

# ARDANRUNES

This is the September 2011 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 2011 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 deadline for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month for the issue coming out the 1<sup>st</sup> of the next month.

## Table of Contents

Ardanroe Officers  
Calendar of Events  
Carriage Chatter  
Challenges for Kingdom Arts & Science  
Fortnight  
Harken Ye!  
How We Got Our Name  
Positions Available  
The Ardanroe Herbarium  
Town Faire

## Calendar of Events

August 27	Axemoor Baronial Investiture – Axemoor
September 3	Mid Summer Knights Dream – Smythkepe
September 10	GA Live Weapons Champions – Dragouns Weal
September 17	Kingdom Arts and Sciences – Iron Ox
September 24	Slay the Dragon – Vogelburg
October 1	Coronation – Troll Fen
October 8	Holy Pail – Rooks Haven
October 8	Huntsman Harvest – Coill Fhionnabhann
October 15	Knight's Academy – Dragoun's Weal
October 22	Diamond Wars – Small Gray Bear
October 22	Harvest Home - Northover
October 29	Havoc – Loch Bais

## ARDANROE OFFICERS

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

Chatelaine: Lady Evlaliia Sveneicha  
Constable: Lord Jurgis Bebra  
Historian: Lady Amelia Balentine  
Provost of RUGA: Lady Amata Quentin Motzhart  
Quartermaster: Mistress Sarah MacGregor  
Web Minister: Lorccán na Túaithe  
Minister of Children: VACANT

## HARKEN YE!

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

September 4 – Fighter Practice/Pell Practice/Armoring – 2:00 p.m. – Skallagrímur's House (Sunday)  
September 10 – Trailer Day – 9:00 a.m. – Avice and Symon's Farm (Saturday)  
September 14 – Populace Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)  
September 18 – Fighter Practice/Pell Practice/Armoring – 2:00 p.m. – Skallagrímur's House (Sunday)  
September 28 – Shire A&S Night – 7:00 p.m. – Aulds Library (Wednesday)

Come walk the track at LSU-S every Tuesday in September at 6:30 p.m. with Skallagrímur and Travis.

Garb and other projects may also be worked on at FP/PP/A afternoons!

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

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The following Shire offices need Deputies: Replacement Deputy Herald



## TOWN FAIRE

New Sarah (New Mexico Sarah), Karn, Skallagrímr, Evlaliia, and Rory attended the August 7<sup>th</sup> fighter practice/pell practice/armoring at Skallagrímr's house Sunday afternoon. Skallagrímr, Evlaliia, and Rory worked on origami for the Largesse Derby, learning about origami lilies and koi fish. Sarah worked with Rory on an SCA name and filled out the Name Submission Form. Armory in heraldry (devices, badges) were explained and shown thanks to the silk screened banners Skallagrímr and Evlaliia had. Use of heraldry in clothing was shown with Skallagrímr's new fighting tunic. Garb discussion was also held by Evlaliia and Sarah.

The second Shire Trailer Day of the summer was held Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at Avice and Symon's starting around eight o'clock in the morning. Everything was unloaded from the Shire trailer, which will be taken for repacking of the wheel bearings. All of the Kingdom items and belongings of the royalty taken to and from Pennsic were loaded into the small Kingdom trailer, which had just gotten a new heavy-duty axle mounted on it. Another trailer day will be held to reload the Shire trailer after its bearings are fixed. Hotdogs were grilled and everyone brought potluck items for a fun lunch afterwards. Bryan, Skallagrímr, and Rory worked on origami lilies for the largesse derby. Bryan and Tonya looked at charges for ideas for their devices. Avice and Symon regaled everyone with tales from Pennsic War 40. Attendees included Danita, Lorccán, Drake and Caitlyn (their teens), Symon and Avice and Baby James, Skallagrímr and Evlaliia, Bryan and Tonya, Rory, Joya and Jurgis, and Dana. By three o'clock everyone had departed for home.

The second fighter practice of the month was held on Sunday afternoon, August 21<sup>st</sup> at Skallagrímr's house. Helmut, Karn, Lorccán, Symon, Bryan (aka Gunther), and Skallagrímr practiced outside, worked on boat construction for Winter Wonders, and armor work. Godric and Guðrún watched the fighting and relaxed indoors. Evlaliia worked on embroidery and then on a fighting tabard for Helmut (how to put his primary and secondary charges on a tabard Helmut had created). Rory continued working on origami for the largesse derby at Kingdom A&S, making a dozen red paper cups and a dozen blue star-shaped boxes. After the fighting, whilst rehydrating indoors, once again the movie *The Gamers: Dorkness Rising* was watched.

The Shire A&S Night on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> was an open night to work on your own projects. Six members met at the Auld's Library from seven o'clock to eight-thirty. The number was small due to the severe thunderstorms in the afternoon/early evening, which led to areas of power outages and broken trees or tree limbs. Dana, Evlaliia, Joya, Jurgis, Rory, and Akimoro, a new member who had just moved to the area from California enjoyed a quiet evening. Dana and Joya worked on necklaces made from bone, quartz, and stone beads. Evlaliia worked on embroidering black polka-dots on white linen. Rory worked on origami – six paper balloons and the beginning of a paper top (toy). Akimoro looked up kanji in the book *Name Construction in Mediaeval Japan* by Solveig Thronardottir.





**THE ARDANROE HERBARIUM**  
(THL Rovena of Bri Leith, Column Editor)

*CALAMINT*

Calamint's scientific name is *Calamintha*, which belongs to the Lamiaceae family. There are eight species that are known to be native to the temperate regions of Asia, Europe, and America. The name Calamint comes from the Greek meaning "good mint". Mercury is the ruling god for Calamint.

It is a perennial that grows up to 32" tall. Calamint prefers full sun and well-drained soil. It has small flowers in the autumn. Like the mint plant, its leaves have a pleasant mint scent and, like the mint plant, it can be very invasive.

Its culinary uses include Italian sauces and teas. It is as found in the Middle Eastern spice blend za'atar. Za'atar contains calamint, oregano, thyme, and savory. Za'atar is also the name of a Middle Eastern condiment that contains a wide range of ingredients.

Calamint is often used in potpourri as well as love potions.

The larvae of some Lepidoptera species use Calamint as a food source.

**References:**

Huson, Paul. *Mastering Herbalism: A Practical Guide*. 1<sup>st</sup> Madison Books Edition. Lanham, MD: Madison Books, 2001, 1974.

Tucker, Arthur O. and Thomas DeBaggio. *The Big Book of Herbs: a Comprehensive Illustrated Reference to Herbs of Flavor and Fragrance*. Loveland, CO: Interweave Press, 2000.



**FORTNIGHT**

The Populace Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 10 at the Aulds Branch Library. The meeting was called to order at seven past seven by the Skallagrímr, Deputy Seneschal, as Avice was at Pennsic War 40. Eleven adults attended the meeting (Skallagrímr, Evlaliia, Lorccán, Joya, Jurgis, Rory, Tonya, Bryan, Tangwystle [Sir Robert's wife], Sir Robert, and Tara).

Officer reports were given by the officers.

The Historian was not present.

Rory as Chronicler reported the August issue of the *Ardanrunes* is on the website thanks to Lorccán. A paper copy was given to Skallagrímr.

Rory as Herald was happy to report that “New Sarah” also known as “New Mexico Sarah” has a name – Guðrún Einarsdóttir. Once funds are received it will be sent to Ruby.

Joya as Exchequer reported that the Shire had received a check for Gulf Wars Volunteer Hours, earning \$ 63.67. A check for \$ 200 as a thank you for the demo at the Bossier Central Library Historic Research Center was also received. The Shire has over \$6000 in the account.

Skallagrímr as Knight Marshall reported that Rory and “New Sarah” attended this past Sunday’s fighter practice/armor work/pell work day at Skallagrímr’s house. Everyone stayed indoors due to the heat and instead worked on heraldry and origami. His quarterly report was also done.

The A&S Minister was not present.

The RUGA Provost was not present.

Evliiia as Chatelaine invited all to work on patterns and sewing at fighter practices.

Lorccán as Webminister had placed the August *Ardanrunes* on the website. He is almost finished with the new website and now needs to get Permission to Publish forms from all the officers to be able to list officer’s names and contact information. Please send these to him electronically.

#### Old Business:

No word has been heard from the Boy Scouts regarding a demo. They are being dropped from the agenda until contact is made again.

Skallagrímr would like to get all of the Permission to Publish forms from those who will appear on the Winter Wonders flyer. He would like to have the flyer appear on the Kingdom Calendar’s site in September. Skallagrímr is looking for classes for the event. Sir Robert will handle the fighting. Lorccán is his First Mate (co-autocrat) and Avice is Head Cook.

#### New Business:

If interested in entering Kingdom A&S, contact Avice.

The largesse derby will be held at Kingdom A&S. No documentation is required. You make 12 of an item and send those in as largesse. These can be group projects, not just individuals.

Finian no longer needs someone to do a lunch fundraiser at Havoc (October 29). The Shire of Blackwood beat us to it.

Skallagrímr has checked at Aulds Library and there are no other open nights for the meeting rooms here. Tonya will check at Bossier Central Library. This will be discussed now online, as many of the populace have conflicts on Wednesday nights (most due to church). If there is another meeting location and day available that would work for the majority, a change might occur for populace meetings.

August 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is Trailer Day after Pennsic at Avice and Symon’s house. The Shire trailer will be unloaded and reloaded, along with the Kingdom trailers. Come early (8:00 – 9:00 am). Directions will be posted. A potluck lunch will be held with the Shire providing hotdogs and buns and everyone bringing a side dish.

Axemoor’s Baronial Investiture is August 27<sup>th</sup>. Skallagrímr has been asked to be the hall steward. Avice and Symon will be unloading royalty Pennsic equipment at the event.

#### Announcements:

Skallagrímr went over the Kingdom Calendar for the months of August, September, and October.

Fall Crown List is the second weekend of November at Stinkin Jim’s Horse Farm hosted by the Shire of Tor an Riogh. Avice is head cook. Skallagrímr and Sir Robert both plan to enter the tourney.

The meeting was adjourned at seven-forty.



## HOW WE GOT OUR NAME

*[Chronicler's Note: The following missive was recently received by the Shire's Chronicler, Historian, and Seneschal. We are pleased to share this bit of news that unveils a part of our history.]*

Hello

I was involved with the founding of the shire and was its first knight's marshal.

Several years ago I briefly reconnected with Ardanroe, and people asked me about the origination of the name, and at the time, I drew a blank. Sometime later my memory sparked, but only now has the initiative to share this coincided with me happening upon your yahoo group. So here we are.

We seemed like a deer of and in the woods; isolated, a bit nervous, spry and always surrounded by dark forests. I believe the first St. Basil's day was at camp Bisteneau.

The name came from mixing "The Ardennes", the European forest/mountain range, and "Roe"  
[Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roe\\_Deer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roe_Deer)

I've been meaning to share this with the populous and for some reason my thoughts meandered to memories of some very good times, the crack of rattan on plywood, and much more.

Hope you are all doing well.

JG  
formerly Ageranon Asteris



## CHALLENGES FOR KINGDOM ARTS AND SCIENCES

Kingdom Arts and Sciences will be held September 17 at Cabot Lodge by the Shire of Iron Ox. Already several challenges have been issued for sponsored competitions in different categories of the arts and sciences. More may yet be issued in the coming months. Below are those as of July 26<sup>th</sup>.

### CHALLENGE #1

The Order of the Laurel in conjunction with the Gleann Abhann Office of Chamberlain & the Amethyst Herald issue our first challenge for Kingdom A&S:

- The Gleann Abhann Champion of Arts has no regalia and only one Legacy Item – the Champions Scroll.
- We challenge you, the populace of Gleann Abhann, To create items that can be used, worn and/or displayed by the Gleann Abhann's Champion of the Arts. (note -this is not a heraldic challenge as the Champion does not have registered badge)

## CHALLENGE #2

Largesse Derby sponsored by Lady Eowyn

- Each entry consists of a dozen items, which will be donated to the crown at the end of the day. (People are encouraged to enter as teams, if creating a dozen items is seen as daunting.)
- The winning entry is chosen by populace vote, and the Crown will also be asked to choose a favorite. The overall winner may choose one item from each winner. The Crown's choice(s) may each choose one item.
- All other items are donated to the crown.
- No documentation necessary. No judging either. Other than the putting of one bead in one cup, per person attending

## CHALLENGE #3

Novice Costume Review- sponsored by Maistres Alysia

Do you love costuming? Do you love to create new costumes? Been \*thinking\* about entering for a while? Here's your chance! Maistrese Alysia will offer a prize to the best new novice Costume Review entry.

## CHALLENGE #4

The performing arts wants you! Sponsored By THL Amelia

- Celebrate entertainment by entering at Kingdom A&S. Without entertainment and dance we would be bored so sign up, get up on the great stage and give us all you've got!
- This year I will be offering two prizes in the performing arts category a prize for the highest scoring performing arts entry and another prize for my favorite performing arts entry. You've got plenty of time to rehearse, get documentation together, and really show us how talented you are. I look forward to seeing and hearing all sorts of magical, wonderful, fantastic performances from some of the best people, the people of Gleann Abhann.

## CHALLENGE # 5

Animal Husbandry sponsored by Mistress Rebecca.

So far the prize will consist of: 1) Sake set from Japan (not awarded last year) and 2) Marble bowl from Vietnam. So get working on your Animal Husbandry entry now and be in the running for some really neat prizes.

## CHALLENGE #6

Novice entry Bone and also the first time entry in Pewter sponsored by THL Frederick von Alton.

## CHALLENGE #7

Novice Herbal entry sponsored by Morin inghen Ruairc, Craftsman Gleann Abhann Herbal Guild.

This challenge is for a first time herbal entry, may be culinary, domestic or medicinal (i.e. horticulture, husbandry, medicine) --must have period documentation - i.e. primary source for use in the SCA time period. If you have questions about documentation requirement, please feel free to contact sponsor!

## CHALLENGE #8

Underwear sponsored by Mistress Roz.

Show me Your Underwear! What did your persona wear under it all? Entry can be in the category Single Item Costume or part of Costume Review as part of an ensemble. A prize will be awarded to the highest score. Ties will be based on which one I like best.

#### CHALLENGE #9

Non Novice Herbal Entry sponsored by Mistress Anastasia.

#### CHALLENGE #10

Novice Culinary Arts Entry sponsored by THL Avice.

Are you a foody? Interested in Food prep in the Middle Ages? Here's your chance to win the prize for best novice Food entry!



## CARRIAGE CHATTER

### Academy of Performing Arts, July 30, Shire of Iron Ox

(Written by Rory ua Riada)

The Academy of Performing Arts was held the last Saturday of July AS XLVI at the Cabot Lodge near Milsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi by the Shire of Iron Ox. Lord Seamus Mac Feargus was the autocrat. Lady Broinnin inghean Aindriasa handled reservations and classes.

Classes were held in six locations, being five rooms and the lobby of the hotel. The five classrooms covered a specific class track or area of Performing Arts. Classes in the lobby were more generalized. The five classrooms were European Dance, Non-European Dance, Italian Salon/Gaming, Theatre, and Bardic. The troll/reservation table was set up in the lobby. A silent auction to benefit the al-Mahala dance floor at Gulf Wars was arranged on two tables in the lobby by Mistress Edwina.

A breakfast buffet provided by the hotel began at six o'clock in the lobby. The troll table opened at seven o'clock. Classes did not start until nine o'clock. The morning classes went from nine to twelve. There was then a one hour lunch break, with classes resuming in the afternoon from one o'clock to five o'clock. There would be a dinner break for everyone to go out to the local restaurants. Court was scheduled for six-thirty to be followed by the Variety Show, which in turn would be followed by the Ball, Hafla, Bardic Circle, and a special viewing of the movie Cagin of Chrysaunt.

The Companions of the Laurel and the Silver Lamp sponsored a table in the lobby for documentation review from ten o'clock to noon and one o'clock to two o'clock. At two o'clock Lady Catherine Vallemont gave an introduction to the SCA, SCA 101, followed at three o'clock with Protocol and Precedence. At four o'clock the Companions of the Laurel held an open Panel Discussion on Period vs. Non-Period Non-European Dance in the SCA. This concluded the scheduled activities in the lobby. However, the lobby is a large area composed of many areas formed by staggered walls. Attendees gathered at tables throughout the lobby during the day to relax and talk, conduct SCA business, and catch-up on life.

The Bardic classroom was devoted to music and poetry. Lady Eowyn de Weaver gave a class on Beginning Recorder at nine o'clock. Baron CuCullin the Bald followed with "From Thought to the Page" on creative writing for poetry and how to work with in from one's persona. Lord Bran Finn hua Neill gave an introduction and overview of early Irish and Norse courtly poetry entitled "Smooth Words on Rough Tongues".

In the afternoon Baron CuCullin started with Performing Your Poetry and Prose, learning how to perform your work in the SCA. Lord Bran Finn followed with Form and Function of a Bard, an overview of the history and

function of the bard in Irish culture. Countess Beatrix de Montecassino and Mistress Rosalind bint Mihrimah concluded the class use of the Bardic room with a three o'clock class on SCA Media 101, covering promoting the SCA and working with the media at the local level.

The Theatre classroom was devoted to aspects of theater, whether on stage or as a street performance. TH Lady Amelia van Hemessen began the morning classes with Mummings and Mummer's Plays: An English Folk Tradition, an introduction about this specific genre of the theater. Mistress Sarita Vashti al Coya followed with Morris Dancing. This class ended up splitting into two classes due to length. The one hour morning class covered the history and forms of the dance. An afternoon class was the practicum, learning the Morris dance so that it could be incorporated in the Mummer's Play that night as part of the Variety Show.

At eleven o'clock Dame Dredda and Mistress Gwyneth Caerr walked through the process of Documentation and Research: How is it Done?

After lunch TH Lady Amelia talked about props and stages in a one hour class called Scenes and Machines, Spectacle and Theatre Technology in Plays, Masques, and Civic Entertainments. Lady Sarah Tereza Mondragon taught the art of the verbal repartee that would enhance any fencing match or other duel in Period 'Smack Talk' to Enhance Your Fencing. At three o'clock the second class on Morris Dancing by Mistress Vashti was held; those willing to learn and perform the dance as part of the Mummer's Play that evening being instructed on the moves and use of sticks and bells. The final hour of the day the room was used as a Practice Hour for the Variety Show and Mummer's Play. TH Lady Amelia and Mistress Vashti were there to get the Mummer's Play ready for performance that evening.

The Italian Salon/Gaming classroom was created to relax but also learn. The room would be available for open gaming (period games) all day. At ten o'clock Marie Isabelle Taillor gave a history of courtesans, pick-up lines, and banter that would have been used in their profession entitled Courtesan Pick-Up Lines. At eleven o'clock Lady Giada Alberti gave a class on how to 'be' in your persona, Persona 101, followed by a panel discussion during the last portion of the class. The panel included Mistress Isolde, Baron Finn, and Lady Sugawara.

After lunch Lady Giada taught Italian Gaming covering Sicilian chess, draughts, basset, cuckoo, and Morris. TH Lord James provided the chess set and extra games to round out the gaming selection and enhanced the atmosphere greatly. The final three hours of the period were spent in the Enchanted Gardens, an Italian Salon, for all to enjoy and relax in while playing in persona.

The Non-European Dance classroom was for Middle Eastern dance. Maria A'isha Castraria Estrada de Merdia began the day with an overview of dance and music in Bedouin life with a practicum entitled Bedouin Dance. TH Lady Zhara um Nikko taught a party dance that women and men could do together called Dabke – Arabic Line Dancing. Countess Beatrix concluded the morning with Yoga for Dancers, a brief history of yoga today and in the Middle Ages with 30 to 45 minutes of practicum.

After lunch Mistress Isolde die Grau aus dem Lebendhertz taught Beginning Middle Eastern Dancing. Maria A'isha gave a repeat performance of Bedouin Dance. Mistress Isolde then taught Veil Work and Zill Techniques. The day concluded with Duchess Illissa the Nightwatcher's Dance Class.

The European Dance classroom began with Mistress Rosalind's Creating an SCA Ceremony class. She covered the research and background used to create her elevation ceremony. Master Rory ua Riada then followed with two classes to close out the morning. The first was SCA Culture Dances, teaching or refreshing the memory on some dances that are SCA folk dances now based on tradition and desires. The six dances that would be looked at, time and attendance numbers permitting, were Hole in the Wall, Earl of Salisbury, Trenchmore, Maltese Branle, Official Branle, and John Tallow's Canon. The second class was So You Think You Can Dance: Youth Dance Class, covering a variety of dances based on the ages and attendance numbers of the youth and children.

After lunch Mistress Gwyneth called Amber covered Traditional SCA Dances with Non-Traditional Music. Selections might include John Tallow's Canon performed to My Umbrella by Rihanna, Aengus Reel performed to Boom Boom Pow by the Black Eyed Peas, and Earl of Salisbury's Pavane performed to the Game of Thrones theme.

Lady Rose Eriksdottir followed this with an European Dance Class covering several English Country dances. The final two hours of the day were to have been the GA Choir Rehearsal led by TH Lord Iain. Unfortunately he was not able to attend due to a family visit.

Baroness Medb ingen ui Mael Anfaid, TH Lord James en le Breres, and Master Rory represented the Shire of Ardanroe at the event. Baroness Medb was one of the Queen's Chancellors and spent much of the day as entourage to HRM Muirgen. TH Lord James was one of the entourage for the Prince and Princess and spent much of the day shadowing HRH Hiromoto, when the Prince was not with Princess Kimiko. Rory spent the day in classes.

Lady Eowyn's Beginner Recorder had a total of six gentlefolk including Eowyn. Tomas and Rory were the men; Eowyn, Elizabeth Theilman, Mistress Alysia, and TH Lady Morin were the women. A major lesson learned

was that it is hard to go from a brass instrument to a wind instrument. Rory had too much air and could not play the soprano recorder, which is the one most commonly sold as the starter instrument. Instead he used the tenor, the largest size before going to the ultra-expensive bass. The tenor and soprano recorders have the same fingering with the tenor. The tenor is one octave lower than the soprano with the low note being C. The alto recorder that falls between soprano and tenor, and the sopranino, which is like the piccolo, above the flute, have the same fingering but are an octave apart with the low note being F. The group learned the notes to play Lightly Row, a song arranged by D.R. Bellwood. Eowyn and Elizabeth would play the first descant; Alysia and Morin the second descant; and Rory the drone. Tomas had other obligations that evening and would not be able to perform as part of Eowyn's Beginner Recorder Class Recital. Those interested in continuing were encouraged to look on Amazon.com for the Yamaha brand of the plastic recorders – sopranos usually being around \$10 and altos around \$14. Rory was encouraged to look for a tenor.

SCA Culture Dances had four attendees, Rory the instructor and two ladies and one gentleman. Despite the small number they were able to go through Hole in the Wall, Earl of Salisbury's Pavane, Maltese Branle, Official Branle, and walk through the figures of Trenchmore. John Tallow's Canon was not covered due to time constraints. Four teenagers attended So You Think You Can Dance: Youth Dance Class. These were Ariadne de Ravenna's children and Elisabeth Theilman's children and others. With three girls, one boy, and Rory as instructor, they covered Tangle Branle, Maltese Branle, Black Nag, Clog Branle, and the Washerwoman's Branle. The kids really got into being the leader and deciding what everyone would do each time in the Clog Branle.

Lunch was offered by the Shire of Iron Ox in Room 145 on the first floor of the hotel. The first floor was actually the ground floor, one floor below the hotel's entrance. The hotel's entrance was the Lobby floor, but did have rooms in addition to the registration desk, meeting rooms being used for the classes, and lobby where the breakfast buffet was held. The first floor had the door leading to the swimming pool. The swimming pool was open all day for anyone wishing to swim. The Companions of the Silver Lamp held a meeting by the swimming pool at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Lunch was a mix of items donated by the Iron Ox Shire members. There was sweet and unsweetened tea, buns for sandwiches of hot or cold meats, assorted cookies, spicy and mild curry, chips, fruit, and other items. During the lunch hour, some went out to nearby restaurants like Wendy's. But many stayed on-site and ate the food the Shire had provided. It was actually quite peaceful outside at one of the tables by the pool.

The room was packed for Mistress Amber's A Medieval/Modern Mash Up of Traditional SCA Dances with Non-Traditional Music. The group danced the Korabushka twice to *Poker Face* from *The Fame* by Lady Gaga. The second time it was performed, Queen Muirgen took part in the dance with Master Rory as her dance partner. I am told that Baroness Medb recorded the performance and sent it to Baron Ifor. The Aengus Reel was danced to *Boom Boom Pow* from *The E.N.D.* by The Black Eyed Peas. The Earl of Salisbury Pavan was danced to the Theme from the HBO TV Series *Game of Thrones* by Ramin Djawadi, featuring Dominik Hauser. For this dance an extra figure was added due to the music. This was added at the start immediately after the 8 count intro/reverence. The sixteen counts were two sets of 8 to switch sides with your partner and return back to your place. This broke down to the following:

- 2 counts – single left toward partner
- 2 counts – single right toward partner
- 4 counts – double left (partners pass each other on the left and exchange places, turning to face each other on the last count)
- 2 counts – single left toward partner
- 2 counts – single right toward partner
- 4 counts – double left (partners pass each other on the left and exchange places, taking hands to return to original position facing the front of the hall)

Once this inserted 16 count figure was completed, the dance was then performed as normal. And wow! The Game of Thrones theme is the bomb!! Mistress Amber says it has replaced the old music for Earl of Salisbury in Meridies. I hope that it is used at Coronations in Gleann Abhann as it rocks! The group danced this twice to get the feel for the added figure and new music.

Due to time constraints John Tallow's Canon had to be done as a demonstration to the class rather than taught to everyone. Mistress Alysia and Master Rory became the second couple of the four dancers, Mistress Amber and Lord Sven being the first couple, and performed the dance to My Umbrella from the album Good Girl Gone Bad by Rihanna, featuring Jay-Z. It was a good thing that Queen Muirgen and Baroness Medb had left, because Alysia and Rory were grooving and would have made another wild recording by the Royal Chancellor.

Lady Rose had CD problems. Rory had brought all his CDs and tapes so that Rose would have music for the European Dance Class. The five dances she planned to cover, time permitting, were Gathering Peasecods,

Gelosia, Gey Gordon, Heart's Ease, and Ruffy Tufty. The first one she taught was Gey Gordon, which, after Mistress Amber's class, just about finished off everyone. The next one was Gathering Peasecods. She concluded with Heart's Ease which was similar to Ruffy Tufty. I was fortunate to have TH Lady Melisant le Piryere and TH Lady Brigida Ingvarsdottir as dance partners in this class.

The Morris Dance Part Two was a fun class taught by Mistress Vashti. The bells used in the dance were on straps buckled around your leg below the knee, so that they would jingle as you hop-skipped the dance steps. Sadly the bells did not want to stay on the straps and many fell off during practice. I think only one bell fell off of a strap during the evening performance. Sticks or rods were used by the Morris dances to complete the figures with the dancers partnering up to strike the sticks together at the top and bottom, one dancer striking the top of the other dancer's stick and the other dancer then striking the bottom of the first dancer's stick. Another figure was to hold the stick with both hands parallel to the floor and have the partner strike it, and then repeat that with the partner now holding the stick and the first holder striking it.

My day of classes concluded by sitting in for a little bit on the panel discussion about period vs. non-period non-European dance in the SCA. This was interesting because it looked not just at Arabic/Middle Eastern dance but also at Hindi dance and asked what in Chinese and Japanese performance would constitute dance in period.

Many departed to local restaurants for dinner. I partook of the Popcorn and Wine (or Soft Drinks) Social Hour offered by the hotel at five o'clock along with snack foods I had packed for the weekend.

At six forty-five court opened in what had been the European Dance and Bardic rooms. Queen Muirgen was joined by Prince Hiromoto and Princess Kimiko. Lord Christof de Wynter called Wolf and Lord Michael were the court heralds. Her Majesty apologized for being late in arriving and missing much of the morning classes, but had a lot of fun dancing the Korobushka to Lady Gaga with Rory in Mistress Amber's class. She attended other classes that afternoon and enjoyed the day of fun before the upcoming trip to Pennsic War XL. Their Royal Highnesses expressed happiness at the great day and the joy of being in air conditioning during this very hot summer.

At this point Master Erik waved his hand and said he was sorry, but Her Majesty had entourage carrying a weapon when they were not of rank to do so. Everyone looked at Baron Dagan who held the sword of state. But he was of rank to carry arms in the presence of the Crown. It was Thomas Blackhand, who wore a rapier as the Queen's guard this evening. He was called forth and received an Award of Arms. Her Majesty confessed that it was a plan!

Seven gentlefolk then came forth to swear the oath of fealty. About five came up as first event attendees to be recognized by the Queen with tokens of affection.

The Order of the Laurel was then summoned. Mistress Jennet whispered something to the Queen. They need to cloth someone who is naked! Sir Caillin Mac Leoid was summoned. He won the Laurel's Tournament of Champion qualifying tourney and was the Laurel's Champion. Unfortunately he had not been able to attend the actual Tournament of Champions event. At this time the Laurels presented Sir Caillin with most, if not all, of the new garb promised to him. This included a hat, undertunic, belt, and banner. Those present were Mistress Isolde die Graue aus dem Lebendhertz, Mistress Arielle de Brabazon, Master Erik of Telemark, Mistress Serita Vashti al Coya, Mistress Brighid Olesdottir of Loch Ree, Mistress Alysia Gabrielle de Fougères, Master Finn Normansson, Mistress Jennet of Tewkesbury, Mistress Rebecca with the Greyhound, Mistress Rosalind bint Mihrimah, Dame Etheldred NicEoghainn, and Mistress Gwyneth Carr. In addition, visiting Laurels from outside the Kingdom were Mistress Edwina Dirks Sterne and Mistress Gwynneth Annora known as Amber.

Mistress Rosalind bint Mihrimah was summoned. The Order of the Diamond Chalice was called up. Twelve were present, Ariadne de Ravenna, Barbara Sterling, Brigida Ingvarsdottir, Danielle de la Roche, Etheldred NicEoghainn, Frederick Alton, Mahsheed Leily, Medb ingen ui Mael Anfaid, Morgana of the Mist, Morin ingen Ruairc, Rebecca with the Greyhounds, Rory ua Riada. Rosalind was inducted into the Order and received hugs from everyone. The scroll presented was by Robert of Cleveland and Baroness Alda, now residing in Trimaris.

The Order of Ares was summoned. Sir Caillin was the only one present other than His Highness. The Queen had received a letter that the Order was not complete and one amongst the populace was to fill the gap. Baron Dagan ibn Yushuf ibn Hilal became a member of the Order. Her Majesty revealed that she had been sneaky again. She had called to see if he would be at the Academy as she needed a sword of state and Dagan brought Grey Niche's. The beautiful scroll presented to him was done by his wife, who had pretended that it was for Mistress Rosalind.

For mega-service to Her Majesty, Rose Eriksdottir received the Onyx Chalice. Barbara Sterling, the Queen's associate sister, either having been or currently were belted to Mistress Daphne, received the Jeweled Ring for service to the Queen during her reign. Barbara was proclaimed Muirgen's baby sister.

Mistress Edwina Dirks Sterne was then summoned. She explained about the silent auction held during the day for al-Mahala. It was to raise funds for the dance floor at Gulf Wars. People could see her after court to pay for

and collect the items they had won in the auction. Her Majesty asked Mistress Edwina what had brought her to Gleann Abhann for this event. She had an apprentice, TH Lady Zhara, who was teaching at the event. Zhara um Nikko was called up. Her Majesty revealed that she was so happy walking the dark side. Once again, plans came together. The members of the Order of the Silver Lamp were called up and there were LOTS of them here! Zhara was inducted into the Silver Lamp and received hugs.

The Order of the Queen's Blade was summoned. Four were present, Master Erik, Mistress Alysia, TH Lord Frederick, and Lord Tomas. They were instructed to go forth and find someone who is worthy. Aron the Dane became the next member of the Queen's Blade.

Baroness Isabella Marjorie D'Arques and Baroness Medb ingen ui Mael Anfaid were called forth. Her Majesty said, "These are my tormentors, her Chancellors." For their service to the Queen, they each received the Jeweled Ring.

Lord Seamus, autocrat, then announced two lost and found items he had and that a metal key was at the bar or the front desk. Last year 97 people attended the event. This year 105 attended a new record. He thanked all who had attended. He thanked the instructors. He thanked the Shire of Iron Ox for helping him autocrat the event. He thanked the royalty for coming. The Queen said, "but before you go" and told the story of trying to email him and that his emails were responded to by his secretary. "How do I get a secretary," asked the Queen. His secretary, his wife, Sorcha, was presented. Her Majesty revealed that after much research, she got to do some pretty awesome things wearing this hat, and Sorcha received an Award of Arms.

The call for any further business was made. TH Lady Amelia stated this was the last call for names of performers in the Variety Show, which would start ten minutes after court ended, based on Her Majesty's pleasure. Baroness Barbara announced thanks that Mistress Brigit was finally able to get around again. Court was then closed. It was seven-forty.

The Variety Show began at five after eight. Juan Carlos and Baron Cucullin were the emcees. Baroness Barbara Sterling at this time announced the winner of the guessing game. The prize was M&H's instead of M&M's in honor of Their Majesties Muirgen and Havordh. The candy would be called M&H's forever or until their reign ends. The actual number in the guessing game was 414. Lady Eowyn de Weaver had guessed 412 and was the winner.

Signora Giada Alberti was the first performer in the Variety Show. She told the story of 'the Merchant and his Parrot' followed by the reading of a poem, 'Love is the Master' written as a letter from an admirer. Juan Carlos and Baron Cucullin then began 'Great Moments in Medieval Television' which would appear throughout the show. The first was 'Christopher Columbus and his Friend' as portrayed by Captain James T. Kirk and Mr. Spock.

Mistress Isolde was the second performer with a belly dance using fans. She belly danced her reverence to the Queen, Princess, and Prince, winking at the Prince at the end of her bows. In addition to using an actual fan, she also used her skirt as a fan in the dance.

Lady Eowyn de Weaver performed a demonstration of the four types of recorders, entitled 'the Sounds of the Dreaded Recorder'. She played four separate pieces, each for a different recorder. The first was a Dutch song on the soprano. The song was sad for it was about two lovers who used a small bird to send messages. One day the bird died and the lord thinking his love no longer loved him married another. She in turn died of a broken heart on learning he had married someone else. The next song was the music for 'Hole in the Wall' on the soprano. Then she performed a song on the alto. And finally 'Winter is Gone' on the tenor.

Juan Carlos and Baron CuCullin gave a joke about renewable energy to prevent global warming, which had to do with burning witches.

Mistress Edwina and TH Lady Zhara um Nikko performed a Hindi poem. Zhara would say the line in Hindi and make the gestures and facial expressions. Edwina would then translate the line in English. It was only four or five lines but very powerful.

Senor Juan Carlos Santiago de Riaz performed a Scottish song.

Eowyn's Beginner Recorder Class Recital performed the music to Lightly Rowing.

The next 'Great Moments in Medieval Television' was the Crusades done to I Love Lucy.

Lady Emma Daventry performed the poem that she won the Kingdom Poet Laureate contest with. It was 'the Wolf and the Sparrow'.

Lady Ginevra Ramberti performed an Irish jig on her violin.

TH Lady Melisant le Piryere sang 'The Dream' written by a female Ansteorran squire.

Baron CuCullin and Juan Carlos then sang the filk song written by CuCullin to the tune of 'Stand by your Man' entitled 'Stand by your Knight'. The Baron then recited a serious work, being a love poem he had written.

Baroness Mahseed Leily performed an Eastern dance, possibly Persian.

The last of ‘Great Moments in Medieval Television’ was the Spanish Inquisition done to an Abbott and Costello routine involving “Who, What, Which, and Why”.

Lord Sean-Patrick O’Donald sang ‘Whiskey in the Jar’ with the populace doing the chorus.

Mistress Vashti thanked all of the performers, as this was the best variety show ever. The final performance would be a small Mummer’s Play with a Morris Dance; the play being ‘Robin Hood’. A lot of people were involved in the play. Juan Carlos was Robin. Sean-Patrick was Will Scarlet and the narrator. Baron CuCullin was Friar Tuck. Lady Lewen was Maid Marion. Master Stephan was Little John. The Morris dancers were Robin’s merry men and Friar Tuck’s fierce some hounds. The play and dance were well received.

The Variety Show concluded with Juan Carlos and Baron CuCullin telling jokes about Laurels using a Laurel headed jester on a stick (or wand). Her Majesty quickly put a stop to the show and called for her herald. The Companions of the Order of the Laurel were summoned to decide what to do about this and court was opened. The Laurels were bid to identify the Laurel jester on the stick, which they summarily did. TH Lady Amelia van Hemessen was called up and broke down in a rush of emotion. Mistress Brigit announced to the populace that, “Her Majesty announces that at Kingdom A&S TH Lady Amelia is to be set to vigil. Please join us at that time.” Court was closed. It was nine-thirty.

With this exciting bit of business and the lateness of the evening, the Ball, Hafla and Bardic Circle were not major happenings. The Laurels whisked Amelia upstairs to party. The Hafla did take place in the Non-European Dance room. The Ball never really occurred. I am not sure about the Bardic Circle. The special viewing of the movie *Cagin of Chrysaint* did occur as the film was set up in the Theatre room, but I did not stay awake to watch it. People gathered in the lobby to relax, talk, and revel before heading to bed.

On Sunday morning a Regional Fighter Practice was held at the Smith Wills Stadium Park from eight o’clock to eleven o’clock. This was coordinated by Lady Sarah Tereza for the light fighters and Lord Christof de Wynter for the heavy fighters. Turnout was good but practice ended a little bit early due to lightning and the threat of storms.

I was able to meet with my youngest associate after the Variety Show and again the next day at the regional fighter practice, where Lady Ashikaga Nanban Shimofuri submitted a Portuguese name for registration. And then it was off to home after a wonderful and refreshing artistic weekend.



#### **Penncis War 40, July 29-August 14, Kingdom of Aethelmearc**

Avice, Symon, and Ebrahim attended the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Penncis War in the state of Pennsylvania. During Gleann Abhann court, Symon received a Grant of Arms.

