



IVORY TOWER

shield me from the real world

MARCH, 2008

"Those who give, hoping to be rewarded with honour, are not giving, they are bargaining."

-Philo Judaeus

WELCOME TO THE SCA

Welcome to the Society for Creative Anachronism, the SCA, and the college of St Ursula. Whether you were drawn to us by the colourful garb, the fighting, the dancing, or something else entirely, I'm sure you'll enjoy exploring what the society has to offer.

One of the key things about the SCA is that everyone loves what they do, and they will be flattered if you show an interest, too. So the archers couldn't be happier to lend you a bow. The fighters, to help you train. Garb makers will step up and help you make whatever sort of fanciful -or simplistic- clothing you desire.

If there is anything you have an inclination towards, as soon as you speak out there will be people ready to tell you more about how you can get started.

St Ursula is the University of Sydney branch of the SCA- an international organisation. There are activities held here on campus, and with so many friendly and outgoing members, it's a great way to meet and get to know other students.

Being such a widespread organisation means that we're part of a diverse community that extends well beyond the university grounds. The events in which we take part have attendees from all over Sydney, and often as not from all around Australia. Similarly, if there is feasting or fighting nearby Sydney in Newcastle or Wollongong, or even further afield and interstate, there is often a group of us going along.

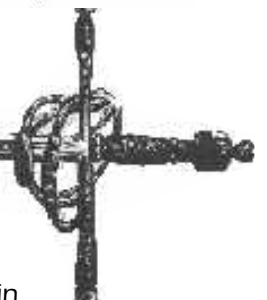
One thing is assured- you will never be short of adventures.
-Fionnachta



MEET AND GREET

So you've joined up and are wondering what's next? In a lot of ways, that's up to you. And so, we want to hear from you.

To that end, we will be meeting on Monday (4th of March) on the Botany Lawns, at 5pm. (Main Campus—if you head up towards the quad from Holmes, it's the patch of grass to your left.) This will give us a chance to talk a little more about what we do, but also importantly, to discuss when we'll be doing it this year, to best suit as many people as possible. We will encourage all and sundry to accompany us to the Baronial Fighter Practice (more details on page 3) afterwards..





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WHAT'S ON



Thursday 28th of February:

2:30-3pm O-WEEK MAIN STAGE DEMONSTRATION—Come watch a display of one of the group's most exciting aspects—Medieval Martial Combat! Otherwise known as Heavy Combat.

6pm Dance Practice—Every Thursday we meet on the Botany Lawns (up from Holmes towards the Front Lawns, and then on your left) to have fun learning a wide range of Medieval and Renaissance dances. No prior knowledge needed, all welcome! Come learn the dances that will be played at Feasts and Balls later on.

Drinks and Socialising—This week after Dance Practice, we will be proceeding to the Forest Lodge to hang out, get to know new members, and wind down after the main events of O-Week are over.

Monday 3rd of March:

5pm Meet and Greet— Also on the Botany Lawns—see front for more details—all members, new and old, are HIGHLY encouraged to attend a casual get together to discuss the upcoming year. We can tell you a little more about who we are, and what we do. It gives us a chance to find out what particular things you're all interested in so we can better cater to you. And we will then encourage you to join us when we go to...

7.30pm Baronial Fighter Practice and Arts & Sciences—This is held every Monday in Burwood (Burwood Cultural and Community Centre—47 Belmore Street, Burwood - a short walk from Burwood Station.) Have a look—and a go! - at the fighting first hand, and talk to all and sundry about Arts and Sciences, or any other topic that interests you. This is also the gathering where a large amount of the weekly socialising goes on, so it's a lot of fun!

After that...

Every week during semester there will be a club/college Arts&Sciences meeting, on a huge range of topics. The time for this is still uncertain—this depends on the timetables and availabilities of both rooms and members. Come to the Meet & Greet to give your input.

Dance Practice and Fighter Practice continue each week, and we also plan a regular lunch time social gathering, where members can talk about anything, whether related or not, and get to know each other. More details of all this will be sent to the email list, as well as posted on the website.

The two BIG events that are upcoming are:

Newcomers Feast— 8th of March—For more details turn to page 12.

Rowany Festival— 20-25th of March— For more details, turn to page 11.

You'll hear a lot more about these two, and why you should attend, but certainly mark your diaries for now. There are regularly other events, but you'll hear more about them in time.

All this information, and much more! will be available on the website-

URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU

as well as published regularly on the email list, which you can sign up to at
sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/ursulans/

MEET THE SENESCHAL— FIONNACHTA

SENESCHAL@URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU



Greetings!

I am Fionnachta, your seneschal (that's 'the president', if you're talking to the union). My actual role is a bit hard to define- I do a bit of everything.

Basically, I co-ordinate the other officers, fill in the gaps wherever they need filling, and generally make sure that things get done and everything runs smoothly.

Some people start out in the society with a strong interest in one thing or another- some are attracted to the fighting, some are attracted to the period clothing...

I am one of the people who wanted to try everything. Consequently I can be seen pretty much anywhere- I turn up to feasts, to fighter practices, to dances, and to arts and science sessions, whether they be with fabric, with leather, or with fiddly bits of wire.

I'm very excited about meeting new Ursulans. Hopefully I'll be seeing you at some of the exciting Stuff we have in store this semester and we can get acquainted.

Yours in service,
Fionnachta

FROM THE BARON GUI AND BARONESS AELFLED

Greetings and Welcome to the College of St Ursula, within the Barony of Rowany in the Kingdom of Lochac.

We, Gui and AElfled are the Baron and Baroness of Rowany, which is the local group that the College of St Ursula is affiliated with. We are the local nobility who get to hold court and hand out awards to those of the populace who are deserving of recognition.

The SCA is many things, including the study of fighting and armour, creating pre 1600's clothing and cooking up period culinary delights. We research and try to create all the best aspects of the medieval world with the our modern lives.

Whilst the college has it's regular events, the Barony has much to

offer you as well. There are regular fighter practices that include rapier and heavy fighting, as well as arts and sciences meetings at Burwood Masonic Hall on Monday evenings.

It is here that you will meet the wider Rowany community and begin to develop your interests and skills in the SCA. Should you have any questions please feel free to talk to us, as you will find that many of us will tell you much about the activities that make the SCA an interesting hobby.

We look forward to meeting you at the Newcomers Feast in early March and we hope to see you at the annual camping event, Rowany Festival a few weeks later.

SPQR,
Gui von Rowany and
AElfled aet Rowany



ROWANY@SCA.ORG.AU

"If we are learning, we're always going to be out of our comfort zone."

-John Maxwell

SO WHAT IS THIS SCA THING ANYWAY?

An FAQ by Duchess Yolande Kesteven

1. What is the SCA?

The SCA is the Society for Creative Anachronism. It is a recreational group focussed on recreating aspects of life before 1600.

For the most part, members research and construct clothing, weaponry and other items from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, with Europe being the centre of our attentions. For most of the Middle Ages, the Middle East and North Africa were such important trade partners with Europe (and everyone invaded everyone else so frequently) that there is no border drawn between modern Europe and these territories. Some members also dabble in Roman reconstruction, whereas others prefer Eastern (Chinese, Japanese, Mongolian).

We have a broad range of activities ranging from fighting with practice swords, through costuming, brewing, cooking, dancing, singing and music to textile, equestrian and academic research. Our official events are conducted in period clothing (called garb) and are a cross between a giant dress-up party and a huge game of Pretend.

The SCA was started by a group of medieval history students at the University of California, Berkeley in 1966 and now has over 30,000 paying members world-wide, with an estimated 60,000 more participants. While the College of St Ursula is for Sydney Uni students, SCA members come from all walks of life and across all age groups, with a lot of family participants.



The Flag of Lochac at Rowany Festival

2. Hang on, I thought you were a Sydney University club?

Well, we are. The College of St Ursula is a registered SU club that is affiliated to the Australian and International SCA. Our fees are much cheaper and our first responsibilities are to the university, but aside from that we interact pretty freely with the local SCA branches, especially the Barony of Rowany (Sydney region).

3. Sounds a bit hippy, doesn't it?

Yeah, you've busted us. The founding crew were all a bunch of unreconstructed hippies who went on to do things like write best-selling fantasy novels and found IT companies. To this day there are an awful lot of caring Californianisms in the governing documents of the organisation.



But we've managed to survive over 40 years, so it's hippy mixed with practicality. We try not to talk about modern politics, and there is a Society-wide injunction against official religious positions (you can believe whatever you like, we just don't care). And you certainly don't have to eat mung beans (although feasts do have vegetarian options).

4. So what do you actually do?

Medieval stuff. At official events we dress up in period garb, which you can borrow or hire for the first few months, and spend our time there doing everything from singing and feasting on medieval food to hitting each other in the (armoured) head with sticks. It's totally up to you. Pretty much every activity that was pursued in the Middle Ages comes under our field of interest, except plague and bad plumbing.

At our (ungarbed) meetings, we sit around and plan cunning new things and projects and share research and tell tales of what we've been up to. Basically it's a social-club meets craft-group meets martial art meets Lord

Gui and Aelfled—your Baron and Baroness

of the Rings. And yeah, it will come as no surprise to learn that those Berkeley hippies were all Tolkien freaks, too. But you're welcome to embrace whichever bits take your fancy and ignore the rest, just no elf ears or orc masks.

There are several camping events each year where people stay on site wearing garb the whole time. The biggest of these is Rowany Festival, which is held over the Easter holiday. Around 1000 people usually attend.

5. So would I be a serf?

No. The basic assumption is that everyone is of noble birth, and so the Society prides itself on treating everyone with courtesy. You're free to dress up as a serf if you like, but you will be treated as a noble who is slumming it.

The nobility concept extends throughout the game. Local groups are usually headed up by Barons and Baronesses, and there are Kings and Queens for each Kingdom. In addition, there are many people who have contributed a great deal to the game over the years that we call peers, although it's more common that members will hold a simple Award of Arms, known as armigers.



You don't need to know anything to start—there's always someone to teach you!

6. Royalty, peers, armigers – WTF?

Remember, Californian hippies. We didn't make this shit up, we inherited it (long story, ask someone who's been playing for while over a glass of mead sometime). They wanted to have a system of titles and hierarchies that were appropriately medieval. Being American and it being the 60s, they skimmed somewhat on their research and got a lot of things backwards in those early days. Despite the fact that most people in the SCA (including the original set) do things to a much higher standard these days, we keep the early kookiness since traditions have to start somewhere.

On the whole, having the royalty and nobility structure adds to the fun of the game. Royalty can hand out awards to people who have added greatly to the Society, and the courts are often very good theatre. Plus it's an easy way to identify people who have been around for a while and who know what they're on about.



A newbie gets kitted up to try fighting

7. Does this all cost a lot?

Not necessarily. Events range from free tournaments and picnics, through cheap feasts (usually around the \$20-30 mark) to more expensive high-end events and camping events. You can, of course, spend a small fortune, but there's an emphasis on learning to make your own gear and being self-sufficient. Skills are freely taught and shared, with loaner gear available for newbies.

Hell, now we sound Amish ...

8. Does it take up a lot of time?

Like any hobby, you can spend as much or as little time on it as you feel you want to. We usually encourage students to keep their involvement reasonably low-key – uni costs too much to not pass everything first go – but the SCA provides an easy place to kick back and relax when it's all getting a bit stressful.

9. What's with the kooky names?

Er, yes. One of the things that we like to do is invent medieval personae who have real-sounding names, and then we use those names at events. Seriously, how many times do we have to mention the hippies? They were all a bunch of mad-keen role-players, too, but they were and are very sweet.

On the positive side, this is a really good way to launch into some serious medieval study as you look for a name and description that suits you and is authentic. Plus it makes it very easy to remember that you're at an event and not accidentally launch into a discussion on the recent current affairs.



10. Are you sure you're not just a bunch of rejects from Nerds FC?

Absolutely. In fact one of the recent presidents of St Ursula was IN the last season. In all seriousness, we do have more than our fair share of trainspotters and geeks, but that's because we provide a warm, interesting and supportive environment for everyone.

We also have actors, writers, lawyers, architects, accountants, scientists, illustrators and teachers abungo. Some of our members wonder what the hell they're doing here (the writer has never ONCE played D&D, yet has a comprehensive library of medieval textiles), but we all find areas that capture our interest and expand our knowledge of the world and our own abilities.

And it's not all Courts and Feasts, either...

11. Do I have to be a wench?

No. Women have access to all parts of SCA participation and all levels of power. So if you want to be an axe-wielding maniac who runs the treasury of the group, go wild. And if you want to wear a cleavage-enhancing frock, feel free, but be aware that you will drop crumbs down there until you get the hang of things.

The SCA has policies on equality across all groups and areas, so really, you're the only person who can limit your participation.

12. Will I meet girls/boys?

That we can promise you. Of all descriptions and persuasions if you head to one of the bigger events such as Rowany Festival. Whether you like any of them is another question entirely, but you will make friends. The biggest upside of this is that, as an international group, there is often a free sofa available when you travel overseas, just use the SCA connect-a-traveller network before you set off.

13. Is it all just a cover for 'adult activities'?

Every now and then you will meet someone who tries to convince you the SCA is all about getting your kit off. Take a close look at these people and ask yourself: does it seem likely that they regularly get any?

While we're perfectly happy for you to get your kit off with whomever you may choose, that's your business. Although St Ursula is full of students, the general SCA population is more family oriented with loads of kids about.



14. Do I really have to talk like a Shakespearean actor?

No. But we do ask that you not discuss modern (we call them mundane) topics at events. Most people spoke a fairly standard English in the Middle Ages, and it's the same in the SCA. If you speak perfect Middle or Elizabethan English, feel free to show it off, but be prepared for some blank glances. Oh, and the people who speak with accents in the group? They're actually foreign imports, we've got quite a few.

15. Are you all a little mad?

Yes, but if you can't be mad at Uni, when can you be? As for the older members, it's less mad than spending every Sunday at golf.

Duchess Yolande Kesteven

MEET THE HERALD—PADDY

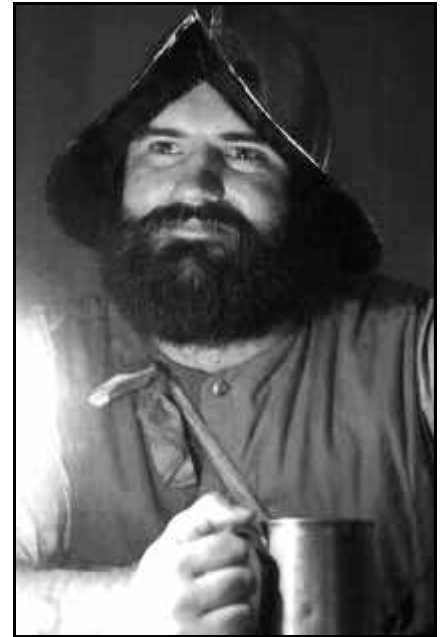
HERALD@URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU

Greetings and well met, gentle reader! I am Padraic Lowther, the Herald of the College of Saint Ursula, and as such am in charge of all things heraldic within the college.

Now, being a newcomer that's not going to mean much to you, so what it boils down to is that I'm the fella to talk to about names, coats of arms and various other items of heraldic display.

I will be running some basic intro sessions on heraldry later in the year, so that people can design their own coats of arms and choose names to go with them. In real life, I am a post-grad student doing research in plasma physics, and so am approachable on matters of that sort as well.

Yours in Service,
Paddy



MEET THE CHRONICLER—AMELINE

CHRON@URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU

Are you going to Canterbury Fayre?
Are you red or most royal blue?
Take your side by King or by Queen,
Then we'll see who's word is most true.

Berengar called to his beautiful Queen,
Are you red or most royal blue?
By Rowany festival bring me an heir,
Then we'll see who's word is most true.

Bethan called to her stout hearted King,
Are you red or most royal blue?
My lord I believe surely you jest,
Then we'll see who's word is most true.

I am King my word you defy,
Are you red or most royal blue?
Yes I am Queen your word is not mine,
Then we'll see who's word is most true.

If war you want then war you shall have
Are you red or most royal blue?
I fear you not, bring what you may
Then we'll see who's word is most true.

To the field of Canterbury Fayre,
Bethan Red or Berengar Blue
Bring yourselves ready for war,
Then we'll see who's word is most true.

—William Castille

(Written and sung at 12th Night Coronation, reflecting the Kingdom's current state of affairs. For more detail, turn to "Kingdom Divided" on page 14)



Greetings. I am Ameline Giffard, the current Chronicler of St Ursula. As such, this publication is my domain—or at least, I'm the cattle herder that pushes it all into one "neat" package for your eyes, oh Gentle Reader.

That's not to say I write everything you read in the Ivory Tower—in fact, the less that I write, the better! Sometimes I come across stories in my travels, and then endeavour to contact the author as to whether they'd approve its inclusion—but some of the best contributions are those that come from you. There'll be more on that later.

My duties in bringing the Word to the College sometimes overlap with Johannes (Jan), our talented Web Minister—and as such you will sometimes see me writing on the website. But I'm also probably the person you want to contact if there's something you'd like to see written about in either medium—and I'll see what I can do.

Within the society, my interests are fairly broad—and I'm happy to talk about most topics. I'm a beginning Heavy Fighter, a sometimes Dancer and Musician, a novice Garb Maker, and a never ceasing Student. My persona is heading towards being an 11th century Sicilo-Norman. I also work in a bookstore, so if you're having trouble tracking down a particular book, I may be able to help! Come chat to me at an event, or a training, or a meeting. Or you can email me at
chron@ursula.sca.org.au

MEET THE MARSHAL—LACHLAN

MARSHAL@URSULA.SCA.ORG.



Hi, I'm the Marshal.

This basically means that if you're interested in the whacky, pokey or shooty bits of our wonderful society, I'm the guy to talk to. I'm here to give you an idea of what each combat form is about, help you try it out, and also give you advice/help with getting your own equipment.

I'm not the only one in the college who knows about fighting, and there'll be plenty of other people from the regional group to help out as well, but it's nice to have a first point of contact who won't bite. No question is too obvious or stupid (if it seems to be, odds are that you're not the first one to ask it).

Now, where can you see your friendly college Marshal in his native environment? At fighter practice, of course! It's on Monday nights, starting at 7:30, in Burwood (Burwood Cultural and Community Centre—47 Belmore Street, Burwood - a short walk from Burwood Station.). If you can't get to that, I'll be at as many of the weekly meetings as I can, or you can contact me directly.

My email address is marshal@ursula.sca.org.au—or feel free to contact me on my mobile.



MEET THE WEBMINISTER AND CONSTABLE—JOHANNES

WEBMINISTER@URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU

Hail and well met. Welcome to the College of St Ursula.

My name is Johannes (although you can call me Jan if that's too much of a mouthful) and I am the college's constable and web minister. This is my second year as constable and web minister for the College. I've been in the college for the past 3 years.

As the college constable, I look after general safety and security at events, look after lost property, make sure people sign the required mundane paperwork and encourage people to prevent mundane life intruding into events.

As the web minister, I maintain the College web site where you can find the contact details for all the current officers, articles written by collegians, both past and present, and references to other materials

which you may find of use in the SCA. I'm also the web minister for the Barony in which we reside, but that's another story. Whilst I am the



web minister, the web site is mostly fuelled by the contributions of our members - if you feel inspired to write about your experiences starting out in the College, or about any particular subject in which you involve yourself, feel free to contact myself or our Chronicler.

I'm also a keen combatant, enjoying both archery and heavy combat, and have been involved in combat since 2005. I'm always keen to see new faces from the college participating in combat events.

I hope to see you all enjoying your time with us in the College of St Ursula. I hope to see you all getting more involved in the not to distant future.

- Jan

MEET THE REEVE—ROSALIND

Welcome to the SCA!

I'm Rosalind (or Rosie) the Nameless, the St Ursulan Reeve. There is story behind the name, but it is short and not very interesting. Feel free to ask me about it anyway, or anything else to do with what we do.

What is a Reeve, you say? Well it has to do with money. I keep the books and make sure we can fund all the events and other fascinating things we organise you know you want to become involved in.

It can be a dry and often thankless task so you probably won't see as much of me as some of the other officers. However, if you come across something that you think would indeed be super awesome for us to have, but require financial backing, come to me and I'll see what I can arrange.

A final note to everyone, if you want reimbursement, I need the receipts.



REEVE@URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU

"Whichever party is in office, the Treasury is in power."

-Harold Wilson

MEET THE A&S OFFICER & RAPIER MARSHAL—LIJSBETT

ARTSCI@URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU

I'm Louise, or Lijsbett, your friendly neighbourhood Arts and Sciences Officer.

I'm your first contact for anything and everything related to Arts and Sciences in the SCA—that includes clothing, sewing, leatherwork, dancing, cooking, brewing, weaving, fabric dyeing, spinning, candle making and anything else that floats your boat.

If you need garb (clothes) and don't know how or where to start—come and talk to me. If you have an urge to try a craft, or make something to enhance your medieval experience—come and talk to me. I will either help you myself, or introduce you to someone else who can.

I will also be running Arts and Sciences evening throughout the semester on basic garb, names in the SCA, and anything else I can come up with—so please, tell me if your interested in learning something,

no matter how obscure (I like obscure!).

I'm also your friendly rapier marshal. That means I get to spruik the joys of rapier fighting within the college and within the barony. If you don't know what rapier fighting is, try picturing the sword fights in *The Princess Bride* and you're pretty close.

It's fast, it's pretty, and it doesn't require getting dressed in a tin can and being pounded on the head—in short, it's a lot of fun.

If you're interested in learning to fence, or just learning about fencing, please come and ask me, or come along to fighter practice on Monday nights in Burwood and see what it's all about. Really, we're much less intimidating than the heavies...

-Louise



LOCHAC'S GREATEST EVENT— ROWANY FESTIVAL

When: 20th-25th March 2008

Rowany Festival is a five day camping event hosted by the Barony of Rowany over the Easter weekend. 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.

This coming Festival is the 1st on the new Glenworth Valley site, previous festivals were held at Crossroads Medieval Village in Yass, 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.

This is event of fighting, of feasting, of socialising and singing, of fun and frivolity.

Expect more information over the Ursulan email list, or check out the Rowany Festival website—<http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival/>

MEET THE CAPTAIN OF ARCHERY—**MORGAINE**

ARCHERY@URSULA.SCA.ORG.

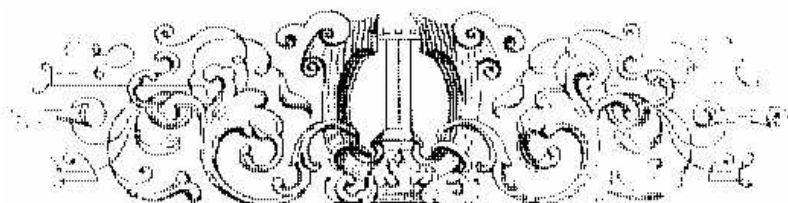
To all those of the populace who see or hear these words, from your yet unnamed Captain of Archers, Greetings.

I have been involved with our noble College for two years, and have been fighting for the Glory of the Red Bear for close on a year as a light and recently as a heavy combatant.

I have in my charge the college bows and arrows, I make and repair arrows and can point you in the direction of armour. So contact me if you are interested in combat or target archery. I am also an authorized target archery marshal.

Other than fighting my interests extend to the Arts and sciences, embroidery, dance, calligraphy and illumination, I have even been known to pick up a recorder or sing.

Let it be known onto all that our College with its mighty heritage is in need of defenders! So raise your bow or your sword (axe, pole-arm, rapier...) and join us to march beneath the banner of St Ursula!



Rowany Newcomers Feast



A new year brings new growth, and this year brings new growth in a number of areas. A new Festival site and an early Festival this year needs new faces to impress with our unique style of fun, education and sport. Newcomers Feast is a great opportunity to bring along friends and family and show them the fun that is the SCA in Rowany.

This years Newcomers is shaping up to be a showcase of all that makes the SCA exciting. Invite your friends and family along to learn about SCA involvement with a Tourney, A&S and a feast in the SCA's traditional eat, drink and be merry style.

There will be Games to entertain people from the end of the tourney through to the start of the feast, and a "How to make a quick T-Tunic" *collegia****. The Feast itself promises to be a true trip through both time and space with the feastocrats organising an edible medieval tour from England to the Middle East.

Discuss booking with steward even if you can't be sure to be there.



When:

Saturday the 8th of March.

Where:

IMAR Community Hall, Croydon, NSW

Cost:

\$20/\$25 Members/Non Members

\$15 First Event price

\$40 At the door after 28th February

Activities:

Tourney, A&S Collegia, A&S Competition, Games, Dancing, Court, Music

More Info: <http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/newcomers/>

Bookings:

Contact Sveinn inn kyrri Grimsson at sveinn@lochac.net

*First Event price is for Newcomers who have never been to an SCA event before. Anyone who books at this rate and is found out to be abusing the discount by having been to an event before will need to pay the At the door price of \$40 to attend.

**Collegia organiser may ask for a fixed contribution to materials which is likely to be between \$5 and \$10."

A NOTE FROM THE PAST—
LORD LOCHLAINN DE HAMELDONNE
 GIVES US A SET OF RULES FOR A TUDOR MONARCH

Inne the spyryte of *loyaltie* and *obeisance* to their *Royalle Majesties* (whose *Earthlie Dy-sagreements* will undoubtedly be *Swyftly Resolv'd*), Their *Loyale* and *Temperate* Subject, Lochlainn de Hameldonne does Here presente a *Briefe Overviewe* or *Summarie* of some *Anciente Conventions* that mighte be expected of a Monarche of their Lineage, that be-inge the *Grande* and *Nobyll* House of Tudor.

- 1) The *Kynge's* worde is Law, and no other authoritie, *Worldlie* or *Otherwise*, Shalle have precedence over the *Kynge's* Law, owinge to the *Paine* of *Seperation* from one's Monarchie's *Authoritie*, or, *Indeede*, one's owne Heade.
- 2) The *Kynge's* Privat matters may beknownst to thee Publick as *Scandalouse*, and shoulde Hee Desyre it, Such *Scandale* shalt immediately be accompany'ed by a *Tryale* (for *Adultyrie* or *Otherwyse* - See Rule 1). Such *Tryales* maye be carry'ed oute by the *Kynge's* justice, wherebye *Evydanse* salt include *Confessiones under Torture*, *Byrthe defectes* of the *Kynge's* chyl dren, Any sufficiently *Salacious* tales of *Inceste*, *Infidelity*, ande other *Mischieffs*, the *Contentes* of the *Kynge's* pockets, ande the *Supicieuse behavioure* of the Ravens of the Tower. Punyshement for a *Guiltie Verdicte* shalle accorde to Rule 1.
- 3) The Royal Wyfe of suche a *Kynge* of the *Grande Lineage* of the House of Tudor, shalle be dependent, First and Foremoste, upon thee *Politickal Convenyance* of her position. Suche *Convenyance* shoulde Properlie be attayn'd by *Intrigue* within the Courte, and amongste the *Nobylls* of the Realme. Shoulde, however, suche *Intrigue* be overlle *Effectyve*, see Rule 1.
- 4) Thee *Kyngdome* shalle suspend its *Scandalouse* internal *Dysputes* immediately uponne the emergence of a *Greate National Threate*. Suche *Threate* shall be *swiftilie* and *surelie* Destroy'd, whereupon the *Kyngdome* shalle resume its *Scandales* exactlie whence it Lefte Offe.
- 5) Should a *Successor* be Produc'd, the *Kynge* should *Immediatelie* seek to procure the Arrainge-mente of a *suitable Marriage* for his Heir to thee Sovereigne or Heir of another *Kyngdome* of *equalle* or *greater Power* and *Reputation* than this *Nobyll* *Kyngdom*. *Indeede*, the moste *preferable* *Royalle Marriage* would be into the *Royalle Familie* of the *Greate* *Kyngdome* from which our own hath, in *Dimme Antiquitie*, deriv'd.

So Endeth thee *Endeavoure* of the *Kynge's* Lord Lochlainn de Hameldonne to reminde their *Royalle Majesties* of the *Wayes* and *Customes* of their *Greate* and *Nobyll* Ancestors.

KINGDOM DIVIDED—KINGDOM AT WAR

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR CHRONICLER

Lochac, our usually peace loving Kingdom, is at War. In the lead up to the long awaited Coronation of Crown Heirs Sir Berengar of Nancy and Mistress Bethan of Brockwood, which took place on the 12th of January, War was the furthest thing from the minds of the populace.

But seemingly only moments, after being recognised as our new Monarch, King Berengar demanded from the now Queen Bethan, an heir—an heir to the throne of Lochac, to be provided by the commencement of Rowany Festival.

Surely here the King jested—but apparently not, and at the Queen's refusal, Court ended with the King's outraged exit—only to be recommenced a few hours later—and this time, alone.

But Queen Bethan would not be kept from her populace, and with a fanfare of trumpets, she arrived armed and armoured—a drastic contrast to the masterwork of Tudor tailoring that had been her previous attire—accompanied by her guard, demanding explanations.

While the war of wills was not the only tug of war in

the proceedings, both King and Queen showed the strength of their resolve – and it was only after heated words that shocked the populace that King and Queen determined to stand together at least in court, however they should fight on the war field.

Nonetheless, a call for arms had been made, and sides have been taken. Those who believe that King Berengar's demands to his consort are justified, wear blue.

One might speculate on the substance of His Royal Majesty's request—it being a mere three months from Twelfth Knight to Rowany Festival. (For more details about this upcoming event, please turn to page 12.) And indeed, clearly speculation was made, for it was more than one Lord who made his offer of assistance known to the Queen, claiming virtues of vigour and vitality. In recognition of the sensitive nature of the subject, these names will remain concealed...

Those who fight for Queen Bethan, believing that her legitimacy as our rightful Queen is not dependent on her production of an heir wear red, and raise sword and shield in her name..

Which will you wear?



Rowany's Baroness Aelfled approaches the King and Queen, between whom conflict is postponed... for now.

SO WHAT'S WITH ALL THE VIOLENCE?

An FAQ by Lord Lochlainn de Hameldonne

What exactly do you do? I've seen you guys hitting each other with sticks, playing with swords, and holding bows menacingly. How does it all work?

We have three main types of combat disciplines. Here's a brief run-down of each:

Heavy Infantry Fighting: Think *Braveheart*, or *A Knight's Tale*. Full contact martial sport using heavy armour (usually about 20kg) and rattan weapons (Rattan looks like bamboo but has solid core, also used for furniture and Kendo swords).

Very popular, and has the added bonus of being the combat form that is used to determine who gets to be King/Queen. Both single combat and massed combat (even involving archers) are popular for heavies.

Light Fighting: Think *Robin Hood*, or *Henry V*. Archery (using 30 pound bows and arrows with rubber "blunts" on the business ends), axe- and javelin-throwing, non-contact fighting.



Lights participate in wars, shooting / throwing at heavies and each other. Less armour is needed than in Heavy fighting, because you will not be involved in melee fighting (you won't be hit with sticks, just shot at etc.). Lots of fun, easy to get involved in, and great if you don't want to be *too* close to the action while still getting in on the entertainment.

Rapier Fencing: Think *Three Musketeers*, or *Pirates of the Caribbean* Fighting with blunted steel swords. Think modern fencing but much more freeform: you can use two swords, rapier and dagger, cloak and dagger, etc., and you can move sideways around your opponent instead of just fighting in a straight line.





Isn't it dangerous?

Not really – we see less injuries than Football or Rugby. Because we are aware of the dangerous nature of combat sports, we have very effective safety rules and procedures, and nobody can fight without first proving they are safe on the field.

How does it work? How do you know who wins, and how difficult is it?

All our fighting works on a simple but effective honour system, backed up by people called "marshals" who help adjudicate. When you are first trained to fight, you are taught "calibration": how hard you have to be hit for that hit to count. If you are hit that hard in a "fatal" area (head, neck, torso), you "die" (shout out "good", as in "good hit", and fall over). If you are hit that hard in a non-fatal area (arm or leg), you forfeit the use of that limb (E.G. dropping

to your knees or holding an arm behind your back).

If you don't think the hit was hard enough, your opponent will try to hit you progressively harder until you do – so cheating is really silly and tends to end in a painful experience for the cheat. For light infantry, because they cannot be "hit" by a heavy, they are killed either by being shot/hit with a missile weapon, or by having a heavy walk within 5 metres of them, show the light that they are holding a weapon, and loudly say, "My lord/lady, You are Slain!" or something very similar to the same effect.

Can people like me get involved?

Yes! The more the merrier! All our combat forms are unisex, and there are a number of good female fighters in every discipline. Don't think you have to be tall, strong, or co-ordinated to play, either: some of the best fighters are small, and you will learn how to be more co-ordinated as you go. Also, the SCA is an entirely non-denominational group: we won't preach at you, we're not a cult, and we have members from a very wide range of backgrounds.

Isn't it expensive, then?

That depends on you. To start off, you can borrow equipment until you decide whether you want to continue with fighting. After that, you could get together a



simple, but effective Heavy kit for around \$150-350 if you're willing to help make it (we'll teach you how to make it as well), or buy a set of beautiful full plate armour for \$2000+: it depends on your budget. For light, costs are considerably less, around \$100-200 at the cheapest, more if you want nice kit. For rapier, it varies, but it tends to be around the same as heavy, if not a bit less, for a very basic kit.

So, how do I get involved?

Contact your friendly college Marshal (that would be me, Lachlan, email: marshal@ursula.sca.org.au), and we'll tell you all the details and give you a hand with anything you need. Alternately, you can always turn up at Rowany Fighter Practice (Burwood Cultural and Community Centre (aka the Double Hall, aka the old Masonic Hall) at Belmore Road, Burwood. Monday night, 7.30pm until late.)



And while you take a breather, see if you can solve this Medieval Riddle

A lonely wanderer, wounded with iron,
I am smitten with war-blades, sated with strife,
Worn with the sword-edge; I have seen many battles,
Much hazardous fighting, oft without hope
Of comforts or help in the carnage of war
Ere I perish and fall in the fighting of men.
The leavings of hammers, the handiwork of smiths,
Batter and bite me, hard-eged and sharp;
The brunt of the battle I am doomed to endure.
In all the folk-stead no leech could I find
With wort or simple to heal my wounds;
But day and night with the deadly blows
The marks of the war-blades double and deepen.

Extract from Riddles from the Exeter Book. An Anthology of Old English Poetry.
Email chron@ursula.sca.org.au for an answer, or wait for it to be listed on the website.

LADY LUCREZIA ANSWERS ALL

For the first time ever, St Ursula's IVORY TOWER has its own Social Column, where all your questions can be answered. Do you have a How To question? Do you have a question of Salacious Gossip? Do you have an Etiquette question? Anything at all Sign your question, or send it anonymously.

You have a question, Lady Lucrezia has the answer.

Email her at
LUCREZIA@URSULA.SCA.ORG.AU

Dear Lady Lucrezia,

Not all of us were able to travel to Southron Gaard – but I have heard tales that there was yet more war at Canterbury Fair– is there any way you can bring us any information?

Cordially,
Lord Lucas

Dear Lord Lucas,

You ask, and I provide! Like yourself, I was unable to attend – but I have made inquiries, and have been supplied with the following (below) by a witness to the event... I hope it leaves you feeling more informed...

Sincerely,
Lady Lucrezia

'There was war. Many, many people were delighted to fight for our beautiful Queen. Several thought it would be kind to help out the king who is not bad looking in a dim light. A number of inventive scenarios were played out. Afterwards the Queen was heard to declare:

"HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA I am DOMINANT!!"

The King was heard to say: "We played hard and fair and looked good on the day, but circumstances conspired against us." And also. "Ohhhhhh ... it was ugly ..."

Despite this, no clear resolution to the ongoing war has yet been found. However, showing their grace and majesty, King Berengar and Queen Bethan worked smoothly together for the good of their Kingdom and put aside their dispute until such time as it could be further tested at war in Borderscross and at Rowany Festival. And the children of the Kingdom were delighted to find that war comes with piles of sweets!

-a witness who prefers to remain anonymous

Dear Lady Lucrezia,

I am dreadfully afraid that my husband is going to behead me! What can I do?

Terrified,
Anne B.

Dear Anne B.,

You may be beyond my help.

However, options that you might undertake could include the production—or at least, supply—of an heir; or perhaps a course of hemlock. I will write to you privately with further...

Wishing you all the best,
Lady Lucrezia



Dear Lady Lucrezia,

I think I made a social faux pas at the feast I was at recently. I travelled for the first time with my father to Court, and I met some incredible people, far removed from my usual manor living.

But a Lord presented me with a piece of fruit decorated with some kind of spice – and I said I wasn't hungry, that the food had been so wonderful and filling. Did I do something wrong? He stared at me so oddly, and people started whispering... M'lady, can you tell me what was going on?

Mildred the Confused, 16

Dear Mildred,

Ah, it is perhaps unfortunate that no one prepared you for your first visit to Court. There are indeed some customs and conventions that might seem very strange to the uninitiated. This, I'm afraid, is one of them.

Lady Mildred, you were, I have no doubt, presented with a Cloved Lemon, and I daresay the Lord was not strictly thinking of your appetite when he picked you out for this endeavour.

A Cloved Lemon is a means of introduction, of attention – and dare I say it, flirtation. By offering you a Cloved Lemon, he was, in short, offering you a kiss.

It is not quite so presumptuous as it might seem. The target of such an invitation has no obligation to accept, although admittedly sometimes one might feel some pressure to do so... But the recipient, should they choose to accept the Lemon, may also pick the location of the kiss, whether it be back of one's hand, one's cheek – really, some gentles' imagination can run quite wild at this point...

If one proceeds, you then take a clove from the lemon with your teeth – between you and me, it freshens the breath quite effectively – and let the gentle deliver the kiss – after you've discarded the clove, of course. However you choose to respond – or, in your case, Lady Mildred, however you did respond – you should consider it a fine flattery.

Sincerely,
Lady Lucrezia

Dear Lady Lucrezia,

As I'm sure you're aware, following the developments of the Coronation, rumours have been rife! The Populace are talking scandalous gossip of both King and Queen. Why the urgency for an heir? The King appears to be in good health, is there threat of invasion? Does he fear a death in battle – or is intrigue in court so great that he fears for his life in his own Kingdom?

And more so! That offers were made by Knights and Squires to assist the Queen in the production of an heir – how can we not speculate? And indeed, the manner of what we must speculate! There is talk of political favour, there is talk of intrigue, there is talk of affairs and infidelity! - and while I am not one to advocate the airing of the Royal Privacy in public -

Lady Lucrezia, can you answer any of the questions that plague us all?

In eager anticipation,
Contessa de Seville

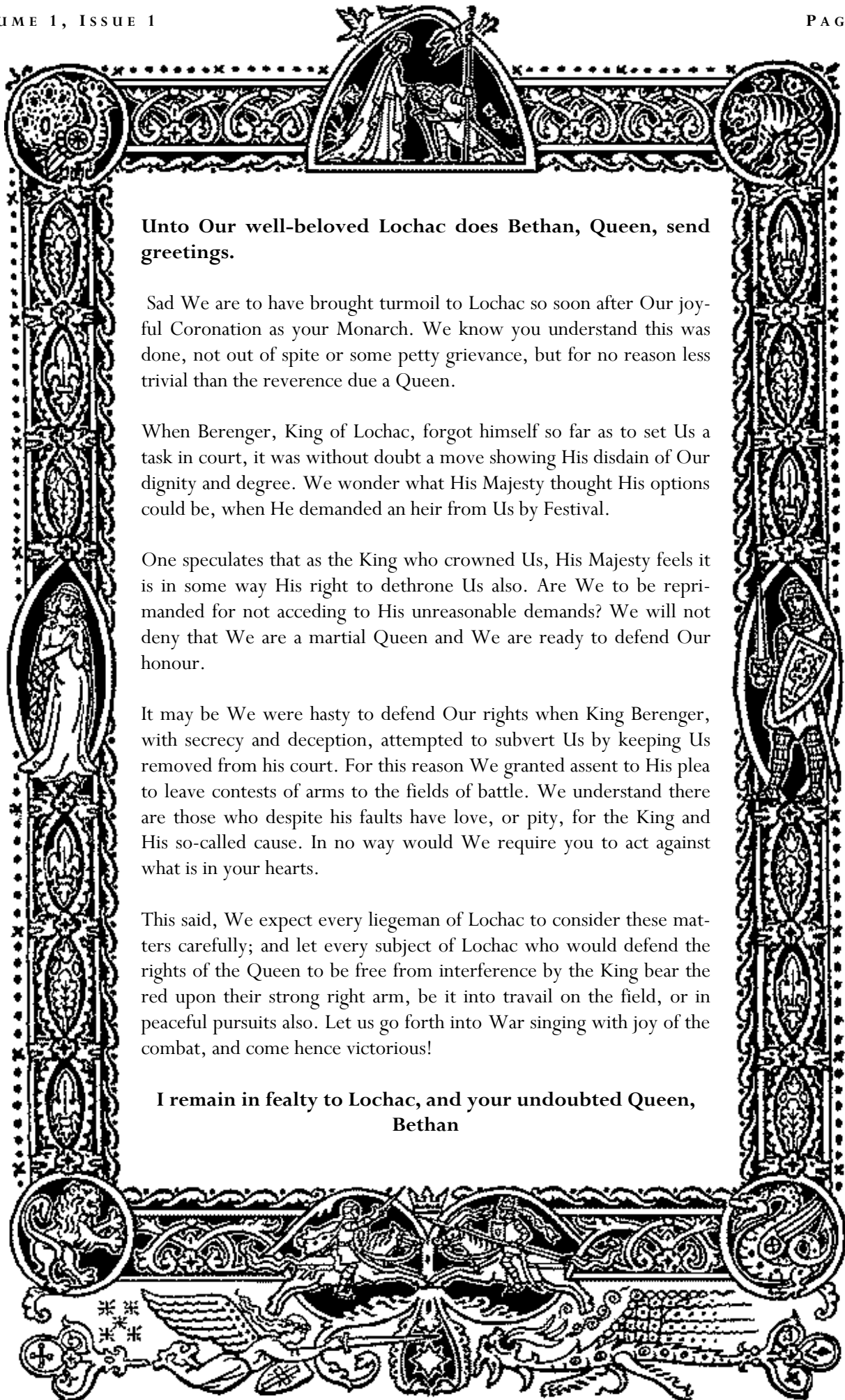
Your Excellency,

Surely you would not imply that the King would behave improperly? Do you believe that the slanderous talk of our beloved Crown has any truth? I invite all who feel they have knowledge of these affairs, true knowledge and certainty, to write to me and advise on the subject!

That said, one must wonder how well our King Berenger knew the Lady he would make Queen, if he believed her one to quietly submit to a demand that would impugn her legitimacy and equality.

Nonetheless, it is the same strength and strength of conviction that brought Berenger to us as King, that rallies support around Bethan as Queen. With such fierce energy and potency in both our Crowned Leaders, how can the Kingdom fear to come out at a loss? And surely the aforesaid puts at least some of the speculation to rest...

Your servant,
Lady Lucrezia



Unto Our well-beloved Lochac does Bethan, Queen, send greetings.

Sad We are to have brought turmoil to Lochac so soon after Our joyful Coronation as your Monarch. We know you understand this was done, not out of spite or some petty grievance, but for no reason less trivial than the reverence due a Queen.

When Berenger, King of Lochac, forgot himself so far as to set Us a task in court, it was without doubt a move showing His disdain of Our dignity and degree. We wonder what His Majesty thought His options could be, when He demanded an heir from Us by Festival.

One speculates that as the King who crowned Us, His Majesty feels it is in some way His right to dethrone Us also. Are We to be reprimanded for not acceding to His unreasonable demands? We will not deny that We are a martial Queen and We are ready to defend Our honour.

It may be We were hasty to defend Our rights when King Berenger, with secrecy and deception, attempted to subvert Us by keeping Us removed from his court. For this reason We granted assent to His plea to leave contests of arms to the fields of battle. We understand there are those who despite his faults have love, or pity, for the King and His so-called cause. In no way would We require you to act against what is in your hearts.

This said, We expect every liegeman of Lochac to consider these matters carefully; and let every subject of Lochac who would defend the rights of the Queen to be free from interference by the King bear the red upon their strong right arm, be it into travail on the field, or in peaceful pursuits also. Let us go forth into War singing with joy of the combat, and come hence victorious!

**I remain in fealty to Lochac, and your undoubted Queen,
Bethan**



**I, Berenger King Of Lochac do give missive
to our populace.**

Much speculation has occurred over events of our coronation. We as King, would ensure the continuation of our line and continued peace and prosperity of our kingdom, requested that an heir be forthcoming. We asked of my henchmen how long I should allow and we agreed three months should be a suitable amount of time to wait for an heir. At no stage was it stated that the queen be set aside at all. We instead stated that we would look at all options.

Our queen did indeed arrive late at our first court and did approach with overbearing force, armed, making demands on our personage. This to us was unacceptable and I fairly stated that if wish to gird ourselves for battle than we should take the field and not destroy the peace and grace of the court.

I, as King, call all loyal warriors who would fight for the rights of a king to ensure his line and maintain the peace of the kingdom to don a blue strip on their arm. I would call for them to attend the fields of Canterbury Fayre, Borders War and if failing resolution Rowany Festival to bring an end to this impasse with the strengths of our arms

Berenger Rex

SPOTLIGHT OF INTEREST—

BRITANNIA—INVADING ALBION FOR FUN AND PROFIT

- BY KHRYSES

Do you know of something that might be of interest to members of the College? Perhaps not strictly on topic, but you just know that they'd be interested...

Whenever you consider games based on history, Britannia has to be one of the classics. Broadly depicting events in Britain from 43AD through to 1066, the game both follows the major historical trends and allows the players to do better... or fall flat on their faces.

With the board setup you see the major tribal groupings laid out across the map; Belgae, Brigantes, Welsh, Picts and Caledonians living in relative – if bickering – harmony. Not for long – the first turn starts with the Roman invasion and it all goes downhill for the natives from there. The legions hop over the Channel and charge headlong into the tribesmen, and for the next few centuries it's all the locals can do to avoid complete surrender.



Then, sure as sunrise... it's the Roman turn – waves of raiders start to lash the shores of the province, only increasing in intensity when the Empire gives this up as a bad idea and leaves. Over the rest of the game Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Danes, Irish, Dubliners, Norse, Scots, Norwegians and finally Normans invade, each determined to carve out a territory for themselves from the hapless natives... and do their best to defend it when the next foreigners land behind them.

With three to five players, this tends to be a relaxed game – the rules are easy to pick up and if you lose one of your peoples odds are you'll have the chance to do one unto the others before long. The balance between historical inevitability and free will is also handled well, with classic moments like King Arthur carving his way deep into Saxon land and Boudicca's violent – and usually short-lived – revolt being neatly offset in past experiences by the Welsh seizing control of York and a huge Pictish invasion down into the south.

Frustrated by 'your' people's embarrassing defeat? Convinced you could have handled Hastings better? Take control in Britannia and change history.



Finding your Way in the SCA

H I N
O W N A R
L R E Y E
D N C E C
A O A N U
F S R R A
T E A U H
U B S O C

SOLVE THE CLUES. SPOT THE WORDS.
SOLVE THE SECRET MESSAGE.
Assistance will be listed on the website before next month's issue.

E S S
C G C O T
I N R W O
V I I T R
E K B Y R
D I E T A
N V K R C
D O U O I

N M N T F P E G A C E L
I A D O I R E P M U N D A N E L I Z A B E T H A N
C G N G O V C H I R U R G E O N L I Y S R I A L W
I A P V N C A H C O L U C R E Z I A O G A E M A A
D E E C N E G L U D N I T H E I D F M A E L B U R
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T D A H A U S I A Q C D I F C E H E R N A A O S E
K N I G H T L S F I S S I T E E O Y H R H M R A N
R E V E E E E I R D T N T C R N V N C R S M D C E
U A E N I T S U G U A A H A Y I G H A S T I N G S
O R E T A E H Q S O P E L H I E R L N A T T A R C
M P E L I C A N R E S D M I L L E V A I H C A M H
R E W E L S H I V O R Y T O W E R E G N E R E B A
A L U S R U I G N Y N A W O R S H I E L D W A L L

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|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Our Baroness | 19. Last Tudor Rose | 37. Medieval Cure-All | 54. Know them. Love them. Live- |
| 2. Society for Creative ... | 20. An event held in Rowany at Easter | 38. Our Fair Kingdom | 55. Infidel from the East |
| 3. Keeps your Vitals safe | 21. Our Seneschal | 39. Our Historical Columnist | 56. He Who Could Write |
| 4. Neighbouring College associated with UNSW | 22. What society year is it? | 40. Our Personal Columnist | 57. The "President" of an SCA group |
| 5. Our Current King | 23. Keeps your Squishy Bits safe | 41. ... and Pillage | 58. The Great Plagiariser |
| 6. Our Current Queen | 24. Clothes of a medieval nature | 42. The Prince, or, Ruthless Florentine | 59. Lochac List |
| 7. "I think my husband wants to behead me" | 25. The huddled masses | 43. In charge of a group's fighting activities | 60. Stand together in battle |
| 8. Not your average street fights | 26. Our Baron | 44. A Honeyed beverage | 61. Apprentice Knight |
| 9. Ursulans gather for to wield | 27. Bad day for the Saxons | 45. Unrelated to the SCA | 62. Pointy Stick |
| 10. Houses of Olde | 28. The most basic shield | 46. For England/France/Sicily/Antioch/The-Highest-Bidder! | 63. May the best fighter win |
| 11. The Bawdy Bard | 29. Serial monogamist | 47. A Peer of Service | 64. (Very) basic garb |
| 12. In charge of First Aid | 30. Significant Pretty Pictures | 48. The Setting in which we Play | 65. The Patron Saint of Virgins and Martyrs |
| 13. In charge of the group's Message | 31. Stop and drop | 49. Who we are and When we are | 66. Merchant Marine Preemptive Salvage Specialist |
| 14. Founded for the purpose of dissolutions | 32. Buying a Stairway to Heaven | 50. What SCA swords are made of | 67. Charger |
| 15. Mostly apples | 33. Had lots of Burning Questions | 51. My Kingdom for a Horse! | 68. Gave up vowels for Lent |
| 16. Heraldic Symbol | 34. The Best Publication in the Known World | 52. The Baronial Newsletter | |
| 17. Apocalyptic Census | 35. Member of the Order of the Chivalry | 53. Our Beloved Barony | |
| 18. Holds the Universe together | 36. Peer of Arts and Sciences | | |

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"There may have been disillusionments in the lives of the medieval saints, but they would scarcely have been better pleased if they could have foreseen that their names would be associated nowadays chiefly with racehorses and the cheaper clarets."

-Saki



Included with permission, from <http://xkcd.com>

'xkcd' by Randall Munroe— a webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language.

FROM THE CHRONICLER—*Ameline*

You'll notice some definite changes in this issue from previous 'Ivory Tower' publications. It still is, though, the sporadic scroll/newsletter/missive/publication of the College of St Ursula. My intention is to make it a regular, dare I even say it, monthly publication, - but this requires a certain amount of cooperation from my readers.

You're in the Society of Creative Anachronisms. In my book this makes you by definition, interesting. I am yet to be convinced that there's a member that doesn't have something interesting to say, doesn't have something that I would like to see printed within these pages. Yes, you were right—this is me encouraging all members of the populace to consider writing an article, a text, a story, a riddle, a recipe, a scroll, a comic...

Tell us who you are. Tell us why you joined the SCA. Tell us what you do in the SCA. Write us a diary about your exciting fabric shopping expedition. What events have you been to? What events are you going to? How do you strap your shield? What was

that story that you've told surely everyone by now? Do you know something about 11th century Mongolian Horse Hair Braiding?

We want to hear from you. No matter the story, nothing too big, too small. If you do art, we also really want to hear from you!

You can email me at chron@ursula.sca.org.au—or find me at events, or Baronial fighter practices.

Your public needs you.

