



# Fret Knot

Spring – Spring/Summer: A.S. XLVIII



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## From the Chronicler

Greetings Again Readers,

Welcome to the Spring-Summer issue of the Fret Knot. I am back as Chronicler, at least for now. Unfortunately the person that was going to step up, couldn't. I'm in here until we find someone else capable. If you are interested in taking over, please reach out to us to let us know!

Please keep sending any articles, reports, art or whatever you have to [chronicler@sca-altavia.org](mailto:chronicler@sca-altavia.org).

In Service to the Dream,

*Baroness Asakura Washime*

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# From Their Excellencies

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## *From Their Excellencies*

It doesn't feel like a month has gone by. We have been so busy having fun as your new Baron and Baroness. It would not be as much fun if we didn't have such a wonderful Barony of peeps to help us.

So far we have had successful parties at Potrero, had a wonderful contingent at Coronation and QC, and I finally got to a Nordwache Anniversary. I must say if any of you ever thought of going to one, it is worth the drive (our first night a deer wandered through our camp). It was so cool to go to sleep at night with the sounds of a running creek (which was right behind our tent), owls hooting, and early morning waking to bird calls including wood peckers echoing through the woods. Most importantly no traffic sounds! Fighting, archery, Thrown Weapons and a delicious outdoor pot luck feast, followed by a torchlight tourney. Too Much FUN!!!

This summer is booked with lots of great activities: Gyldenholt Anniversary, Lyndomere Anniversary and we are going to Pennsic for both weeks. I encourage you all to attend CP Prize and Festival of the Rose to represent Altavia while we are gone.

Both fighter practices (Monday and Thursday) have been well attended as have Archery and TW, thanks to our incredible Marshals. Anyone interested in becoming a deputy to any of our Marshals (or any office), please let us know. There's always room for more Deputies (kind of like jello).

Always looking for largess to be given at Anniversaries we will attend. If you make or bake anything you'd like to donate please bring to a practice or the event, with a card saying what it is, ingredients, and your name.

We will have summer council meetings at Niko's church, congrats to Junes council raffle winner Muirgien, she won a portable hole. Come to next months' meeting for another chance to win just for showing up!

A&S meetings for summer will be at Monday night Practice, look for announcements of what we will be making.

*Yours in Service,*  
Cecelia & Christof

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This is the Spring-Summer 2014, issue of the **Fret Knot**, a publication of the Barony of Altavia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The **Fret Knot** is available from Mercy Neumark (Baroness Asakura Mashime) at [chronicler@sca-altavia.org](mailto:chronicler@sca-altavia.org). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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The Fret Knot is provided free of charge; and can be downloaded from the *Altavia* Yahoo!© Group website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Altavia/>. Membership in the online *Altavia* group is free and open to the public, though initial posts are moderated.

Submission Guidelines: Just do it! ([chronicler@sca-altavia.org](mailto:chronicler@sca-altavia.org).)

## The William Blackfox Awards

Reprinted from: <http://www.sca.org/officers/chronicler/blackfox-awards.html>

Master William Blackfox was the author and illustrator of the cartoon Warthaven. He gave generously of his time and talents, and was very supportive of the Kingdom Chroniclers until his untimely death.

To honor his memory, the Office of the Society Chronicler sponsors the annual Master William Blackfox Awards to recognize excellence in the work of Chroniclers and newsletter contributors. Newsletters provide a valuable resource and communication tool for SCA members around the world!

In 2007 the award was extended to recognize SCA Websites.

How are people nominated for the William Blackfox Awards?

The Kingdom Chroniclers make the initial nominations from the works in their Kingdom. (Obviously, their own work is not eligible; neither are Corporate Publications.) All kingdoms are encouraged to participate and send in at least two nominations for each of the seven categories. (Note to all Chroniclers - be sure to send copies of your publications to your Kingdom Chronicler. Not only is it policy for you to do so, but it is the only way you can be nominated to participate in this competition.)

Most kingdoms notify nominees of their nomination, either by mentioning their names in print or by sending them a letter congratulating them on their fine work and their nomination to the competition. It is important that all participants realize that the nomination of their work is an indication of excellence. The entries are then separated into the eight categories and the judging is completed by the Society Chronicler, with the assistance of disinterested individuals or experts, where necessary.

In each category, a winner and a Commended entry are chosen. The winners of the William Blackfox Awards, along with those entries recognized as Commended, will be announced each fall, and will appear in the Kingdom newsletters and Tournaments Illuminated. The complete list of all nominees will also appear on this web site. If you have any questions or suggestions, please send them to me at [chronicler@sca.org](mailto:chronicler@sca.org).

What efforts are recognized?

**Best Overall Newsletter** - this does not necessarily mean the best-looking newsletter, but rather the newsletter which best meets the needs of the local group or guild for which it is published. It should accurately reflect the status of the group and be a valuable tool for growth and promotion of the SCA goals and ideals. This title is awarded to the newsletter and the Chronicler.

**Best Layout and Design** - for the best looking newsletter in balance and style. Awarded to the newsletter and the Chronicler.

**Best Artwork** - for artwork on cover or interior of the newsletter. Awarded to the newsletter and the artist.

**Best Special Edition** - for Arts & Sciences issues, or other limited-focus issues of a geographic group (Canton, Shire, Barony, etc.). Awarded to the newsletter and the Chronicler.

**Best Special Interest Newsletter** - this category recognizes guild newsletters, research newsletters, and Arts & Science focus newsletters (such as lace-making). Awarded to the newsletter and the Chronicler.

**Best Regular Feature** - for those cartoons, articles, columns, etc. which appear regularly in the particular newsletter. Awarded to the creator or feature writer and the newsletter.

**Best Article** - recognizes excellence in articles appearing in a local newsletter. Awarded to the writer and the newsletter.

**Best Poetry or Short Fiction** - recognizes the author of an outstanding poem or piece of short fiction. Awarded to the writer and the newsletter.



**Altavia Baronial Council Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

California State University, Northridge

**Meeting started at 7:23 p.m.****Baronial Comments:**

- New Prince and Princess, Agrippa and Bridget are going to need our help, very excited for them.
- Big demo at Walter Reed MS at the end of the month, come out and play.
- Looking for help with making favors for HRH, bracelets in blue and white. Unsure when they are needed but planning to give her a bunch at Coronation
- Not attending Collegium or Black Oak Lodge
- After their Nexellencies step up, we will be doing a shed clean-up. We will have a signup sheet so we have the right number of people
- His Excellency will look into what is happening with the Awards recommendation page. Think about people in other baronies that you can recommend for awards

**Seneschal's Report:**

- The rule about meetings in private homes has been rescinded at Privy Council. If you volunteer your home, the meeting has to be open to all. You are not covered by SCA insurance but you can have people sign waivers for official meetings (council, A&S)
- Also talking about changing the length of reigns by moving the Fall/Winter crown to September and Coronation to Twelfth Night. Wouldn't happen until 2015. If you have comments, send email to Kingdom seneschal
- Medieval Marketplace may become a Kingdom event because Angels does not want to host it all the time. 36 Kingdom-level events already.
- Send in your polling letters! Polling will be open for one month.
- After March 31, Cormac would like it if everyone would check the OP to make sure you are on there and all your information is correct. You can check it through the Heralds page on the Caid website. Please check your baronial awards as well. You might be listed under your "mundane name of Altavia" if you did not have an approved name when you were given the award. If you see a listing for someone has passed away, they would like to know that information as well.
- Thomas will be getting stricter about requiring reports for every event. There have been some problems collecting the NMS.

**Minutes approval:**

- December 2013 Minutes. Meliora motioned for approval. Niko seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- January 2014 Minutes: Lynette motioned for approval. Meliora seconded. 2 abstentions minutes approved.

- February 2014 Minutes: Muirgein motioned for approval. Meliora seconded. 3 abstentions minutes approved.

**Old Business:** No old business

**Ongoing Business:** ( Items in process )

- *Altavia Anniversary and Baronial Investiture (05-10-2014) Lady Murghein/THL Courtney - See report attached as addendum.* Coffee Bar of Splendor will be in attendance. Thorin and Colwyn would like site flags.
- Altavia Equestrian Champion – *THL Courtney of the White Meadows* – No report, Courtney not here. Still going forward with Darachshire.
- Walter Reed Demo (March 23 & 29, 2014) *Baroness Bridget Lucia MacKenzie:* Please come and help! Set up will start 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27. See the event listing on the website!

### Officer's Reports

- **College of St. Firmin** – *Lord Philip de Greylonge:* Unknown. The official CSUN recognition has been pulled. Need to check on room cost change, if any.
- **Archers** – *Lord Gendu Adarmaghedi (Deputy: THL Niko Phaistos):* February 16 practice was cancelled due to Talon Crescent. Niko won the Kudos tournament at Talon-Crescent. Rabbit blunts are fun. February 23: Woodley Park replaced their hay bales and Altavians were there to help; Wayne was happy. 3 nice recurve bows were donated by a mystery lady at Angels Melee. March 2 practice was cancelled due to rain and mud. Niko is now Gendu's deputy.
- **Arts & Sciences** – *Lady Aethelwynne of Ashgrove (Deputy: Luca Serafini da Firenze):* February 25th. THL Catharine Hawkwood da Barbiano and Lady Arianna Foxford taught an Appreciation Tokens class. 8 people attended.

The beaded wire tokens made were donated as largesse for Her Highness Bridget's trip to Estrella.

March 25 (reconfirming this right now) Medb teaching cloth button making (and sleeve making?)

April 22 making largess for the new reign. We can do this at fighter practices, also. Monday, May 26 (back to the park). Waiting to hear back, Cormac, Brass Etching class

- **Chatelaine** – *Baroness Bridget Lucia MacKenzie (Deputies: Lady Murghein, Lady Catriona inghean Diamada, THL Kienna the Blue):* On Feb 24, 2014 we had a newcomer's meeting. The subject was Arts & Sciences. We had two newcomers attend the meeting. Lady Blue and I ran the meeting together. Thank you to everyone who brought their A&S items to show.

We will be having a Newcomer's meeting on Monday, March 24th. The subject is Attending Events, Garb, and Awards in the SCA.

I will not be able to make it on Friday for the Walter Reed Demo, but I will be there all day Saturday. Francisco should be able to attend on Friday to be an extra set of hands.

I will be the Chatelaine for the day at Altavia Anniversary. Please let me know if you need anything else.

- **Children, Minister of** – Lady Fara MacGregor (Deputy: THL Lady Cecillia Medici and THL Tezar of Aeolis): Leather craft workshop will be repeated at Altavia anniversary.
- **Chirurgion** – Lord Caine Dorcha (Deputy: Mistress Cecillia Medici): I was the head Chirurgion for the West Coast Culinary Symposium where we had 2 injuries, 1 very minor, a bruised knee, and 1 serious, a broken fibula and fractured ankle. Reports were made and sent to Kingdom.
- **Chronicler** – Baroness Asakura Mashime (Deputy: Hugh de Greylonge): Fret Knot is being out together. Currently I need Their Excellency's welcome column and any other officer report or submission in order to customize the Fret with relevant information. Please send that in to me by this Sunday. I am hoping to have the fret done next week.
- **Constable** – Sir Thorin vordr O'Seaghdha (Deputy Pro Tem: Yusef): I wound up with a few items from Crown Tournament. Although they were not from the Altavian area i will list them here in case anyone has information about their correct owners. A fabric parasol with a cloth cover, an older claw hammer, and a leather bota bag. I also just got a youth's sweatshirt from last night's fighter practice. I believe it is one of Pater's (of House Valentine) kids.
- **Exchequer** – Lady Leonor de Seville (Deputy: THL Eirikr Mjoksiglandi): We have money. We paid Angels for Yule. Eirikr and Leonor will switch things over officially at the bank Saturday.
- **Herald** – THL Damien von Baden (Deputy: THL Tezar of Aeolis): He will not be at the demo but will be at the Heralds meeting at Collegium. Has not been receiving email from the February from Altavia, may be a problem on his side. There may be a way of submitting your arms electronically, Damien can help you with this if you send him a .jpg of your arms.
- **Lists** – THL Matlens Litovka (Deputy: ): Nothing to report.
- **Marshal** – Sir Thorin vordr O'Seaghdha (Deputy: Sir Eronric of Devon): Practice is going well. 6-8 fighters attending each practice. We are becoming very knight-heavy with Duke Sven, Sir Uliam, Sir Niccolo, Sir Helgi, Vigilant Haldar and myself regularly attending the practices. Although I am not sure of the solution, we need to do something to attract more new fighters. We are only adding 1-2 a year to our core group. Get Sir Thorin to talk to Sir Helgi about recruitment.
- **Marshal, Equestrian** – (Deputy: Lady Lysette of Altavia): Jousting practices are going well according to Courtney. Arabella may be moving back to Altavia.
- **Marshal, Rapier** – Don Colwyn Stagghorn (Deputy: THL Nikolaos Phaistos and Luca Serafini da Firenze): Feb 17 6 fighters. Feb 24 6 fighters. March 3rd 6 fighters. March 10<sup>th</sup> 7 fighters. Estella War on March 1st Don Colwyn represented. Angels Melee 8th of March. Altavia was well represented. We have a newly authorized rapier fighter: Paul Eggart. I reminded fighters about Walter reed demo March 28 and 29. Rapier is still alive and well. Newbie at March 10 meeting is very interested in rapier, Tanya.
- **Marshal, Thrown Weapons** – THL Nikolaos Phaistos (Deputy: Letizia): Feb. 16th no practice because: Talon Crescent Festival. At the festival there was no points allowed, so we threw forks, rubber knives, stick spears and bolos. Kids loved the rubber knives. Men loved throwing bolos at the hanging rubber chicken. Mistress Cecilia taught a bolo making class. Fun was had by all. March 2nd practice canceled because of rain. QC archery is May 31 in Naevehjem. I assume TW will be the same day.

- **Marshal Pro Tem, Unarmored** – Cecilia de Medici (*Deputy: THL Nikolaos Phaistos*): Good unarmored tourney at Talon-Crescent. Niko was in the finals. Niko is one signature away from being a marshal. Cecelia is only a couple a way. Ordered some baronial equipment.
- **Marshal, Youth Combat** – THL Uilliam Mór MacGregor (*Deputy: Lady Lyonette*): No report.
- **Seneschal** – THL Madelena Hidalgo de Valencia (*Deputy: Baroness Iseabail inghean Bhaltair*): No report.
- **Webwright and Social Media** – Dame Lynnette de Sandoval del Valle de los Unicornios (*Deputies: Lord Gendu Adarmaghedi, Lord Philip de Greylonge, Lady Briana MacCabe, THL James Everglad*): So far, 72 people have liked the Altavia Facebook page and we're averaging one post per day. Like, share, and comment on posts! Briana will create a write up on Facebook and website for Fret Knot.

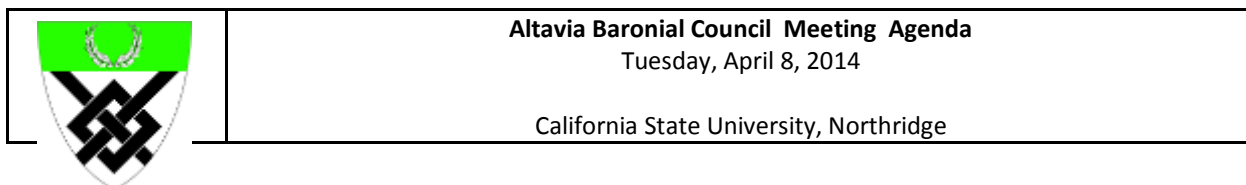
### Announcements

#### New Business:

- Fall Crown Tourney and Privy Council (August 16 & 17, 2014) *Lady Briana* - No report yet ☺
- Caid Rapier Open (October 4, 2014) – *Don Laertes McBride*
- Culinary Guild meeting – March 24

**Next Council Meeting** – Next meeting Tuesday, April 8, 2014

**Adjournment: 8:54 p.m.**



**Meeting started at 7:36 p.m.**

#### Baronial Comments:

- Walter Reed demo was great. Appreciate everyone who came out and helped. We really added to the atmosphere! Gave us an extra \$50, for total of \$250
- We're going to Starkhafn anniversary and presenting them with the coronet boxes. Not bringing shade
- Going to Dun Or, taking Dragonwing. Will have coronet boxes for them.
- We will continue to help create beaded largess for their Highnesses' reign. Can also create some Altavian largesse.
- Was contacted by someone who wants to advertise on the Altavia website/social media presence. The Webwright team doesn't believe this is ok by SCA rules.
- It's the B&B's last Council meeting ☹ They will be taking a break after Coronation.



**Seneschal's Report:**

- Nothing to say

**Minutes approval:**

- March 2014 Minutes. Muirein motioned for approval. Lynette seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** No old business

- Walter Reed Demo (March 23 & 29, 2014) *Baroness Bridget Lucia MacKenzie: It was great. See above. Niko is missing a pipe. Captain of Archers would like to thank Christoph for running the range both days at the demo. Cecilia says that Nicolai saved the day at Thrown Weapons on Saturday. A pop-up got set up on the range on Friday evening but Christoph took care of it.*

**Ongoing Business:** ( Items in process )

- *Altavia Anniversary and Baronial Investiture (05-10-2014) Lady Murghein/THL Courtney* - Parking situation: Royals and Altavia will be in the lower parking area. Loading ramp will be loading and unloading only. 4 vehicles can park up at the top on the vertical up, between 7 – 9 a.m. and 4 – 6 p.m. 4 at a time can also unload up there. Francisco can still help with parking but we will need 4 – 6 schleppers. Post to Facebook group right before the event to ask for help, or maybe Corvus could help. Need to convene financial meeting to approve selling t-shirts at \$13; shirts have been ordered. No donation lunch. No vigil so far. Last planning meeting next Thursday. Still concerned about problematic vendor, Secca will take care of this. Still need to arrange where former B&Bs will be at Anniversary, Secca and Meliora will be liaisons to them. Wolfe's memorial will be in Merchants. There will be a Roman clothing class at Anniversary at HRH Bridget's request. Selene will be hosting an after party.
- *Altavia Equestrian Champion – THL Courtney of the White Meadows* – Everybody has approved the championship format. A professional jouster will be doing a clinic the week before the event. There will be a jousting demo at the event.
- *Fall Crown Tournament (08/16/2014) Lady Briana MacCabe* – First planning meeting on Thursday. April 10 at 7pm at their Nextellencies.

### Officer's Reports

- College of St. Firmin** – *Lord Philip de Greylonge*:
- Archers** – *Lord Gendu Adarmaghedi (Deputy: THL Niko Phaistos)*: Baronial Archery Report for April 2014

Archery is alive and well in Altavia.

Practice March 16<sup>th</sup>: 17 attendees, 2 minors

Practice March 30<sup>th</sup>: 13 attendees, 4 minors

Practice April 6<sup>th</sup>: 18 attendees, 5 minors

One band aid was given out

Demo March 29<sup>th</sup>:

Christof ran a heck of an archery demo and has increased the attendance at practices since then, especially in youth.

Niko: Additionally. James Everglad is willing to give us the Saunders mats but we need to find a place to store them. Niko has contacted Wayne but has not heard back. Angels will want to borrow them if we have them. If you know of a place to store them, please speak up.

- **Arts & Sciences** – Lady Aethelwynne of Ashgrove (Deputy: Luca Serafini da Firenze): \*See report.
- **Chatelaine** – Baroness Bridget Lucia MacKenzie (Deputies: Lady Murghein, Lady Catriona inghean Diamada, THL Kienna the Blue): We had a newcomers meeting on March 24. The Subject was Attending Events, Garb, and Awards. I had two during the main class and then four show up later to whom I gave handouts to and gave an abbreviated class to. The next newcomers meeting is April 28 and the subject is serving on court and guard and we will have a Mock court.

Additionally, I attended the Walter Reed demo on Saturday, March 29 and assisted in the Chatelaine efforts. I will also be the Chatelaine for the day at Altavia Anniversary.

A teacher approached Niko about having a demo at their school, didn't know who to send them to. Murghein can help with this.

- **Children, Minister of** – Lady Fara MacGregor (Deputy: THL Lady Cecillia Medici and THL Tezar of Aeolis): Lady Fara would like to get some items such as leather and a baronial leather stamp for the ongoing youth craft project. She will price these out and bring the information to a future council meeting. Thorin will donate some leather stamps from his collection and will look into making a baronial stamp.
- **Chirurgion** – Lord Caine Dorcha (Deputy: Mistress Cecillia Medici): One injury at Archery/Thrown Weapons. Report was filled out. Bring own first aid/first responder with you to Potrero.
- **Chronicler** – Baroness Asakura no Mashi (Deputy: Hugh de Greylonge): Fret Knot was published and distributed to all websites/archives and so forth. I copied Hugh on them, as well as the Kingdom Chronicler. I hadn't actually seen any response from any of those correspondences from Hugh, so I hope he's still onboard with taking over and understands everything about the position. I'm going to copy him to this report to make sure he sees this and understands that with Q2, he'll be taking over (as in now). He can always let me know if he needs any help, as with the Barony.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve the Barony.

- **Constable** – Sir Thorin vordr O'Seaghdha (Deputy Pro Tem: Yusef): Nothing to report. The B&B have some things for lost and found from the demo.
- **Exchequer** – Lady Leonor de Seville (Deputy: THL Eirikr Mjoksiglandi): We have money.
- **Herald** – THL Damien von Baden (Deputy: THL Tezar of Aeolis): Next heralds' meeting is April 20. Check the new OP and make sure your name and awards are correct.
- **Lists** – THL Matlens Litovka (Deputy: ): Nothing to report.
- **Marshal** – Sir Thorin vordr O'Seaghdha (Deputy: Sir Eronric of Devon): Last night was a good talking practice but no heavies fought. His Highness was impressed by our socializing skills. A couple of newbies coming along. Thursday practices have about 17 regulars and is coming along nicely. Sir Helgi is a little reticent about being an official deputy but Thorin is working on him

- **Marshal, Equestrian** – (Deputy: Lady Lysette of Altavia): Jousting clinic coming up. Darach/Altavia Equestrian. Queen's Champion is May 18 at Prado. Darach is doing a good job keeping the practices alive at Swan Hill.

- **Marshal, Rapier** – Don Colwyn Staaghorn (Deputy: THL Nikolaos Phaistos and Luca Serafini da Firenze):

Practices

March 17<sup>th</sup> : 9 fighters

March 24<sup>th</sup>: 6 fighters 1 new transplant from another kingdom.

March 31<sup>st</sup>: 8 fighters 2 new and 1 returning new.

April 7<sup>th</sup>: 12 fighters 3 new and one transplant from another kingdom.

April 5<sup>th</sup>: King's Hunt

Paul Spearbreaker competed in his first Rapier Tourney.

Nathaniel and Luca won King's hunt

Nathaniel won Unscarfed tourney

Dragoons won Iron Crescent

We need a couple coifs/hoods for loaner gear.

- Marshal, Thrown Weapons** – THL Nikolaos Phaistos (Deputy: Letizia):

Practices:

March 16<sup>th</sup>: 16 throwers

March 30<sup>th</sup>: 10 throwers

April 6<sup>th</sup>: 12 throwers 3 minors .

One band aid was given out.

March 29: Al-Sahid I ran thrown weapons. We had 6 throwers.

QC archery is May 31 in Naevehjem

I assume TW will be the same day.

Niko would like to make new stands. Materials for new stands would be \$56.50, will need to go before financial committee.

Signs to take to practice: "Live Target Range" "You must sign waiver" Hand stamp once waiver is signed.

- **Marshal Pro Tem, Unarmored** – Cecilia de Medici (Deputy: THL Nikolaos Phaistos): We now have long sword, short sword, and buckler for loaner gear. Wooden long sword for regalia. Need help spiffing up the long sword. Niko will ask Vigulfr for help on this.
- **Marshal, Youth Combat** – THL Uilliam Mór MacGregor (Deputy: Lady Lyonette): There was no youth combat last night but three kids showed up. Angels donated two bags of youth helmets.
- **Seneschal** – THL Madelena Hidalgo de Valencia (Deputy: Baroness Iseabail inghean Bhaltair): No report.
- **Webwright and Social Media** – Dame Lynnette de Sandoval del Valle de los Unicornios (Deputies: Lord Gendu Adarmaghedi, Lord Philip de Greylonge, Lady Briana MacCabe, THL James Everglad): I've got the Altavia Pinterest board up and running. We have a couple of editors finding, vetting, and pinning info. We have boards of interest to Newcomers and to various interests in Altavia: A&S, Combat forms, Garb, and much more. We pin with an eye to how it will look to folks who don't know us or what we're about. Facebook Update

We are averaging 2-3 posts a week on the Altavia FB page and have 120 likes. We have also recently established (per His Excellency's suggestion) a Fret Fights FB group for messages about FP and other fighty things. The Altavia FB group continues to go strong with 2 - 3 new members a week and a total membership of 250.

### Announcements

#### New Business:

- \*Caid Rapier Open (October 4, 2014) – *Don Laertes McBride*
- Culinary Guild meeting – \*

**Next Council Meeting** – Next meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2014

**Adjournment:** 8:56 p.m.







## Contributed by Johnnae Ilyn Lewis, CE

As March approaches and April with Easter is not far off, let us consider the subject of “funny bunnies.” No, not Easter bunnies, or Cadbury white bunnies bearing chocolate dipped delicious cream or caramel eggs, but rabbits and hares who share ears and others who carry messages. Confused? Lost? Read on for clarification. To start, let us first consider the true hare; they are members of Leporidae or the rabbit family. All Leporidae, including the rabbits and hares, are herbivores. Unlike rabbits, true hares (genus *Lepus*) are larger and have ears that are longer than their bodies. The common brown or European Hare *Lepus europaeus* was found throughout Europe, including the British Isles, Finland, Sweden, and Germany, and was a foodstuff as far back as 20,000 years ago. In England, the hares then were native animals unlike the rabbits, which were introduced into Britain perhaps with the Roman legions. If so, those early rabbits died out and had to be then re-introduced by the Normans in the late 11th or early 12th centuries. Rabbits were easily domesticated, and communities of rabbits were often raised in warrens for food and fur throughout the medieval period. The native brown hare, meanwhile, was never domesticated in England so it escaped being shoved into warrens and raised for meat. Instead hares remained a sought after game animal. Hares (and rabbits that had gone feral) were hunted, and even considered poor man’s game as they could be hunted on foot or coursed with dogs or even probably poached or trapped to provide fresh meat for the impoverished dwellers of the countryside. As to the term “Bunnies,” the OED records that a bony or bunny was originally a lump or swelling, but by 1699 it was also being used as a pet name for a rabbit or as an endearing word for a child. “Sweet Peg... my honey, my bunny, my duck, my dear,” dates from 1606, according to W.C. Hazlitt. The Easter hare or Easter bunny,

meanwhile, is related to the German Osterhase but seems to date to only the mid 19th century in England.

### THREE RUNNING HARES or RABBITS

We’ll start with the motif (a theme or element which recurs) of the three running hares or rabbits, which are displayed in such a way that they share a total of only three ears. Take a close look at the illustration [<http://www.chrischapmanphotography.co.uk/hares/>] Three rabbits, three eyes, and only three ears, yet each rabbit seems to have a pair of ears. A triangle is formed in the middle of the design. Are they hares or are they rabbits? Which Leporidae might they be? Depending upon the length of the ears and length of the body, some are deemed hares; others are deemed to be rabbits. Both animals were popular subjects in various arts, and it can be hard to tell one from the other in the illustrations and surviving artworks being presented in the sources. Randle Holme described the problem of rabbit versus hare in his 1688 *The Academy of Armory* when he wrote, “The shape of the Rabbet and Hare are so like in their draught, that an Herald may mistake one for another in his Blazon.” [As these sources vary and materials are indexed under both terms, I will use the terms “hare” and “rabbit” interchangeably in the following article.] In any case, the motif of the three running hares is a clever design and certainly international in its scope.

It turns out the earliest to date examples of the three running rabbits appear in northwestern China. In and around Dunhuang, Gansu Province, may be found many surviving examples of the motif. Starting in the late 4th century, the nearby cliffs at Mogao were dug out and fashioned into cave temples by Buddhist monks. These temples or sanctuaries were decorated with murals, decorative art, and statues. Between the late 6th century and the early 10th century (Sui (581-618 CE) and Tang (618- 906 CE) dynasties) the image of the running hares was painted on at least seventeen



cave/temple ceilings. (see Classical Chinese Puzzles) The study of the running rabbits motif has been part of the lifelong work of the scholar Guan Youhui of the Dunhuang Academy. Dunhuang is located on the ancient Eastern Silk Road, and Guan Youhui believes the running rabbits motif, along with other decorative designs, came to this region from west and central China, despite the fact that to date no early examples have been found. Henrik Sørensen mentions clear Central Asian influences in the paintings. The motif of the running hares has a lasting appeal and appears today in a decorative mosaic on the floor of the Dunhuang Museum and on a variety of scarves, t-shirts, paintings, and jewelry which are created to be sold to visitors.

The question now becomes: Did the motif of the running rabbits travel the famous Silk Road to the West or did it arise in the West without help from the East? The 2004 exhibit volume *The Silk Road* and also the team of Andrew, Greeves, and Chapman suggests the rabbit or hare motif arose with Sasanian Persia in the form of silk designs. Did it first travel the Silk Road as a design on textiles? Others suggest India as the source. Moving from China westward, the rabbits appear on Iranian metalwork, circa 1200, an Iranian brass plate, and on a copper Ilkhanid coin minted in 1280-1281. It can also be found in examples of glass and on pottery. A motif of rabbit wheels (lampas) survives on Iranian cloth of gold fragments dating from the mid 13th century (1225-1250-1260 CE). Item 1993.140 is now housed at the Cleveland Museum of Art. It is described in ARTstor and on the museum's website as "Repeated roundels enclose four rabbits that share two pairs of ears and run in a circle. This motif, known as an animal wheel, is very ancient in Asia." Another Asian example, featuring four hares, can be found in the ruins of the White Temple of Guge in Tibet. Two roundels, dated mid tenth century to 1630 AD, can be found on a wall panel. A late 12th -13th century temple at Alchi in present day India, but formerly under the influence of Tibet, also features the motif in roundels.

Searching through the art database ARTstor, one can identify several manuscripts, which contain the motif or rather a variation of the motif where four running rabbits with four ears form a square. The Bodleian Library at Oxford contains an end of the 12th century French Psalter. MS. Auct. D. 2. 8 is described as "a green circle, on which four hares run nose to tail; their ears, four only in a familiar visual trick, join in the centre to frame a square ('rosette of hares')." The Bodleian also owns a French Gospel of St. Matthew dated to 1200. MS. Laud Lat. 41 is described as containing: "Decorated initial 'L(IBER)' has rosette of four running hares with shared ears." A second quarter of the 13th century

bestiary, the English MS. Bodl. 764 depicts a "Panel with 'rosette of hares' with foliated scrolls." Lastly, there is another Bodleian example which is an early 13th century English school manuscript (MS. Douce 218) depicting "Decorated initial 'Q(VIDAM)' enclosing running hares." The British Library's MS. Add. 21926 (Grandison Psalter, 1270-1280) depicts three running rabbits, as does a letter "P" from a 13th century Lambeth Palace manuscript.

In China the motif decorated the ceilings and a wall panel in Tibet of Buddhist shrines. In the west, the motif appears in cathedrals and churches. Seventeen churches in contemporary Devon feature the three hares motif on nearly thirty ceiling bosses. Several are associated or named as being Tinners' Rabbits, although no one can exactly explain how the ancient motif was adopted by the Tin miners or the stannary towns in the Dartmoor of southwest England. (Does it have something to do with rabbits and hares going to ground in burrows?) According to English journalist Nic Fleming, other examples of the motif may be found "in a chapel in Cotehele, Cornwall, in medieval stained glass in the Holy Trinity church in Long Melford, Suffolk, in a plaster ceiling in Scarborough, North Yorks, and on floor tiles from Chester Cathedral and in the parish church in Long Crendon, Bucks." There's a carved roof boss in a Spreyton Church dating from 1451. The British Society for the History of Mathematics lists these sites as connected with the motif: "Broadclyst; Chagford; Chester; Long Crendon; Long Melford; North Bovey; Sampford Courteney; Scarborough; Spreyton; Throwleigh; Widecombe."

In Germany the motif appears in the stonework as part of a 12th century window on the Cathedral of Paderborn in Germany and on the façade of St. Jean Cathedral, Lyons, France. Ceramic tiles with the motif can be found at Wissembourg in France dating from the 13th century and at Konstanz in Germany dating from the 14th century. Boris Khaimovich mentions that the motif may also be found on house facades, town halls, and as emblems of professional guilds. It was a popular motif on pottery created by the Habanes in the Carpathian region in the 18th century. Oddly enough, the motif also turns up in synagogues and on gravestones in Jewish cemeteries. Boris Khaimovich writes, "In the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century this motif appears in various Ashkenazi ritual objects and on the tombstones of Eastern European Jews in the same region... [and as parts of] "synagogue murals."

Scholars debate the meaning of the motif and ponder the more than 5000 miles and hundreds of years that

separate the images in China and those in England. What was its significance and why was it adopted in so many places? For those wondering, yes, the rabbits or hares run in both clockwise and counter clockwise fashion.

In the Far East it's associated with Buddhism and the tripartite. If it appears on a church in the west, it said to depict the Trinity (The Trinity Sunday prayer begins, "Father: The true God, One in Three and Three in One.") Dr. Susan Andrew who did her dissertation on medieval English roof bosses believes that such decorative elements "played an important role in medieval social and religious life -- for example, as aide memoires and devices used during prayer to help cure the soul from sin." Others prefer to look to the magical connections of fertility and spring. There's also a long association of rabbits and hares with the moon and magic. It is less clear what the meaning was to the various Islamic artists. Chad Dailey discusses these aspects in his talk about an example held by the Louvre. Dating from 1200 CE, it features just one rabbit and while he sees this dish as part of the same tradition, Dailey points out the Islamic point of view favors a unity of God. Perhaps the surviving Iranian pieces with the motif just reflect the popularity of the motif and not a religious message. In synagogues, the "rotating rabbits" are said to be linked to the text of an ancient German saying of "Three hares sharing three ears, Yet every one of them has two." Another saying is attached to the image of the mid-19th century Dinant cookie board. It reads "'Voor Drie Hazen, Drie Ooren En Toch Is Ieder Met Twee Geboren," which means in English: "While Three Hares, Three Ears And Still Is Each Born With Two Ears."

Lastly, one aspect adding to the appeal is the magic of the puzzle. Retired mathematician David Singmaster has presented his findings on the three-hares motif from around the world. He believes it arose naturally from certain purely formal, mathematical- puzzle considerations. Singmaster believes people subsequently read and attached "various different numinous, archetypal, and religious meanings into the motif." His work complements and confirms Dr. Tom Greeves's "caution against too quickly assuming one knows the 'meaning' of the hares motif." [ see Stadlen, .pdf] If one studies, and tries one's hand, the design is simple enough and easily fashioned. Create an appropriate body of a rabbit or hare and then fashion an ear. For three rabbits, use a triangle as the center. For four rabbits, use a square. Centuries ago did an artist create the appealing motif? After it spread and was reproduced on a number of objects, then perhaps as Singmaster and Greeves suggest, meanings came to be attached to the motif much later and over time.

One of the earliest literary references to the motif appears in Browne Willis' A Survey of the Cathedral of St Davids, published in 1717. The description reads: "In one key stone near the west end are three rabbits plac'd triangularly, with the backsides of their heads turn'd inwards, and so contriv'd that the three ears supply the place of six so that every head seems to have its full quota of ears. This is constantly shewn to strangers as a curiosity worth regarding."

From China through Asia, Germany, France, England, and into Central Europe, the three rabbits and hares have run long distances and through centuries. They are still and remain "a curiosity" and a medieval mystery "worth regarding" even in the 21st century.

#### MESENTER HARES and RABBITS: A Short Look

Our second exploration concerns the fascinating subject of messenger hares or rabbits. I first came across this topic when doing the original research for an article on the madness of March hares back in 2009 and for a sidebar to a revised version again in 2012. Malcolm Jones recounts the tale in his excellent and highly recommended volume titled *The Secret Middle Ages*. In a chapter on "Shoeing the Goose: the representation of proverbs and proverbial follies in art," Jones recounts the tale of "The Hare Messenger." The story concerns a group of peasants who are late with the rent. They catch a hare, because hares are, of course, fleet of foot. They attach the rent in a pouch around the hare's neck. The peasants instruct the hare to take the pouch directly to their landlord. Of course the hare runs off and is never seen again. The source of the tale is Odo of Cheriton's thirteenth century Latin collection of fables. Hares carry letters in many folk tales, and most of the tales comment upon the foolishness of those that would dispatch a hare in such circumstances.

As my longer article recounts, there is a possible association between these Messenger Hares and Lewis Carroll and his own messenger character, the White Rabbit. Both Jones and the volume *The Lore of the Land* by Westwood and Simpson include photos of a carving from the interior of Saint Mary's Church in Beverley, England. This very fine Yorkshire parish church was 'Founded c. 1120,' with 'a tower added in 1524.' The church was built over a course of centuries and it is within it, we find our fourteenth century eighteen-inch rabbit. Westwood and Simpson write: "There is a carving in the stone of an impost [which] is generally described as a rabbit walking upright, carrying a pilgrim's staff, and wearing a 'scrip' or satchel. Although the carving looks more like a cheerful rabbit than

anything else, it is undoubtedly a representation of the hare as messenger." (pp. 821-822)

One can judge for one's self as to if the carving more resembles a cute hare or a cute rabbit. See it here: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St.\\_Mary%27s\\_Church\\_-\\_The\\_Pilgrim\\_Rabbit.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St._Mary%27s_Church_-_The_Pilgrim_Rabbit.jpg) It is reported the carving dates to 1325. (Please see my longer article for more details on how the young Charles Dodgson may have seen this very carving in this church when he was visiting the area during childhood.)

In any case, whenever I look upon the Beverley carving, be it a messenger or pilgrim hare or rabbit or as the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's always in a hurry White Rabbit, I am reminded of those multitudes of standing Easter Rabbit chocolate molds and cellophane wrapped chocolate bunnies myself. If we subtletie makers ever need to document a rabbit standing upright for a subtletie, the Beverly Pilgrim is certainly an apt and appropriate source. Happy springtime everyone!

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Note: If you would like to create your own springerle, marzipan, or even candy rabbits for Easter or springtime, (either as messengers or as three rabbits running), Springerle Joy in Pittsburgh carries both molds in appropriate sizes.

<< <http://www.springerlejoy.com>>>

# A Translation of Iranisches Namenbuch by Ferdinand Justi, Marburg, 1895 By THL Damian von Baden



I have been translating a book of Persian names for the last couple of years (Iranisches Namenbuch by Ferdinand Justi, Marburg, 1895), and I have found a few names for horses. Some are historical. Most are from the Shahnameh (the Persian national epic translated into Arabic by Ferdowsi), and the last one is from the Avesta.

And just to be a stick-in-the-mud herald: no, you can't register a name for your horse, but if it fits your persona, go ahead and use it (for the horse, that is).

Behzad name of the horses of Siyawush, Kai Khusrau and Kai Gushtasp (Shahnameh)  
 Ferdad horses of Windad Hormizd (ao. 783AD)  
 Gulgun Lohrasp (Shahnameh) i.e., rose-colored (modern form for Old. Pers. Rodogune)  
 Pasakas Warhorse of Cyrus the Younger (423BC) i.e., wild horse

Rakhsh Rustam (Shahnameh) i.e., skewbald  
 Shibdaz Khusrau II (600AD)  
 Shabdez Bahram Gor (420AD), also called Shabrang  
 Shabrang horse of Alkos, Bezhan and Isfendiar (Shahnameh) i.e., night-colored (black)  
 Sholak Isfendiar (Shahnameh) - i.e., the runner  
 Wareshnaspa stallion - name of one of the three holiest fires, which shine on the stallion of Kai Khusrau, as the latter destroyed the idol temple on the Urmia Sea

And horse-related names ('Av' indicates the name is from the Avesta, 'Sh' from the Shahnameh):

Pharnaspe  
 650BC  
 father of Otanes and Kassandane, brother-in-law of Cyrus i.e., having horses (brought?) by happiness

Frinaspa  
 Av  
 son of Kaewa i.e., having plentiful horses

Damaspia  
 425BC  
 mother of Xerxes i.e., having thoroughbred horses

Hamazasp  
 1619AD  
 bishop of Havuts thar i.e., possessing warhorses

Hezarasf  
 son of Iskendar, uncle of the last Badusepan Gayumarth  
 Avestan hazanro-aspa (possessing 1000 horses)

Hitaspa  
 Av  
 murderer of Urwakhshaya, killed by his brother Keresaspa i.e., harnessed, having a horse yoked (to the cart)

Gdaspes  
 Indian slave; probably named after the Indian river Hydaspes (Vitasta) i.e. possessing well bred horses

Humasp  
 son of Wahadask, father of Warzak i.e., possessing (fast) horses like eagles

Hwaspa (Huwaspas)  
 Av  
 high priest of Kareshwar Wourubareshti i.e., possessing beautiful horses, cp. Khoaspes (the river Kerkha, where beautiful horses graze)



|  |   |
|--|---|
| Yukhtaspa<br>Av<br>brother of Ashashkyaothna (?) i.e., having a harnessed horse  | Rodaspes<br>37BC<br>son of the Parthian king Phraates IV i.e., having red horses  |
| Chathvaraspa<br>i.e., driving with four horses   | Samand<br>emir, poet i.e., yellow horse, Isabella with black legs, mane and tail  |
| Beha ed-din Kershasp Ibn Batutah names him<br>Kushtasb (Gushtasp)<br>possessing skinny horses  | Sataspes<br>550BC<br>son of Teaspis, nephew of Darius I i.e., having 100 horses   |
| Keresawazdanh<br>Av<br>son of Pesheng, brother of Afrasiab i.e., drawn by slender (horses on a war wagon)                              | Shetasp Anahit<br>i.e., possessing white (gleaming) horses (Avest. Khshaetaspa)   |
| Chihrwshnasp<br>i.e., esteemed as a stallion (like a fiery horse)  | Shavasp<br>452AD<br>Artsruni, one of the nobles who went to Persia as captives, ao. 452 i.e., owning black horses         |
| Kranaspes<br>525BC<br>Persian, son of Mitrobates i.e., possessing yellow-brown horses  | Spaenasp<br>Av<br>son of Durshasp (Aurushaspa), father of Turak, predecessor of Afrasiab i.e., owning white horses        |
| Khshwoivraspa<br>Av<br>son of Khshtawana, father of Khshathrochinanh i.e., possessing fast horses                                      | Spedasp<br>Av<br>son of Dahhak, father Samand, in a family tree of Bistam of Ghur i.e., having white horses               |
| Luhrasp<br>Av<br>father of Wishtaspa i.e., having red horses   | Stabrobates<br>810BC<br>king of the Indians, attacked by Semiramis Avest. staoropaiti (lord of the horses, draft animals) |
| Okranes<br>316AD<br>fell against Orontobates, ao. 316 i.e., having pretty, yellow-brown (horses)                                       | Stages<br>410BC<br>army leader under Pharnabazos Mod Pers. sitagh (foal, horse)   |
| Otaspes<br>519BC<br>son of Artachaies, leader of the Assyrians in Xerxes army i.e., having storm-horses, horses as fast as the wind    | Tarasp<br>Sh<br>son of Juderz and brother-in-law of Afrasiab i.e., owning young horses                                    |
| Pourushaspa<br>Av<br>son of Pirtarasp, husband of Dughda, father of Zarathustra. The Avesta explains this name by 'having many horses' | Tijasp<br>father of one Bistun i.e., having fast horses   |
| Prexaspes<br>500BC<br>son of Aspathines i.e., owning young horses  | Turiaspes<br>330BC<br>satrap of the Paropamisads i.e., owning Turanian horses   |

# Upcoming Baronial Events

Fall Crown Tourney (Altavia)

When: Saturday, August 16, 7am – 6pm

Where: Veteran's Park is located at 13000 Sayre Street, Sylmar, CA 91342 ([map](#))

Description

Event Steward: Lady Briana MacCabe

Event Email: [crown@sca-altavia.org](mailto:crown@sca-altavia.org)

Merchants: Baroness Morgaine FitzStephen

Merchant Email: [merchants@sca-altavia.org](mailto:merchants@sca-altavia.org)

Fall Crown Tourney, AS XLIX (August 16, 2014) The Barony of Altavia invites you to join us for Fall Crown! Watch history unfold as the 74th King and Queen of Caid are chosen by right of combat.

When: August 16, 2014 Where: Veteran's Park, Sylmar, CA

Schedule of the day Site Opens for set up: 7:00am

Opening court: 10:00 a.m. (at the discretion of TRMs)

Closing court: 4:30pm (at the discretion of TRMs) Park closes: 6:00 p.m.

Park Requirements: According to the park regulations, we need to follow these rules: There will be no staking into the turf deeper than 6 inches There will be no driving on the turf There will be no amplified music We are responsible to remove the trash generated by the event Dogs are welcome but must be leashed and picked up after This is a DRY site.

Site Information: Veteran's Park is located at 13000 Sayre Street, Sylmar, CA 91342.

Directions to Veteran's Park: For those coming from the NORTH: Make your way to the 5 South, then take the 210 East towards Pasadena. Take the Hubbard St Exit. Turn left. Follow Hubbard St to Eldridge Ave. Turn left onto Eldridge Ave. At the first stop sign, which is at Sayre St, turn right. Follow Sayre St all the way up the hill into Veterans Memorial Park. Altavia signs will direct you towards the event once in the park.

For those coming from the SOUTH and WEST: Make your way to the 118 East, then take the 210 West towards Sacramento. Take the Hubbard St Exit. Turn Right. Follow Hubbard St to Eldridge Ave. Turn left onto Eldridge Ave. At the first stop sign, which is at Sayre St, turn right. Follow Sayre St all the way up the hill into Veterans Memorial Park. Altavia signs will direct you towards the event once in the park. For those coming from the WEST: Make your way to the 210 West towards Sacramento. Take the Hubbard St Exit. Turn Right. Follow Hubbard St to Eldridge Ave. Turn left onto Eldridge Ave. At the first stop sign, which is at Sayre St, turn right. Follow Sayre St all the way up the hill into Veterans Memorial Park. Altavia signs will direct you towards the event once in the park.

Site fees:

\$8 for members with proof of membership,

\$3 for children 4-12,

Children under 3 are guests of the Barony.

A \$5 non-member surcharge will apply for non-members over the age of 12.

Make checks payable to SCA, Inc./Barony of Altavia.

Merchants:

Merchants are welcome! Fees are your site fees as well as 10% of gross sales, which goes to the park. If you are interested in merchanting, please email our Merchant Coordinator, Baroness Morgaine FitzStephen at [merchants@sca-altavia.org](mailto:merchants@sca-altavia.org).

If you have any questions, please contact the event steward, Lady Briana MacCabe – [crown@sca-altavia.org](mailto:crown@sca-altavia.org).



DEAREST SCA,

I AM SO HAPPY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SCA! MY HUSBAND AND I ARE CELEBRATING OUR 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BEING DUES-PAYING MEMBERS OF THE SCA. BUT I AM NOT YOUR TYPICAL "NEWBIE". MY HUSBAND IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL "NEWBIE".

WE ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE FOAM FIGHTING COMMUNITY. YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OF SOME OF OUR GROUPS, AMTGARD, BELEGARTH, DARKON, DAGORHIR, NERO, JUST TO NAME A FEW. YOU MAY ALSO CALL THEM BOFFER GROUPS. THAT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU AREN'T USING IT AS A SWEAR WORD WHEN REFERENCING THEM. THIS IS WHERE THE PROBLEMS ARISE.

THOSE WHO KNOW OF OUR OTHER HOBBY HAVE GENERALLY VIEWED ITS MEMBERS WITH DISDAIN. I HAVE HEARD IT SO MANY TIMES, "OOOH, YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE." YES, YES I AM! I AM PROUD OF MY HISTORY IN MEDIEVAL RECREATIONISM. MANY OF US ARE.

BUT, WHEN WE GET INTO THE SCA AND HEAR PEOPLE BASH US, IT MAKES VETERAN SCA MEMBERS LOOK EGOTISTICAL, BRASH AND ABRASIVE. IT MAKES US QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO JOIN THE SCA. IT CASTS A DARK SHADOW OVER THE VERY PEOPLE THAT THE SCA SHOULD BE ATTEMPTING TO RECRUIT. A GOOD MANY OF US DO WHAT WE HAVE TERMED,

CROSS-GAMING. THIS MEANS THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE IN OUR FOAM GROUPS AS WELL AS THE SCA.

WE ALSO BRING MORE TO THE TABLE THAN YOU MAY REALIZE. WE ARE ARTISTS, FIGHTERS, OFFICERS IN THOSE ORGANIZATIONS, EVENT COORDINATORS, VOLUNTEERS, THINKERS, TINKERERS, AND SO MUCH MORE. WE VOLUNTEER TO DO THE MENIAL TASKS BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THOSE LITTLE JOBS MAKE THE BIG THINGS HAPPEN. WE ACTIVELY LOOK FOR NICHES WITHIN THE SCA THAT SUIT US. WE BECOME OFFICERS, COURT MEMBERS, COUNCIL MEETING REGULARS AND ROYALTY.

YEP, I JUST SAID ROYALTY! THERE ARE EVEN A FEW FROM OUR RANKS THAT HAVE MADE IT ONTO THE AMERICAN BATTLE OF THE NATIONS TEAM. OUR FIGHTERS ARE SKILLED, OUR ARTISTS HAVE VISION AND WE ARE ALL LOOKING TO BRING OUR TALENTS AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO THE SCA. AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO WOULD COME INTO THE SCA HAVE THE CHOPS TO BECOME GREAT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY YOU HOLD SO DEAR.

I'M NOT SAYING THAT EVERY PERSON WITH A LARP (LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAYING) BACKGROUND IS GOING TO BE TOP-NOTCH, GRADE A, MAGNIFICENT EXAMPLE OF HUMANITY. I AM SAYING THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO COME INTO THE SCA HAVE THE CHOPS

TO BECOME GREAT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY YOU HOLD SO DEAR.

FOR THE RECORD, SOME OF US HAVE HELD THE SCA IN HIGH REGARD FOR MANY YEARS ALREADY. IT FEELS TO US AS IF WE HAVE WORKED OUR WAY UP AND ARE FINALLY READY TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE. OK, THAT MAY BE A LITTLE MUSHY AND PERHAPS OVERLY IDEALISTIC, BUT I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THE SENTIMENT.

MY POINT IS THAT ALL SCA MEMBERS NEED TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY KIND AND HELPFUL TO NEW MEMBERS. PERIOD. IF THEY BRING UP THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IN A LARP OR BOFFER GROUP, PLEASE DON'T ROLL YOUR EYES, SIGH LOUDLY WHILE TELLING THEM THAT THEY ARE "SAFE" NOW, SUGGEST THAT THEY SHOULD FORGET EVERYTHING THEY THINK THEY KNOW, IMPLY THEY HAVE NO "REAL" FIGHTING SKILLS,

OR OPENLY BASH THE GROUP THEY HAVE COME FROM SINCE YOU'VE "HEARD ABOUT THOSE KIDS."

IT WOULD BE GREAT TO TELL YOU THAT I'M KIDDING BUT, ALAS, I AM NOT.

I AM VERY PROUD OF THE 22 YEARS THAT I'VE SPENT IN THE WORLD OF BOFFERS AND LARPS! THEY HAVE BEEN MY LIFE SINCE I WAS 14 YEARS OLD. I MET MY HUSBAND THROUGH THEM AND MOST OF MY CLOSEST, LIFE-LONG FRIENDS. I WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER OF THOSE GROUPS FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

I WILL ALSO BRING MY EXPERIENCE TO THE SCA AND STRIVE TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. I ONLY ASK THAT YOU BE HAPPY TO SEE US AND REMAIN WILLING TO HELP US REACH OUR GOALS AND DREAMS IN THE SCA!

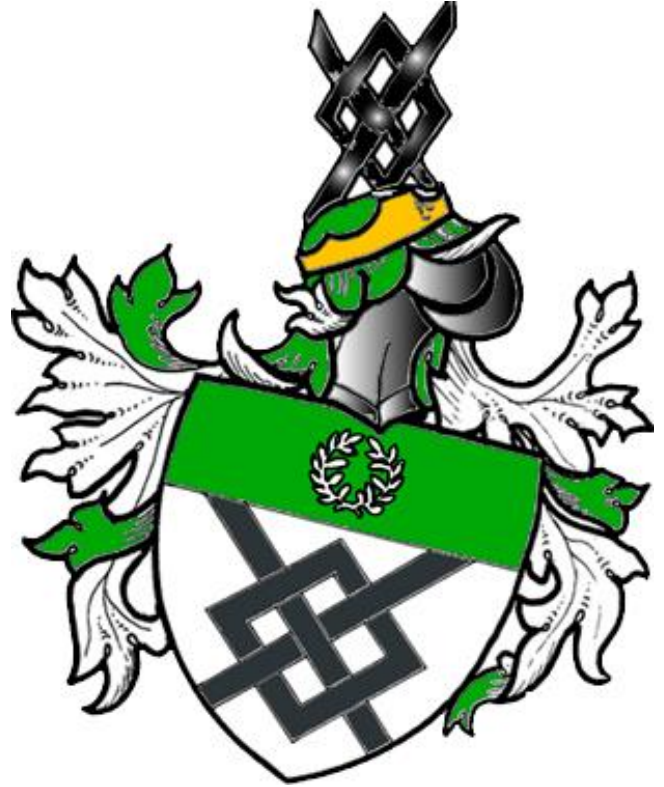
WITH LOVE,  
CORINNA DE LA MARE





# Altavia Current Champions

- ❖ Archery **Brigid Ni Muirean** 10/27/13
- ❖ Armored Combat **Duke Sven Orfhendur** 5/10/14
- ❖ Arts & Sciences **Baron Thomas Brownwell** 5/10/14
- ❖ Bardic **Briauhna Colette des Trouvères** 12/7/13
- ❖ Chess **Nathaniel Longbow** 12/7/13
- ❖ Crossbow **Winfred of Heatherwyne** 10/27/13
- ❖ Equestrian **Lady Kora Aelfbairn riding Blaze** 5/3/14
- ❖ Rapier Combat **Don Laertes Blackavar McBride** 5/10/14
- ❖ Thrown Weapons **Cormac Mor** 10/27/13
- ❖ Unarmored Combat **Don Avenel Kellough** 5/10/14
- ❖ Youth Archery **Tara of Caitness** 10/27/13
- ❖ Youth Combat **Preston and Natalyyia Barsova** 5/10/14
- ❖ Youth Thrown Weapons **Nicolai Stagghorn** 10/27/13





*Most Suitable for a Summer: Fruit and Vegetable Subtleties & Carving Sources*  
 By *THL Johanna Uym Lewis, CE*

Carved watermelons have been part of the Society's summer banquet tables for decades. I can personally remember creating a festive one for a Middle Kingdom head table as far back as the summer of 1974. The nagging question has always been: Was it appropriate (or period) to do so? Fruit carving has been a subject of much discussion on the various Society Cookery E-Lists over the past several years. On the one hand we know watermelons are of course suitable for eating as they were grown within our period in the lands surrounding the Mediterranean, but the question often arises as to whether or not medieval or Renaissance cooks ever carved or served decorated melons. Did they carve any fruits or vegetables for decorative purposes at all prior to 1650?

The one long quoted recipe with the evidence is this instructive recipe by Gervase Markham. It appears in his volume *The English Housewife*. There we have carrots of differing colors cut into various shapes for use in a sallat.

Sallats for shew onely.

Now for Sallets for shew only, and the adorning and setting out of a table with numbers of dishes, they be those which are made of Carret rootes of sundrye colours well boiled, and cut out into many shapes and proportions, as some into knots, some in the manner of Scutchions and Armes, some like Birds, and some like wild Beasts, according to the Art and cunning of the Workman; and these for the most part are seasoned with Vinegar, Oyle, and a little Pepper. A world of other Sallets there are, which time and experience may bring to our Hous wives eye, but the composition of them, and the seruing of them differeth nothing from these already rehearsed. Pp 66-67.

So here we are given license to "fancify up" carrots for use in sallats, but does help us in our quest? (Today's cooks seeking to follow Markham's instructions might make use of those small modern stainless steel hors d'oeuvres or garnishing cutters of assorted shapes and turn this activity into an easy task.)

Markham's *Housewife* dates from as early as 1615 and dominated the marketplace for almost thirty years. Where else might one look for such instructions besides Markham? Well, there are works dedicated to just carving. In 1508 Wynkyn de Worde printed the first book dedicated to the art of carving in England. Titled *The Boke of Keruyng*, the early Tudor work was reprinted and included then in numerous other cookery

books until well past the English Civil War, into the Restoration period, and even into the 1680s by which time it was quite dated to say the least. *De Worde's Boke* is dedicated primarily to meats and famously instructs one how to "break and display" game and domestic animals, fish, and birds, and includes what sauces must be served with said meats for the noble table. *The Boke of Keruyng* does not, however, delve into the carving of fruits or vegetables nor does it feature illustrations for carving.

Roughly contemporary with Markham, however, is an Italian carving book, which does include both fruit carving and illustrations. Mattia Giegher's instructive Italian works featured elaborate folding of napkins, carving instructions, stewardship, and table service. They were first published in *Il Trinciante* (Padoua) in 1621 and in 1623. Later in 1639 after Giegher's death, *Li Tre Trattati* (a combination of Giegher's earlier books and more importantly featuring 48 engraved plates) was published. Almost as an afterthought, this carving manual includes engravings, which feature "frutti". Food historian Ivan Day describes the book as showing how to "also whittle fruits, such as citrons, into the most extraordinary shapes." (Day, p. 123) [Collectors may like to know that Arnaldo Forni Editore has published a facsimile of the 1639 *Li Tre Trattati*, so it is possible to actually own a copy.]

It's possible today to actually browse through Giegher's masterpiece online. After a number of false starts and several hours, I finally managed to locate an online copy which includes the sought after plates. (Any number of these early volumes may exist but often they lack the desired woodcuts or engravings. The valuable culinary illustrations or fold-outs have simply disappeared over the subsequent centuries. Often the illustrations were also removed and framed.) The *Academia Barilla Gastronomic Library* has a copy. It may be viewed online once one has registered. Plate 21 (image/page 150) shows a pear being sliced into birds. Plate 22 (image/page 152) shows cedri or citrons being carved into flowers, fish, turtles, & birds and even forming the center of a double-headed eagle. The final page shows melarance or oranges being carved into a variety of decorative spheres. *Academia Barilla* allows zooming so one can examine all the details. It's a marvelous work, and we should be very grateful that this early seventeenth century work and the plates can be viewed online.

The Eastern Tradition

So in the west, we have 17th century sources for the practice, but if we are willing to look to the Far East, we can date fruit and vegetable carving back another four or five centuries or possibly even to the Chinese Tang Dynasty (AD 618-906) and Sung Dynasty (AD 960-1279). The new revised volume of *Culinaria China* in the section on "The sweet fruits of Fujian" states definitely "The art of fruit and vegetable carving in China dates back to the Tang dynasty (618-907)."

Interestingly, we also know that the watermelon was introduced and being grown in India in the 9th century and in China possibly as early as the 10th century. By the 11th century, (c 1080 AD) sources mention that the Chinese were eating watermelon seeds, a habit that continues to this day. Were they carving watermelons in the Far East as early as the 10th or 11th centuries?

The September 2008 issue of *Saveur* magazine #113 carried a major article on watermelons. Included in that article on pages 78-79 is a paragraph devoted to the art of watermelon carving or garnishing. Of interest to us in the Society, is the section that talks about the history of fruit carving in Southeast Asia. It reads:

"In Thailand, however, the elaborate carving of watermelon and other fruits and vegetables is a long-standing and respected tradition that dates to the 14th century, when the art evolved in the court of King Phra Ruang. Chefs for Thai nobility and royalty were expected to make food that was not only delicious but also beautiful, even fantastical."

Other sources date festival fruit carving to an exact year, 1364 to be exact. There are literally dozens of sites now on the Internet, which cite the same date, the same king, and the same tradition. Are all these sites correct or are they merely copying each other? I'm still not certain, but I am hopeful that perhaps the forthcoming reference volumes *The Oxford Companion to Chinese Food* by Fuchsia Dunlop and *The Oxford Companion to Southeast Asian Food* by Sri Owen will contain details on the history of fruit carving and clear up some of the various mysteries.

Meanwhile, Julia Abramson's article for a previous Oxford Symposium points out that the Eastern tradition is alive and well. Try a Google Images search under "watermelon carving". Add in the term Thailand" or "China" and that will narrow the search. Or search YouTube and watch videos such as "A traditional Chinese dragon being carved around a watermelon." The Thai tradition is one of carving flowers, while the Chinese often incorporate more animals (like dragons) into their work.

Bookwise, Chef Martin Yan mentions food carving in his books, including his 2008 volume *Martin Yan's China*. (Yan now runs a culinary program in Shenzhen, China, which offers some tourist sessions.) Chef Fuchsia Dunlop in her award winning *Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper*

compares present day Chinese food sculpture to the creation of past subtleties. She writes, "It is as ostentatious and utter frivolous as the sugar-paste cathedrals... Vegetable carving can only exist in a society with a surplus of underpaid and underworked youths, who can be persuaded to spend hours engraving the outside of a watermelon with minutely realized scenes...."

Dunlop's words remind us that watermelon, fruit or vegetable carving can take a long time to master. Those extraordinarily intricate designs take practice and more time than one can often spare in those rushed hours before events. On the other hand, the activity is decorative, relatively inexpensive when the fruits or vegetables are in season and abundant, and a most festive thing to do for Society sideboards and tables. It's also fun and simple designs can be relatively easy, if one has the time. Professionals use special tools; one major drawback is the professional garnishing kits with the wide variety of tools and design cutters can be quite expensive and hard to come by. (Amazon.com at times offers a relatively priced imported Chinese "International Culinary Carving Set of 80 Pieces" for \$140. Other times the price soars upwards into hundreds more.) It's perhaps best to start simply with a selection of extra sharp and flexible paring knives. Throw in a few of those specialty shaped knives known as bird's beak paring knives before spending money on more elaborate garnishing knives and special saws. Or consider acquiring those pumpkin carving kits and making use of those tools; those always go on sale in late October or early November.

There are a number of other books which might help or provide inspiration, ideas, and patterns. Yuci Tan has written a general book titled *The Art of Food Sculpture*. Xiang Wang has authored a number of books which feature the Chinese techniques; Penpan Sittitrai and Sumitra Narain have written on the Thai techniques. *The Decorative Art of Japanese Food Carving: Elegant Garnishes for All Occasions* by Hiroshi Nagashima (2009) covers the Japanese techniques. Inquire if your local public library can interlibrary loan these books for you, as the books are not inexpensive.

I would end as I did many years ago and say once again that serving carved watermelons or other fruits and even vegetables, can still be as it was centuries ago 'marvelously refreshing' and entertainingly festive on today's Society tables.

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<http://www.academiabarilla.com/> [Registration required.]

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[http://www.veggart.com/?q=history/by\\_xiang](http://www.veggart.com/?q=history/by_xiang)

Yan, Martin. *Martin Yan's China*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2008.

My original article "Regarding Watermelons" August 2006 Pale is now archived in part at: [www.florilegium.org](http://www.florilegium.org). An updated article on watermelons appeared in the 2009 August Pale. Published in the Citadel, Barony of Cynnabar, June 2010 and revised for the House Excelsior website in December 2011.

Revised and updated © JK Holloway 2014



# Baronial Officers

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Baron</b> is THL Cristofanus Castellani  | (Baron@sca-altavia.org)       |
| <b>Baroness</b> is Mistress Cecilia Medici  | (Baroness@sca-altavia.org)    |
| <b>Chief Lady-in-Waiting</b> is Lady Muirgein ingen Ailella and Lady Briana MacCabe | (court@sca-altavia.org)       |
| <b>Captain of the Guard</b> is THL Nikolaos Phaistos                                | (guard@sca-altavia.org)       |
| <b>Seneschal</b> is THL Madelena Hidalgo de Valencia                                | (seneschal@sca-altavia.org)   |
| <b>Deputy Seneschal</b> Baroness Yssbell inghean Bhaltair                           |                               |
| <b>Captain of Archers</b> is Lord Gendu Secen                                       | (archery@sca-altavia.org)     |
| <b>Deputy Captain of Archers</b> is THL Nikolaos Phaistos                           |                               |
| <b>Arts &amp; Sciences Officer</b> is Lord Luca Serafini da Firenze                 | (arts@sca-altavia.org)        |
| <b>Chatelaine</b> is Lady Catriona inghean Diarmada                                 | (chatelaine@sca-altavia.org)  |
| <b>Children's Minister</b> is Lady Fara MacGregor                                   | (children@sca-altavia.org)    |
| <b>Deputy Children's Officer</b> is THL Tezar of Aeolis                             |                               |
| <b>Chiurgeon</b> is Lord <i>Caine</i> Dorcha  | (chiurgeon@sca-altavia.org)   |
| <b>Deputy Chiurgeon</b> is THL Cecilia Medici                                       |                               |
| <b>Chronicler</b> is Baroness Asakura Mashime                                       | (chronicler@sca-altavia.org)  |
| <b>Constable</b> is THL Thorin O'Seaghda  | (constable@sca-altavia.org)   |
| <b>Exchequer</b> is Lady Leonor de Sevilla  | (exchequer@sca-altavia.org)   |
| <b>Herald</b> ( <i>Sable Fret Cornet</i> ) is THL Damien von Baden                  | (herald@sca-altavia.org)      |
| <b>Court Herald</b> is THL Tezar of Aeolis  |                               |
| <b>Lists Officer</b> is THL Matlens Litovka   | (lists@sca-altavia.org)       |
| <b>Marshal</b> is Sir Thorin O'Seaghda  | (marshal@sca-altavia.org)     |
| <b>Deputy Marshal</b> is Sir Eronric of Devon                                       |                               |
| <b>Deputy Marshal for Equestrian</b> is Dona Lady Virginia Read                     | (equestrian@sca-altavia.org)  |
| <b>Deputy Marshal for Armored Combat</b> is Sir Thorin O'Seaghda                    | (marshal@sca-altavia.org)     |
| <b>Deputy Marshal for Rapier</b> is Don Colwyn Stagghorn                            | (rapier@sca-altavia.org)      |
| <b>Deputy Marshal for Thrown Weapons</b> is THL Nikolaos Phaistos                   | (tw@sca-altavia.org)          |
| <b>Deputy Marshal for Unarmored</b> is Mistress Cecilia Medici                      |                               |
| <b>Deputy Marshall For Youth Combat</b> is Sir Uilliam of Altavia                   | (youthcombat@sca-altavia.org) |
| <b>Scribe</b> is Ysabel d'Outremer  | (scribe@sca-altavia.org)      |



**Webwright** is Dame Lynnette de Sandoval del Valle de los Unicornios  
**Deputy Webwright** are Gendu Secen, and Lady Briana MacCabe

(webwright@sca-altavia.org)

### Ways to Stay Connected

Altavia has numerous ways of keeping in contact with you, keeping you informed and active. We welcome you to participate however way you feel most comfortable with. Here are several links in order to always keep up with what's going on with the Barony and the SCA.

Altavia's Website: [www.sca-altavia.com](http://www.sca-altavia.com)

Altavia's Yahoo Groups Page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Altavia/join>

Altavia's Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/297336603655499/>

Altavia's Twitter: <http://twitter.com/BaronyOfAltavia>

CAID's Website: <http://sca-caid.org/>

CAID's Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/3533625108/>



## 🌀 Announcements from the Barony 🌀

First and Foremost I want to thank you all for helping at Gyldenholt. Many hands makes for happy Baroness. Sorry if I missed any of you in my thank you note. I had double duty (yes Niko I said Duty) that day s Baroness and grandma, so I thank you all for your assistance in both.

As I am sure you have all heard by now, the Baron has a broken tibia. The good news is no surgery, the bad news is he'll be laid up (literally bedridden) for the next 4 months getting x-rays weekly to make sure he is healing. He may need surgery after for some floater bones. I would like for you all to think hard on how we want to approach the next few months events when it comes to dragon wing, Baronial (GWW) etc... Not being that healthy myself and Cristof not able to go to any events I do not want to burn anyone out. He will not be at any events for the next 4 months, but I will.

Next up Lyondomere we will have the dragon wing & I'd appreciate all the help I can get. I will not be at Caid Prize, but will be at Festival of the rose (which we will not need shade for). No St. Corrigan's, but will go to crown and will need to have trailer pulled (quarter master - Paul?) Speaking of trailer I need a few strong people to help clean it and the shed out to ready it for crown. I will be at Highland with a mundane tent. Angles we will use the dragon wing unless we decide not to.

Artisans, please make me stuff for the baskets any little thin g pin cushion, felt needle cases, sachets. I'm open to it all with much appreciation.

There is a chance I will not make it to GWW (depends on Cristof's progress) I would like an assistant camp master to be on site if that happens.

Lastly wanted to ask if there was any interest inn the Chivalry Exhibit at the Getty (just opened today).

Your ever loving Baroness  
 ~Cecilia

You can be a THROWN WEAPONS DEPUTY FOR ALTAVIA. Here is what you need. If interested please see Niko to get started:

- You must be a warranted Thrown Weapons range Marshall.
- Run practices two or three times a month usually on the first, third and fifth Sundays.
- Store, transport, setup and teardown the range, including stands and target butts.

- Store and transport loaner weapons including knives, axes and spears.
- Act as the Marshall in charge at practices and run the line.
- Instruct beginners on the basics of throwing and range safety.
- Make sure all paperwork including Woodley Park and minors waivers are filled out properly.
- Inspect and ensure the quality of weapons and range equipment
- Repair and replace any weapons or range equipment that need attention using baronial Thrown Weapon's budget.
- Enlist deputies and MiTs to assist at the range, at meetings and with paperwork.
- Send in quarterly reports to the Kingdom Earl marshal of thrown weapons on March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st. Check manual for what to include in these reports.
- Attend monthly Baronial Council meetings.
- Prepare and send in monthly reports to the Baronial Seneshal on the Monday before the Baronial council meetings.
- Keep up to date on the thrown weapons community in CAID and in the Society at large.
- Promote Thrown Weapons participation on social media outlets such as Yahoo groups and Facebook.
- Field any questions regarding thrown weapons in Altavia.
- Encourage others to become Marshalls in training and Marshalls for thrown weapons in Altavia.
- Act as Marshall in charge and run all baronial tournaments. This consists of our yearly Agincourt tournament. (October)

Niko



# Meetings & Practices in the Barony

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## Business Meetings

- **Council Meeting**

**2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm** at CSUN: Meeting room, parking info and maps are available on the [CSUN Meeting Site Info page](http://www.sca-altavia.org/Meetings/CSUN.html): <http://www.sca-altavia.org/Meetings/CSUN.html>

This is the monthly business meeting for the group. There are officer reports, event reports, discussion of Baronial involvement at the Kingdom Level, choosing new officers, when necessary, and announcements. Baronial decisions are made here, and you do have a voice. **Everyone is welcome (and encouraged) to attend the meeting!**

Pre-Meeting work session and officers arrive by 7:00pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm.

Contact the [Seneschal](#) for details

- **Newcomers' Meeting**

**Once a month, usually on the 4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm** at [Verdugo Park](#) in Burbank, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank CA, 91505. Directions: Off of Verdugo, turn North onto California and we are on the right hand side, half way down the block near the tennis courts. This is the same location as our weekly Fighter Practice.

We meet at the stone tables next to the restrooms; look for Bridget's Red Lantern!

These classes cover a general overview of the SCA and the types of events we hold in Caid. Please bring your questions and wonderful smiles. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Contact the [Chateline](#) ([chatelaine@sca-altavia.org](mailto:chatelaine@sca-altavia.org)) for directions and dates.

## Combat Practices

- **Archery Practice**

**The first and third Sunday of the month, 11:00am to 3:00pm** At Woodley Park Archery Range, directions are <http://woodleyparkarchers.org/direction>

Additional practice times are available most **Tuesday and Friday nights**. Contact the [Captain of Archers](#) to verify dates and times.

Contact ahead for loaner gear. Lord Everglad is there on most Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings for authorization tests and help in shooting.

Contact the [Captain of Archers](#) ([archery@sca-altavia.org](mailto:archery@sca-altavia.org)) for more information.

- **Equestrian Practice**



Practices are held on various Fridays of every month, 6:30-8:30PM at Conejo Creek Equestrian Park, 1350 Avenida de las Flores, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.

Open to any participants regardless of territory of residence. Rider must bring their own mounts. Unmounted ground crew training available. Authorizations available. Jousting, mounted combat, crest combat, mounted games, marshalette/marshalette-in-training, and general riding authorizations available on site. General driving and driving games authorizations available subject to prior coordination. Mounted archery authorizations available offsite. Riders are advised to bring their normal tack and equipment. No rental horses are available. Minors must have a parent or guardian present at all times.

Please contact the [Marshal in Charge: Lady Lysette](mailto:equestrian@sca-altavia.org) (equestrian@sca-altavia.org). For more information, visit the [CAID equestrian site](http://equestrian.sca-caid.org/) (http://equestrian.sca-caid.org/) or the [Altavia Equestrian webpage](http://www.sca-altavia.org/Meetings/Equestrian/index.html). (http://www.sca-altavia.org/Meetings/Equestrian/index.html). Join the [Altavian Equestrian Email group](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AltavianEquestrian/) (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AltavianEquestrian/)

- **Fighter Practice -- Armored Combat**

**Every Monday, 7:00pm to 9:30pm** at [Verdugo Park](#) in Burbank, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank CA, 91505. Directions: off of Verdugo, turn North onto California and we are on the right hand side, half way down the block near the tennis courts.

Contact the [Heavy Weapons Marshal](mailto:heavy@sca-altavia.org) (heavy@sca-altavia.org) for more information or to request to join the [practice information E-mail list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fretfights/) (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fretfights/).

**Every Thursday, 7:00pm to 9:00pm** at [Northridge Park](#), 18300 Lemarsh St. Northridge, CA 91324. Find us on the Reseda Blvd. side of the park. Hosted by St. Firmin. Contact the [THL Owain ap Gwyllim Pengryth](#) for more information.

[Guardians of the High Road webpage](http://wiki.caid-commons.org/index.php/Guardians_of_the_High_Road) (http://wiki.caid-commons.org/index.php/Guardians\_of\_the\_High\_Road)

- **Fighter Practice -- Rapier**

**Every Monday, 7:30pm to 9:30pm** at [Verdugo Park](#) in Burbank, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank CA, 91505. Directions: off of Verdugo, turn North onto California and we are on the right hand side, half way down the block near the tennis courts.

Contact the [Rapier Marshal](#) for more information

**Every Thursday, 7:00pm to 9:00pm** at [Northridge Park](#), 18300 Lemarsh St. Northridge, CA 91324. Find us on the Reseda Blvd. side of the park. Hosted by St. Firmin. Contact the [THL Owain ap Gwyllim Pengryth](#) for more information.

[Guardians of the High Road webpage](http://wiki.caid-commons.org/index.php/Guardians_of_the_High_Road) (http://wiki.caid-commons.org/index.php/Guardians\_of\_the\_High\_Road)

- **Fighter Practice -- Youth Combat**

**Twice a month - 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:30pm to 8:00pm** at [Verdugo Park](#) in Burbank, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank CA, 91505. Directions: off of Verdugo, turn North onto California and we are on the right hand side, half way down the block near the tennis courts.

Contact the [Youth Combat Marshal](#) for more information



[Guardians of the High Road webpage](http://wiki.caid-commons.org/index.php/Guardians_of_the_High_Road) ([http://wiki.caid-commons.org/index.php/Guardians\\_of\\_the\\_High\\_Road](http://wiki.caid-commons.org/index.php/Guardians_of_the_High_Road))

- **Thrown Weapons Practice**

**The first and third Sunday of the month, 11:00am to 2:30pm** at Woodley Park Archery Range, directions are <http://woodleyparkarchers.com/directions.html>

Contact ahead for loaner gear. Lord Everglad is there on most Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings for authorization tests and help in shooting.

Contact the [Thrown Weapons Marshal](mailto:tw@sca-altavia.org) ([tw@sca-altavia.org](mailto:tw@sca-altavia.org)) for more information and to verify dates and times.

## Arts & Sciences

- **Arts & Science Workshops (aka Craft Nights)**

**The 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm** at CSUN, [Meeting site info](http://www.sca-altavia.org/Meetings/CSUN.html) (<http://www.sca-altavia.org/Meetings/CSUN.html>). Bring your sewing or craft project to work on or help us make Baronial Presentations. The meetings sometimes have a project theme, which is usually published on the [Altavia E-mail list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/altavia/) (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/altavia/>).

Contact [A&S Officer](mailto:arts@sca-altavia.org) ([arts@sca-altavia.org](mailto:arts@sca-altavia.org)) for details.

- **Bardic Circle**

Hosted by Baron Sir Charles of Dublin at the home of Baron Sir Robear du Bois. Contact [the A&S officer](mailto:bardic@sca-altavia.org) ([bardic@sca-altavia.org](mailto:bardic@sca-altavia.org)) for directions. The Bardic Circle will be pick, pass or play. For those who are new, this means that, as we go around the circle, you have the choice of:

1. Picking someone to perform something you like or something they want to do
2. Passing your turn to the next person
3. Performing yourself

This way you can relax & listen, perform, hear your favorites, or mix it up.

Contact [The A&S officer](mailto:bardic@sca-altavia.org) ([bardic@sca-altavia.org](mailto:bardic@sca-altavia.org)) for dates, directions, and further information.

- **Children's Activities**

Children's activities are held at every event that Altavia sponsors.

Contact the [Children's Officer](mailto:children@sca-altavia.org) ([children@sca-altavia.org](mailto:children@sca-altavia.org)) for information or offers to help.

- **Culinary Guild**

Special interest group for All Things Delicious to eat and drink, by the Barony of Altavia, the north-west Los Angeles County group of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Everyone is welcome in our discussions of recipes, historical research and events based around the food and beverages of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Meetings happen once a month. Contact the Guild through their Facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/242868192471271/> or contact Baroness Asakura Mashime for information (chronicler@sca-altavia.org)

- **Dance Practice**

**Belly Dance every Monday, 7:30pm** at [Verdugo Park](#) in Burbank, 3201 West Verdugo, Burbank CA, 91505. Directions: off of Verdugo, turn North onto California and we are on the right hand side, half way down the block).

Tribal style belly dance practice. We have a mixture of absolute beginners, beginners and old pros. It's outside so dress warmly. Its lots of fun!

We are near the tennis courts and, as we practice next to the Heavies Fighters, just look for the fierce men and women in armor!

**English Country Dance, the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm** at CSUN, [Meeting site info](#).

No previous dance knowledge, equipment, or expertise is needed – but bring water - dancing takes more energy than you think. Garb is encouraged, but not required. The main focus will be English Country dancing, but we may introduce a few sets of some more international dances as well – depending on who is teaching that month. Special instructors and sets may be announced when/if they are known. If you are already skilled at dancing, and are willing to teach a dance or three to others; don't hesitate to contact [Meala Caimbeul](#) and we can make that happen! Likewise, if you want to learn a specific dance – ask and I'll do my very best to make that happen too.

Contact [Baroness Meliora Deverel](#) (bellydance@sca-altavia.org) for more information or to request to join their practice and event information E-mail group. For English Country Dance, contact Meala Caimbeul (dance@sca-altavia.org) for more details.

- **Potters Guild of Caid**

**Meets once a month, contact Baroness Asakura Machime (chronicler@sca-altavia.org) for meeting times and location.** To provide a supportive organization for ceramic artists of all skill levels. To provide an opportunity to network and share knowledge and techniques through workshops, special events, and at Arts and Sciences displays. To provide populace awareness and appreciation for ceramic artists and their work. To promote period creation, education and high quality work among our members.

[Potters guild of CAID Yahoo group](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Potters_guild_of_CAID/) (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Potters\_guild\_of\_CAID/)

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