

TASKER® TIMES

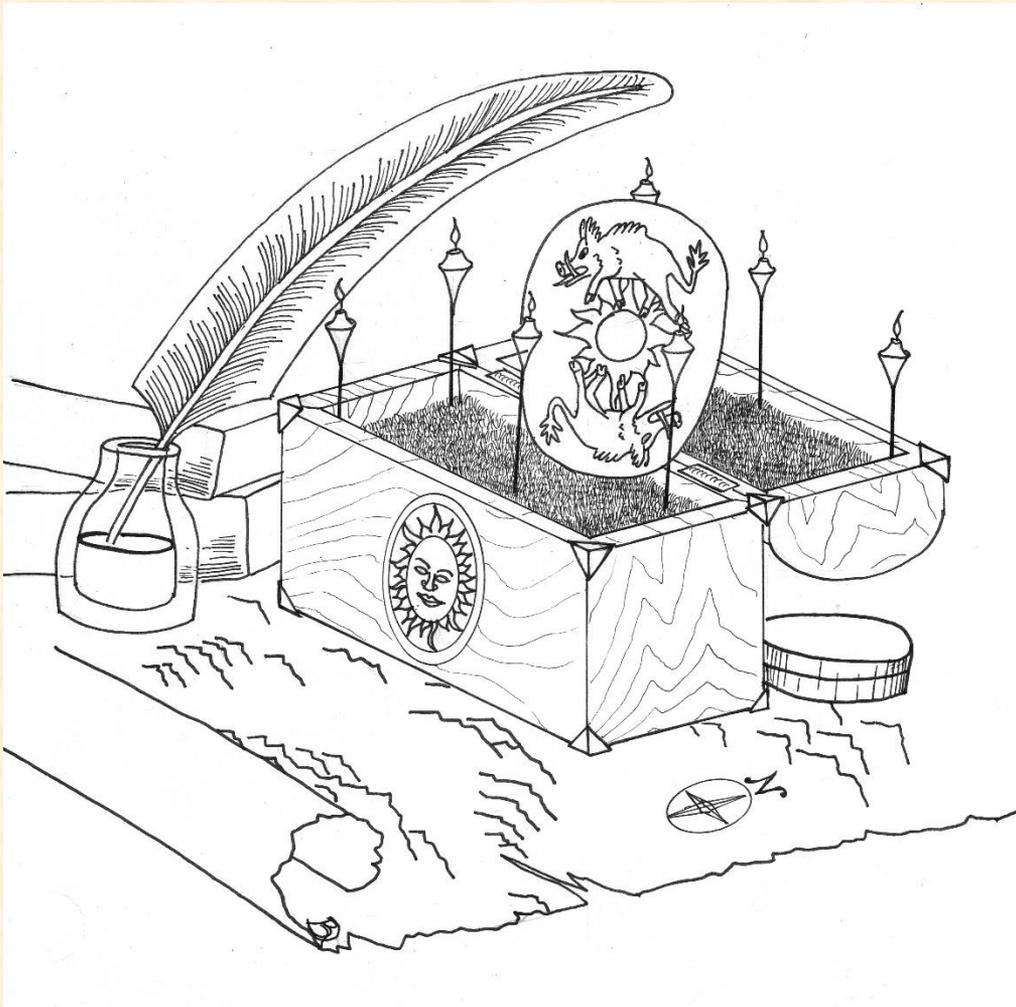


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From Their Excellencies



In the Year of the Society - Fifty, being September, 2015 in the Common Reckoning of Years
Good Lords and Ladies of Tir Ysgithr,

The Change in Seasons is upon us! The scorching days of Summer are waning and the cooler Autumn beckons to us. In that great change we find the Season we enjoy best – WAR SEASON!

From Battlemoor in the Outlands to the Great Western War in CAID to our very own Southern Crusades we share with our brothers in Mons Tonitrus – War is calling! And when we are done with those fine events we are rewarded in the New Year with Estrella War before the turn in the Seasons comes again.

Prepare! People of the Gem of Atenveldt! Build your new armor! Clothe your entire household! Hone your carving and weaving skills! Practice the Arts of War and Peace with a Vengeance! What indeed is our Society if it is not an opportunity for us to Seize the Day and live the Current Middle Ages to its fullest!

Sound the Clarion! Beat the Drums! Prepare for War and take joy in it for after the battle we shall sing and dance and tell the tales of our battles...for

War. Season. Has. Come.

We shall be right there, walking beside you, fighting, serving, and making the Impossible – Possible.

Embrace the Dream Tir Ysgithr!

Sim
Baron

Magdalen
Baroness

Crown Tournament!

Saturday August 29th was Crown Tournament to decide our next King and Queen! While everyone fought honorably, it was Sir Matthias Alexandros Casca who won Crown by Right of Arms, and Baroness Melissa of Monster Hall by Grace and Beauty. Look forward to Coronation- and make sure you let our current Majesties King Morgan and Queen Elizabeth know how much you enjoyed them!



Photos taken by Lady Jerusha a'Laon- The Virtual Herald



Baronial Announcements

Populace Meetings

September 9th 7pm

Tucson Midtown Police Department

(corner of 22nd St and Alvernon)

1100 S Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85711

At 7:00 PM

Populace Meetings are normally the second Wednesday of each month with occasional exceptions due to conflicting events or meeting location changes. We welcome all populace members to come to the monthly meetings to share ideas, discuss projects, plan events, and stay up to date on the happenings in the barony. If you have a desire to get more involved in the barony, but you aren't sure how to go about it, we encourage you to come and listen in to learn more about volunteering opportunities.

Court Night

Next Court Night is February 2016. We have an Event every month until then so court will take place at the events and our Fighters may spend all their FP time fighting!

Yahoo Groups

Tir Ysgithr Email List

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TirYsgithr>

Rapier Email List

[http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/tir-
rapier](http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/tir-
rapier)

Archery Email List

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TirYsgithrA
rchery](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TirYsgithrA
rchery)

Websites

Barony of Tir Ysgithr

(Tucson Chapter)

<http://www.btysca.org>

Kingdom of Atenveldt

(Arizona Chapter)

<http://www.atenveldt.org>

Society for Creative Anachronism Inc.

(Main)

<http://www.sca.org>

College of St. Felix

(UofA Chapter)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCA.CS>

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Awards

Congratulations!

The Queens Grace of Atenveldt

Sir Cosimo Orsini

Given at Fall Crown Tournament by Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth

Fellowship of the Boar Argent

Lord Fergus Mór mac Seáin

Given at August 4th Court Night by Their Excellencies Sim and Magdalen

Lord Diego Ramos De Lobo

Given at Mace and Great Sword by Their Excellencies Sim and Magdalen

Fellowship of the Boar Vert

Lady Gwenneth of Dragon's Ger

Given at August 25th Court Night by Their Excellencies Sim and Magdalen

Award of Arms

Lord Nikolaus Geerhart

Given at Fall Crown Tournament by Their Royal Majesties King Morgan and Queen Elizabeth

About the Awards!

Queen's Grace of Atenveldt: Given by the Queen to individuals whose conduct she feels best exemplifies the ideals of courtliness and gentility in the Current Middle Ages. They wear a cord of white with blue strands on the left shoulder.

Fellowship of the Boar Argent: given by the Baron and Baroness of Tir Ysgithr to those persons who have demonstrated excellence in the fighting arts, both in teaching and in the use of traditional SCA-style weaponry within the Barony.

Fellowship of the Boar Vert: given by the Baron and Baroness of Tir Ysgithr to those

persons they feel have demonstrated excellence in the teaching and practice of the Arts and Sciences within the Barony.

Award of Arms: given by the King and Queen granting the right to display your personal arms as well as granting the title "Lord" or "Lady".

Want to recommend someone for an award?

Write a letter of recommendation or submit a recommendation here:

<http://www.btyzca.org/awards/award-recommendations/> Whatever you do- write it out! You may remember your recommendation but Their Excellencies are busy people! Give them something they can't forget.

Upcoming Events

Knigh Light Tournament

September 15th, 2015

Barony of Tir Ysgithr

6pm-10pm

Location: Reid Park - 900 S Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716

Their Excellencies Sim and Magdalen invite you to the Barony of Tir Ysgithr's annual Knight Light Tournament. We will be holding a helm auction which includes all fighters in attendance (Heavy, Rapier, and Youth fighters). The event is a fundraiser to help keep the lights on for our Tuesday night practice. The tournament formats will be determined by the number of participants, but it will include weapon of choice. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Most Chivalrous winners and their financiers. The festivities will begin at 6pm instead of the usual 7pm. Court will begin at the Crown and Their Excellencies Pleasure. The helm auction will begin around 7pm. We will continue to add fighters as they arrive. Grilled hotdogs, burgers, vege-dogs, and vege-burgers will be available for a small donation. Their Excellencies also encourage all participants to display their heraldry and add to the pageantry of the tournament as best they can. Donations of prizes are greatly desired and side dishes or desserts to round out the table will be gladly accepted, as well assistance in setting up, tearing down, and manning the grills.

Please contact the autocrat, Lord Loys LeFevre, if you would like to help.

bp0093@gmail.com (402) 203-3355 Please no calls after 10pm

Knigh Light Tourney will take place at the regular Tuesday night fighter practice, at the SW corner of Reid Park, near the NE corner of 22nd and Country Club, west of the Cancer Memorial. No glass containers allowed in the park, and dogs must be on leashes. Parents, please be advised that the playground equipment is not lit at night and youth activities other than youth combat are not planned.

Site Fee: NONE

Directions:

From the North: Take I-10 East to Tucson's Speedway Blvd Exit. Head East on Speedway

to Country Club, Turn South on Country Club to 22nd Street. Turn East onto 22nd Street. Then follow “Within Tucson” directions below.

Within Tucson: Take your best route to 22nd, east of Country Club. Enter Reid Park from 22nd St. at the Cancer Memorial, turn left into the parking lot and proceed past the playground to the area near the restrooms.

From the South: Take I-10 East to Alvernon, Take Alvernon North to 22nd Street. Turn West on 22nd Street and Take the entrance into the park by the Cancer Memorial.

Dragon’s Horde

October 24th & 25th, 2015
9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Barony of Tir Ysgithr

Himmel Park 1035 N. Treat Ave., Tucson, Arizona

Feast: October 24 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Grace St. Paul’s Episcopal Church 2331 E. Adams St., Tucson Arizona

(Both sites are wet and smoking is allowed outside only, per City of Tucson Law. Pets are also allowed at both sites.)

DRAGONS ARE COMING!

Dragon’s Horde is approaching! Draconis and his evil minions will once again attempt to despoil the gem of Atenveldt! All are invited by the Barony of Tir Ysgithr to this glorious event. Dragon’s Horde will once again be a two-day event with Feast on Saturday evening! Expect frequent appearances from Draconis’ oh so pleasant ambassador.

Saturday (10/24)

Following opening court, there will be a monster tourney (double elimination), where each team will pit their monster against another team’s monster. Teams must be sponsored by a household and each household can have more than one team. Any weapon style may be used. The winning household will receive a special prize to be displayed until the next Dragon’s Horde event.

After the monster tourney, there will be a Fighting Clinic for hard suit and rapier fighters. All participating fighters will have an opportunity to fight against peers of their order.

Opening court will be at 10:30, closing court will be held at the time of Their Excellencies choosing.

Saturday Night (10/24)

A Medieval Basque Feast for 80 will be offered. Site opens at 6:00 p.m. Feast will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. The cap is e, period entertainment, and MORE. Feast will be served family style and the site is wet. Side board and special dietary needs should be discussed directly with the Feastocrat and will be accommodated if possible. More information regarding feast, including menu, will be provided closer to the event.

Court will be held at Their Excellencies discretion.

Feast registration will be through the BTY Seneschal Officers (Mistress Anya and Mistress Tigra) only. Deadline for Feast reservations and payment is 10/10/15. Payment can be made via check or cash. You may register with either of them at Fighter practice, upcoming events, or contact via Seneschal@btysca.org to make other arrangements.

Sunday (10/25)

The White and Red Dragons will attempt to feast upon the bones of our steadfast hardsuit combatants while the Green Dragon snacks on our youth fighters. For our rapier fighters the evil Kraken will attempt to destroy all challengers!

To finish, there will be a Grand Melee. The white dragon and his minions (the winners of the monster tourney) will descend on the villagers (i.e.: the rest of the heavy fighters). Villagers will use torches (single sword) and pitchforks (pole-arm) to defend themselves.

Opening court will be at 10:30, closing court will be held at Their Excellencies discretion.

A&S activities:

Saturday, Lady Quillon will provide materials to make an item during the event. The winner will receive a gift.

Sunday will be a Dragon's Horde themed competition, bring your dragon themed interpretation in any medium. Winner by populace choice will hold the coveted Jeweled Dragon's Egg until the next Dragon's Horde event. Laurel favorite will win a Michael's gift certificate. All ties will be decided by her Excellency Baroness Magdalene.

Children's activities (spread over both days) will include a dragon's egg hunt, balloon dragon making, and face painting.

Fundraiser: There will also be a bake sale to raise money for Children's supplies.

Site Fees:

\$4.00 for the weekend at the park for Members (same price whether attending one or both days)

\$9.00 for the weekend at the park for Non-members (same price whether attending one or both days)

\$1.00 for the weekend at the park for Youth 5-17 (same price whether attending one or both days)

Free for children under 5

Pre-paid Feast \$10.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for Youth ages 5 to 17, Free for Youth under 5. Non-members attending Feast only, will be charged the \$5.00 non-member surcharge.

Co-autocrats: Dubgal MacCoinnich and Aldontza Nafarra (Dale and Renee Darling)

Feastocrat: Aldontza Nafarra (Renee Darling)

SOUTHERN CRUSADES XVII

Reconquista de Iberia

November 12th – November 16th, 2015

The Baronies of the South invite one and all to participate in the
Reconquest of the Spanish Peninsula.

Southern Crusades: The Reconquista will be held at the Western Heritage Arena in Marana AZ with numerous activities planned. We will have Armored Fighting, Rapier, Archery, Equestrian, Art & Sciences classes, etc. There will also be nighttime activities such as Hafla & Torchlight Tourneys

Dates & Times: Site Opens Thursday Nov 12th at 8 am for those who have pre-registered, 12 pm (noon) for those who did not pre-register. Site Closes Monday Nov 16th at 12 pm (noon).

SITE FEES:

Pre-registration: \$25 for Adults, \$10 for Youth ages 5-17, \$5 Non-Member Surcharge \$5, \$70 Family Max (2 Adults & 2 Children)

At Gate: \$30 for Adults, \$10 for Youth ages 5-17, \$5 Non-Member Surcharge

SITE INFORMATION: Directions to Western Heritage Arena, Marana AZ.

On I-10 take exit 236, from the north turn right and from the south turn left (do not cross the railroad tracks). Turn onto the eastbound frontage, just before the Chevron station. Go 1/2 mile east to Postvale Road, turn right and the entrance is immediately on the right

EVENT STEWARD: Roberto Raimondo de los Montana de Trueno (Bobby Truelove)
southernsitesteward@gmail.com (520)678-4247

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Baroness Samara or Lord Domnall will be at all events so you can pre-register, Dragon's Horde 23 – 25 Nov will be the last event you can pre-register at. If you want to Pre-register at an event, there will be a sign at Gate to let you know who to look for and where they will be located. Pre-registration can also be done by mail until 31 Oct 2015. Mailing information and the pre-registration form will be posted on the Southern Crusades Web site for those that want to pre-register by mail.

Yes, it's true, this year there will be Equestrian at Southern Crusades.

Combat Cookery is alive and well, but the question is – Who will take home the Combat Cookery's winners banner. If you are thinking of participating in this competition, now is the time to contact the Combat Cookery Steward (listed below) no later than 31 Oct 2015, however the sooner you register the better.

For your shopping pleasure there will be a Merchant's row. If you are interested in being a Merchant please contact the Merchant Steward (See Web Site for contact information).

Deed of Swords

A Norse themed Pas de Arms in the Barony of Tir Ysgithr

When: Sunday December 13, 2015

Where: Himmel Park, 1035 N Treat Ave, Tucson AZ 85701

Come and enjoy a day of splendor, a day of fighting and active audience participation. All willing fighters please come out and entertain the crowd with your prowess your vivacity and your **EPIC DEATH SCENES**. Fighting will include sword and shield, great swords, daggers, and fighting over the barrier. Come prepared to challenge our Norse Gods. This is a tournament where the winners are not necessarily those who fight the best this day but are those chosen by the crowd (aka gallery).

Arts and Sciences: two food based competitions are available for entry, **no** documentation is needed and winners to be chosen by populace choice:

1. Try something new and enter the soft cheese competition!!! (easy to make the day before and fun for everyone to try)
2. Brew for the English Ale competition where everyone uses the same recipe!!!
[10lbs 2 row, ½ lb crystal 40, ½ lb carapils 40, 1 oz kent goldings, 1 oz chinook, safeale English ale yeast]

Some finger foods and cheese stolen graciously shared from the competition will be available to the gallery. **STRONG** audience participation is expected and may even be **FORCED** upon you.

Site Fee: Adults \$3, non-members \$8, children (5-17) \$1, with children under 5 free

Autocrats: Arianna Hunter (Janelle Wortman) 520.302.9520 celei2004@yahoo.com

Callieach Dhe Rye (Myra Killam) 520.400.2832 myradaves@aol.com

Site Location: Himmel Park, 1035 N Treat, Tucson AZ 85701. Site opens at 9am, closes at 6pm. Site is discretely damp, no glass bottles please.

Directions: take Speedway east from I-10, turn right on Treat Ave (between Tucson Blvd and Country Club Blvd), site is at the corner of 1st St and Treat just south of the library.

Demos

Uh oh! There's nothing planned!

If you have an idea for a demo please contact Lord Peleus of Crete (Travis Hungerford) (520) 349-9658

Combat

Fighter Practice

Tuesdays 7pm-10pm

Baronial fighter practice held every Tuesday at the SW corner of Reid Park near the intersection of 22nd and Country Club. Loaner armor available for hard suit and rapier, however you must provide your own cup. In addition:

1st Tuesday (September 1st)- Come dance and drum! There are loaner drums for anyone wanting to learn or drum with us. Dancers are also welcome and anyone who wants to play Middle Eastern style music along with us. Hope Dorris has lots of music to share if you are interested in learning some songs. If you have never had anything to do at Fighter Practice on Tuesday nights, now you do! Please bring your chair over and join us!

3rd Tuesday (September 15th)- Knight Light! When it's not an event the 3rd Tuesday is Melee Night at Fighter Practice.

OCTOBER- FIGHTER PRACTICE MOVES!

OLD SCHOOL FIGHTER PRACTICE AT HIMMEL PARK

In the Month of OCTOBER on the 13th, 20th and 27th, we are **NOT ABLE** to USE Reid Park for Fighter Practice due to the Circus coming to town. Therefore, we will return to Himmel Park for those three Tuesday nights in our old stomping grounds of the Northwest corner on the Tennis Court Side. It is for those three weeks **ONLY** and we will return to Reid following those Fighter Practices. Please share this information with everyone!

Sim and Magdalen
Baron and Baroness

Archery

September 12th 9am-noon

September 26th 9am-noon

Archery Practice held at PSE Archery, 2727 North Fairview Ave. Loaner equipment available \$5 range fee to shoot, children are welcome but must be supervised. Informal Archery Practices are held on the first and third Mondays at PSE at 5:00pm.

Arts and Sciences

Baronial A&S

Baronial A&S at Seelie Studios

September 23rd 7pm-9pm

An introduction to brewing mead and beer with Donndubán Ó Domhnaill (Donovan O'Donnell)

Brewing Your First Mead

7pm-8pm

Fermented honey may be the oldest form of alcohol known to man. Its appeal certainly had the staying power to stick around through the Middle Ages and its popularity is picking up speed today. Learn the basics of fermentation, sanitation, and what you need to know to make batch of mead for yourself.

Brewing Beer:

8pm-9pm

Learn the basics of fermentation and how grain is converted into beer. We'll step through the process of brewing, talk about how different ingredients affect the final product, and explore a day in the life of a home brewer. By the end of this presentation you will know the first steps to take to begin this delicious journey.

Heraldry Hut

September 18th 7:30pm

Contact Mistress Marta for more information at (520) 881-9492, bagbaazai@nexiliscom.com

Dance Practice

Tuesdays 7pm-10pm

Mistress Elaine O Lansteffan and Sir Wulfere Forloren teach English and Italian Country and Court dances regularly at our Baronial Fighter Practice. Middle Eastern dance is also informally. Follow the sound of the drums or join in with the dancing ladies. Contact: Mistress Elaine, (520) 572-7039.

Arts in the Park!

September 1st 7pm-10pm

At Fighter Practice- Reid Park

Bring art to display, finished or not (tables provided) or art to work on or teach. Quillon will have a box of goodies to share and try out your arts skills, so stop on by!

Scriptorium

September 2nd 7-9pm

Hardesty building at 1100 S. Alvernon Way

September 16th 7-9pm

Lord Seamus and Lady Iuliana at 5835 east
34th street.

Spend the night learning the skills of scribal
and illumination! If you are new, our
scribes will teach you, if you have been out
before, come on back and join us! Also -
We are in search of a name for our Baronial
scriptorium group. We need your ideas!

Send your name ideas to
boarsheadbty@gmail.com

Cottage A&S

Cottage Arts are arts nights being held at
someone's house.

Arts at Aasnis

September 10th 7-10pm

An unofficial arts night to work on scrolls,
sewing, clay or any other art you wish to
bring in the company of friends Contact
Mistress Shoshana for location and other
details. She can be reached on The book of
faces or by phone (520) 203-2284

The Cooks Guild

September 23rd 7:30pm

The Cooks Guild is a gathering of those
interested in period cooking and recipes.

Each month, a different food theme is
chosen and participants are encouraged to
prepare and bring a dish following the
theme to share. Cooks Guild meets the
fourth Wednesday of every month, starting
at 7:30 p.m. Site changes monthly. Contact:
HE Baroness Marta as tu Mika-Mysliwy,
O.L., Pel., bagbaazai@nexiliscom.com,
(520) 881-9492

Fun, Casual Bardic

September 25th 8pm-11pm

The last one was so much fun, we HAD to
do it again! This is not a practice session.
There's no structure. No pressure. Just a
bunch of friends hanging out around the
fire, sharing songs and stories, food and
drinks. Bring snacks or drinks to share if
you like (some will be provided,) and an
extra chair if you have one. Site is wet. Held
at Niall and Quillon's house—1823 North
3rd Avenue, Tucson 85705

The College of St. Felix



Hail the populace!

Sir Sable's devious ways have intruded upon the college's practice. He has made us unsafe and prevented us from having fighter practice and reserving the bowl.

BUT--We will have a 30 person conference room available for use in Bio Sciences West (room 302). Auor has offered to bring some embroidery and nalbinding supplies to help us with some crafts. Sigrid and Arria will have painting supplies. Feel free to bring any other arts or sciences you have and hang out with the college. We will have the room from 7-10PM on Thursdays.

To enter the building, Arria will need to swipe her catcard. Arria, unfortunately, will be the only one who can open the doors after hours. If you intend to come to practice, please contact her and get her phone number so you can call her if you are stuck outside.
sca.collegeofstfelix@gmail.com



St. Felix Announcements:

School is back in session, and so are we!

We invite everyone (new or old, student or populace member) to join us at practices this month.

Septembers Practices: 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

There will be no fighting at the college practices until further notice due to clerical issues. A&S in Bio West room 302 from 7-10PM. Have Arria's number if you intend to join us in Bio West 302.

Teachers Wanted:

In the way of a true College, we are full of students seeking teachers. We would be gladdened to hear from anyone with some skill in any art or science or warriors of any weapon who would like to teach a short class or class series. If you would like to contribute to our educations, please contact the officer you think most appropriate (A&S, Herald, or the Seneschal. Note: contact our Seneschal for rapier and our Deputy Seneshal for heavy).

Officers:

Seneschal: Lady Arria Silvana - sca.collegeofstfelix@gmail.com

Deputy Seneschal: M'Lord Dalton Logan - collegeofstfelix_deputyseneschal@yahoo.com

Exchequer: M'Lord Arslan (Jose Robles) - exchequer.collegeofstfelix@gmail.com

A&S Minister: M'Lady Zoë Meade – aandsminister.stfelix@gmail.com

Chatelaine: M'Lady Hannah Gardner - thecollegeofst.felixchatelaine@gmail.com

Herald: Lady Allora Arnold – contact via the Book of Faces

Advisor: HE Sir Zhigmun' Czypsser (Zippy Roberts) - csfadvisor@gmail.com

Bacon Bits

Tidbits about Tir Ysgithr's History!

On Friday, November 10, 1972 the Arizona Daily Wildcat (Vol. 64 No. 55) wrote an article on The Society of Creative Anachronism entitled "Time -Tripper: Himmel Park Set to Return to Middle Ages". The article states that fighter will stage mock sword fights and melees at Himmel Park around "Hippy Hill". Following the days activities there will be a "revel allowing the participants to eat, drink and be marry". Also mentioned in the article. "While the men battle for their ladies, the ladies can participate in a stitchery contest..."



Snarky snail. The Hague, KB, KA 16, Fol. 109vb (vicious snail). Jacob van Maerlant Der Naturen Bloeme. Flanders c. 1350

The more things change the more they stay the same. In the year 1974, Tir Ysgithr hosted a Midsummer Tournament on Mt. Lemmon. held July 20 & 21, This event was to practice war maneuvers in case of invasion from the "accursed Calafians". In August, an event known as "La Maison de Lumiere", a pot luck and bardic revel. Followed in September by a Revel /Banquet dedicated to dancing, games, singing by the famous Madrigel group, and a "Gurning contest". October 5, 1974, saw a Tournament in which fighters fought to bestow the honor of Queen of Love and Beauty unto their Ladies. And we think our baronial calendar of events are crowded now.

The Bacon Bits facts have been provided by Vicountess Victoria of the Vales of Barnsdale, O.L., O.P. They have been taken from substantiated print such as old officers reports and missives, modern world newspapers, and past Kingdom and Baronial newsletters.

How To Interpret a Blazon

by Séamus mac Ríáin, Black Boar Pursuivant

We've all had that moment when someone is describing heraldry to us and it sounds like Charlie Brown's teacher talking. It's almost as if they shift into another language. In a way, that is exactly what is happening. In the SCA, as well as modern "real-world" heraldry, descriptions of heraldry, called blazons, are done in a mix of English and Norman French. This is a holdover from the first real flowering of Heraldry in the 12th century. In this article I am going to discuss some basic terms and dissect a few blazons for you.

Let's start by defining a blazon. A blazon is the written description of a piece of armory, such as a device or badge, in such a way that it can be reproduced by someone that hasn't seen the original. To do so, we have to be able to precisely describe all the elements making up the armory. For example, my device is "Or, a winged cat sejant sable and on a chief gules three open books Or." Someone, another herald or a scribe or someone who knows how to blazon, would be able to picture what my device looks like. The order of items in a blazon is the field, followed by primary charges, then secondary charges near the primary, then tertiary charges placed on the primary or secondaries, then secondaries at the edge of the device. If I just hit Charlie Brown's teacher territory, don't worry; these will be explained.

The first item mentioned in a blazon is the background, which is called the field. It always comes first and is set off from the rest of the blazon by a comma. The field is very often a color or combination of colors. This leads into the next topic: colors. This is a very French place: all the color names are in Norman French. It is easier than you might think, since we only use seven colors. The first two are argent: white (or silver) and Or: yellow (or gold). Or is always capitalized to distinguish it from the WORD "or". They are categorized as metals for contrast purposes. Since silver and gold are metals, that's easy to remember. The other five are called colors, which is confusing at first. If you get into the habit of thinking of gold and silver as metals and the rest as just colors, it helps. The colors are azure (blue), gules (red), purpure (purple), sable (black), and vert (green). "But Séamus, what about brown? I see brown bears and trees all the time in heraldry." Brown only comes into play when something, like a bear or a tree, is colored that way in nature. It counts as a color for contrast, and is

blazoned as "proper." So a brown bear would be blazoned as "a bear proper," and a tree with a brown trunk and green leaves would be blazoned as "a tree proper."

Which brings us to contrast. The purpose of heraldry, first and foremost, is to allow someone to be quickly identified from a distance. To do this, it needs good contrast. If you think about our modern life, street signs demonstrate this principle very well. A Stop sign has a distinctive shape, but it also has white letters on a red background. To put it another way, there are argent letters on a gules field. A speed limit sign has black (sable) letters on a white (argent) background (field). If you place something argent on an Or field (a metal on top of another metal), it is hard to distinguish them from a distance. The same thing applies if you put something azure on a sable field. So, the first rule of good heraldry is "Do not put a metal on a metal or a color on a color." Of course, as with all rules, there are exceptions in period, but that is a discussion for another time. The SCA Heraldic page has a lovely illustration of how the metals and colors interact on its "Heraldic Primer", located here: <http://heraldry.sca.org/armory/newprimer/h4f2.shtml>.

Another thing that can be done to the field is to divide it into two or more sections. The most common field divisions are Per pale, where the field is divided in half vertically; Per fess, where the field is divided in half horizontally; Per bend and Per bend sinister, where the field is divided in half diagonally; and Quarterly, where the field is divided into four equal quarters. If the field is divided, the type of division is mentioned first and then the colors of the division from left to right or top to bottom. A field divided vertically into a red half and a black half, for example, would be blazoned as "Per pale gules and sable..."

This seems like a good time to discuss directions. In heraldry, directions are blazoned as seen from the wearer's perspective, not the viewer's. So the viewer's left is "dexter," and the right is "sinister." Objects toward the top of the shield are described as "in chief", while objects toward the bottom are described as "in base." The difference between Per bend and Per bend sinister, for example, is where the top of the diagonal is. In Per bend, the division starts in the upper left (dexter chief), while Per bend sinister starts in the upper right (sinister chief). A dog to the left of a cat on a device is said to be "to dexter", while a dog below a cat is said to be "to base."

After the field, the next thing that is blazoned are the charges. Charges are anything placed on a field. In order of importance, there are Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary charges.

Primaries are the most important, usually largest and placed at the center of the device. Secondaries are less important, smaller, and often placed at the edges of the field. Tertiaries are smallest of all and are often placed on other charges. In my device, "Or, a winged cat sejant sable and on a chief gules three open books Or," the winged cat is the primary charge, the chief is the secondary, and the open books are tertiaries.

Another type of charge is an ordinary. An ordinary is a large geometric charge placed on the field such as a roundel (circle), pall (vertical stripe), fess (horizontal stripe), bend or bend sinister (diagonal stripe), chief (broad stripe across the top), base (broad stripe across the bottom), saltire (an x-shaped stripe), cross (a cross-shaped stripe), or bordure (a stripe around the edge of the device).

For a charge to be fully described, you need to specify its position, its orientation or posture, and its color. If you have one charge, you don't really need to specify its position; it's assumed to be right in the middle of the shield, as big as can be drawn. If it is not there, that needs to be specified. For example, if your charge is at the top upper left, it is blazoned as "in chief." If you have two or more charges, their position needs to be clarified. The order in which you name the charges helps a lot: charges to dexter or chief are mentioned first.

If you have a single charge, orientation tells us which way it's facing or lying. For example, if you have a sword as a charge, there are many ways it can be facing. With multiple charges, orientation tells us how the different charges are placed relative to each other. The most common orientations are "in pale or palewise," which is in a vertical line; "in fess or fesswise," which is in a horizontal line; and "in bend or bendwise or in bend sinister (which has no -wise),' which is in a diagonal line. If the charge (or charges) are assumed to be facing the viewer's left (dexter), if not, this also needs to be blazoned, usually using either "reversed, contourney, or to sinister."

If your charge is an animal, instead of orientation, you generally will have "posture." There are many terms for postures: the most common are rampant, upright with one foot on the ground; statant, standing or walking; sejant, sitting; and couchant, lying down, but not sleeping (that's dormant). There's a full list of postures on the SCA Heraldry site, here: <http://heraldry.sca.org/armory/quadruped-postures.html>

The color of a charge comes last, since we are adhering to French word order. In order to save room, if a number of charges are the same color, that color is mentioned after

the last charge of that color and covers every charge before it until another color is reached. For example, "Sable, a tower between two rondels fesswise argent," would mean a white tower in between two white circles on a black background, since "argent" would apply to everything in front of it until it hits "sable". "Sable, a tower argent between two rondels fesswise Or," would mean a white tower in between two yellow circles on a black background, since "Or" would only cover the charges between it and "argent".

So, let's put all this together and translate a few blazons into English so we can visualize what the devices look like. Starting with my device, "Or, a winged cat sejant sable and on a chief gules three open books Or.": On a yellow field, a black cat with wings is sitting facing left. At the top, there is a broad red stripe with three yellow open books on it. The blazon version is much more concise, no?

Try this one, which belongs to the King of Atenveldt: "Azure, a sun in his splendour Or within a laurel wreath argent and in chief a crown of three greater and two lesser points Or.": On a blue background, within a white laurel wreath, is a yellow sun with a face on it. At the top is a yellow crown that has three large and two small points.

Last but not least, the device belonging to our Baroness, Magdalen Venturosa: "Per pale Or and gules, a spider sable and a bordure counterchanged." This one's is a bit more tricky, since the blazon contains another space-saving measure: a counterchange. What counterchanging means is that you swap the colors from the field for that charge to maintain good contrast. Instead of writing, "Per pale Or and gules, a spider sable and a bordure gules and Or", we just say that the bordure is counterchanged. So, Baroness Magdalen's device is a black spider on a background that is vertically half yellow and half red. Around the edge of the device is a border that is red where the field is yellow, and yellow where the field is red.

I hope that this quick primer to reading heraldic blazons has been interesting or at least helpful. For a more in-depth explanation of heraldic blazon, please go to the Society's Heraldry web page at "http://heraldry.sca.org/armory_articles.html".

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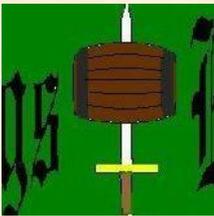
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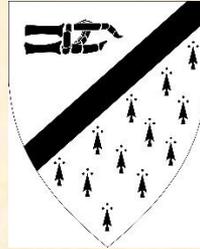
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This month's cover art is courtesy of Lord Gallant O'Driscole (Bryan Rollins). The Tusker is always looking for new art for the interior, as well as guest artists for the cover. Contact: Ernín na Beag Caomhanach.
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Household devices were provided by the head of each household.

Submissions

Submission Deadline: 15th of the month before the cover date. Example: May 15th for the June issue.

Hardcopy: Articles should be typewritten in 10 point or larger font. If handwritten, please make it legible and include a telephone number.

Artwork is best if the paper is 8.5" x 11" or smaller. Good quality photocopies are acceptable. Hardcopy submissions should be given directly to the Chronicler or Deputy Chronicler at events or fighter practice.

Electronic: Articles submitted electronically may be in the body of email message or MS Word. Send to the Chronicler at chronicler@btysca.org. Scanned artwork should be scanned at 600 dpi if they are printable size. They may be scanned at lower resolutions if they will be reduced.

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Publication Information & Disclaimer

September 2015 (Anno Societatus L)

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September Events

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Fighter Practice | 1 st | Baronial A&S Class | 16 th |
| Arts in the Park | 1 st | St. Felix Fighter Practice | 17 th |
| St. Felix Fighter Practice | 3 rd | Heraldry Hut | 18 th |
| Fighter Practice | 8 th | Fighter Practice | 22 nd |
| Populace Meeting | 9 th | Scriptorium | 23 rd |
| Art at Aasni's | 10 th | Cooks Guild | 23 rd |
| St. Felix Fighter Practice | 10 th | St. Felix Fighter Practice | 24 th |
| Archery Practice | 12 th | Archery Practice | 26 th |
| Knight Light Tournament | 15 th | Fighter Practice (Court) | 29 th |

October Events

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| St. Felix Fighter Practice | 1 st | Heraldry Hut | 16 th |
| Fighter Practice | 6 th | Fighter Practice (HIMMEL) | 20 th |
| Arts in the Park | 6 th | Scriptorium | 21 st |
| Scriptorium | 7 th | St. Felix Fighter Practice | 22 nd |
| Art at Aasni's | 8 th | Dragon's Hoard | 24 th & 25 th |
| St. Felix Fighter Practice | 8 th | Fighter Practice (HIMMEL) | 27 th |
| Fighter Practice (HIMMEL) | 13 th | Baronial A&S Class | 28 th |
| Populace Meeting | 14 th | Cooks Guild | 28 th |
| St. Felix Fighter Practice | 15 th | St. Felix Fighter Practice | 29 th |

November Events

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Fighter Practice | 3 rd | Fighter Practice | 17 th |
| Arts in the Park | 6 th | Scriptorium | 17 th |
| Scriptorium | 4 th | St. Felix Fighter Practice | 19 th |
| St. Felix Fighter Practice | 5 th | Heraldry Hut | 20 th |
| Fighter Practice | 10 th | Fighter Practice | 24 th |
| Populace Meeting | 11 th | Baronial A&S Class | 25 th |
| Southern Crusades | 12 th -16 th | Cooks Guild | 25 th |
| Art at Aasni's | 12 th | | |
| St. Felix Fighter Practice | 12 th | | |