



The Oracle

News from the Nest



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1, DECEMBER 2006

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WELCOME TO THE ORACLE

*Ailire inghean Aodha—
Chronicler*

Greetings everyone! This is *The Oracle*, the newsletter for the Shire of Owl's Nest. This is an online, quarterly publication that is available on the Shire's Web-site, www.asbrand.com/owlsnest/

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EVENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Ailire inghean Aodha—Chronicler

It's been a busy quarter for the Shire of Owl's Nest with many members recognized for their contributions to the group and to the kingdom at various events.

Here's a recap:

Red Tower

At Red Tower, our own seneschal, Lady Aine ingen Comyn was apprenticed to Mistress Constance of Purnoes, OL.

Receiving Awards of Arms (AoAs) were

- Lucius (aka Cedric)
- Sirona Boann
- Angharad Unbound

Lord Cillian mac Cauldwell won the Baroness's Rapier Tournament and received a lovely dagger as the prize.

Raemun' Mac Aoidh (called Raymond the Scot) received special recognition of his outstanding voice-heraldry prowess for the challenge announcements at the tourney. He introduced each match with an appropriately customized verse, which quite impressed the Baroness. As a result, Raymond was invited to sit at high table during that evening's feast.

Pillage on the Plains

Pillage on the Plains was grand event for Owl's Nest members as well. Lord Cillian's rapier was ever at the ready and through his display of skill and prowess, he secured the champion's title of the Iron Fencer tournament.

Recognition for Lord Cillian did not end there, however. He also became a Companion of the Argent

Rapier (CAR). Congratulations, Cillian.

Meridian Grand Tourney

Recognition for shire members also happened at Meridian Grand Tourney. Receiving their Award of Arms at this event were

- Mariana de Serrano (call her Doña Mariana now)
- Sir Cona's lady (sorry, we didn't have her name)
- Adric's lady (sorry, we didn't have her name)

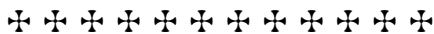
Festival of the Laurels

Shire members continued with recognitions at the Festival of the

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Laurels event. Margherita de Fiorenza received an Award of Arms (AoA) and Lady Aine ingen Comyn received her Meridian Majesty (CMM).



ARTS & SCIENCES

*Ailire inghean Aodha—
Chronicler*

There were three great classes for Owl's Nest members this quarter. The first was the Persian coat class taught by Mistress Jadi from the Barony of the South Downs. The second was a leather armor making class, taught by the Honorable Lord (THL) Asbrand. And the third class was all about painting silk, which was taught by Lady Elisenda.

At the Persian coat class, participants learned about the various fabrics and colors that were available to the Persians during period.



(Chronicler's Note: Be sure to read the related article, "A Mongol Coat," in this issue of The Oracle.)

Mistress Jadi brought garment examples and books to supplement her class presentation. She also shared some of her secrets for garment assembly.

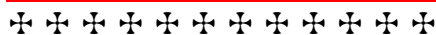
THL Asbrand hosted the leather armor making class at his home. There he demonstrated the cuir

bouilli (boiled leather) method of hardening leather. He has offered to host another class on leather armor, if anyone is interested.

The silk painting class taught by Lady Elisenda was also a big hit. Lady Elisenda and Sir Thomas opened their home to folks who wanted to learn about painting silk banners. Participants were able to create their own designs and transfer them to silk for painting. At the end of the class, everyone left with banners/flags suitable for display.

Because participants worked on their own projects for the silk painting class that they could take home at the end, the class took place over three consecutive Mondays.

Check the Shire's message board for a list of up coming classes.



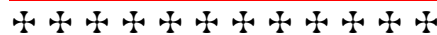
NEWBIE NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

*Ailire inghean Aodha—
Chronicler*

The Shire's Chatelaine/Hospitaller, the Honorable Lord (THL) Charles de Jocelyn, hosts Newbie Night at the Central Library in Marietta, for those new to the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) or new to the Shire.

Newbie Night occurs on the fifth Monday of the month — providing that the month has five Mondays, of course. Classes can include such topics as how to make your first T-tunic, developing a persona, courtesy and court etiquette, and preparing for your first event.

If you are new and would like to attend a Newbie Night class, and if a class topic has not yet been posted, let Charles know in advance what you are interested in learning.



FROM THE BARD OF OWL'S NEST...

Raymond the Scot

A Sad Tale With a Moral

A warrior proud came from the field
Carrying his loot,
And swiftly to his lady's side
In passionate pursuit.

She bragged about his prowess,
His honor, and his fame.
He praised her beauty, grace,
and poise,
Her talents, much the same.

He said, "Though evening cools
the air,
My warrior blood runs hot.
Let's find ourselves a quiet place
Where all the crowds are not.

And let us take our pleasures there
As noble lovers should,
Forgetting all our troubles there.
"T would do us both much good."

So they retired into the woods
To find a private place.
Anticipating the joys to come,
Their hearts began to race.

And there in a moonlit clearing
Behind a laughing creek,
Hearts and hands began to explore
The way to pleasure's peak.

But just as it seemed that Eros
Was going to rule the glade,
The lovers met with a crisis,
And their passion was dismayed.

For he who had known victory
On the field in so many ways
Now found himself defeated
By his Lady's corset stays.

The ties and laces, clasps and
binds
That fortified her frame
Proved unassailable ramparts
'Tween the warrior and his dame.

No matter how he labored,
No matter how he pressed,
He found himself frustrated
By his Lady's period dress.

The moonlight and mood were
wasted
Their lover's ardor grew cold.
The noble knight began to curse,
His lady began to scold.

They spent a cold and lonely night
On opposite sides of their tent.
And in the morning they packed
their gear
And unhappily home they went.

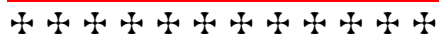
This story has a moral
That all lovers should take heed.
If you would indulge in courtly love,
To you ladies I would plead.

Although your garments are lovely,
And accurate to your time,
Correct in all their interior
To create an effect sublime,

Don't make it too complicated
For a fighter's hands, clumsy and
rough;
For what good is a beautiful period
gown
If your lover can't get it off.



clipartspace.com



A MONGOL COAT

Charles Mellor

This pattern is conjectural. It is based on garments seen in Persian miniature paintings of 1300 to 1620. I have made many of these and they do look like the paintings if done this way. The pattern incorporates evidence seen in 18th, 19th, and early 20th century extant garments from Mongolia, China and India.

The coat is very similar to a long-sleeved kimono with side gores added to the skirts. This makes sense because Mongolian and Japanese clothing share the common influence of China, and Persia was influenced by Chinese and Mongolian cultures. I also know that India was influenced by Persia and probably the reverse as well. Since this pattern is conjectural, I have not attempted to show any seams that would have been necessitated by loom-width economies. If you are interested in this, I am sure you can look at *Cut my Cote* and figure it out, but since I don't know the width of the fabric available in Persia, I just cut for economy with the width I have.

Both men and women wore this type of garment, though it is seen more commonly on men. It can be worn as the outermost layer or underneath a Persian caftan. The most common length seen in paintings is just over the calf. I have worn one this length in a horse pasture, and that length just clears a typical pile of horse manure. Makes sense for a culture that spent so much time on horseback. Paintings show this garment in every length from floor length to

short enough to tuck into the pants. Paintings show men and women wearing all lengths, though the women wear the longer lengths more frequently.

The garment overlaps in the front, making a double-thickness of fabric. This can be quite warm. In the paintings you often see them wearing these with the front ends of the skirts pulled up and tucked into the belt at the sides of the hips. This allows a little more air circulation and shows off the brightly-coloured lining. It also swishes very nicely for dancing. Because Persian paintings are laid out using pounced stencils, designs are frequently reversed from left to right. Therefore it is impossible to tell from the paintings if these garments usually tied on the left or the right or if it was different sides for men and women. I do know that if you plan to do archery in this outfit (a common activity seen in this garment in the paintings) you need to put the ties on the side you draw the arrow with. This garment is always worn over pants similar to Turkish salwar.

Based on paintings of the period, a very drapey, softer fabric was most common. I have seen no evidence in paintings that the super-starched Turkish look was ever used in Persia. Based on paintings, appropriate fabrics would be: brocades with small, over-all geometric patterns, brocades with small over-all patterns of Chinese motifs (most typically cloud-scroll patterns), brocades with arabesque patterns, brocades with foliate or acanthus in either over-all or serpentine runners, solids with gold embroidery or stamping randomly applied or applied to hem and wrist, Turkish style brocades, Venetian style brocades, plain solid fabrics. Even though everybody thinks

is made about an inch or two smaller than the smallest actual measurement of your torso. The ties then adjust for any variation. If someone is uncomfortable about showing a large belly you could make it so it just skims the figure, but they seem to have been worn fairly tight in the pictures, even on people who are quite large. I find these most comfortable when the skirts are full enough that you could ride a horse or do a grand plie in them. To make this fit well on a woman, you may need to adjust the vertical position of the ties, or just increase the number of ties until it pretty much fills up all the gaps. Based on all the evidence I have

This seems to fit best when the width measurement of the garment

Variations

The skirt gores can be made of rectangle-shaped pieces with a deep inverted pleat or multiple gathers at the waist. Distribute the pleats or gathers into a width of 1 inch or less.

Prior to about 1400, the taper of the sleeve would not be as great; making a sleeve that was more open at the wrist. Since this would not stay up when pushed up at the wrist, the sleeves were shortened somewhat, to approximately knuckle length.

<http://www.geocities.com/kaganate>



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CROSS WORDS

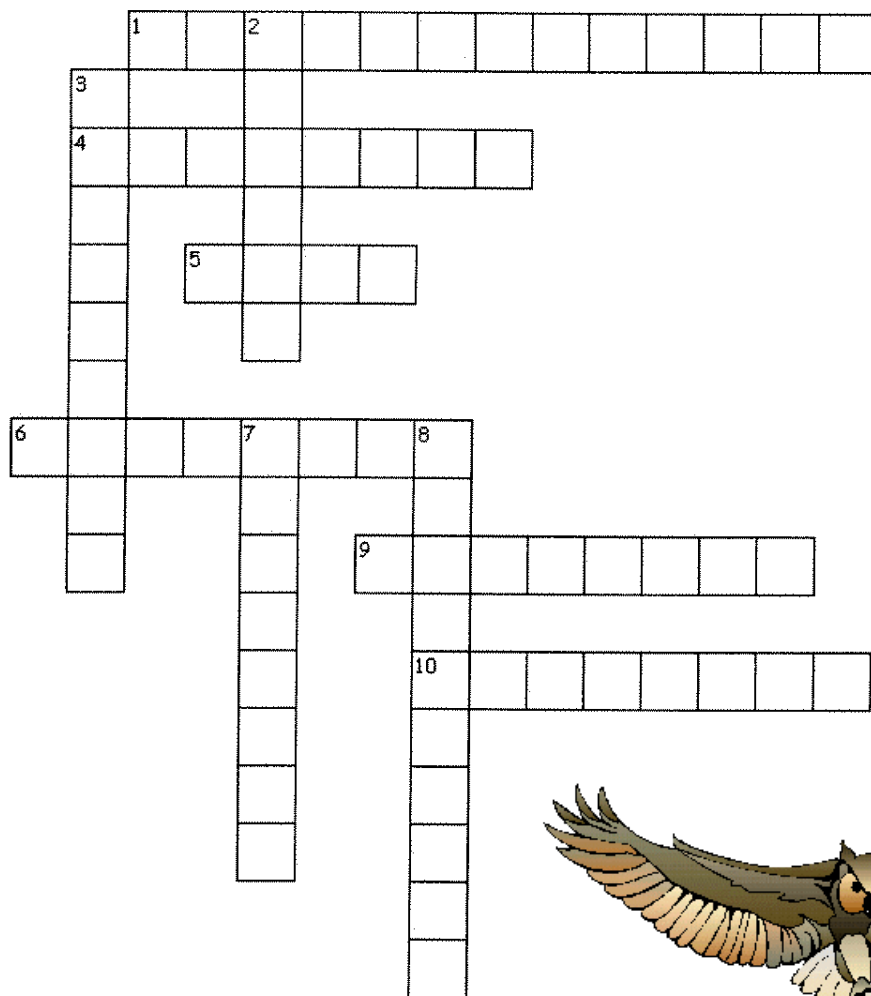
Alisoun Brewster—Historian

How well do you know your Shire's history? Take the challenge and try

your hand at this quarter's crossword puzzle.

If you've been reading the Shire's message board, you should be able to come up with the answers.

Answers will be posted in the next issue of *The Oracle*.

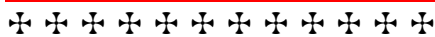


Across

1. FIRST SENESCHAL
4. CALL THIS WHEN YOU'RE LOST
5. RAYMOND THE SCOTT
6. KINGDOM OF _____
9. ANNIVERSARY FOUNDING EVENT
10. NEWSLETTER (previous title of the newsletter)

Down

2. EVIL BARON
3. WINNER TAKES ALL, INCLUDING THE _____
7. FOUND IN EVERY SCA ESSENTIALS KIT
8. ICKY CONFECTION



SCA CORPORATE OFFICE BURGLARIZED

Chronicler's Note: This announcement appeared in the Tavern Yard discussion list on November 30, 2006.

To: The Membership of the SCA, Inc.

From: George Reed, Vice President of Operations

SUBJ: Burglary at the SCA Corporate offices

Sometime during the weekend of Thanksgiving, 2006 the SCA Corporate office suffered an illegal intrusion and burglary. This was part of a crime-spree that affected the entire office complex in which our facilities are located. Initial reports are that the intruders used a stolen master key obtained from the property manager and raided many of the suites in the complex. While the property loss sustained by the SCA was fairly minimal, two desktop workstations were taken, and the manner of their removal caused an interruption in the SCA 1-800 toll free number.

Actions taken by our Vice President of Corporate Operations, Renee Signorotti, included changing the office locks by 10 am PST on Monday, replacing and re-configuring the missing machines, and ensuring any risk to the membership was ruled out. Our Chief Technology officer effected immediate password changes to electronic mail and SCA servers to ensure the minimal risk of exposure became zero risk. At no time did the perpetrators have access to

any membership information, financial records, or credit card numbers.

Because Renee's office procedure includes not saving local passwords and using proper levels of information security, there is no chance that the end-recipients of the stolen machines can retrieve any personal, financial, or business sensitive information. No critical business data existed on the stolen machines that were not part of the end of day back-ups prior to the theft.

I would like this letter to the membership to serve as confirmation that we did sustain an incident, but that the losses were minimal, full-service to the membership quickly restored, and no ongoing risk to your membership data or services remains. At the end of this letter is some questions and answers from our Chief Technology Officer, Scott Courtenay.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud and commend the excellent business practices, astute technology decisions, and swift responses of our Corporate Office and our Technology staff for making this incident an annoyance instead of a disaster.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me for quick response at Seneschal@sca.<mailto> org.

Thank you,

George L. Reed II
VP Operations
Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

FAQs

Q: Did they get access to the SCA servers?

A: No. The computers in the home office had only limited access (such as personal email accounts) to the SCA servers, which are located in a secure data center. The passwords for all personal accounts of home office personnel were immediately changed to protect even this limited access. No one at the home office had access to the administrative password on our servers.

Q: I ordered a membership or something from the Stock Clerk recently. Did the thieves get my credit card number from these databases?

A: No. For security reasons which should be very apparent, we don't store credit card numbers in our databases. When you process an order, the number is held just long enough to complete the transaction and then is "forgotten" by the system. It is never actually stored in the Stock Clerk or membership database.

Q: I have a Known World Mail account. Were these compromised?

A: No. They are on the servers in a secure data center, not at the corporate office.

Comments are strongly encouraged and can be sent to:

SCA Inc.
Box 360789
Milpitas, CA 95036

You may also email
comments@lists.<mailto> sca.org

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IN THE BEGINNING...

*Alisoun Brewster—
Historian*

The year was A.S. XII — fair Meridies became a Kingdom in Her own right under King John the Bearkiller, with Queen Kassandra nic Kraken ruling at his side. That same year, the lands known as the South Downs were recognized as a Barony — her first coronet going to founding member, His Excellency Sven of Vandelalven, the Fierce. The Barony grew and prospered, and brought many Kings and Queens to the royal throne over the years.

Then, in February of A.S. XXIII, known as 1989 Gregorian, the student affairs office of Kennesaw State College (now known as Kennesaw State University) scheduled a showing of the movie “Willow” in the student center. As a lark, they decided to include a costume contest for it as well. (Ailire knows this because she worked as a student assistant for the office for student affairs.)

It was surprising the number of people who made attempts at costuming. Ailire does not remember who won (the guy in

tights, dressed as Robin Hood maybe?), but it generated a lot of conversation afterwards among the attendees. Most of the group already knew one another, so that was an easy conversation to have. And lingering around after a movie wasn't that unusual for people either. Kennesaw State was a commuter college then — no dorms to go back to. When you left campus, you were usually going home.

Anyway, one of the guys there, Michael Denton, had played in the SCA when he lived in (what is believed to be the state of) Tennessee before he had gone off and played in the Army. So he began telling those assembled about this group that he knew about that dressed up on the weekends and re-enacted the middle ages. For those who were listening, this sounded incredibly cool.



**Owl's Nest was founded
in February 1989 at
Kennesaw State College.**

Michael offered to find out who the local SCA group was (that would be the Barony of the South Downs) and to contact them to get more information.

While organizing, the group needed a name. In trying to decide what to call themselves, three names were offered: Raven's Roost (or something like that), Ken-ne-saw,

and Owl's Nest — after the mascot of the KSC, the Owl. (If you've heard tales that Owl's Nest comes from the name of the cafeteria in the student center, or anything similar, 't ain't so. The cafeteria at that time was called Hooter's Place, which, as you can guess, has now been phased out.) By majority vote, Owl's Nest was selected as the name.

A month or two later, at event known far and wide as Fool's War, Their Royal Majesties John of Ean Airgead, called the Mad Celt, and Rondallynn of Golgotha officially recognized the group as the College of Owl's Nest under the auspices of the Barony of the South Downs — John of Sherwood was the Vicar, holding the Baronial Seat while John and Rondallynn were Heirs and Crowns of Meridies. In A.S. XXVI or XXVII (1992 Gregorian), Owl's Nest was elevated to Canton.

In A.S. XXX, a wise man, Karl von Kruk, took the Baronial Coronet at South Downs. And Baron Karl saw that the people of Owl's Nest were restless, so he set on a quest to liberate these people from his north western borders. On September 13, A.S. XXXII (1997 Gregorian), at the Coronation of Ailgheanan mac Sithigh and Cailleach ingen Thuathail, Owl's Nest was elevated to Shire. It was a most wondrous day.

*** Disclaimer: This is a compilation of information; main sources include *The History of Meridies* (Third edition, October A.S. XXXII) and a scribal history as retold on our BBS by Ailire, one of the founding members. Dates and the names (and spellings) of rulers researched and confirmed with <http://www.sca.org/calendar.html> and <http://creon.dominohosting.biz/creon/Torch.nsf>

Greetings from the Local Historian's Office!

I beseech the populace of our fair Shire to send me information to help me round out the recounting of our history. Eventually, there will be a fourth edition of *The History of Meridies*, and when there is, I would like to have a more complete story to give the Kingdom Historian.

For example, I have compiled the following list of Seneschals for the group using information from old meeting notes and *The History of Meridies*:

- Michael Denton — 03/1989 – 07/1989
- Malachi Halfdan Brightskull — 07/1989 – 04/1990
- Rosalinde, Called the Late — 04/1990 – 01/1991
- Aislinn ni Conaill — 01/1991 – 02/1992
- Aleksina Taisiya Rogvolodovna — 02/1992 – ??
- Garrett O'Rourke — ?? – ??
- ?????
- Declan Mac Dockery — ?? – 11/1999
- Thomas Blackmoor — 11/1999 – 07/31/2000
- Asbrand of Norway — 08/01/2000 – 01/09/02
- Sheree — 01/09/02 – ??
- Giovanna da Correggio — ?? – 02/01/06
- Aine ingen Comyn — 02/01/06 – present



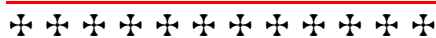
If you could help me fill in the missing dates, missing full names, and other holes and gaps, I would be most grateful! I'm also looking for pictures, poems, songs, stories, old event flyers, old newsletters, newspaper clippings, and anything else with you can uproot from your dusty old

cupboards. My e-mail address is allicat42 AT mindspring DOT com, or you can bring stuff to the next business meeting. If it's a one-of-a-kind yellowing old artifact of goodness, I will use my magical scribal arts at work to er, um, SCAN it into digital format.

Hooty Hoo!

Yours In Service...

—Alisoun Brewster



ESSYLLT'S GRAND ISLAND ADVENTURE...

Lady Essyllt

Chronicler's Note: Essyllt recently had the great fortune to take an extended trip to the British Isles. She kept the Nest informed through her posts on the Shire's message board. What follows are her posts.

October 22, 2006

For those that care, I've survived my first five days over here in jolly ol' England. Spent this week visiting with a family friend in Bristol. We've visited the Roman Baths (and NO, we cannot imitate them at Newcomer's), the Bath Abbey, Cardiff, Caerphyllis Castle, Castell Coch, Chepstow Castle, and Tintern Abbey so far.

Am heading to northern Wales this afternoon to visit the Edwardian castles in the northwest and some Roman fortresses. The weather has been somewhat rainy, but has actually cooperated nicely and only opened up on us once in five days when we weren't on a bus or a train going somewhere. Hope it holds for the rest of the trip.

After four days in northern Wales, I will be heading to Cambridge for a weekend tourney and then to Scotland for the last two weeks. More updates later if anyone wants them.

Essyllt

October 23, 2006

... The majority of the trip is supposed to be in Wales and Scotland (with a side trip to Cambridge for an event this weekend and one to London to see a Holbein exhibit in November). So far, I've been here since Wednesday (so six days, including two travel days) and have seen 4 castles, 2 abbeys, and some of the most amazing surviving city walls I've seen in years. Tomorrow am going to see two more castles and a Roman Fort. Going to see if I can find some ideas for some more "appropriate" decorations and potential activities for our event while I'm there.

BTW, Ailire, a slide show is out as I suck at taking pictures. I have, however, been filling my backpack up with the "official" tour books of the various castles and such that I've been visiting. They take excellent photographs and have a significant amount of history included. I'd be happy to share those.

Am currently sitting in a library along the northern coast of Wales doing some research for building my persona. (Found some good leads to investigate, but no details yet.) Even learned how to correctly pronounce my name — seeing as how there was some disagreement when I spoke to a couple of Laurels at RUM earlier this year.

Hope all is well down South! See you in three weeks.

October 31, 2006

Well, I've made it to Scotland now.

Visited four of Edward I's castles in North Wales since my last missive. When you hear that castles were not as romantic as movies and such make them out to be, believe whoever told you. In Caernarfon, the hallways were so small, I'm not completely convince Tor could comfortably move through them. They were so narrow, two smaller people could hardly pass. The rooms where the guards kept watch with their tiny arrow slits were about 6'x8' with a garderobe (sp?) in the corner taking up a part of the room. When the wind blew, it was almost gale force in the hallways.

At Harlech, I had the only really bad day of weather since I've been here. It was pouring rain and the winds were so strong, I couldn't go out on the ramparts for fear of being blown off. I can only imagine how miserable the soldiers guarding those castles would've been since those kinds of days are apparently more common in the winter than not. (I've been told I've been lucky with my weather so far.)

After northern Wales, I attended an SCA event outside of Cambridge. It was the Crown Principality of

Insulas Draconis' Viceroy Tournament. Let me tell you, it was really strange to hear all the non-British being spoken. The winner of the tourney and his lady were both Americans, as were over 50% of the populace in attendance. Of the five knights there, only one was English. (One was Swedish and Tor-sized, one was an Aussie and Alan-sized, one was Finnish, and one was American [the King of Drachenwald].) They have a tradition that I liked: the outgoing Viceroy and Vicereine, plus all the knights (except the King) are the ones that served the feast. "It puts them more in touch with the people." They were hilarious and even did a little dance number while they were doing the washing up afterwards! (Ladies, you would've loved this one!)

"They have a tradition that I liked: the outgoing Viceroy and Vicereine, plus all the knights (except the King) are the ones that served the feast."

—Essyllt



This week I'm visiting Edinburgh, Stirling, and Urquhart Castles, then will be going to Inverness and Aberdeen. Hoping to make it up to Orkney and Shetland before heading to the Isle of Skye, Glasgow, and then to London before heading home and to Castle Wars. Will bring my collection of

guide books out if anyone cares to see them.

Take care, and see you soon!

November 1, 2006

Have ABSOLUTELY fallen in love with Wales! Want to come back significantly sooner than this trip took.

My latest update: Edinburgh Castle was way cool. Took about 5 hours to go through all the nooks and crannies. (By comparison, the neat Welsh castles took about two hours a piece.) St. Giles' stained glass windows were FANTASTIC! And Stirling Castle was pretty neat today, especially the display they had where they are remaking tapestries using the old techniques. (They are making an attempt at this castle to refurbish it to the way it was when Mary Queen of Scots baptized her son James in 1594, including remaking the furnishings. Will be a sight to behold in 10 years time. The amount of research they are doing is amazing... and WAY COOL!)

Am in Inverness tonight. Hope to visit the castle here and at Urquhart tomorrow. Decided to skip Aberdeen. (Was easier for the train travel.) Looking forward to Orkney this weekend. Don't know if Shetland is going to work out the way I wanted it to. Seems most of the things I wanted to see are only open through September because of the weather and the darkness. Will have to see how it goes. Bummer. (Might mean going back to Wales to "kill a few days" since I'll have extra.)

Anyway, that's it for the update tonight. Hope all is well down South.

November 8, 2006

Well, things do change in a hurry. The storms washed out the rail going north through Scotland, so I wound up traveling by coach. Was just me and the driver most of the way, so I got sort of a mini-tour besides. This was good.

Got to Orkney and had another semi-private tour (was only 3 of us — usually this guy takes 8–10 out). We hit all the major sights: Maeshowe, standing stones, stone ring, and Skara Brae (only 5000 years old). Way cool! I even finally learned what heather and bracken look like up close. (I love old English literature, like Thomas Hardy, and have reading about that stuff for years, but never knew what it looked like. Now I do!)

At breakfast, before heading out that morning, I met a man from Shetland. The B&B owner knew his brother and said he was OK. He told me much was still open on Shetland and offered to give me a ride north if I was interested. Wound up taking him up on it, and spent three days being driven around all over Unst (the northern most isle) and Yell (the next one south). Since he and his partner knew just about everyone on the island, they were able to get things opened, such as the Unst Heritage Center, that were

supposed to be closed for the winter. His partner grew up in the shadow of Muness Castle, and when we went to return the key to Mrs. Peterson, she invited us in for tea and biscuits. She'd apparently watched Rena grow up next door. Mary Peterson's picture was on several walls in the Heritage Center



SKARA BRAE. Photograph from Wikipedia. Photo taken and donated by John Mullen, www.johnmullen.org.uk

showing things like Shetland knitting and cooking in the old croft houses. Was really interesting getting to meet a piece of living history! She had pictures on her wall of her receiving a service medal from Prince Charles for all she's done for the island.

Today I'm bumming around Lerwick waiting to catch the ferry back to the Scottish mainland before heading to Glasgow and then London to end my trip. I'm not ready to come home yet!

November 10, 2006

OK, minor set back on getting back to the mainland. Had a little bit of an adventure trying to return. Got back to Orkney OK, even though they'd predicted bad weather due to the wind and rain. Then wound up getting stuck due to the tides.

Absolutely gorgeous sunny day, but they couldn't take the boats out. I wound up missing the one ferry that did run by about 45 minutes, meaning I had to wait 8 hours for another one, thereby missing every train and/or bus that would've provided me transport south again on the other end. Turned out all right, though. Met a lovely couple who have a son in Inverness, and who had a fairly empty SUV since they were driving

down to buy a washing machine for their daughter's housewarming present. With the luck I'd had this week accepting rides from strangers, it's hard to make an argument against hitchhiking. The trip back down the coast was, as the Brits say, "brilliant!"

I went to Glasgow today, but didn't relish a two-plus mile walk in the cold rain to go see the cathedral, so I came back down to my friend in Bristol's place and will go back to Cardiff to see some stuff I missed

the first time around. Have I mentioned that I love Wales yet?

I can't believe my trip is almost over. Only three more days to do stuff before I have to get in the big machine again. I don't think my wanderlust has been slacked at all, in fact, I don't think it will be long before I'm ready to go again. Maybe a cross-country train trip in the US?

See you next week!

—Essyllt

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CASTLE WARS IV

Ailire inghean Aodha—Chronicler

Castle Wars IV was held the weekend of November 17, 2006, at Lake Tobesofkee, Sandy Beach

Park, in Macon, Georgia. This event was co-hosted by the Barony of the South Downs and the Shire of Owl's Nest. The skies were clear and sunny all weekend. If only it had been a tad warmer at night.

There were plenty of activities to meet everyone's needs. There were events for the heavy fighters, rapiers, equestrians, coursers, and merchants for the shoppers.

The new coursing equipment was tested at the event. Once the kinks were worked out, a few of the sight hounds gave it a go. Unfortunately, the hounds weren't as enthusiastic about the new equipment as the spectators were.

One hound on its first run made a bee-line to its mistress. Everyone gave the dog a round of applause for its first effort. Maybe next time it'll make a complete circuit.

At Saturday evening's court, Essyllt received her Award of Arms (AoA) in recognition of her service to the Shire and to the kingdom.

Lady Aine ingen Comyn (Owl's Nest) and Lord Michael of River's Bend (South Downs) were recognized in court by the Crown for the success of the event.

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RAID ON TAL MERE RAINED OUT

Ailire inghean Aodha—Chronicler

The planned skirmish between the Shire of Tal Mere and the Shire of Owl's Nest was the victim of copious amounts of rain on November 7, 2006. Our brave fighters waited until the last minute before having to declare the whole

thing a complete wash-out.

Spies along the border reported that Duke Trelon was seen performing some sort of ritual to ensure that the deluge continued throughout the night.

In a parley, Kynwric of Tal Mere and Thomas Senestre of Owl's Nest agreed upon a new date



Castle Wars IV. Photo © Donnchadh an Fheadha

for the next encounter between the noble warriors of the two groups.

The next foray into Tal Mere territory has been scheduled for January 16, 2007.



The Shrubbery.

Photo © Donnchadh an Fheadha

In case of foul weather (Duke Trelon up to his old tricks again, perhaps?), a make-up date of January 30, 2007, has been penciled in on the calendar.

Where will the treasured shrubbery reside next? Will Duke Trelon keep singing in the rain? Will Thomas Senestre maintain his network of spies along the front? These and other questions remain to be answered.

Be sure to attend the next raid. The raids are loads of fun and a great opportunity to socialize with our neighbors to the south.



HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES

*Ailire inghean Aodha—
Chronicler*

The Oracle is produced on a quarterly basis. Please have articles, poetry, recipes, artwork, etc. submitted at least one month before publication of the next newsletter edition. (For submission deadlines, see the Shire's calendar.)

Electronic submissions can be sent to owlsnestchronicler at gmail dot com. Be sure to include a completed publication release form with your submission.

It is only with your support that this newsletter can be successful.

Thank you!

~Ailire~
Chronicler



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The Oracle

This is a quarterly publication of the Shire of Owl's Nest, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.).

The Oracle is available online on the Shire of Owl's Nest Web-site, www.asbrand.com/owlsnest/.

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