

Skraeling Althing Chronicle

Greetings unto the triumphant Barony of Skraeling Althing from your fearless leaders Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia Lia Lámh

We look forward to our victory on the list field today as we host the latest, and biggest, of the Border Disputes! We will all work as a team, sending the Baron of Dragon Dormant home a little worse for wear, and with dreams of lasting peace between our two Baronies.

When we stepped up as your Baron and Baroness one of Our whims was: 'We wish to bear witness to your authorizations'. We've been blessed that this whim has been respected and that we have had many to watch.

Since this letter reaches you on this day of glorious battle, and celebration, with our friends from the East, We thought We would explain Our whim in more detail.

One of the unique properties of the SCA is our martial art. Very few organizations have full force large scale battles where participants can show their inner warrior, be it Viking, Knight, samurai, paladin, pirate or any other soldier out of history. This form was invented almost 50 years ago and has evolved and changed over the years. Many Knights and their

squires on the list can count back their lineage, and be proud.

We feel that Our new comers to the society who invest so much preparation time to training hard in combat, deserve Our admiration. Our martial arts are not easy, the learning curve is steep, and the equipment just to get started isn't easy to come by. A person who is authorizing may have been working towards that moment for 6 months, or even years, to get ready. Those who practice this art for many years, and progress through many authorizations, We salute your dedication, and skill.

This time-line of dedication is true both for those practicing armoured combat as well as those fighters on any of the other lists that Our combatants choose to practice. In this Barony we are lucky enough to have rapier, archery, thrown weapons, siege weapons, and boffer. We have people who are also working on getting equestrian officially started. We are blessed by those who have the talent to work magic on the lists of more than one art in our Barony.

Our current Knights started, as you do, with that first authorization. Just never give up.

Until we cross swords again
Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia

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A&S 50 Coordinator

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Upcoming Gatherings in the Barony

Practices and Meetings

Please contact the local group to confirm details about specific scheduled gatherings.

Caldrithig

Armoured Combat Practice

Wednesdays at 7 pm

Rapier Practice

Thursdays at 8 pm

Choir Practice

Sundays at 1:30 pm

Canton Meetings

Second and fourth Sunday's of the month at 4 pm

Instrumental Practices

Sundays at 12:00 pm

Greyfells

Canton Meetings

Meetings (which often include A&S and other activities) are held

from 2:00 to 6:00 pm every Sunday.

Rapier Practice

Tuesdays at 7 pm

Harrowgate Heath

Canton Meetings

First Sunday of the month

A&S Days

Scribal nights - 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of every month

Armouring & General A&S - 7:30 to 9:30 pm every Monday

Armoured Combat Practice

Thursdays at 7 pm

Archery

Schedule varies month to month

Dance Practice

Schedule varies month to month

Tor Brant

Gatherings vary from month to month. Please contact the group to confirm the next scheduled activity.

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The History of the Ealdormere Academy of Defense

by Lady Jocelyn Roget de Cranewall

Praceptor of the Ealdormere Academy of Defense

The Ealdormere Academy of Defense was founded by Royal Charter on 13 September, A.S. XXXII, during the reign of Prince Edward, and Princess Rylyn, in counsel with their Rapier Champion Lars Eriksson, some fifteen years ago. Loosely based off the historic London Masters of Defense, the Academy is purposefully structured to provide practitioners of the arte of defense with a set of self-guided long range goals. This encourages rapier combatants to expand their personal skills of prowess and explore the historical theory through research. The Academy structure is made up of five ranks, Cadet, Scholar, Free Scholar, Provost and Dean.

Each rank of the Academy has a number of requirements for advancement to that rank. The requirements have been designed to help combatants grow in their personal practice of the arte and other activities beneficial to the Kingdome of Ealdormere. Between ranks there is a requirement for a time period of one year between each rank. This is to encourage fencers to become dedicated, regardless of their skill level. This Academy is not based on senior members voting for junior members to advance. The emphasis here is on self-improvement, fostering interests beyond rapier play, dedication and fun.

In keeping with the London Masters of Defence, advancement to higher ranks shall be accompanied by the member seeking advancement (the Prizor) calling a Prize. The Prize is a display of skill in which the Prizor shows his prowess in different weapons forms. The Prizor will fence a number of duels to display his or her skill. When the Prize is completed, if the requirements of the Prize have been met, then the Prizor is invested in the new rank.

Members of all ranks are highly encouraged to do research into the art of rapier play. There are a number of

period manuals by rapier masters available. Also encouraged highly is service to your group, and the members of the fencing community as a whole. Assisting in training and marshalling lightens the load on everybody else, and allows all of us more time to have fun! Not to mention the experience gained, and the relationships forged with other fencers.

Most of the duties of each rank are presented with the rank. Some are repeated between the ranks to emphasize their importance. There is a duty that applies to us all, fencer and non-fencer. A list of these duties per rank may be found at: <http://ealdormereaod.maven.ca/>

Today's Dean prize fight represents achievement of the highest rank in the Ealdormere Academy of Defense. To be considered as eligible to challenge into the rank is a significant accomplishment. A candidate must earn each of the Academy ranks, Cadet, Scholar, Free Scholar, Provost, and Dean, by demonstrating prowess, wearing period armour, demonstrating knowledge of period rapier combat techniques, becoming an active a member of the rapier marshallate, and presenting research projects in an educational forum. The Prizors challenging for the Rank of Dean are HE Giovanni d'Enzinas, Baron of Skraling Althing and THL Gareth Cambell.

Many thanks are extended to those of you who, having a passion for the arte of Defense, and having travelled to participate, attend and bear witness to this event. Know your presence here is appreciated in joining the Academy in celebration, and providing moral support for these dedicate combatants in their pursuit to achieve their next rank in the academy.



Event Report- Cloth of Gold

By Lady Alais de Poitiers

This past April 13th, Lady Eluned ferch Angor and I travelled south to attend this year's Cloth of Gold competition. The competition and event were hosted by the Canton of der Welfengau in conjunction with the Ramshaven War College, which was hosted by the Canton of Bryniau Tywynnog.

We arrived late in the evening of the 13th, and had the opportunity to meet each of the teams as they were setting up their workrooms and preparing to stay up all night creating their submissions. There were 5 entries, covering a range of cultures, time periods and goals. All of the entries this year were at the novice level.

One team, led by THL Liadin cu Teach Cairdas, was a "school" in which 4 new-comers to sewing made their first garments. Another, led by Lady Dubhessa ni Uilliam, presented a complete Russian man's costume, including undergarments, red silk trim, and a card-woven belt produced on-site. The "Glyndmere's Sew Teutonic Knights" presented a 13th century costume including shoes, hand-made and beaded gloves, and braes and hosen sewn by the model, a first-time sewer. The sole junior entry presented a cloak and undertunic. Unfortunately, the Japanese team, led by Mori Shiomi, had to withdraw on Saturday morning due to circumstances unrelated to the event.

On April 14th, Eluned and I had the honor of assisting Her Excellency Wencendl of Rokesburg, Baroness of

Ramshaven, in judging the entries. After each team had the opportunity to present their completed work, the prizes were announced, with the overall winner going to the Teutonic entry, prizes going to each team leader and the junior entry, and gifts going to every participant.

Autocrat THL Asa Gormsdottir made sure that all the participants were comfortable throughout the event, and cooks Ludwig and Sophia kept everyone well-fed. It was a fascinating experience to witness, and presents an intriguing challenge for Skrael's tailors - perhaps the next time this event is held, there will be a Skraeling Althing team in attendance?

This is the Skraeling Althing Chronicle, the quarterly newsletter for the Barony of Skraeling Althing in the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. There is no subscription fee. The Chronicle is not a corporate publication of the SCA Inc, nor does it delineate SCA policies. All rights remain with the original author, photographer or artist. Questions or concerns may be directed to the Baronial Chronicler, [Dame Helen of Greyfells](#). Issues of the Chronicle are posted to the Skraeling Althing web site. You can subscribe to the Chronicle by e-mailing the Chronicler. The Chronicle also has a Facebook page. You can follow news about the Chronicle, and be notified when new issues are available, by following the Skraeling Althing Chronicle on Facebook.

The Skraeling Atching Chronicle



A View from the Kitchen at the Summer Demos

By Dame Helen of Greyfells

One of the things that we demonstrate at the Medieval Festivals is "Medieval Daily Life", mainly in the form of preparing and cooking food. We are hoping to expand into other crafts this year (please see article page **), but since we all need to eat the kitchen will be busy again this year. Last year we fed 12-25 SCA participants three meals each day, and hope to feed more this year. Although we are portraying the 'camp followers' of Sperry's archery squad (and therefore fairly working class folks), we all eat fairly well so that our modern tummies are satisfied.

Our mornings were spent reasonably authentically- a quick breakfast of oatmeal early in the morning, setting out the days produce: we displayed labeled baskets of green grocery that showed what sorts of fruits, vegetables and herbs were used around 1340 in England and France. We also had a mancala board (with twelve little cups) that held grains, dried foods, and spices.

As the demo opened in the morning we were cooking over the fire, talking to people visiting the demo, and preparing lunch. We made fresh ricotta cheese over the fire in a clay pot, our chicken stew (different varieties, from medieval cookbooks), as well as fresh bread baked flat on a cast iron griddle (they did not have cast iron of course, they could have used stone, or a clay griddle.). If all went well and we didn't get

too distracted, lunch would be ready around 12:30 or 1 pm. Then there were the inevitable dishes from lunch- we were trying to 'keep medieval' and use wooden bowls instead of disposables, plus all the equipment from making lunch. And then we would start to prepare dinner!

Dinner was usually a large roast over the fire, some sort of starch (usually rice or barley), and boiled and fried green veggies with herbs to use up the now wilted green grocery on the display table along with some fresher veggies from the cooler. We would use the mortar and pestles to make a variety of sauces to go with the nights roast and serve the remaining cheese with left over bread either from our lunch or the UCV bakery if we could get some.

A leisurely dinner was followed by dishes, which were all too quickly followed by the call of our beds- Being Medieval is fun, but hard work! Being able to sleep at the demo in our tents was very convenient though. We got to keep an eye on our belongings (though both camps were quite secure), and the commute time was non-existent. Despite being "open to the public" because we weren't in the cars all weekend you really felt a lot more like being a 'real medieval person' doing medieval - even more so than at an SCA event where meals are more casual and cars get driven around, or people are changing kit all the time and talking about mundane life. Come join us this year!

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A Word from the Chronicler

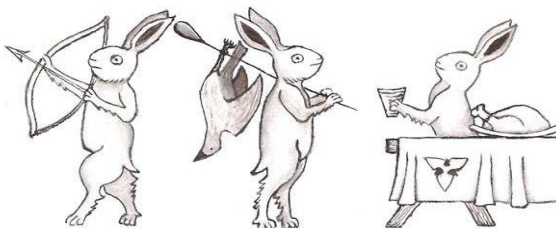
I want to start by thanking Dafydd ap Alan for all his hard work in the last two years. He has done an amazing job of making our 'medieval' newsletter into a twenty-first century chronicle. He has made the transition very easy, giving me lots of checklists to work from which I am tremendously grateful for.

I also want to thank all the wonderful folks who sent articles and pictures to me for this season's issue of the Chronicle. This would be a very sad edition if it weren't for you! (Or you would all be bored to tears as I published my class notes!

☺)

I am looking forward to learning more about being a chronicler. I learned this week that I need to work on the news gathering aspect in between deadlines! I am looking forward to getting my hands into the archives and having some historical articles too. I hope that you will have patience with me as I work towards Dafydd's level of professional layout- it is good to have a goal!

I hope to keep a roughly quarterly publishing schedule and would welcome news articles or other articles and pictures that might fit into the following themes:



1) A (post?) Practicum issue, with (perhaps) a review of the event, and some class notes. Promotion of the Break the Back of Winter event

2) A mid May issue, either before or after Dandyllion (depending on when the event falls) with either promotional materials for the event or a review afterward. It could also review the Break the back event. It would also include a look forward to camping season

3) A late August or September issue with reviews of the camping season, and a look forward to the indoor event season, including information on Hare

4) A "Holiday" issue with Seasonal information (Xmas/Yule/12th night info), a review of Hare, perhaps a look forward to Practicum

If you would like to receive electronic copies of the Chronicle or have any questions, comments, suggestions, or submissions, please send me an email at chronicler@skraelingalthing.com

Yours in Service,

Dame Helen of Greyfells
Chronicler
Barony Skraeling Althing

IN this issue:

All Photos courtesy of Lady Eluned verch Angor

All Drawings courtesy of Lady Alais de Poitiers

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Tasty Spring Nettles

Lady Eluned verch Angor

Young stinging nettles, while tricky and painful to handle, were a valuable food source in past ages. Growing wild and readily available they gave a much needed dose of nutrients after the winter. Nettles must be cooked or dried to neutralize their sting but can then be used in a variety of recipes instead of spinach. Wearing a thick pair of gloves will guard your hands from their sting. The Romans were the earliest to record a recipe for nettles.

Translation of *Patina Urticarum* (from Apicius' *De Re Coquinaria*) IV, ii, 36
Hot or Cold Dish of Stinging Nettles: Take the nettles, wash them and drain in a colander. Dry them on a board and chop. Pound 13g of pepper [in a mortar], moisten with liquamen and blend. Then add 300ml of stock and 180ml of olive oil. Bring to a boil then take off the heat and cool. Thoroughly grease a shallow pan, break 8 eggs into it, and stir [to combine]. Pour this mixture into [the pan], place in the ashes so that it is covered above and below. When cooked, season with ground pepper and serve [hot or cold].

Modern Redaction

Ingredients:

300ml young nettle tops (or young nettle leaves) 1 tsp freshly-ground black pepper 2 tbsp liquamen or Thai fish sauce 200ml beef or chicken stock 90ml olive oil 4 eggs freshly-ground black pepper, to taste

Preparation:

Wash the nettles, pat dry in a cloth then chop as finely as you can. Combine in a pan with the black pepper, liquamen, stock and olive oil. Bring the mixture to a boil, then take off the heat and set aside to cool.

Grease a shallow baking dish then crack the eggs into the nettle mix and whisk to combine. Pour the resultant mixture into the greased dish then transfer to an oven pre-heated to 170°C and bake for about 30 minutes, or until cooked through and set.

Season to taste with freshly-ground black pepper and serve either hot or cold.

<http://www.celt.net.org.uk/recipes/roman/fetch-recipe.php?rid=roman-patina-urticarum>



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A Request for Help at the Medieval Festival Demos

By Lady Constance of Caldrithig

As many of you know, the Barony participates in two Medieval Festivals each summer, one at Upper Canada Village (June 9-11), and one in Osgoode (July 6-8). These are amazing recruitment opportunities, as well as being lots of fun. This year we are attempting to expand our activities to best showcase medieval daily life and the skills of our members. As such, we will need volunteers to help with various tasks over both weekends.

We are asking folks to commit to *ONE DAY*. However, many hands make light work so if you wish to help out for multiple days you are welcome to do so. There are spaces for plenty of mundane and period tents at Upper Canada Village, and a more limited number at Osgoode. Staying over can make it a more immersive experience which many of us find enjoyable



How can you help? We need:

»At least 3 people for set up on June 8th and July 5 in the afternoon/evening only. This is a physically intense job as we will be setting up pavilions.

»At least 3 people for Kitchen duty on each day (June 9, 10, 11 and July 6, 7, 8), no skill required.

»At least 2-3 people for other A&S displays on each day (June 9, 10, 11 and July 6, 7, 8). Having a skill that can be practiced and spoken about on site is a must.

»At least 2-3 people for Archery line on each day (June 9, 10, 11 and July 6, 7, 8). Beginners welcome.

»At least 3 people for tear-down in the evening on June 11 and July 8.

Please respond to Constance at Seneschal@skraelingalthing.com by May 25 for Upper Canada Village and by June 22 for Osgoode. You must be signed up for one of the slots to get onto the staff list that will allow free entrance into the event. Also let us know if you are interested in eating with us (please see nearby article). Depending on the Demo, the food is free or available at cost.