

ARDANRUNES

This is the November 2010 issue of the Ardanrunes, a publication of the Shire of Ardanroe of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). Ardanrunes is an electronic newsletter only, available on the Shire of Ardanroe website. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright 2010 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. All clipart in this issue is from Microsoft Word. The photograph of Wormwood comes from Wikipedia Commons by contributor Sten Porse of Denmark. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month for the issue coming out the 1st of the next month.

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Calendar of Events

October 30	Samhain – Grey Niche
November 13	GA Fall Crown List – Smythkepe
November 20	Autumn Melees – Bordermarch (Ansteorra)
December 4	Christmas Revel – Axemoor
December 11	Baronial College – Elfsea (Ansteorra)
January 8	Newbie Collegium – Lagerdamm
January 15	Winter Wonders XXV – Ardanroe
January 21	Fashion Academy – Axemoor
January 28	Swamp Romp – Troll Fen
February 12	Candlemas Collegium – Grey Niche
February 12	Historical Romance – Blackwood
February 14-21	Estrella War XXVII (Atenveldt)
February 26	GA Fighter Collegium & War Practice – TBA
March 13-20	Gulf War XX

ARDANROE OFFICERS

Seneschal: The Honorable Lady Avice of York
Knight Marshal: Lord Skallagrímr Bárðarson
Herald: Maistir Rory ua Riada
Exchequer: Lady Joya le Normande
Minister of Arts & Sciences: The Hon. Lady Melisant of Exmoor
Chronicler: Barun Rory ua Riada
Chirurgion: VACANT

Minister of Children: VACANT
Web Minister: Lorccán na Túaithe
Provost of RUGA: Lady Amata Quentin Motzhart
Quartermaster: Mistress Sarah MacGregor
Chatelaine: Lady Evlaliia Svenevicha
Historian: Lady Amelia Balentine
Constable: Giric I{o,}gmaðr

HARKEN YE!

Below is a tentative schedule of Shire activities for the month of November:

November 7 – Fighter Practice – 2:00 p.m. – Darkhorse Farms (Sunday)
November 10 – Populace Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)
November 14 – Fighter Practice – 2:00 p.m. – Darkhorse Farms (Sunday)
November 21 – Fighter Practice – 2:00 p.m. – Darkhorse Farms (Sunday)
November 24 – A&S Workshop – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)
November 28 – Fighter Practice – 2:00 p.m. – Darkhorse Farms (Sunday)

NOTE: Please see the Shire website and Ardanroe Yahooogroup for updates.



SAINTS DAY CALENDAR

November 13th is the calendar date for Frances Cabrini. While she is outside the time period covered by the SCA, living in the 19th and 20th century, she is regarded as a patroness of immigrants. As we celebrated the fifth year of Gleann Abhann as a Kingdom, we can find many members who are ‘immigrants’ to Gleann Abhann. Frances Cabrini was born on July 15, 1850 at Sant’ Anngelo Lodigiano, Lombardy, Italy. She became a nun after being orphaned at age eighteen, though she was qualified to be a teacher. The Bishop of Todi asked her to start an order of missionary sisters to educate girls. This was the formation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. In 1889 Frances arrived in America with six sisters of the order under the patronage of Archbishop Corrigan of New York to help Italian immigrants. She traveled throughout the United States for the next twenty-eight years founding four hospitals and fifty orphanages, convents, and schools. Eventually she became a naturalized American. She died in 1917 and was canonized in 1946. She is the first American citizen to be canonized as a saint.

Bentley, James. *A Calendar of Saints: The Lives of the Principal Saints of the Christian Year*. London: Time Warner Books, an imprint of Little, Brown Book Group, 2006.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following Shire offices need Deputies: Web Minister, Provost of RUGA, Quartermaster, and Minister of Arts & Sciences, and Chronicler.

The following Shire offices are Open and Need Filling: Minister of Children and Chirurgeon



TOWN FAIRE

The first fighter practice of the month was held on Sunday, October 10th at Darkhorse Farms in Haughton. Starting at two o'clock and ending at five o'clock, eleven members attended. Those fighting included Skallagrímr, Giric, Brandon, Olaf, Melisant, and Symon. Those observing included Eibhilín, Evlaliia, Joya, Jurgis, and Rory.

Skallagrímr oversaw the second fighter practice of the month on Sunday afternoon, October 17th at Darkhorse Farms in Haughton.

Symon was in charge as Deputy Marshal for the third fighter practice of the month, held Sunday, October 24th at Darkhorse Farms. Practice began at two o'clock and ended at four o'clock with all departing by four-thirty. Those taking the field included Olaf, Melisant, Blaec, and Symon. Those watching included Eibhilín, Rory, and assorted children. Eibhilín turned in her device resubmission paperwork that day.

The October A&S Workshop was held on Wednesday the 27th at Aulds Library from seven to eight o'clock. Twelve adults, two teens, and two children attended in full or part of the time. These were Melisant and her two kids, Symon, Avice, Branwyn Brynglas and her two sons, Skallagrímr, Joya, Jurgis, Evlaliia, Olath, Lorccán, Rory, and Medb. Olath is another newcomer – welcome! Melisant showed the film, “Respect the Spindle” which is about the drop spindle. She brought some Icelandic wool, hand carders and combs, and a drop spindle for folks to play with. Evlaliia brought three drop spindles she had made.



THREES

The first of the threes has come to pass. The Shire of Ardanroe is pleased to welcome in a brand new member, Colleen Erica, born to Giric and Eibhilín on Thursday, October 28. Both mom and daughter are doing great.





THE ARDANROE HERBARIUM

(THL Rovena of Bri Leith, Column Editor)



Artemisia absinthium on the foothills of the Caucasus range.
(Picture by Sten Porse of Denmark on the Wikipedia Commons)

WORMWOOD

Artemisia absinthium is also known as absinthium, wormwood, common wormwood, Green Ginger, and grand wormwood. Wormwood is native to temperate regions of Mediterranean. It naturalizes wherever it is successfully gardenated.

It is a silvery-green perennial plant, with a hard, woody stem which grow straight to a height of about 1.5 yard. The leaves are greenish-gray above and white underneath and spirally arranged up the stem. The tubular yellow flowers form clusters during early summer to early autumn. Wormwood prefers nitrogen rich, mid-weight soil that has bright exposure. Like pines its roots' makes excretions that inhibit the growth of other plants.

The essential oil contains thujone, thujyl alcohol, pinene, azulenem and phellanden. The plant also contains glycoside, tannin, resin, vitamins C and B₆, while it ash contains nitric acid and silicic acids.

WARNING: Pure wormwood oil is very poisonous, but carefully using the proper dosage should pose little or no danger. Chronic use may cause damage to internal organs especially the reproductive ones.

It has been used to remedy indigestion and gastric pain as well as an antiseptic. It was often mixed in wine though it is also available in powder form and as a tincture. The essential oil has been used as a stimulant to improve the blood circulation.

It was a common flavoring agent in medieval times for spirits such as wine, mead, bitters, and vermouth. It was used to color and flavor the Korean dish songpyeon. It is found in Moroccan mint tea.

The Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans are known to have used wormwood in their medicinal preparations in their religious rite. Its characteristic odor makes it useful for making a plant spray against pests especially fleas and moths. It is often found in dried flower arrangements.

One can't talk about wormwood without a specter lurking around the edges: Absinthe. There is a mystique and hype surrounding it that is reminiscent of *Reefer Madness*. Let's see where the truth lies.

Absinthe is a distilled, highly alcoholic (45–74% ABV) beverage which is diluted when it is consumed. Its anise flavor comes from many herbs that are used including Artemisia absinthium, anise, and fennel. It can be colorless but it is more often green. The process to make absinthe is similar to high quality gin. The first distillation produces a colorless spirit called Blanche Absinthe. Each additional distillation and the aging process increase the green coloration. Rouge or rose absinthe is made using hibiscus flowers.

There are two traditional methods to drinking absinthe: the French Method and the Bohemian Method. In the French Method, the absinthe is drunk by placing a sugar cube on top of a absinthe spoon and then placing the

spoon on the glass containing a shot of absinthe. Ice-cold water is dripped over the sugar cube slowly so that the liquor becomes clouded. You end up with a beverage with 1 part absinthe and 3 to 5 parts water. This process not only allows the flavors to blossom it also releases the aroma. In the Bohemian Method, the absinthe is drunk by placing a sugar cube on top of an absinthe spoon and then placing the spoon on the glass containing a shot of absinthe. This sugar cube has already been soaked in absinthe. It is set afire. A shot glass of water is used to douse the flames. The Bohemian Method produces a stronger drink than the French Method. There is a variation where the fire is allowed to burn itself out which removes much of the alcohol. It is called Cooking the Absinthe.

Absinthe as it is known today originated in Neuchâtel, Switzerland with its greatest popularity occurring in the late 19th- and early 20th-century France. It was originally a malaria treatment that was given to French troops. Its popularity in the cafes and bistros gave rise to the French calling 5 PM the l'heure verte ("the green hour"). It was popular with the bohemian culture of such people as Charles Baudelaire, Paul Verlaine, Arthur Rimbaud, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Amedeo Modigliani, Vincent van Gogh, Oscar Wilde, Aleister Crowley, and Alfred Jarry. Social conservatives and prohibitionists portrayed it as a dangerously addictive psychoactive drug. They were effective in getting it banned almost worldwide but never in Spain or Britain. This ban, like Prohibition, merely drove the culture underground. It was also associated with New Orleans. In 1874, Cayetano Ferrer (Catalan bartender) opened what came to be called Old Absinthe House, located on Bourbon Street. It is said to have been frequented by such people as Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, Franklin Roosevelt, Aleister Crowley and Frank Sinatra.

Studies have shown that it is no more dangerous and no safer than any other spirit. Contrary to early studies, thujone is not related to THC. It is thought that some of the associated problems with it came from suppliers who uses of toxic ingredients such as copper compounds to get the deep green color cheaper than by natural methods. Think of bathtub gin as a comparison. The claimed psychoactive properties were either by nefariously added ingredients or by the fact that absinthe has both a stimulant and a sedative effect.

Absinthe has had a revival starting in the 1990s and is again legal in most countries including the United States. Drinkers need to be aware that there is no legal definition for absinthe so there are many drinks out there calling themselves absinthe which are not. Some producers are using a cheaper method and trying to get the same price as traditional absinthe. The cold mixing process which gives you something more akin to a flavored vodka or schnapps than distilled absinthe. Another problem is the rash of kits to make absinthe at home. These kits usually soak the herbs in vodka or other liqueur which is not distillation and produces a harsh product which is probably higher in the levels of toxic elements or has dangerous herbs in them. It is a buyer beware situation.

Absinthe is not the evil demon it has been portrayed as nor is it the magical beverage of its mystique.

References:

- Bender, Steve. *The Southern Living Garden Book*. Birmingham, AL: Oxmoor House, 1998.
Gabriel, Ingrid. *Herb Identifier & Handbook*. New York: Sterling Pub. Co., 1979
Huson, Paul. *Mastering Herbalism: A Practical Guide*. Lanham, Md.: Madison Books, 2001, 1974.



FORTNIGHT

The October Shire Populace Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 13th at the Aulds Branch Library. The meeting was run by Avice, Seneschal, and began shortly after seven o'clock. Seventeen adults attended (Avice, Amata, Dana, Rory, Bridie, Mateo, Evlaliia, Skallagrímr, Symon, Melisant, Branwen, Ebrahim, Eibhilín, Joya, Jurgis, Medb, Brandon) and a few children (Branwen's daughters, Eibhilín's son, Bridie's son).

Officer Reports:

Historian – Avice reported for Amelia that she would like everyone to send her reports about Coronation, as she spent the day in the kitchen, and needs to do a report for the Kingdom Historian.

Knight Marshal – Skallagrím announced that fighter practice is this Sunday at Darkhorse Farm at two o'clock.

Arts and Sciences – Melisant reminded everyone that she collects a record of all A&S activities everyone does and submits that in her quarterly reports. She has a DVD on drop spindles for this month's A&S night. Next month she will have yarn for people to start practicing with a drop spindle.

Provost – Amata asks for ideas for classes for Winter Wonders.

Reeve – Joya announced that all deposits have been made from Coronation. After the meeting tonight event reimbursements will be done.

Chronicler – Rory announced the October issue of Ardanrunes has been posted. He thanked Melisant for her write up about the equestrian activities at Coronation which will go into the November issue. He asked everyone to write about the parts of Coronation they saw for the newsletter. He asked that people send questions to Skallagrímr for the “Ask Skallagrímr” column. Photographs are also needed for the newsletter.

Herald – Rory announced that the heralds have now gone to quarterly reporting and the July-September report has been done. He encouraged people to submit names and armory. Skallagrímr and Evlaliia have their device resubmissions here tonight. He had brought name information found for Bridie.

Chatelaine – Evlaliia reported that Brandon has joined the SCA!

The Web Minister and Constable were not present.

Old Business:

Jurgis and Medb, co-autocrats for Fall Coronation, reported on the event. 203 attended. The equestrian activities went well and many activities were found to keep the children occupied the whole time. Feast was excellent. There were lots of comments on the “OMG Bowls” (bowls of toiletries in the bathrooms that people might have forgotten to bring). A trailer reloading party is needed to put things back into order inside the trailer. Some stemware was lost on the return home due to bungee cords not being strung properly to hold things on shelves in the trailer after the event. Big thanks goes to Mateo for cooking breakfast and to everyone for all of their hard work making the event fun for all coming to visit.

Skallagrímr reported that the flyer for Winter Wonders has been sent in to The Ambassador. He will start the ‘volunteer/help with this’ sheets next month.

Avice reported on the Baronial Committee. Policy work will be done since formal policy documents have not been found and we have dropped below the number of paid members we want to have. Mistress Sarah has requested to step down from the Committee due to mundane conflicts and asked that Evlaliia take her place. All present approved the request.

Dana turned in the troll paperwork for Ardanroe's 30 Year Celebration to the Seneschal and Constable's wife (Eibhilín).

Dana turned in the troll paperwork and equestrian waivers for Fall Coronation to the Seneschal, Constable's wife, and Exchequer. She reported on VIP Passes, a new item the SCA is trying out as recruitment for non-members.

New Business:

Ebrahim reported finding brochures for the local SCA group at a museum in Kansas last month that he and Avalina visited. He asked if this is something we could do again. This was referred to the Chatelaine's office. Evlaliia reported there is a SCA brochure on the Society Chatelaine's web page which would be personalized for local groups (add their device). She is currently looking for a line drawing of the Shire's device and requested anyone having one to send it to her.

Amata would like to attend Christmas Revel and is looking for a ride and willing to pay for gas.

The Crown currently has not received bids to host Kingdom Fighter Collegium. Ardanroe said NO.

Evlaliia reported on Centenary College's request for props for the play “MacBeth”. At this time the play is to be on the second and third weekends of November. In addition to props it might be possible to do a demo. She and Branwen will find out more and post that to the website.

Bridie and Mateo reported that they have four schoolteacher friends in DeSoto Parish who might be interested in joining the SCA.

Evlaliia reported that she would be incommunicado during the Thanksgiving week.

Announcements:

Avice went over the Kingdom Calendar and encouraged everyone to attend Loch Bais' Havoc, since Loch Bais was so helpful in man-labor at our last event. Samhain is being held at a dry site that is also tenting only. There will be a Baronial Investiture at Samhain. Sir James the Holy and Mistress Alysia will become the new Baron and Baroness of Grey Niche. Word has come that Ansteorra plans to steal Helmut at Autumn Melees, so if attending, protect our Helmut!

The meeting was adjourned at eight o'clock.



CARRIAGE CHATTER

Duvalt Defender, August 27-29, Shire of Wyrngeist

(Written by Rory)

The Shire of Wyrngeist held Duvalt Defender, named in honor of Sir Francois Duvalt, at Chicot State Park in Ville Platte, Louisiana the last weekend of August. Lady Lasair ingean Seoin was the autocrat. Lady Martine de Bresse handled reservations. The Shire of Ardanroe served a fundraiser lunch for The Ambassador of cold fried chicken, potato salad, ice cold watermelon, and lemonade. These were prepared by Avice, set up and served by James and Symon, and hawked to the populace by Medb. Tokens for the event were made by James. The second qualifier tournament for the Tournament of Champions III was also held at this event.

Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire, September 17-19, Barony of Seleone

(Written by Rory)

Avice and James attended the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann's Kingdom Arts and Sciences the third weekend of September at King's Arrow Ranch in Lumberton, Mississippi. The event was hosted by the Barony of Seleone. Countess Diana of the Isles was the autocrat. Syr Loric Silvestris was the feastocrat. Lady Marcel Orillion handled reservations. Mistress Etheldred (Dredda) oversaw the Faire. The Royal University also held classes during the day coordinated by THLady Gwyneth Carr. During court that evening Mistress Etheldred NicEoghainn turned over the office of Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences to Mistress Rebecca with the Greyhound.

Gleann Abhann Fall Coronation, October 1-3, Shire of Ardanroe

(Written by Melisant of Exmoor)

At the Coronation of Radu and Bri, Prince Radu rode Brynja, a Norwegian Fjord mare. She was adorned with red, white and black tassels that matched Prince Radu's garb. Princess Bri rode Gacela, an Azteca mare. Gacela had brown and white tassels that went well with the Princess's lovely gown.

Prince Radu rode up to court. The court Herald asked the populace if anyone could speak for Radu. Brynja, his mount, answered with a loud winney. Radu was handed the crown of Gleann Abhann and he placed it upon his head. He then stated that a king cannot rule alone and called for Princess Bri. The Princess rode up and stopped alongside King Radu. He then leaned over and crowned her. The new King and Queen then dismounted and held court. Their mounts were led away by The Honorable Lord Olaf Lutherson and THL Melisant of Exmoor.

Equestrian activities were held later that afternoon. Five horses and their riders participated. Cristiana Breakspear rode a saddlebred/Tennessee walker mare. This mare was in her late twenties and completed the challenge course much faster than the younger horses. The pair was named Equestrian Champions.

Also competing was Lady Alicia on her spotted Tennessee walker gelding, Charlie Brown. Baroness Celestine Albrit competed on her Haflinger gelding, Nolan. THL Olaf Lutherson rode the Azteca mare, Gacela and THL Melisant of Exmoor rode the Norwegian Fjord mare, Brynja.

The challenge course consisted of "Saracen Heads" whereby the horse and rider weave through a set of six poles with "heads" mounted on them. The rider must strike the head with a sword thus beheading the enemy. Next, the pair went on to ring tilting. Rings of varying sizes are hung from a cross bar and the rider must ride past with a spear or lance and get as many rings as possible (4 in this case). More points are given for the smaller rings. After that, the horse and rider rode up to an up-right hay bale and threw a spear at it, hoping to hit the hay bale. Then they

had to cross a "river" (a blue tarp on the ground) and go through a parallel set of poles on the ground without touching the poles.

This was the first time that Brynja, Nolan and Charlie Brown competed in SCA Equestrian activities. They all did quite well for newbies. Olaf Lutherson and Gacela came in second place.

Havoc, October 22-24, Shire of Loch Bais

(Written by Rory from Avice's notes)

Havoc, the Shire of Loch Bais' annual event, was held the fourth weekend of October at Caney Methodist Camp in Minden, Louisiana. Several Ardanroe members attended including Avice, Symon, Jurgis, Joya, James, Sarah, and Branwyn and her two sons along with a newcomer. Many classes were taught during the morning. Avice taught bread making. Mistress Brigit taught Viking clothing. Master Erik taught beginning fencing (light weapons). Baroness Bethany taught youth combat basics. Loch Bais held their Shire Defender Tourney. Symon represented our Shire in the tourney. Queen Broinnfinn was the bye fighter. Carson from the Shire of Troll Fen won the tourney. A fundraiser lunch for the Gulf Wars libation fund was held around noon. Finian, feastcrat, did a wonderful Anglo-Saxon feast that evening.



LESSONS IN HERALDRY

In some book, play, or movie (or all three), a character says, "The devil is in the details!" When looking at heraldic charges used in period, it is sometimes these details that define a charge. How do you tell a raven is a raven and not just a bird? In the *July 2010 Letters of Acceptance and Returns* a question emerged regarding those details that make a charge so specific and being able to see those identifying characteristics. Hear the ruling from the Wreath Sovereign of Arms.

From Wreath: Detailing and Identifiability¹

A submission this month, that of Adria Kerrick, from Ealdormere, used a sable fox with a very small argent tail tip on a field which is lozengy purpure and argent. Commeters were unanimous that the fox was identifiable, even though the white tail tip was nearly entirely on an argent lozenge. Precedent, which has been consistent for quite some time, says this is not allowed:

A fox proper has an argent tail tip, and thus cannot be depicted on an argent field, by precedent:

This device is returned for lack of contrast: the tail of a fox proper has a white tip, which is argent on argent. [Kynwric Gwent, 05-2008, R-Meridies]

This device must, therefore, be returned. [Ingunn Halldorsdottir, March 2009, R-Æthelmearc]

This is one of those nit-picky details which gives heralds such a bad name. We decided to do some research, and it seems that period heralds were perfectly able to deal with no-contrast defining tinctures:

Harwick W. Arch. "Vigil Rabers Neustifter Wappenbuch", plate 27, has a lion head with an argent ear on an argent field. Plate 63 has *Gules, a cock vert, beaked and footed Or, combed and wattled gules* under the name Cristoff Gumpeler, which has the gules defining characteristics of a cock the same tincture as the field on which they lie. Plate 103 has the same armory, under the name Mayrhofen, except the cock is sable, and is shown with one leg raised. Siebmacher, plate 65, has a bird with an Or beak on an Or field

and, plate 72, has a cock argent beaked and wattled gules on a gules field. There is also, plate 89, *Or, a demi-lion rampant contourny sable crowned Or pierced through the head by a sword proper* and plate 114, which has *Argent, a ram passant contourny sable horned argent atop a trimount argent*.

The precedent, therefore, is overturned. As long as the charge maintains its identifiability, minor details, even minor details which are identifying characteristics, may have no contrast with the underlying tinctures.

What does this mean to us? This should make it easier to design and register armory that uses charges which have specific small identifying details, or small artistic details that add to the look of the charge, when looking at what tinctures are used for the field (the background/area the charge is on). From the examples cited by Wreath, the small gold crown on the head of the black lion (demi-lion being the top half of the lion) was fine on a gold field. The small crown did not have to be black, red, green, purple, or blue. The black ram with silver horns was fine with the silver field. The ram's horns did not have to be red, green, purple, blue, or black. A bird with a gold beak on a gold field was okay. You could still tell that the beak was there. So put your proper fox on a silver background. We will know it is a fox because the silver tip of its tail will be seen.

If you have a particular heraldry question you would like answered in "Lessons in Heraldry", please let me know! I may not know the answer but will try to find an answer that helps.

Maistir Rory

References:

¹*Cover Letter. July 2010 Letter of Acceptance and Returns.* (For the July 2010 meetings, printed October 6, 2010), [Accessed October 29, 2010] <http://heraldry.sca.org/loar/2010/07/10-07cl.html>

