW

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

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

The Known World Dance and Music Symposium is the SCA's primary biennial dance and music event. Maps and details of the symposium venue will be published on the website.

Ballo Viola Duo

Who: Barony of Innilgard

When: 8th July 2005

Where: Anglican Church Hall, Corner Staffa & Galway Ave, Broadview, SA.

Costs: Memb: \$9 / Non-memb: \$13. Children: Memb: \$5 / Non-memb: \$7

Hall opens: 6.30pm. Event starts: 7.00pm

In celebration of the Coronation of our King and Queen at Midwinter XXXX, and for the enjoyment of the Dancers of Lochac and our visiting cousins, from other Kingdoms, Innilgard presents: Ballo Viola Duo.

For those who did not get enough at the Knowne World Dance and Music Symposium 5 - this is just what you are looking for!

If you are visiting Innilgard for Midwinter, come along the night before and revel in dancing and Elizabethan Desserts (main meal not provided).

For non-dancers there will be chess.

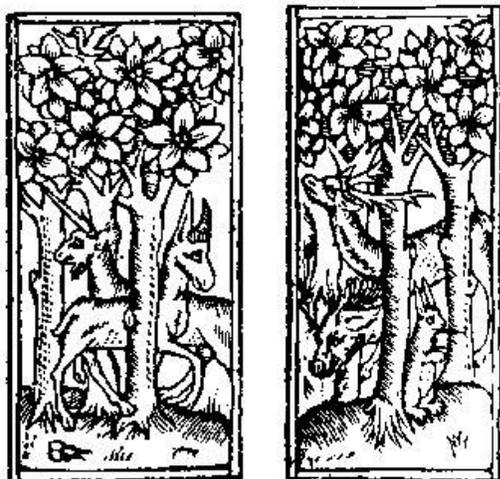
For Visitors who need accommodation, please contact the Midwinter Billoting steward.(TBC) There is limited billoting available.

Please note this is a non-smoking venue.

Steward: Lady Katerina da Brescia

Bookings (by 1st July, 2005) to Lady Blodeuwedd y Gath and Drake Morgan. (08) 8352 8586

There is a hall limit for bookings.



Officers Reports

Baron and Baroness

Greetings and other salutations,

The first February event was Le Crappaud, where much fun was had and new Baronial Champions & the new Crappaud were chosen. Congratulations to Sebastian (Rapier Champion), Wolf (Heavy Champion) & Kitan (vive Le Crappaud!). In the following week St Aldhelm's held the o-week demo that generated a lot of interest and supplied an abundance of newcomers for the Quest. Since the college will be hibernating for the next few months all the newcomers will be enthusiastically bugging all of us.

Our Baronial Guard keep us entertained, fight and assist us in many ways and Rodri, Cynric and Owain have served for a year, at Le Crappaud we released them from our service. But we cannot be without our guard and so admitted Taliesin and Sigmund to our baronial guard, keeping Jonathan on the guard so that he might teach them what to do and serve the rest of his year.

It seems that all anyone can talk about is Rowany Festival and their frenetic preparations. We invite all Politarchopolians to a pot-luck feast in the Polit Central campsite on the Monday night of Rowany Festival.

Yours in Service,
Leta, Baroness

Edmund, Baron.

Seneschal

This month has seen several excellent events within the Barony, with St Blasius, Le Crapaud and St Valentine Potluck Picnic along with the College bringing lots of eager new faces with the o-week demo and Quest. Congratulations Catula, it was an excellently run event and lots of fun!

There will be a change in office this coming month with the Baronial Marshallate changing over. More about that later in GT.

We have a number of events coming up over the next couple of months. But as it really is now only "2 weeks to go" until festival I am sure most people will be busily preparing as will I. Don't forget to volunteer for something at Festival, the more people that help out the easier and more fun it is for everybody!

Good luck with the pre-festival rush of activity and I hope to see you all there!

Yours in service,
Alesia de Cheval Blanc
Baronial Seneschal

Marshal

Greetings unto the populace,

With Festival fast approaching I will try to keep this as brief as possible to let you get back to your preparations.

Fighter Authorisation Fees

Just a reminder – Lochac Lists have introduced a fee to cover the cost of processing of authorisation forms and the creation of fighter cards. This fee needs to be paid for each submission of an authorisation form. Just to let you know this issue is being looked in to and if anything further comes of it you will be notified as soon as possible.

The fee is \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members.

Held Events

Le Crapaud / Valentines Day Tourney – 12th February 2005, Acton Park

Autocrat: Henri Gesgard and Alesia du Cheval-Blanc
MIC: Viscount Sir Cornelius von Becke

Kitan von Falkenberg was the victor on the day and Konrad Wolfman received the Flower of Chivalry. Congratulations to these two fighters and my thanks to all of you who participated.

One injury was reported involving a gumby and Lord Wolfe – block with the weapon next time my friend.

ANU O-Week Demo, College of St Aldhelms, Wednesday 16th of February, 2005

Autocrat: Catulla Cinaeda
MIC: Baron Edmund Ale-Connor

No injuries were reported and I understand it went well.

Upcoming Events

Please keep an eye on this newsletter and the Politarchopolis homepage for more info.

YiS
 Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse
 Politarchopolis Knight Marshal



Arts & Sciences Minister

Greetings unto the populace,

This period has been relatively quiet with things now starting to pick up. St Blasius was a weekend event (Fri 28th - Sun 30th Jan) of music, singing and dancing. There were 30 attendees. Classes taught were on rounds and carolling (Crispin Sexi), rhythm in musical notation (Crispin Sexi), types of musical instruments (various people), playing background music in court (Arian of Shadowvale), "Missa Festivalis" (Crispin Sexi), Victoria's "O Vos Omnes" (Bethan of Brockwood), keys and modes (Crispin Sexi), and also two dances (Joanna of the Beechwoods). There was a feast, a ball and a concert. Isobel la Breton won the St Blasius Cup for entertainment at the concert, but no other A&S awards were given. Oriol of the Gypsies did a marvellous job as head cook.

Stich 'n' Bitch will start up again in the first week in March (just in time for festival). The format will be is, 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, Southside at Raven's Nest (Morag Freyzer's). The 2nd will be run Northside, at the Baron and Baroness' Keep.

Next competition

Metalworking: jewellery or small ornamental accessories
 Engineering & research: A contraption for travel
 Herbal: Hygiene/ grooming products

I need to find a local event that will be run before May Crown as the kingdom competition will be run there.

Dance Classes have started up again on Sunday afternoons at Haig Park Hall.

YiS
 Antonia Della Scalla



Captain of Fence

Greetings.

A very successful Valentine's Tourney was run in conjunction with Le Crapaud on 12 February. Eight fighters took part:

Boris the Black (RMIC)
 Jasper Joffray
 Sebastian de Sade
 Gabrielle of the Marshes
 Basil Faulke
 Diccon Shorthand
 Don Francois Henri Guyon
 Owain Cantor ap Hugh

Don Francois was the victor, Diccon was named most chivalrous and Owain was awarded for best period appearance on the field (a close thing, as the fighters set a particularly high standard). Thanks to our newly named Corsair, Carlos Corvacho, for marshalling the bouts, to Michelle for looking after the list and Don Dameon Greybeard for heralding Don Francois in all his abundantly titled glory.

Following the tourney, Her Excellency named Sebastian de Sade her Rapier Champion for the coming year.

Four authorisation bouts were successfully conducted during the month. Jasper Joffray was newly authorised in combat, Simon Puddleduck renewed his combat authorisations and was authorised as a marshal and both Boris the Black and Carlos Corvacho upgraded their authorisations to become marshals.

A melee workshop and authorisation will be conducted at Sunday training on 6 March at Haig Park, to allow fighters to upgrade their authorisations ahead of Festival, where there will be a Team Challenge Tourney and two melee sessions.

A reminder to all rapier fighters to check that their authorisations are up to date and contact me if necessary. When authorisations are conducted, fighters should ensure they get copies from the authorising marshal – one to prove their authorised status and one to give me, so that any delays in getting cards can be followed up.

There were no injuries reported during the month.

As RMIC, I look forward to seeing a strong contingent of Politarchopolis fencers at Festival.

Owain Cantor ap Hugh
 Captain of Fence



Webwright

Greetings,

Two new sections were added to the website this month, a page advertising the 10th Birthday Baronial Bash, and a page for the Baroness to use for passing out information that she feels is relevant (The Baroness' Soapbox). Both of these will be updated as more information comes to hand.

YiS
 Rodri



Herald

Greetings,

There are finally some submissions starting to come in and there seems to be plenty of people thinking about their names and devices. A bunch of names and devices have recently been approved by the Laurel Sovereign of Arms and more are expected soon.

Events

St Blasius was held on 29 & 30 January and Sigmund Spelman heralded for the Royal Court held by Queen Mathilde. Owain ap Cantor ap Hugh was made a member of the Queen's Guard and awarded an AoA, Sigmund Spelman was appointed Royal Archer and Ysabella Vitale was awarded a Nock. Congratulations to all and my personal thanks to Sigmund for heralding.

Le Crapaud and Valentine's Pot Luck Picnic was held on 12 February. The new Rapier Champion is Sebastian de Sade, the new Heavy Champion is Wolff Hebenstreit and the new Baronial Guards are Taliesin of Entangled Marsh and Sigmund Spelman. Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse was awarded the Politarchopolis Fellowship of Grace.

Congratulations to all and my thanks to Sigmund for assisting with the heralding at the event.

Device and Name Submissions

Trying to get some work finalised on names and devices for Jonathon of Loch Swan, Alun of Jedburgh, Gyre of Montrose and Sabine d'Antan. Keep your submissions coming in!

YiS

Lady Amelot de Akeney
Cordon Rouge Herald

Constable

Ok. Time to try and catch up.

February saw the Valentines Tourney and Potluck Picnic, 12th. We had 21 adult members, 8 adult members without card, 19 adult non-members, and 5 minors.

Oriel was CIC for me and did a great job thank you, Oriel.

January Saw the event St Blasius, 28-30 there were 14 adult members 2 adult members without cards, 11 adult non members, and three minors.

Ysabella did a fantastic Job, with thanks, Ysabella.

Hopefully I will be able to attend more events shortly, as I have been rather busy recently and have been unable to attend. I thank Oriel and Ysabella muchly. And if anyone else is a member and would like to help out the constabulary from time to time let me know.

YiS

Konusch von Eltz
Polit Constable

Chronicler

Greetings and Salutations!

Not much to say. Griffinsair will be produced and available by the weekend. This issue of Griffintayle was going to be late but I have my net access back earlier than expected (a curse on all ISP head's). The Menagerie moved two weekends ago and the new details are in the Polit household listing. My home phone number remains the same.

I hope everyone enjoys Festival! Another special Festival edition will be put together for release sometime in April. Stories are happily accepted through e-mail or verbally to the Baron or Baroness as I will not be attending due to family commitments.

I'd like it to be known that I am currently the keeper of the Polit regalia. So if you need tablecloths, banners etc at an event you plan on running, give me a call and we can discuss. Only thing I ask you to remember is if you borrow it, you must wash it!

Yours in Service
Alexandra



News and Notices of the Realm

Festival Set-up Weekend

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

Fifth Annual Best Looking Banners and Flags Campsite Competition

Unto the Populace of Lochac does John of the Hills send greetings.

The Fifth Annual Best Looking Banners and Flags Campsite competition will be judged at Rowany Festival during the Saturday and Sunday.

The idea behind the competition is to improve the overall medieval effect during festival by having many banners and flags flying throughout the campsites. The winner will be announced sometime during Sunday evening. The prize is a case of alcoholic cider and a new addition of some non-alcoholic drink as well. Last years winner was House Accipiter, who had a wonderful series of banners along the path next to their campsite. Previous winners were House Louvain from St Florian, the River Haven Barony and the household called Artisania, also from River Haven. House Accipiter, a Politarkoplian household, broke the stranglehold that the groups up North were having on the competition.

If you don't have a registered device then please see your local herald about how to get one. Otherwise you could make household or SCA group banners. If you need ideas on how to make a good display ask a friendly herald about how to best display a device. See the Compleat Anachronist pamphlet, number 50, called Heraldic Display for ideas. Another option is do some research on medieval displays. I want to see lots of colour and movement from many banners and flags. Bunting is good too.

Good Luck.

Kingdom A&S

2005 comps are up on the A&S website
www.sca.org.au/artsandsciences

Go to the Kingdom A&S comps in the links on the left.

Rowany Mass

For those interested in singing the mass at Rowany Festival, the music is available on the Festival website:

<http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival/mass/>

Crispin Sexi



Online bookings for Festival

Online booking with a credit card is now available on the festival web page at:

www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival

Follow the links to the booking page.

Equipment bookings are also available.

If you have any problems or questions email festivalbookings@sca.org.au and put 'Booking Question from ' plus your name, in the subject line.

Thanks
Corin

(on behalf of the Festival Booking Team)

Blossfechten at Festival 2005

"unarmoured" combat with sword, long-sword, and sword and buckler.

At this coming Rowany Festival, on the Sunday morning at the main list field, the Royal Guild of Defence will hold a series of fechtschules, displays of skill and of learning, and amongst them will be one of interest to heavy authorised fighters.

The Blossfechten will be a set of matches of sword, sword and buckler, and long-sword, fought under heavy rules, but with assumed armour being "none".

The idea being for people to experiment with period styles and to do something different.

Entrants will need to be heavy authorised, we should have spare long-swords and bucklers available to borrow.

Armour worn beyond the minimum is, of course, up to the fighters, but assumed armour is "none" so blow strength and calling should reflect that.

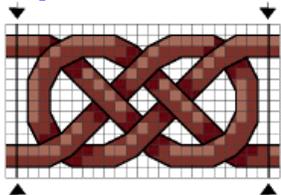
A "sword" is a basket hilted broadsword, the usual SCA sword, thrusting tips are strongly recommended.

A "buckler" is a small centre grip round-shield (although other shapes are fine), about the length of your forearm in diameter.

A "long-sword" is a sword with thrusting tip about the length of a broadsword, but used with two hands. Longer weapons are acceptable, bring what you have.

There will be three shields displayed, one for each weapons form. Those who wish to fight a particular form should go to the appropriate shield to find an opponent who also wishes to fight that form then go to the lists to record their choice and be placed in line to fight their bout.

For more information, including information on training in period styles, please contact Guildmaster Silfren the Singer at zebee@zip.com.au or on 043 8181 009



News and Notices From Politarhopolis

What is Baronial Day?

It is the first Sunday of each month where we all get together. To show new projects &/or discuss current projects or ideas. Do you have a style of tournament that you would like to try in a informal setting, or would like to make new clothing but are stuck for an idea? Baronial Sunday is what you want to be, come along to Haig Park from midday-ish in garb and bring lunch/afternoon snacks for yourself. We are also encouraging individuals and guilds to come along and give demonstration and classes.

The first Baronial Sunday will be on Sunday 6th March. Both Leta and I will be there from 12:30, painting drop hangings for our marquee, we would also like to start painting drop hangings for the Polit central campsite at festival.

Sir Cornelius will be giving a talk on courtesy in the SCA, I am sure we all could do with a refresher course on this, it will begin at 2 and continue until 2:30.

Other regular activities will also be happening: IKAC at Tuggeranong Archery club from 10 am, singing with Crispin from 1 pm, rapier practice from 1-ish pm, dancing (for this week only) will start at 2.30 pm, heavy practice from 3-ish.

Join in for one or all of the activities, we hope to see many of you there.

And remember if someone criticises your ideas or attempts it means that they are afraid to try themselves, it is better to try and fail then not to try at all. Amateurs built the ark, professionals built the titanic.

Edmund Alekonner
Baron

Blunts!

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

Officers needed!

Hospitaller, Chirurgeon and Chandler positions need filling. Please contact the Seneschal if you are interested in any of these positions.

A&S Documentation

Hi everyone,

So you've got to that point, where you need to start thinking about your documentation for that first A&S competition, haven't you....

Have a look at these websites to get some ideas...

http://www.sca.org.au/st_florians/

<http://sg.sca.org.nz/docs/Documentation.pdf>

<http://home.pcisys.net/~lyssa/document.html>

Antonia
Polit A&S Minister

Baronial Knight Marshal

After receiving several applications for the post of Baronial Knight Marshall the Earl Marshall has selected Robert de Bauche who has been serving as Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse's deputy for some time.

There is a TWO-WEEK commentary period from the first weekend in March. If you want to have a say in this appointment now is your time!! I will be receiving comments until the 20th March. I would like to thank Maxx for his time in the office, he has been very efficient and I hope to see this continue.

YIS,
Alesia

Whats happening at Dance Class?

Dance Classes are 2 to 4pm at Haig Park Hall.

2pm to 2:55 approx - 5 min warm-ups and simpler dances. Absolute beginners welcome and fun stuff for other people too.

10 min Drink and fruit break (Tea, Coffee and bikkies when it gets cold).

3:05 approx to 4:00 approx - less simple dances.

I will teach requests, within reason :)

Joanna of the Beechwoods

SCA New Years Eve!

Saturday 30th April is the day to mark in your calendar! All are welcome to come and celebrate with us the start of AS 40. Location details to be provided in April's Griffintayle.

Edmund & Leta.

Authorisation Forms

Just to let you know there are new authorisation forms available online that all Marshals are now expected to use when renewing or authorising any fighter, minor or trainee.

The address at which to access these forms is as follows:

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

YiS

Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse
Politar chopolis Baronial Knight Marshal

Rapier Melee Workshop

To all rapier combatants in our Fair Barony,

Rowany Festival is only 4 weeks away and will feature diverse entertainments for those of the fencing inclination, including a Team Challenge Tourney, Pirate Ship Melee and War Field Melee on the Monday. To take part in these pursuits you must have a melee authorisation.

To this end, a melee workshop and authorisation will be held on Sunday 6 March during Rapier training from 1.30 at Haig Park. If you don't already have a melee authorisation, come along and save the Festival Rapier Marshal the trouble of having to squeeze you into a busy timetable.

If authorised rubber band guns are available, I propose to also authorise combatants in the safe use of RBGs.

Remember, that's 6 March, 1.30 pm, Haig Park.

YiS
Owain Cantor ap Hugh
Captain of Fence

Politar chopolis Campsite - Rowany Festival 2005

Greetings,

I have now sent out an email confirming the allocation of space within the Polit Central campsite. If you want to camp in Polit Central & haven't received it, contact me NOW. (Quinteria people contact Carlos)

Yours in Service,

Leta
Baroness

Call to Arms

Warm greetings to all fighters of Politar chopolis, be you Archer or full harness combatant.

I Edmund, Baron of Politar chopolis have been chosen to lead one side to victory at the upcoming festival war. Thus I call unto you to rally and be counted.

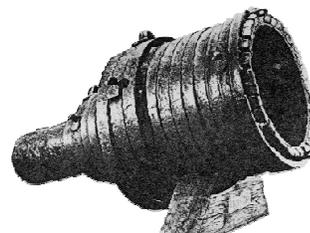
It would be great to see all the fighting households and unaligned fighters standing side by side under the Politar chopolis banner.

I will not be paying for mercenaries nor will I undertake any bargaining to hire groups or individuals. This is a muster to those who wish to fight under their own colours and devices and who would stand as one under the Griffin of Politar chopolis.

I will be personally leading any who rally, so no flinging for me this year...well maybe a little :)

I do have a small supply of tabards (red with white crosses) for any who would wish to wear the colours of this Barony and i have plenty of combat arrows and there are the war shields (thank you Adair)

So....TO WAR!!!!
Edmund Ale-conner
Baron





Part One:

A Trio of Bear Hunts



The Bear of El Castrejon

To anyone who has compassion for animals, the following extract can be painful reading, and in that case, I advise passing over it. However, it is an eyewitness memoir written by the main participant (King Alfonso XI of Castile) of an actual hunt that occurred in the fourteenth century in the high sierra of Spain. As such, it provides us with insights into the business-like practices and mind-set of aristocratic hunters of that time, which are attainable no other way.

Submitted by Caterina della Pieri

From *The Hound and the Hawk: The Art of Medieval Hunting*, by John Cummins

To perceive the essence of medieval bear hunting, one can do no better than to read Alfonso XI's detailed account of his own experiences. Here are his descriptions, pragmatic and unembroidered, of the course of [one of] two hunts in the sierras near the junction of the modern provinces of Avila, Toledo, and Madrid, in western Spain. It is in his organization of men and hounds that we see hunting coming closest to tactical war, as opposed to mere pursuit and battle, and his recollections exemplify to the highest degree that obsessive, almost religious, compulsion with which medieval and pre-medieval hunters, having raised a quarry, drew on the deepest reserves of their own and their hounds physical and mental resilience in order to pursue it to its end.

El Rencon and the hill-face above Escarabajosa and El Castrejon and the gorge of Escarabajosa are all one forest, and it is good for bear in winter. The vocerías {beaters lines} are: one from the hilltop Escarabajosa to the hill of Frades, and from there across the summit to the hill of Don Yague to the hill of La Samoza; another from the hill of Don Santa Maria across the summit to the hill of La Samoza. The armadas {lines of stationary hunters, usually with relays of hounds and perhaps Alaunts and Mastiffs} are on the road from Cadahalso to El Adrada: one to the right of Cabaza Pinos, another to the Arroyo del Fresno, and two more on the road itself, between the Arroyo del Fresno and Escarabajosa.

It happened one Monday that we raised two bears there at the hour of terce, and the manner of it was this: all the buscas had returned from the hill and the gathering had been blown, but Martin Gil had continued in his search with about six hounds, and he moved the larger of the bears. He put his hounds after it, and they followed it from the wood of El Castrejon, where it was found, to the gorge of Escarabajosa, and there it turned at bay. Pero Carrillo and Pedro de Mendoza set off to this first bear with another six hounds as relays, and on the way they ran into a second bear and put their six hounds after him. The bear which Martin Gill had moved, the larger of the two, ran on

and went through our armada against the forest of Manjavacas before we could get there, but as he went through they put another six hounds after him, making twelve in all. When I reached the armada he had gone through, and I could not overtake him before the forest of Manjavacas.

Ynigo Lopez and Garcia Ruiz went with us, and we followed him close through the forest, and could not hit him with anything until the fall of the night, when he was wounded by a thrown spear. We were short of hounds and huntsmen that day, because all the rest had stayed with the other bear in the gorge of Escarabajosa until they killed him, well into the night. Seeing ourselves overtaken by darkness, we sent Ynigo Lopez and Garcia Ruiz with another four huntsmen on foot to station themselves between the bear and the Sierra de Cenicientos, and to make fires to prevent him escaping that way, and to encourage the hounds not to give up. We and the other huntsmen did the same to cut him off from the Sierra de Guisando.....

And from the first sleep onwards, the hounds gave up one by one, and only Fragoso and Preciado stayed with him. When he saw that only two hounds were left he set off along the road from El Adrada to Las Rozas, and on the road Fragoso gave in, and only Preciado kept up with him to the foot of the Sierra de Guisando. By this time it was midnight, and when we saw that Preciado too had given up we decided that it was poor huntsmanship to pursue the bear any more that night, so we gathered our hounds and went to the village of Las Rozas to sleep. And I sent word to my people in El Adrada to come to my aid with hounds, and especially good scenting-hounds, and they brought me Barbada and Vaquero.

On the following morning, Tuesday, I sent out five buscas, a pair of huntsmen in each, to cast about and find his track, and to ask the sheperds at what hour they had heard a hound with a high-pitched cry, so as to be able to make their search at the place where the hound had given up. Two of these huntsmen came on his trail and blew to the scent, and we joined them. We ordered them to take Barbada and set off after him, and to carry Vaquero on the mule to save his strength, and we followed the trail with the hound on the leash from Guisando to the River Alberche. When we came down to the river, Diego Bravo and Pero Fernandez blew to the scent on the other side; we had sent them there the previous night to see if they could find where the bear had crossed. We forded the river to where they were blowing, and found that they were on his trail.

So we ordered Barbada and Vaquero to be put on his trail with the other hounds, and after a while they came on a bed made by the bear, around the hour of matins; they went on along his fresh trail, and when we knew from the hounds behaviour that we were nearing the place where he was lying they took the leash off Vaquero and he went to bay the bear on top of the Hill of Villa Alba, looking to El Quejigar. When they saw that he was at bay, they unleashed all the hounds, and they came up on him and pursued him until noon, when he was killed on the road from El Quejigar to El Halipar, about a third of a league from the inn at El Quejigar.

To be sure that he was the one we had followed on the previous day, we looked to see if he was wounded, and sure enough we found in him the head of the spear with which he was struck the day before. And with such a hunt as this we prove that when a good quarry is raised and pursued with determination, if the hounds are good, one may be sure of killing him.

--- Libro de la Monteria, Alfonso XI of Castile, ed. & translated by Dennis P. Seniff, Madison, 1983



Glossary

Voceries: lines of beaters, shouting to scare the quarry away from their position

Armada: a line of stationary hunters, usually with relays of running-hounds and perhaps Alaunts and Mastiffs

Running-hounds: the noisier hounds used to chase the quarry animal over distances (as opposed to the scenting hounds, which quietly locate the quarry for the hunters before the chase begins)

Moving (the quarry): spooking the quarry animal into running out of a hiding-place or rest, so the hounds could chase it.

Relays: groups of hounds held in wait ahead of the expected run of the quarry, released into the chase as or just after the quarry has passed their position.

Alaunts: large hounds similar to greyhounds, but heavier, bred to seize large game animals while running, and bring them down. Regarded as relatively dim-witted, prone to chasing sheep and oxen, they were prized in the hunt for reckless savagery; they were often used simultaneously with the faster, lighter greyhounds.

Mastiffs: large hounds bred for strength and tenacity, sometimes used in hunting as Alaunts were, but mostly used for guarding flocks against wolves, or as guard-dogs for the house.

Buscas: groups of several huntsmen with hounds.

Gathering: the group of aristocratic hunters which meets at a pre-arranged time and place and waits for the

Blowing the gathering, blowing to the scent: coded messages blown on the single-note hunting horns, telling other groups of hunters what is happening and where to go next.



Ferrets in Period



Documentation for the Italian painting, "Pope Celestinus III Grants Privilege of Independence to the Spedale", by Domenico di Bartolo, 1443 says that a young man in the centre was supposed to be from Siena, noting that the Sienese were known for their ostentatious manner of dress, this fellow is supposedly in the height of fashion. He has his pet ferret (with bells on its red collar) sitting on his shoulder.



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

Ly Bens Distonys

(A dance from the Gresley Manuscript)

Explanation by Joanna of the Beechwoods (Joanna Keenan)

This reconstruction is heavily based on (read virtually identical to) the version in Terpiscore VIII book - Barony of Cynnarbar.

Can be done by one couple or by many couples in line provided they are not too crowded.

A Section of Music (the trace)

- | | |
|--|--|
| Holding usual hands*1:
2 Singles LR *2 - 2 bars | *1 Gent's right hand, palm up, lady's left hand, palm down
*2 One single L(left) = step forward on to left foot and bring right foot up to the left foot, going up and down on your left toe a little, keeping your weight on the left foot. For a right (R) single, start with the right foot. |
| Double L *3 - 2 bars | *3 One double L(left) = step forward with left foot, then with right, then left and bring right foot up to the left foot, going up and down on your left toe a little, keeping your weight on the left foot. For a right (R) double, start with the right foot. |

B Section of Music

Gents 3 steps fwd RLR and turn to face partner while Ladies Double R back - 2 bars

Both go to each other's former places by moving diagonally: - 2 bars
 Gents with 3 steps LRL and a turn to face original direction
 Ladies with a Double L

Ladies 3 steps fwd RLR and turn to face partner while Gents Double R back - 2 bars

Both go to each other's former places by moving diagonally: - 2 bars
 Ladies with 3 steps LRL and a turn to face original direction
 Gents with a Double L

Taking usual hands:
 1 Single forward R - 1 bar
 1 Single forward L, drop hands - 1 bar
 Cast out and return to partner with one double, take hands - 2 bars

Repeat ABABAB.....

Sheet Music Copyrighted to Katrina Hunt

Ly Bens Distonys
Gresley MS F81

Soprano
Tenor
Treble

S Turn S S Turn S S Turn S S Turn S S Turn
Forward Back Turn

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Soprano
Tenor
Treble

S Turn S S Turn S S Turn S S Turn S S Turn
Forward Back Turn