

Skraeling Althing Chronicle

Vol: 4
Winter 2025



Photo by Kit Noblis of Caldrihig (MKA Chris Jodoin)

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To contribute to the Chronicle, either articles, artwork, photography, or otherwise, please contact the Chronicler at: skrael.chronicler@gmail.com

THE SCA IS A WELCOMING AND DIVERSE SPACE

The Barony of Skraeling Althing fully supports the ideal of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Our membership is open to people from all backgrounds. See more at skraelingalthing.com/wp/diversity/

Our Core Values, which guide us in even these darkest of times, include the following tenets: to “act in accordance with the chivalric virtues of honor and service”, to “value and respect the worth and dignity of all individuals”, and to “practice inclusiveness and respect plural-ism and diversity”.

If we are to live by our core values then there is only one path forward: we must both fight against systemic injustice and support those that do.

As the unique educational organization that we are, we have the opportunity to leverage our greatest resource: our community. It is our community that makes us who we are. That is the true value of the Society for Creative Anachronism. We treasure the rich diversity of our community as a reflection of the rich diversity of history...

This quote is from a statement published by Baroness Zahra Tesfaye, SCA Corporate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer on June 2, 2020 (Read the full statement at [https://www.sca.org/news/from-the-sca-office-of-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/.](https://www.sca.org/news/from-the-sca-office-of-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/))

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Upcoming Events



Practicum

February 21, 2026

Kemptville Campus Community Centre

40 Campus Drive

Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

Site opens at 9:00 am, closes at 9:00 pm

Adult Registration: \$30; Paid Member discount: \$20

<http://skraelingalthing.com/wp/caldrithig/practicum-2026/>

Sock Burner

March 21, 2026

Maitland Education & Recreation Centre

120 E. McLean Blvd.

Maitland, ON K0E 1P0

Site opens at 9:30 am;

closes approximately at 9:30 pm

Adult Registration: \$25; Paid Member discount:

\$15



Articles

Crafty Gift Guide For your history loving loved one

You've found this article (or been sent it) because you have a loved one into historical reenactments. Now, this blog is associated with the Society for Creative Anachronism, but many of these suggestions will apply to other history-related hobbies as well.

1. Books

The best thing you can buy your history nerd is books. I guarantee that they have a wish list full of books that they think are too expensive, you just have to find out what's on that list. If your history buff is new to the hobby, here are some recommendations from our experienced members.

Carving

Bone, Antler, Ivory, and Horn by Arthur MacGregor

Knitting

History of Hand Knitting by Richard Rutt

Food

Uncommon Grounds by Mark Pendergast

Coffee and Houses by Ralph Hattox

The Opera of Bartolomeo Scappi by Terence Scully

Pleyn Delit,

Take a Thousand Eggs

Medieval Kitchen

Dying

Natural Dyes by Dominique Cardon

Costuming

The Medieval Tailor's Assistant by Sarah Thursfeld

Leatherwork

Purses in Pieces by Olaf Goubitz

Stepping through Time by Olaf Goubitz

Covering the Blade by Olaf Goubitz

Embroidery

Elizabethan Stitches by Jacqui Carey

Bayeux Stitch by Tanya Bentham

2. Tools

Every crafter may have their favourite tool or brand or whatnot, so buying tools can be a little tricky. Research your loved-one's craft, read forums, find out what the "golden egg" is of their tools. For example, for needlecrafts (embroidery especially), that Paragon of Platinum standard for needles is "Tulip" brand. It's like a religious cult. There are similar things for the other crafts.

If you're looking for small gift ideas, consider getting some of the consumables they already use. Some ideas include sanding tools, needles, saw blades.

3 Inputs

Every craft has inputs. The materials you start with to create the final product. Leather, fabric, wood, metals, gems, threads, yarns, rovings, dye materials, and chemicals are all possibilities. Some specialized information is needed, strategic snooping will be your ally. Theft of scraps is recommended. Take them (the scraps) shopping with you to show the shop attendants.

- For leather, choose vegetable or veg(gie) tan leathers. It comes in different weights that could be important depending on what your loved one makes.
- Fabrics should be natural fibers, like wool or linen. Silk is an option, especially if you know of something your loved one specifically wants.
- Woods are another one where you need to do some snooping. What does your loved one make? What do they do with the wood? Ask for advice from their friends, or steal from their scrap pile, take pictures of their work.
- Metals should match the kind that your loved-one already uses. Working with fine metals is a big difference than working with steel. Even the fine metals have different personalities.
- Threads, yarns, and rovings should also be natural fibers. There's such variety in these areas, gift cards might be the solution.
- Many crafts need chemicals, lye, ammonia, dye stuffs. Just be careful you don't get put on a watch list somewhere.

One theory of gift giving is to give something that the person would never get for themselves. Crafting can be an expensive hobby, following this theory of gifting can ensure that the crafter can have all the best equipment without spending all the money themselves.

I firmly believe in consent in gift giving, so I recommend talking to your loved one for their wish lists or preferred merchants for gift cards.

Happy gifting, and Happy Holidays

The Benefits of Social Gatherings

Group social events are arguably the best opportunity for strictly social interactions. Without a slew of other activities planned, a social gathering is a great place for getting to know other members better or catching up with friends we just don't get enough time with. Such events promote cohesion within the community, and provide an opportunity to form new connections. When the gathered include members of various vintages, meaningful group lore and traditions are spread.

In the SCA, the informal social events take a couple of different forms. The Potluck, and the Pub Night. Potlucks, whether a full meal or simply a Dessert Revel, is a favoured choice during the darkest days of the year. Often these fetes are garbed, with our period feast gear and low lighting, they have a homey kind of air, as if we're all an incredibly large family gathered around one table. This year, Greyfells' Dessert Revel was at their monthly meeting, and Caldritch's Solstice Potluck happened on the (surprise) Solstice.

The calendar can feel quite full, especially if you're the sort inclined to travel. Despite that, opportunities for social gatherings aren't limited to the Winter Holidays. Consider offering to organize a Potluck or Pub Night or at the very least, bring it up at other times of the year to see if there's an appetite to get together just for the hell of it.



Photo by Lady Sadb Ingen Uí Fhaoladh (mka: Cydney Foote)

Official Pages

Want to keep up-to-date with our current mailing lists, Facebook pages, and web pages?

You can find us at:

Baronial

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2334791875/>

Web page: <http://skraelingalthing.com/wp/>

Cantons

Facebook pages:

Caldrithig: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/caldrithig/>

Greyfells: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/225292100927968/>

Web pages:

Caldrithig: <http://skraelingalthing.com/wp/caldrithig/>

Tor Brant: <http://skraelingalthing.com/wp/torbrant/>

Greyfells: <http://skraelingalthing.com/wp/greyfells/>

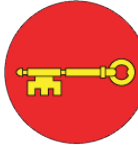
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Baronial Council is composed of the Baronial Seneschal, Exchequer, Chronicler, Herald, Chatelaine, MoAS, Marshal, and Clerk-Register, as well as the Seneschals of each canton within the Barony. (Bylaw 6, of baronial bylaws.)