



# IVORY TOWER

*shield me from the real world*

APRIL, AS 42

Hi Ho, Hi Ho —

TO FESTIVAL WE GO!

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# A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICERS

OR MAYBE A FEW MORE THAN ONE...

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## THE SENESCHAL SAYS...

Once again, into the breach. The College has come alive again as the University awakens into the new semester. The enthusiasm of new and old members alike has been incredible – but then, didn't we tell you so, last issue? A taste of this new activity, a taste of that novelty – you've all been great in trying out new skills. From first shaky lessons in swordsmanship, to sewing, to dancing – everything is new. But don't worry, there will never stop being new things to try, and I look forward to discovering more alongside newer and older members.

Now that Newcomers' Feast is no longer dominating the horizon, it is time to look with an urgent eye at Rowany Festival. Festival sprawls over the easter long weekend, from Thursday the 5th to Tuesday the 10th of April. It is a five day amalgamation of all the fun and funky things we do. Fighting, Arts and Sciences, socialising, learning new skills – there is truly no comparing this to any other event in the calendar: if you can possibly make it, I urge you to. Don't worry if you feel you don't have enough garb, or the like, we can help you. We want to help you.

And it isn't just about the Newcomers, although what with this feast, it is not surprising that some articles in may be directed in that direction... But from those of the College who were new last year such as myself, to those who were involved with the creation of the College, years and years ago – it's been great to see everyone coming together and making merry, doing what we do best – having fun.

~ AMELINE

## THE A&S OFFICER SAYS...

Hopefully by now some of you have seen me around the place. If you're still not sure what I do, I cover all the creative stuff in the society, or pretty much everything we 'do' except for the fighting. That includes the obvious stuff like making clothes and period crafts, but it also covers slightly more strange stuff like naming and heraldry, cooking, music and dance, as well as leatherwork, metal work, painting, and just about anything else you can think of. I'll be teaching various classes on all sorts of crafts and skills over the semester, but I'm also always available if you have questions about anything related to the society, and I'm especially keen to hear if you've got ideas for something you want to learn; be that 'How do I make my own shoes?' to 'What is that cool outfit and how do I get one?' to 'Where can I find a 12th century soup recipe?'. If I can't help you, I'll know someone who can.

The last couple of weeks have been taken up with preparations for Newcomers Feast and Festival. People now have tunics with which to hide their nakedness (nothing wrong with nakedness, but it scares the neighbours), and by Festival some should have cloaks to keep them warm as well. After Festival is when the real fun starts. After the traditional post-festival wrap-up in week 6 (the 19th of April), I'll be jumping in with 'How to make your own Viking Wire Jewellery', Fibre-craft night or 'How to have Loads of Fun with String', Making Pouches Bags and Belts, Brewing (yes, that does mean "How to make your own alcohol"), a class and patterning session for medieval shoes and more. And of course, there will be socialising-talking, drinking, and generally carousing in the name of good fun.

So please, email me, tell me what you're interested in, or what you'd like to see on the program, or the project you want to work on. If you don't know where to start, I'm here to help. I promise I don't bite...

~ LISJBET

# IS YOUR NAME REALLY ANGHARAT?

## A GUIDE TO SCADIAN NAMES BY ANGHARAT

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You may have noticed that we tend to go by ‘unusual’ names, or introduce ourselves as though we are suffering from multiple-personality disorder. Let me explain why...

The SCA is all about (selectively) re-creating life prior to 1600. That’s all fine and well, but it’s difficult to imagine a Visigoth called Kevin, or a rich Byzantine lady with the surname McDonald. Instead we make up names for ourselves that fit into the time and place we are most interested in. (I’ll explain about personas some other time).

I call myself Angharat- I chose it because it’s a good Welsh name from roughly the time I was interested in, and sounded OK to me. When you decide to choose yourself a name there are a couple of things to be aware of:

- ☛ Yes, Aragon is cool. You too may be cool. You calling yourself Aragon is not. Same goes for Charlemagne, Hercules, Aphrodite, William Wallace, ...
- ☛ Your friends are not native speakers of Old Welsh, have a limited memory, and often think they’re funny. I can live with being called Angry Rat. Make sure your name doesn’t scan to anything you can’t live with being called.
- ☛ Historiocity is good. Try choosing an actual name that may have belonged to an actual person. There are plenty of people who can point you towards more accurate resources than your favourite fantasy author.

Make sure you are comfortable with the name you choose, and don’t mind answering to it.

So, decide on something, and try introducing yourself as that. If people don’t laugh too much, and you like the way it sounds coming from other people’s mouths- keep it. If they insist on calling you Kevin, kick them in the shins. Eventually you and everyone else will get used to it, and you might even earn yourself a catchy byname like ‘the Bastard’ or ‘Kin-slayer’. Remember that you can always change your name, but the longer you’ve had it, the harder it will be to erase from people’s minds...



ANGHARAT

*You can e-mail the Angry Rat at [angharat@gmail.com](mailto:angharat@gmail.com). As fun as she is knowledgeable, she’s someone who you want to be inviting to your parties at Festival.*

# A PERIOD BRUISE OINTMENT

BY BANA BHIONCAS CARISTIONA NIC BEATHAIN

In medieval times a number of herbal preparations were in common use, these ranged from simple decoctions to more complex preparations such as creams and troches (a sort of medieval cough lozenge). Even when looking at one preparation, the variety of ways that each preparation could be made was amazing. For example creams were commonly made of lard, but written evidence of creams made from wax, oil and lion fat, deer fat and butter can also be found.

*“Also, for to ripen and break an apostume, stamp this herb with hog’s grease and lay it upon the apostume.”*  
*An Herbal: 72*

*“...And being pounded with grease, it doth cleanse ye foulness, & malignancies of ulcers,...”* Dioscoridies:  
465

*“Take the leaves of Tabaco two pound, Hog’s grease one pound, stampe the herbe small in a stone mortar, putting thereto a cup full of red claret wine, stirre them well together, cover the mortar from filth, and so let it rest until morning; then put it to the fire and let it boile the wine; straine it and set it to the fire againe, putting thereto the juyce of the herbe one pound, of Venice turpentine foure ounces; boile them together to the consumption of the juice, then adde thereto of the roots of round Aristolochia or Birthwort in most fine powder two ounces, sufficient wax to give it body; the which keep for thy wounded poore neighbor.”* Gerard:  
206

The above quotes show numerous examples of lard being used as a base for a cream.

So now that we have discovered what was used as a common cream base in the middle ages what sort of herbs do we use? I always make sure that I use herbs that are used by modern day herbalists in much the same way as they were used by the Medieval herbalist. This is to ensure safety and efficacy of the preparation.

## CALENDULA

*“The floures and leaves of Marigolds being distilled, and the water dropped into red and watery eies, ceaseth the inflammation, and taketh away the pain.”* Gerard

*“They use it for the bites of snakes, spiders, vipers and other reptiles, administering it in wine or anointing the place with it mixed with olive oil.”*  
*Theophrastus.*

Modern actions for Calendula include: astringent, anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic, antifungal, cholagogue and an emmenagogue it also has uses for skin inflammations, wounds, burns, digestive upsets and painful periods. Mills

## COMFREY

*“The leaves stamped take away bruises and swellings proceeding of some stroke, if they be stamped and laid thereon; whereupon it was called in old time bruisewort.”* Gerard



CALENDULA

*"..it helpeth to gather broken bones. It is hot and moist." An Herbal*

Modern actions for comfrey include: stimulating bone and skin growth, soothing and astringent. It is useful for healing local wounds, strains and bone fractures. **DO NOT USE COMFREY ON BROKEN SKIN. DO NOT USE INTERNALLY.** Mills

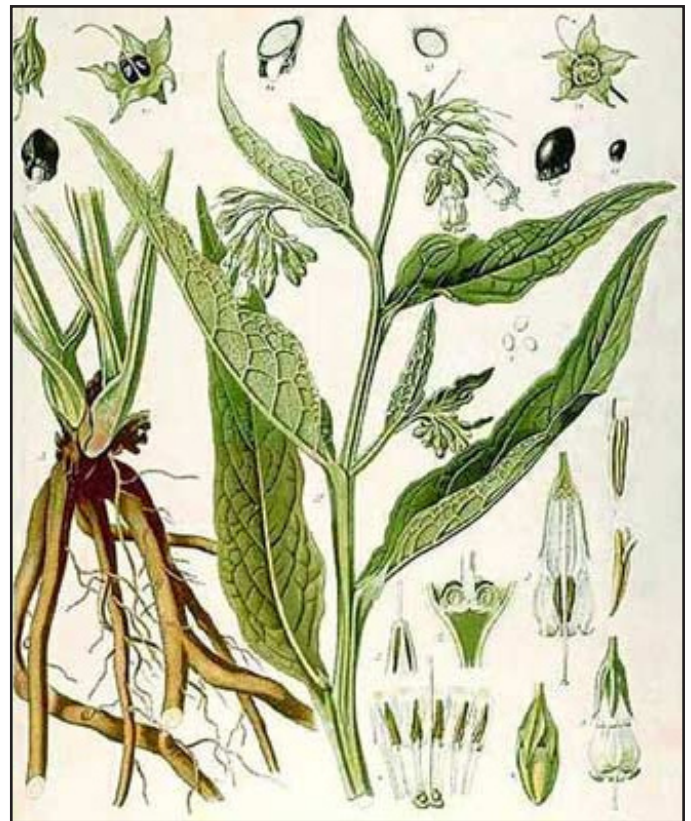
### ST. JOHNS WORT (HYPERICUM)

*"...doth make an oile of the colour of bloud, which is a most pretious remedie for deep wounds..." Gerard*

Modern actions for St. Johns Wort: gentle calming effect. The oil has a local analgesic effect, and is slightly antiseptic. It is useful for states of anxiety, and depression, also for light burns and any other external wounds. Hoffman.

In making a lard based bruise cream I find these three herbs are very effective. They provide a safe and effective way of reducing both bruising and swelling.

- ☛ 340g Lard (this is the closest modern equivalent to the hogs grease used by Gerard)
- ☛ 46ml Gum Turpentine. (do not use mineral turpentine, it is not good for your skin and being a petroleum by-product it is not period).
- ☛ 56 gm of bees wax
- ☛ Dried or fresh herbs, as above. (A couple of handfuls of each should be enough).



COMFREY



Bruise the herbs to be used and place them in the lard. This should be well mixed, covered with cling wrap and placed in the sun for a few days.

When this has been done warm the lard and herbs until they can be strained. At the same time warm the Turpentine and the wax. Strain the lard and combine with the wax and Turpentine. Keep stirring this mixture until it is cold.

This makes a nice cream that is easy to spread although [it is] a bit oily.

## KEFTEDES

- 1 lb. lean beef or veal, ground
- 1 medium onion, grated
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 egg, beaten lightly
- 2 slices of bread, crusts removed, soaked in water and squeezed dry
- 3 Tbs minced parsley
- 2 sprigs fresh mint
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 Tbs red wine
- 2-3 Tbs water, if necessary
- salt
- 1 cup of barley, powdered in the blender
- olive oil, enough for a frying depth of 1/2"

In the original recipe, the meat would probably be pounded or minced instead of ground. You can run your meat through a food processor for a more period texture.

1. Mix all ingredients except barley and olive oil, season & refrigerate for an hour.
2. Pinch off small pieces the size of walnuts, form into a ball and dredge in the barley flour.
3. Heat the oil to a smoking point and fry the meatballs until crisp, turning constantly.
4. Remove and drain on absorbent paper.

## PASTFELI

- honey
- sesame seeds
- orange flower water

Use equal weights of honey and sesame seeds.

1. In a heavy skillet bring the honey to a very firm ball stage (250° to 256° F). [You test this by dropping a small amount of the honey into a glass (or bowl) of cold water. If, when you play with it, it forms a ball (and stays that way) you know it's done. Or you can use a sugar thermometer.
2. Stir in the sesame seeds and continue cooking until the mixture comes to a bubbling boil.
3. Spread the mixture 1/2" thick on a marble slab or tray moistened with orange flower water.
4. Cool and cut into small diamonds or squares.

## MOUSSAKA

- 1 1/2 cups natural barley
- salt
- 3/4 cup Feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- bread crumbs
- 4 zucchini, sliced
- 3 cups medium white sauce:
- 2 Tbs olive oil
- 2 Tbs flour
- 1 cup of warm milk
- pinch of salt

1. Cook the barley in salted water until done. Drain & set aside.
2. Brown the ground beef and onions together.
3. Sprinkle the zucchini with salt and let stand 10 minutes. Squeeze out the excess moisture.
4. Add the zucchini to the beef and onions and saute a few moments longer.
5. Mix half of the Feta cheese and the beef mixture with the barley.
6. Oil a 9 x 12 x 3 baking pan with olive oil and spread the barley mixture over it.
7. Make the white sauce by heating the olive oil in a heavy skillet. Stir in the flour and add the 1 cup of warm milk, stirring steadily to make a smooth sauce.
8. Add the pinch of salt. Add the rest of the Feta to the sauce and stir.
9. Pour the sauce over the barley, top with bread crumbs and bake at 350° F for 30 to 40 minutes.
10. Remove and let stand 10 minutes before cutting.

This month's selection of Byzantine recipes was chosen to demonstrate 3 things:

1. Period food doesn't have to be all scary and weird-tasting.
2. It doesn't have to be only for feasts, or special occasions - these meat recipes are quite cheap (and easy) to make.
3. We're not all about Western Europe. Other cultures are welcome, too!

# INSTANT PORTRAITS, WITHOUT INSTANT ANNOYANCE

BY LADY KATERINA DA BRESCIA

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You could say I take a lot of photos. I would. I like to call them instant portraits. Sounds better in a conversation at an event, like substituting “wagon” for “car.” So this is not a lecture on why not to take photos but information on how to take photos without annoying other people and reducing their enjoyment of the medieval experience.

I have many, many albums and have a lot of event photos on my website. As you can gather, I like taking photos and sharing them. One thing you will notice, with very few exceptions, in my SCA photo albums is that lovely yellow hue that is achieved by using natural lighting. The biggest dislike, is the obvious portrait maker and, worse still, the lingering retinal afterimage of the phantom-flasher, especially during a feast.

There are several reasons not to use a flash when taking photos. Firstly, **it is rude**.

Most camera flashers I have come across, do not give warning. They just point and click, usually blissfully unaware that the person next to them has been suddenly, temporarily blinded. This is particularly bothersome when feasting in a darkened feasting hall with only candles for lighting. There are many people who seriously get offended when someone takes a flash photo. There are also some people, especially with macula problems, who find this disturbing and uncomfortable, as their ability to light adaptation has been reduced. Please, be discreet.

Secondly, **it is definitely not period**. In the Society for Creative Anachronism, people are trying to recreate the medieval atmosphere. Nothing ruins this more than a sudden camera flash, especially if it's near you. The light is extremely bright, even if it does only last for a fraction of a second. This also goes for uncovered video cameras with or without lights. Both types of cameras are best covered or put out of sight, if not being used. Please cover up.

Thirdly, **it is unimaginative**. Who wants to look at an album of white-lit, red-eyed people in garb when you can look at beautifully, mood-lit pictures of candles and smiling, unsquinting people in garb. Flash photography can be taken quickly and with little thought. Naturally lit photos do require a little more thought as to the movement of the person and the available lighting and with thought can come a more pleasingly composed picture. Please think before you click.

Next question? **How do you take a photo in low light conditions?**

The answer is... steadily. The basics of getting a good photo with low lighting are to use as much available light as possible and to minimize movement of the subject and the camera. If you have a SLR camera you can adjust the aperture to be as large as possible, allowing more light in, hence reducing the time the shutter has to remain open to get the required amount of light needed to get an image. This will reduce the ‘movement blur’ that we have all seen. If you move or your subject moves, this will increase the chance of getting this blur also. If you really want to take photos to get details of garb, or whatever, approach the subject before the event starts, when the artificial lighting is still on, or when the artificial lighting is still on, or when a flash is acceptable to use. Once the event starts, remember to turn the flash off. If you only have a basic camera where you can not turn your flash off, try taping black electrical tape over the flash.

**What do I do if I don't have a camera with an adjustable aperture?**

Most cameras will take faster film and there is a large variety of fast film available today. By fast film, I mean 400 ASA or higher. The higher the number the lower the light level you can photograph in without getting blur. Even with my SLR camera, I personally prefer 400 ASA Kodak Max. This gives me the best of both worlds, for daylight and low light photos. If you are only going to take photos of low light levels, you



can go higher but, remember, the higher the speed, the more grainy the picture you will get. If you have a digital camera, you will find they are great at using every available bit of light!

Sources of light at night are: candelabra, candles. Reflected light off shiny objects can be used to shine light up to the face from other candles nearby, giving more light again.

**Courtesy.** Some Royalty, Barons and Baronesses, love having photos taken. Others do not like it at all. As a matter of courtesy, it is preferable to ask if photos are permitted at Court. This also goes for the general population. Over the past years, I have learnt who, in our Barony, does not wish to have their photo taken. If I wish to take their photo I will specifically ask, unless they happen to be in the background. A simple, unobtrusive way is to catch a person's eye, lift the camera so they can see it. If they nod, you are permitted to take the photo. This is not always possible though. Whatever you do, please remember to hide the camera from view unless actually using it to take a photo. This can be done by hiding in a bag, making a pouch specifically for it, hiding under a cloth or a large sleeve.

Though, under Australian copyright laws, the photographer retains copyright if they initiate the photo i.e. ask to take it. It is polite to ask if you want to use the photo on anything especially if it is not just for personal use. Some Baronies require signed permission to put photos onto their website.

So you see, it is possible to take photos for your enjoyment later, and not spoil the enjoyment of others at the same time.

Just remember **Katerina's Rules of Instant Portraiture:**

Be discreet, cover up, think before you click, use the available light well, be polite to your subjects, and use higher speed film.

Have you noticed that this issue is lighter on pictures than the last one? No, it's not because this got left to the last minute, it's because we don't have many good photos to use (Ok, and maybe it got left a bit later than it should). You can help! Take photos, and send them to [chron@ursula.sca.org.au](mailto:chron@ursula.sca.org.au) or to [seneschal@ursula.sca.org.au](mailto:seneschal@ursula.sca.org.au) - please put your name in the filename, so we can credit you.

So, to get you inspired... we're running a competition. The best Festival Photo (or, there might be categories, we'll see...) will receive a prize (besides being published in the Ivory Tower). What that is... is a surprise. But it'll be something good, we're not going to say "Great, you won! You get to do dishes at the next feast!" or anything of the sort. If possible, we'll get some sort of polling system up on the website. If not, it might come to a vote at a weekly meeting. It will be fun! You should enter!

# SO YOU NEED STUFF...

## WHERE TO GET MATERIALS AND FEASTING KIT NEAR SYDNEY UNI BY LYNDASAY

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As festival approaches all you new-type people will need to have feasting kit and material for garb making. Here are some places that are close (walking or Public Transport distance) to Sydney Uni that are good for finding feasting kit and material cheaply.

Note: the 423, 426 and 428 bus routes all leave from King street going towards Newtown from Sydney Uni.

### OP SHOPS

**Where:** The closest Vinnie's to Sydney Uni is across the road near where Broadway becomes Parramatta road. There are many op shops in Newtown, Enmore and Marrickville along the 423 and 426 bus routes.

Op Shops are great for feasting kit - wooden bowls, tankards, goblets, cutlery and baskets. At a typical Salvo's you can pick up basic feasting kit - two bowls a drinking vessel and cutlery for about \$5. You can also find bits and pieces for garb at op shops like belts, wool blankets (good for making warm tunics or cloaks), plain sheets or quilt covers, occasionally bolts or pieces of plain fabrics, sandals and/or boots that you won't mind ruining in the festival dust/gravel/mud/whatever new and exciting danger lurks at next year's festival site. In particular the Salvo's in Marrickville is good for wooden plates and bowls and bulk cutlery and the Cat Protection Society Op shop in Enmore usually has some pretty (if slightly more expensive) goblets, tankards and wool blankets. Also check out any Op shops and garage sales in you local area.

### REVERSE GARBAGE / THE BOWER

**Where:** Addison Road Community Centre on the 428 bus route.

Reverse Garbage is different every time you go there (even if you go there daily). At various times I have found bolts of cotton drill, upholstery fabric and linen, wool blankets, random other tunic sized pieces of fabric, large and small pieces of leather from belt leather thickness to garment leather. Much of the material they sell is in bag lots - as in you take a garbage bag and fill it with stuff for around \$20, or take a shopping bag and fill it with stuff for around \$5. Material on bolts is usually around \$5 or less per meter. Occasionally Reverse Garbage will have feasting kit type bowls or plates in the bag items section.

If you like shops that are ordered, with everything neatly folded and priced, this shop is not for you. If you are willing to spend some time looking for a bargain, love to find the rare gem (like a house-carpeting load of garment leather or the last few meters of a bolt of silk), or are looking for inspiration as to what project to start next, this is a great and cheap place to start.

The Bower is a small shop that does recycled furniture but always has good feasting kit - in particular good tankards, goblets, metal plates or bowls and candle stands. They also always have a good stock of tools and tent pegs and the occasional functioning sewing machine.

### MATERIAL SHOPS

Marrickville Road

**Where:** On the 423 and 426 bus route, towards Victoria Road from the Marrickville Road Salvos.

This shop stocks some period looking silks and wools, and usually has some good specials on cotton or wool blend materials. I always check their 50c to \$2.50 per meter specials. There are quite a few material shops

along Marrickville Road, and are good to browse if you have a bit of spare time.

## REMNANT WAREHOUSE

**Where:** On Sydenham Road, about 300m towards the Sydenham train station, from the Sydenham Road bus stop on Victoria Road, on the 423 and 426 bus routes. Alternatively, get off a train at Sydenham Station, and turn right when you exit, following Sydenham Road down to the shop, around 5 min. walk.

This is another good place to go if you want inspiration for a project, good for almost any kind of fabric at about 1/2 of the normal retail price. This shop sells mostly pre cut fabric in 1-4 meter lengths but will custom cut lengths if they have the bolt.

## FINE WOOLS DIRECT

**Where:** 1-11 Broderick St Camperdown. This is one street away from Parramatta road near Sydney Uni.

The best and biggest range of the fabric shops I have mentioned here but a bit pricey. This shop good for any kind of fabric and usually has one or two good seasonal specials, and give a 10% discount to SCA members, so if you're planning to do a lot of fancy garb-making, it might be worth forking out the \$30 for an SCA membership.



A PHOTO FROM O~WEEK, FEATURED ON  
STUDENT LOUNGE ( [WWW.STUDENTLOUNGE.COM.AU](http://WWW.STUDENTLOUNGE.COM.AU) )

# THE PEOPLE OF THE SCA

BY DUCHESS DAME YOLANDE KESTEVEN

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Right, you've got yourself sorted for clothes and interests and now you just need to tackle the tricky part: who the hell is everybody? And how do I know whether I'm meant to be impressed by them or not?

Titles are one way of working out where everybody fits within the SCA. There are a number of ranks that will tell you a lot about people, how long they've been playing and what particular skills they may have. These all fit into the Order of Precedence (OP), which is the ranking from most important titles down to no titles at all.

This does not mean that the best people have the best titles. Often the best people are quietly puddling away in the background with nary a bit of notice aside from a few profoundly grateful folks who've been lucky enough to meet them. Some of the people with the best titles are the biggest twonks. But on the whole, SCAdians with titles have worked in a positive way to deserve them.

There are some people who see their position within the OP as being the most important thing in their lives. The rest of us concentrate on more tangible stuff, such as sex, relationships, careers and chocolate.

I'll write in the future on how the award structure works, for now, here's a quick guide to who's what.

## THE POPULACE

**Referred to as:** whatever your name is, or a generic m'lord or m'lady

This term applies to everybody, from the newest newbie to the oldtimer who was there when it first began. Usually it's a straightforward descriptive term without any political loading. Occasionally it's used by the Crown to explain why they've made a decision that may be a difficult one. For example: "I do agree that it would be a very splendid sight if we all wore 15th century Burgundian, but alas the populace would never stand for it."

Every now and then it's used by people who want to push their own political agenda: "The populace demands that Elizabethan handkerchiefs become compulsory!" As a general rule of thumb, treat it in the same way as the word "Australian" and run for cover the minute people start sounding like a politician.



## THE POPULACE: THAT'S ALL OF US (INCLUDING YOU)

## ARMIGERS

**Referred to as:** Lord or Lady

These are people who have received an Award of Arms (AoA). The AoA is usually the first award that people receive in the SCA. It's not like a scouting badge where you complete the requirements and then get the prize, it's more erratic and unpredictable. Basically, the AoA is given when people around you have recommended you to the Crown and the Crown is convinced that you have added value to the SCA through your participation. Receiving an AoA has its benefits, it comes with the title of Lord or Lady and with a nice

scroll. It usually takes one to three years to receive an AoA, but can be more or less.

## COURT BARONS AND BARONESES

**Referred to as:** Your Excellency

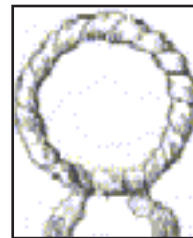
These are people who the Crown has seen fit for some reason to reward with the title of Court Baron or Baroness. Many of them used to be landed barons and baronesses (see below), others have done some amazing thing in one field or another, while yet others have just been incredibly amusing. It's the nicest award ever because you can get it for doing nothing more than being your own groovy self. That said, it's also rare and erratic. Court Baron(ess)s may wear little coronets to denote their status.

## GRANT HOLDERS

**Referred to as:** The honourable lord or lady

There are two types of grant. The first is a gift from the Crown for some good service or achievement. In period this sort of gift would come attached to some form of lands, pension or other concrete benefit. Today, you just get the title and a nice scroll.

The second type of grant is attached to the grant orders. In the Kingdom of Lochac we have two grant orders, the Lochac Company of Archers (the members are, no surprise, top archers) and the White Scarves (the members are top fencers). Membership to either of these orders brings with it an automatic grant of arms that outranks the basic grant. Membership to these orders is by the agreement of the order and is allowed by the Crown.



THE WHITE SCARVES' DEVICE

You can recognise members of the Company of Archers by their natty little pin of membership. White Scarves wear a white scarf around their sword arm.

In addition, the parts of Lochac that used to be a part of Caid (this covers New Zealand) have several other grant orders for achievement: the Crescent, Gauntlet, Chiron and Lux Caidas. Their members retained all honours when they became a part of Lochac.

## PEERS

There are four orders of peerage: knights, laurels, pelicans, and royal peers. The first three are known as the bestowed orders, because membership is bestowed by the Crown after polling each order. This means that the members of the order get together with the King and Queen and discuss whether they think a candidate should be invited to join the order. If they say yes, and the Crown agrees, the Crown will toddle off and ask the candidate if they want to be a Knight, Laurel or Pelican.

Royal peerages are granted after serving as King and Queen or Prince and Princess. I'll deal with each order separately as there are a lot of details to bear in mind. The bestowed orders are in alphabetical order below, by law they are all ranked equally.

## KNIGHTS

**Referred to as:** Sir or Dame (though most female knights prefer to be known as Sir.)

The Knights are the top fighters in the Kingdom and are also meant to be the best at displaying courtly graces and sharing their skills. In practise, some of the older knights may not be as fast or as strong as younger

fighters, but they are cunning old buggers and you underestimate them at your peril. Knights traditionally wear an unadorned white belt (which is restricted to knights' use, although embellished white belts are open to anyone), spurs and an open-link chain of fealty.

## LAURELS

**Referred to as:** Master, Mistress or Dame

The Laurels are the top practitioners of the Arts and Sciences in the Kingdom. Usually each Laurel specialises in a particular field, so you will meet armour laurels, brewing laurels, costume laurels, music laurels and research laurels, for example. In addition to having a master-level understanding of a particular area, Laurels are expected to be the best in the kingdom at courtly graces and sharing their skills (all the peers are). Laurels usually wear a laurel wreath somewhere in their jewellery or clothing and may also wear a chain to show they are in fealty to the Crown.

## PELICANS

**Referred to as:** Master, Mistress or Dame

The Pelicans are the top organisers in the Kingdom. They run events, hold offices, take on the thankless tasks and generally do the stuff that allows the group to run effectively. They are often found at the end of an event holding a broom, or else holding a stick and yelling at young people to hold brooms if they are the more training-oriented type of Pelican. They too are into the whole courtly grace and teaching side of things. If your being a Pelican a cup of tea and a comfy chair, you will often have made a friend for life. You can spot them by their medallions or brooches with a pelican in its piety, that is, a mother bird piercing her breast to allow the young to drink her blood.

## ROYAL PEERS

There are three types of royal peers. Viscounts and Viscountesses served one or more reigns as Prince and Princess, they are referred to as Your Excellency. They may wear a natty little coronet with a certain number or pearls, possibly 12 or 16, ask a herald.

Counts and Countesses served one reign as King and Queen. They are also referred to as Your Excellency, and have coronets with embattlements. Not that everyone can be bothered with the whole coronet thing ...

Dukes and Duchesses served two or more reigns as



THE DEVICE OF THE ORDER OF CHIVALRY  
(KNIGHTS)



THE DEVICE OF THE ORDER OF THE LAUREL



THE DEVICE OF THE ORDER OF THE PELICAN

King and Queen. They are referred to as Your Grace and may wear a coronet with strawberry leaves. Kooky, I know ...

All Royal Peers cope with the fact that other peers call this a jokey peerage and mock us mercilessly. Most of us do this smug in two pieces of knowledge; the first is that we know we have laboured with insane intensity during our reigns and therefore are not being rewarded unjustly, the second is that we outrank them.

#### TEMPORARY TITLES

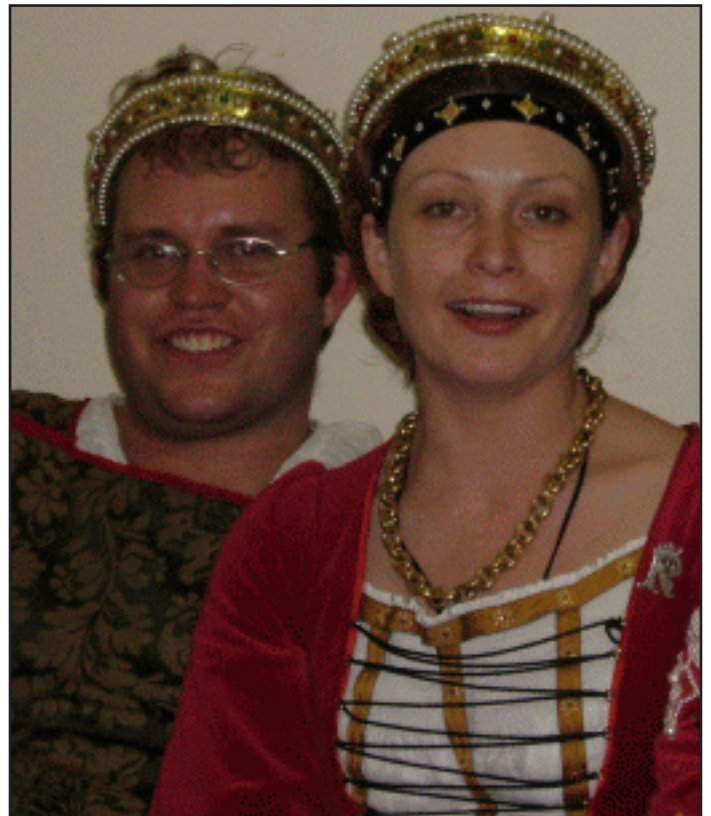
In addition to the permanent titles above (well, mostly permanent, you can hand them back if you get too over things, and some people have had them removed due to obscenely bad behaviour), there are others that are held for certain periods of time.

#### LANDED BARON AND BARONESS

**Referred to as:** Your Excellency

The Baron and Baroness of a particular Barony are known as 'Landed' B&Bs to distinguish them from people with a Court Barony. Within their own Barony, a landed B&B outranks everyone except the K&Q (and possibly the Crown P&P, I've never though to ask). When you meet a Landed B&B or are introduced to them, it is traditional to bow or curtsy. When they approach your table at a formal event, it is polite to stand and bow, or to make a small bow from a seated position. In court, when called before the B&B, leave any weapons behind, walk up to about five metres away from the thrones, bow or curtsy, then kneel in front of them.

Landed B&Bs are able to hand out local awards and often act on behalf of the Crown. They have a large workload, yet often hold onto the job for several years at a time. Traditionally they hold court at major events, lead a Barony's forces into battle and keep the Barony itself on an even keel. Landed B&Bs wear coronets with some insignia of their group on them. They may also have other bits of regalia made by their local group, and usually have a fealty ring to symbolise their connection to the Crown.



THE CURRENT BARON AND BARONESS OF ROWANY

#### CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS

**Referred to as:** Your Royal Highness

These people only exist between Crown tournaments and Coronations, they are the winner of the tournament and his or her consort, that is, the next King and Queen. They wear the old silver coronets of Lochac with a single big crossy bit at the front of each one, although they tend to first wear wreaths of rosemary with red, white and blue ribbons immediately after the tournament. They are usually mildly shell-shocked and insanely busy sewing and preparing everything for Coronation. It is traditional to bow or curtsy to the Crown P&P.

## KING AND QUEEN (AKA THE CROWN)

**Referred to as:** Your Majesty

The King or Queen is the victor of a Crown Tournament, held once every six months. Their consort takes on the role of co-monarch. You may think this is a silly way of choosing a leader, but take a look at the mundane election winners around and I think that you'll agree it's no worse than democracy.

You can spot them by their lovely silver crowns with lots of crosses, and possibly other bits of regalia ranging from delicious cloaks through to the sword of state (my favourite bit).

Manners towards the K&Q are more formal than with anyone else. You should bow or curtsy when introduced or when they pass by. You should not introduce yourself to them in a formal setting, ask a peer or another older player to do this for you. In an informal setting, such as a practice, it's fine (especially with the current K&Q who are very friendly and nice people).

When the King and Queen enter a hall or approach your table, it is traditional to stand and bow or curtsy as they pass or come up to you. If you are called forward in court, act as for a Baronial court. When you are given permission to leave the royal presence, try to take the first few steps backwards, then bow again before turning to walk back to your seat.

The K&Q do an astonishing amount of work and travel in this period and are often very tired through the course of their reign. This is because anything that they get less than perfect is usually shouted from the highest hills, while all the good stuff is taken for granted. Not that old Kings and Queens get bitter about that. No, hang on, we do! That's why we tend to hang out with royal peers who can offer sympathy or newbies who are all too fresh to be embroiled in political fandangos as yet.

The King and Queen are meant to exemplify all the positive qualities of the Kingdom. Most do a great job at this, but have particular skills in particular areas, so give royalty a break if they aren't as good as you'd like in one particular field. The next lot may well be more to your liking, or the ones after that.

## A FINAL WORD

Some people will tell you that titles are the be-all and end-all of the SCA. They are full of crap. I've been everything from a newbie to a Duchess. It makes sod-all difference. You should play SCA if you have a passion for some of the activities, whether they be fighting, research or making or doing stuff, or else for your friendships within the group. If you are playing solely for titles and see no joy elsewhere, you really, really need a life. Try a pet, or volunteer for meals on wheels. You'll get some pretty immediate validation there (well, so long as your pet's a dog or a budgie, cats aren't so useful on that front.)



KING ALFAR AND QUEEN GUDRUN



**Note:** Last month's printed IT contained the wrong copy of my article on SCA FAQs. This is because I sent it to the Seneschal and she, believing I don't make mistakes, printed it rather than coming back and saying: "What's with all the editing comments from your mate?" I think it's very sweet that she thinks I don't make mistakes, but completely wrong, I make them all the time. Sorry! The correct version is up in the webbed IT available as a PDF.

## WITH AN EAR TO THE SCA

### SONGS THAT YOU REALLY SHOULD KNOW

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#### HUNTING THE DEVIL

BY LLEWEN THE UNRULY

As we were out a-hunting, one morning in the Spring  
Both the hounds and the horses were running well, made the hills and valleys ring  
But to our great misfortune, no fox could there be found  
The huntsmen swore and cursed but still, no fox moved o'er the ground

Then up spoke the master huntsmen, at the head of the hounds rode he  
"Well we have ridden for full three hours, but no fox have we seen.  
"But still there's strength within me, and I shall have my chase  
"And if only the devil himself came by, I'd run him such a race"

Then up there sprang like lightning, a fox from out his hole  
His coat was the colour of a starless night, his eyes like burning coals  
And they've chased him over the valleys, and they've chased him over the fields  
And they've chased him down to the riverside, but still he would not yield

Now he's jumped into the water, and he's swum to the other side  
And he's crawled up onto the other bank, and he's turned to the huntsmen and cried  
"Ride on ye gallant huntsmen, when must I come again  
"Just call on me and you shall have the best of a sport and a game"

And the huntsmen stared in wonder, and the hounds ran back to hide  
For the fox had turned into the devil himself, laughing on the other side  
The hounds, the horses, the huntsmen all turned and fled for town  
And hard on their heels came a little black fox, singing as he ran

"Ride on ye gallant huntsmen, when must I come again  
"Just a-call on me and you shall have the best of a sport and a game"

### FESTIVAL

Rowany Festival is a five day camping event hosted by the Barony of Rowany over the Easter weekend, 5-10 April. With groups from all over Lochac (and international visitors) attending, the event is a huge celebration of all things SCA within Lochac. Baronies, Shires and even Households set up group campsites and usually decorate them with their own pennons, banners and group colours.

The Festival is self catered, and usually groups get together to cater for themselves and possibly other households, setting up large group campsites with cook tents, common areas and even group showers.

This coming Festival is the 5th on the Crossroads Medieval Village site, previous festivals were held at the Tara Girl Guide Camp in Silverdale, and Fairholme Park in Wilton. Fairholme Park hosted the Rowany Festival for fourteen years, providing many SCAdians wonderful memories, and many good times. At this stage, Rowany Festivals 2008 and beyond will be held at Glenworth Valley (for more information, check out the Barony's website: [www.sca.org.au/rowany](http://www.sca.org.au/rowany) ).

### STOWE HARVEST FEAST

“As the bitter winds of winter loom, come and join Stowe to celebrate the harvest bounty.”

**When:** Saturday 19th of May.

Armour inspection 2pm, Tourney 2.30pm, Feast 6pm

**Where:** Toongabbie Scout Hall, 99 Bungaree Rd, Pendle Hill, NSW

**Steward:** Kasiian Astrakhanovitch (Paul Manley) [squire\\_caspian@hotmail.com](mailto:squire_caspian@hotmail.com)

**Event Cost:** \$20 (members) \$25 (non members), \$40 unbooked at the door. Rates for families and hardship are negotiable.

**Cheques Payable To:** “SCA Stowe on the Wowld”

**Bookings Required:** Yes please.

**Booking Contact:** Finn (Sara Manley) at [wenchilada@gmail.com](mailto:wenchilada@gmail.com), mobile 0411955841

**Getting There:** Because it **always** happens - **Don't go to the Pendle Hill Scout hall we use on Wednesday nights.** This is a different hall and we won't be posting someone at the other place to redirect people. **If you haven't walked/driven past the 7-11 on the corner, you're at the wrong hall.**

**Public Transport:** Take the train to Pendle Hill. Then a short walk past the **7-11** down Bungaree Rd. Easy Peasy. Driving? It's pretty easy from the Cumberland H'way, check your map.

For more information, go to: <http://www.sca.org.au/stow/harvest.html> as to what the format of the tournament is and the menu, as that becomes available.

### FLAME TREE BALL

**When/Where:** The Flame Tree Ball is to be held on Saturday 26th of May 2007 (A.S. XLII), starting at 6.30 pm finishing around 11pm, at Bulli Masonic Hall, 282 Princes Hwy Bulli. It's around 3min walk from Bulli train station.

The Steward for this event is Karra Corkery. For any email enquiries, please include “Flame Tree” in the email subject line. There is still some limited billeting available if required.

Bookings can be made to the steward via email to [gabriella.karra@hotmail.com](mailto:gabriella.karra@hotmail.com) or by person at dance practices. Bookings by post are to be sent to The Flame Tree Ball Steward, University Mediaeval Society PO Box U100, Wollongong University NSW 2522. The cost for members (of a college or SCA member) is \$10 and for non members is \$14. Family rate on request. Please make any cheques are to be made payable to the University of Wollongong Mediaeval Society.

For more information, please visit their website: [www.sca.org.au/st\\_malachy/calendar/flametreeix.html](http://www.sca.org.au/st_malachy/calendar/flametreeix.html)



# YE ÜBER FESTIVAL CHECKLIST

## SUGGESTIONS OF SOME THINGS YOU'LL PROBABLY NEED

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### WHAT TO BRING:

#### BASICS:

- Shelter, Bedding and Furnishing
- Bed, mattress (pump and patch kit if applicable)
- Warm Bedding
- Banners, tapestries and cloth covers
- Chests, baskets and bags for storage
- Chairs/stools and table
- Floor mats/rugs and ground sheets
- Sunshade
- Tents, ties, stakes and white markers for guy ropes

#### LIGHTING ETC.—CONSIDER THE FIRE RULES!

- Torches and batteries
- Candles and candelabra
- Lanterns, tiki torches and fuel
- Lighter/matches

#### FEASTING GEAR

- Bottle opener and corkscrew
- Esky
- Tea towels
- Plates
- Bowls
- Mugs/tankards/goblets/drinking horns
- Personal utensils
- Eating knife

#### FOOD AND BEVERAGES

- Drinks: of the booze and non-booze sort
- Any snacks you really want.
- Condiments: anything you can't live without.
- Ice

#### TOILETRIES

- FIRST AID KIT**—well stocked with anything you need to live. (Prescription drugs and anything else you use regularly. Asthmatics - remember your meds!)
- Deodorant, powder etc
- Soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Sunscreen
- Tissues and toilet paper
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and mouthwash
- Towels

- Sunglasses
- Hairbrush/comb
- Insect repellent, Stingoze etc
- Mirror
- Razor, blades and shaving cream
- Lip balm
- Safety pins and bobby pins

#### GARB AND ACCESSORIES

- Warm and cold weather garb
- Belt, pouch and favours
- Cloak, hood, hats, veils etc.
- Jewellery and awards
- Shoes, boots and sandals
- Tabard, hose and regalia
- Tunics, breeches, gowns, tights etc.
- Underwear, socks, lingerie and chemises
- Spare lacing

#### ENTERTAINMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Archery, heavy and rapier fighters: **don't forget your armour/weapons/authorisation!**
- Book, sketchpad and pens/pencils
- Camera, film and batteries
- Current projects
- Songbooks, musical instruments
- Calligraphy kit
- Cards and games
- Equipment/handouts for collegia
- Water bearing equipment

#### TOOLS

- Armour repair kit
- Broom and dust pan
- Fire extinguisher and/or buckets for sand and water
- Mallet/hammer
- Rope/twine
- Shovel and rake

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Festival booklet
- Clock
- Maps to site
- Membership and authorisation cards
- Wallet/purse, chequebook, watch and keys
- Scissors
- Cash (there are no cash-out facilities on-site)

# APRIL, A.S. 42

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
26 Rowany Fighter Practice	27 Stowe Fighter Practice	28 Stowe Fighter Practice	29 Ursulan A&S (Cloaks/Tunics)	30 Ursulan A&S (Cloaks/Tunics)	31 Ursulan A&S (Cloaks/Tunics)	1 Ursulan A&S (Cloaks/Tunics)
2 Rowany Fighter Practice	3 Ursulan Lunchtime Meeting	4 Stowe Fighter Practice	5 Festival!	6 Festival! Good Friday Public Holiday	7 Festival!	8 Festival!
9 Festival! Easter Monday Public Holiday	10 Festival! Mid-semester Break	11 Stowe Fighter Practice Mid-semester Break	12 Mid-semester Break	13 Stowe Bardic circle Rowany Dance Practice Mid-semester Break	14 Stowe Bardic circle Rowany Dance Practice Mid-semester Break	15 Stowe Bardic circle Rowany Dance Practice Mid-semester Break
16 Baronial Meeting Rowany Fighter Practice	17 Ursulan Lunchtime Meeting	18 Stowe Fighter Practice	19 Ursulan A&S (Naming and Heraldry)	20 Stowe Singing, Dancing Cooks	21 Stowe Singing, Dancing Cooks	22 Drakkar War Practice
23 Rowany Fighter Practice	24 Ursulan Lunchtime Meeting	25 Stowe Fighter Practice ANZAC Day Public Holiday	26 Ursulan A&S (Viking Wire Jewellery)	27 Rowany Dance Practice	28 Radbourne 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration	29 Radbourne 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration
30 Rowany Fighter Practice	1 Stowe Fighter Practice	2 Stowe Fighter Practice	3 Ursulan A&S (Fibre Night)	4 Ursulan A&S (Fibre Night)	5 Bunch O'Classes	6 Bunch O'Classes

# MAY, A.S. 42

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
30 Rowany Fighter Practice	1 Stowe Fighter Practice	2 Ursulan A&S (Fibre Night)	3 Ursulan A&S (TBA)	4 Stowe Bardic circle Rowany Dance Practice	5 May Crown	6 Bunch O'Classes
7 Rowany Fighter Practice	8 Ursulan Lunchtime Meeting	9 Stowe Fighter Practice	10 Ursulan A&S (TBA)	11 Stowe Bardic circle Rowany Dance Practice	12 May Crown	13 May Crown Drakkar War Practice
14 Rowany Fighter Practice	15 Ursulan Lunchtime Meeting	16 Stowe Fighter Practice	17 Ursulan A&S (TBA)	18 Stowe Singing, Dancing Cooks	19 Harvest Feast and Tourney	20 Seneschal's Birthday
21 Baronial Meeting Rowany Fighter Practice	22 Ursulan Lunchtime Meeting	23 Stowe Fighter Practice	24 Ursulan A&S (TBA)	25 Rowany Dance Practice	26 Flametree Ball	27 Drakkar War Practice
28 Rowany Fighter Practice	29 Ursulan Lunchtime Meeting	30 Stowe Fighter Practice	31 Ursulan A&S (TBA)	1 Rowany Dance Practice	2 Flametree Ball	3 Drakkar War Practice