

FAR

WEST

CIDINGS



Oct

ASXXVIII

93

PALATINE BARONY OF THE FAR WEST

Cameron +

Empty shells

BARON AND BARONESS
Lord Christoforo Alfonso Pallavicino da Firenze, esq.

&
Mistress Marixsa of Crawfordmuir
Chris Psquarette, Ookubo 810, Hino-cho, Gamo-gun, Shiga-ken
T529-16. H: 0748-53-3189 (phone & fax)
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町 5
51
2F
ジーンズ
コーナー
mailing list

BARONIAL OFFICERS

Seneschal *of 222-6431*
Edward Garland (Gundolphus Vestator). PSC 76 Box 8175, APO
AP 96319

Herald

Mark Anderson (Lord Bernard the Nameless). PSC 78 Box 3394,
APO AP 96326-3394. H: 0425-52-2511 ext 225-7544

Arts and Sciences

Michelle Santy (Lady Amytis de Fontaine). PSC 76 Box 5048,
APO AP 96319-5048. H: 0176-53-5181 ext 222-5709

Knight Marshal

~~Bill Fisher (Lord Horrik Stormraven). PSC 560 Box 194, APO
AP 96376-194. H: 0988-92-5111 ext 644-4513~~

Exchequer

Joyce Brown (Lady Marie da Serra da Estrella). PSC 79 Box
21451, APO AP 96364-1451. H: 0989-57-2705

Chronicler

Lee Gossett (Lord Lee Sharpeyes). DMS Kami Seya, PSC 478
Box 40, FPO AP 96313-1800 W: 0459-22-6405 or 265-8578 H:
0468-21-1944 ext 264-5766 Fax: 0462-51-1788 ext 265-8577

Scribe

Dion Gain (Sebau en el Iskandariya). PSC 80 Box 12477, APO
AP 96367-2477. H: 0989-38-1111 ext 632-3429

Constable

Bruce Brown (Lord Robert de FeCamp). (See Exchequer)

Historian

Bruce Brown (Lord Robert de FeCamp). (See Exchequer)

CANTON SENESCHALS

Chuzan

Bruce Brown (Lord Robert de FeCamp). (See Exchequer)

Eternal Winds

Michelle Santy (Lady Amytis de Fontaine). (See A&S)

Loup Marin

Alecia Anderson (Baroness Cynesige ap Caernarfon) (See Herald)

World's Edge

William Hall (Gareth of Fenby). PO Box 3263, Agana, Guam
96910. H: (671) 734-0409

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AS-DN PMO/Foster
Unit 35006 FPO AP
96373-5006

892-5111
Sabotino
Sam Allen
098-938-1111 ext-645-9563
Event -
see if fighting
where sight is.
Brighting

mailing list

Constance
〒290 1436-74-
5555

千葉県市原市
辰巳台東4-9

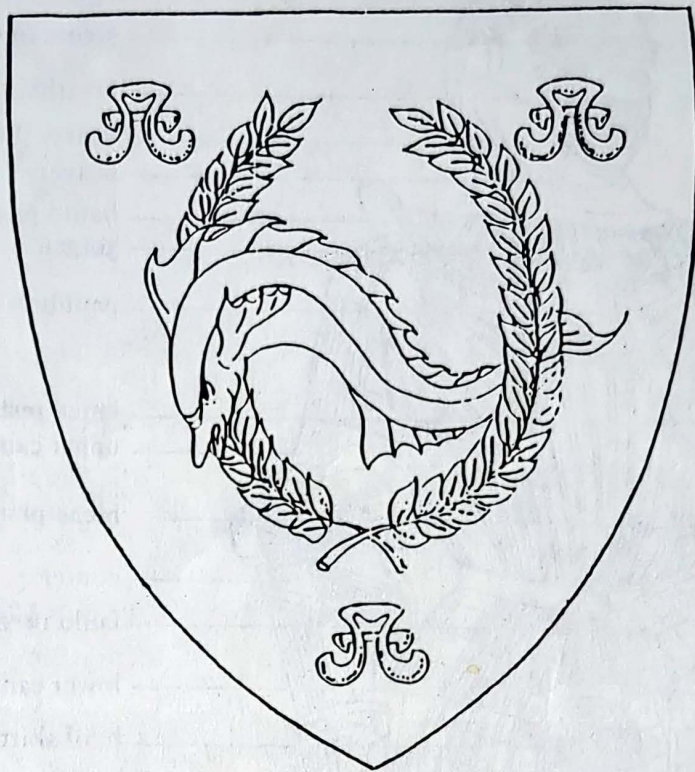
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Baronial Devise

Ed. Cameron de Halby - Autocrafting
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 rose leaf
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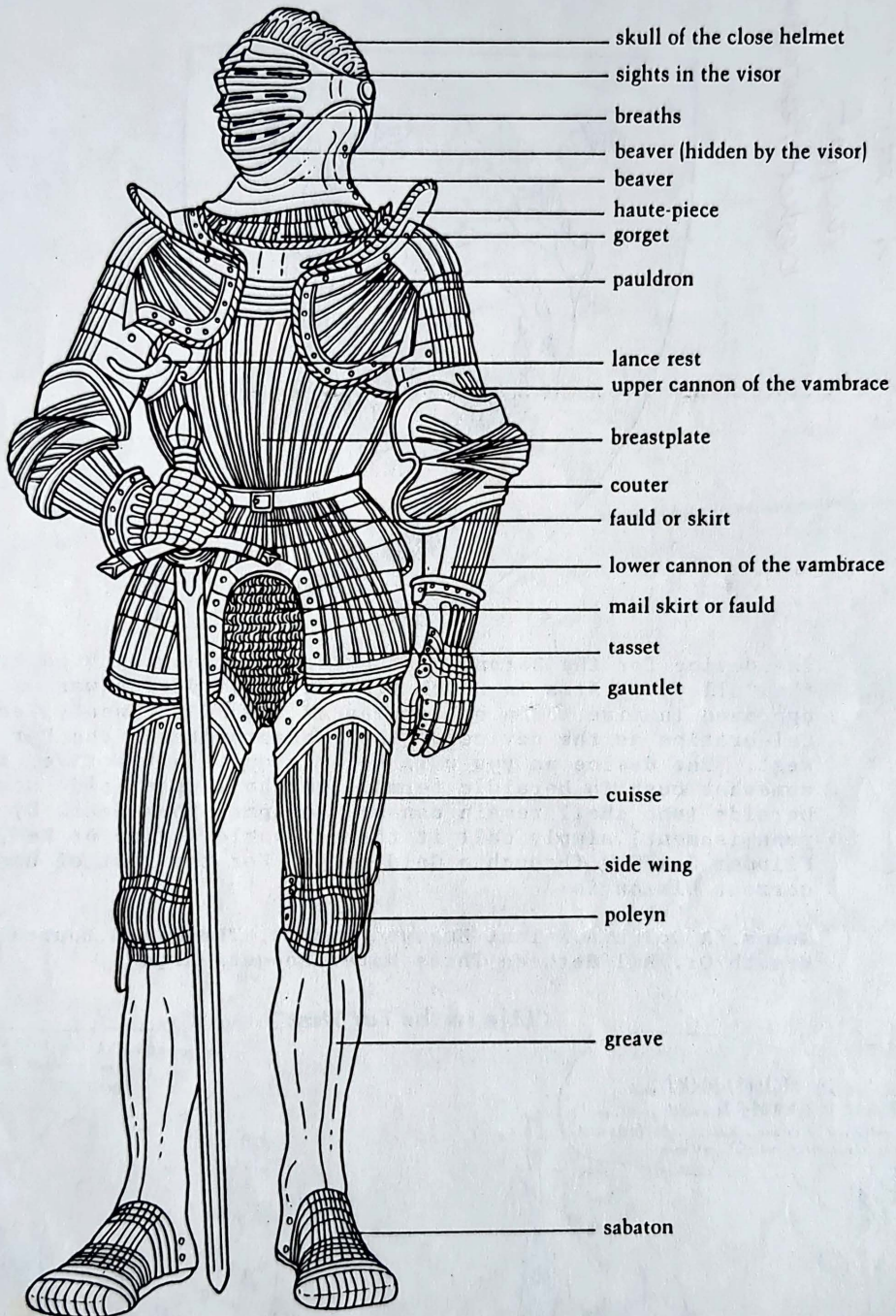
The device for the Barony of the Far West was approved by the College of Arms in March A.S. XX. The device was approved in time to be on display at the SCA's Twenty Year Celebration as the device of the Protectorate of the Far West. The device as you will note is quite attractive, if somewhat busy in heraldic terms. On the lighter side some heralds (who shall remain unnamed to spare them death by punn-ishment) simply call it the sea-world device or Red, Flipper Jumping Through a Gold Hoop. For the rest of us the correct blazon is:

Gules, A Dolphin Naiant Embowed Argent, Through a Laurel Wreath Or, All Between Three Water Bougets Argent.

"Life in the Far West"



The Parts of Armor: Front View



Maximilian Armor, Germany, 1520. The flutes or corrugations gave the armor added strength without additional weight. "Maximilian" armor is often considered to be the height of achievement of the armorer's craft.

- CANTON CHRONICLERS: To ensure the information contained in the FWT reaches all of our populace, you may reproduce anything in any of my issues in your local newsletter. If reproducing please reproduce the entire article/item not just bits and pieces of it.

- The Far West Tidings is published bi-monthly in Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec. 6 issue subscriptions are \$10.00. Send all checks or monies to the Baronial Exchequer.

- Submissions of any kind (that can be xeroxed) for future issues of the FWT are more than welcome. Any event information should reach me no later than the 25th of the month before I publish (ex: 25 Jan for the Feb issue). Send all items to the chronicler.

Unto the Populace of The Palatine Barony of the Far West does,
Ld Johann Bohrer von Elsass and Ly Du vessa MacSweeney of Cork send
fondest greetings.

Our reign has come to an end. We both have experienced the grace and courtesy of those members of the Stronghold Eternal Winds firsthand. To one and all, you have exemplified what we all picture the S.C.A. to be. You welcomed us into your homes as one would a member of their own family. Your hospitality is unrivaled anywhere. We would like to thank a few people personally. Unto Baroness Rhiannon: your grace and courtesy in the face of a raging storm has shown us why Baron Alwyn chose you as his Baroness. Unto The Honorable Lady Amytis de Fontaine: your support of us, even though you personally disagreed with us, is an example of how you exude grace and courtesy in everything you do. Both of you are the embodiment of what we mean when we say "The Middle Ages as they should have been." We were happy to see that the populace of Eternal Winds have the wisdom to follow your lead. Unto Lord Cameron de Halby: the Baronial Tournament under your expert direction will be a hard act to follow. We envy your organizational abilities. Unto Lady Dore' van der Zee: she almost leaves one speechless. Your many talents make it difficult to know where to begin. Knowing you (and partaking of the food this weekend) has been a delight to the eye, the palette and the mind.

We would also like to thank all of the Baronial Officers who served during our tenure and we know that your being here will make our successors' reign a joy to them.

Unto the Wibjorn household: Lord Erik, Lady Lisa, Lars and Sonja and also Lord Cynfor ap Meredith there can be only one thing to say to all of you that says everything - friendship.

The purpose of the S.C.A. is education. The last seven months have fulfilled that purpose for us beginning with the Tourney and Investiture. It was definitely one birthday weekend that Ly Du vessa will never forget!

For the Barony of the Far West we wish growth, prosperity and harmony. One need only look to the glowing example set by the members of Eternal Winds to teach us all the true meaning of cooperation and team work.

To our successors we leave a wish of peace and tranquility in their reign. We know the Barony has been left in capable hands, and hope you are supported as well or better than we were. We wish you also, health, happiness and long life.

Finally we will be leaving the Barony of the Far West itself soon. We will miss the friends and comrades we have made in the time we have been here. We will be remaining in the Kingdom of the West and our door will always be open to those members of the Barony of the Far West.

We remain,

In service to the Crown of the West,

Johann and Du vessa

**From His Excellency, Christoforo Alfonso
Pallavincino da Firenze, Palantine Baron of the Far
West, OPF, OAG, OBB, OAT, First Bard of Nordskogen,
esq.**

Hi.

On Saturday, October 11, AS XXVIII (1993), I ascended the baronial throne with my consort, Mistress Marixa of Crawfordmuir, at the Coronation Tournament at the Stronghold of Eternal Winds. While many of you may know Her Excellency, I myself am new to these parts. (Don't worry, I'll start using the royal "We" soon enough.)

I am 5' 10" tall, I have long brown hair and brown eyes. I am a Scorpio, with a Scorpio ascendant (Oh no! A double Scorpio!) My blood type is AB, ask the Japanese what that means, I'm not sure. The main charge on my device is a white cobra, so if you find something at an event with a cobra on it, it's probably mine. I have it on nearly anything (register what you use and USE WHAT YOU REGISTER!)

Mundanely, I teach English in a Japanese high school and junior high school in a small (pop. 20,000) town an hour north of Kyoto. I have been here since Aug. 1992, but couldn't find the SCA until this year. I am a civilian, without even DOD contacts, and am many miles away from other SCAdians. Although I am nominally a member of Loup Marin, it takes me 7 hours to get there. I be in the SCA boonies, folks.

As for the SCA, I have been a member for 8 years, since I entered college (I'm 25, turning 26 on November 6), as a member of the Barony of Nordskogen in the Middle Kingdom (Minneapolis, Minnesota). I am squired to the late Sir Angus Ulrich (NOT the evil Duke Sir Angus, a different Angus entirely!), and have participated in many aspects of SCA life, both fighting and arts&sciences.

I look forward to seeing again all those I met in Eternal Winds, and to meeting all those who could not make it to that event. Her Excellency and I have some tough decisions before us, and many responsibilities come with this office. I will try my best to be a good Baron, and even though I may make some mistakes, rest assured I have only the best intentions for the Barony in mind. However, I do need your help. Try to keep an open mind to new ideas; or old ones you don't much care for. Think about your fellow lords and ladies. Try to help out your local group and the Barony as much as you can. After all, we are all volunteers, and we are here to recreate a chivalric and happy time, and to HAVE FUN. I cannot emphasize this too much.

Also, one last thing. As a new member, I do not know many of you, and I probably do not know how you have contributed to

the group. If you want someone to receive recognition from the Barony, or the Crown, you must WRITE RECOMMENDATIONS. I like giving awards, but cannot do so if I don't know what someone has done. Remember, I'm in the boonies. Also, you can write to the Crown or me and my consort to forward to the Crown. And please, when writing recommendations, make two (2) copies, one for me and one for Her Excellency. We do not live together, and therefore request this extra step. We will be consulting each other by mail and farspeaker on all business.

Oops, I lied, one last thing, I promise. Being a civilian, I do not know the military address system and military phone numbers. Please, on all correspondence and event announcements, include the civilian address and phone number, including area code. You all have one, I know. Also, civilians, like myself, do not have easy access to American money and checks. Please, in event info, include the yen amounts. This makes it much easier on me and other non-military types. Thank you for your patience in reading this far in this rambling introduction. I promise, we'll try to keep courts shorter and less boring.

In service to the dream,

Christoforo Alfonso Pallavincino da Firenze

Christoforo Alfonso Pallavincino da Firenze,
Palantine Baron of the Far West

Address: Chris Pasquarette
Ookubo 810, Hino-cho
Gamo-gun, Shiga-ken
〒529-16 JAPAN

Feel free to write, after all,
a full mailbox is a
happy mailbox.

Phone: (0748) 53-3189 This is also a FAX machine if you
want to FAX me.



From Mistress Marixsa of Crawfordmuir, OL,
Palatine Baroness of the Far West

Greetings,

Well - this, let me tell you, was seriously something I had not anticipated. Baron Christoforo will say I lacked faith in his fighting skills, but, infact I would call it more innate pessimism attempting to conquer equally innate optimism - type A personalities are bad this way.

Anyway - here we go:

Unto the Barony -

For those of you who do not know me, I am from the Midrealm (opposite end from the Baron and in the Midrealm that means far) and have been in the SCA for, almost half of my life. I have been here in the Far West for 5 years, but, like the Baron, spent the 1st year inactive as I could not find a group. Infact, Nihonyama (now Loup Marin) had disappeared and we had to start all over again.

I have been Baroness once before with Lord Edward of Effingham, but didn't write that much, although I traveled some. This time I plan to remedy the writing part and still travel when possible and I will also happily communicate via the farspeaker.

Warning though. I am a civilian and like the Baron, have a civilian address and phone number. If you would like me to write, make sure I receive a non-military address. (Ed note: for those that don't know your bases Japanese address, just ask your bases Post Office or Supply Office). I am also a "company" English teacher. This means that my company sends me to other companies all over Tokyo to teach. It also means that I usually depart the domicile early in the morning and do not return until late. I do not have a mechanical message taker, so please, anyone wishing to consult me - or just gab - call after 10pm and if you get no answer, try again later. Calls befor midnight will wake no one up - and I do want to hear from you. The Baron and I live far, far apart and we do need things sent to us to be mailed separatly. Please stay in contact. The only way we know what you want for the Barony is if you tell us.

There will be some decisions coming up in our reign, some compromises and with luck, some new ideas that work. I know we won't please everyone, but please greet our efforts with tolerance and constructive criticism. We do promise to do our best and please remember that we are all trying in the SCA to enjoy ourselves and that we are ideally not just out for our own enjoyment, but for that of our fellow Scadians as well.

We are a Barony vast in territory, but isolated and with a still low and ever-shifting population drawn from many kingdoms. To make the SCA grow in the Far West we need to work together. Be tolerant of our efvforts, help us along and we can all have fun.

Canton Meetings

Chuzan: Sun: Fighter Practice, 3p. 1st Wed: Business meeting, 7p-9p. All other Wed: Dance Practice, 7p-9p.

Eternal Wind: Every other Saturday.

Loup Marin: 2nd & 4th Sun: Dance and Fighter Practice 2p-on. 2nd Sun: Business meeting 430p.

Warrior's Gate: Currently inactive

World's Edge: Even Tue: Business meetings. Odd Tue: Craft meetings. Sat: Armoring.

Calendar of Events

- 30 Oct: All Hallows Eve (Chuzan). Location: Kadena High School. Cost: \$5.00. Autocrat: Lady Marie da Serra da Estrela 0989-57-2705

- 31 Oct: Can't wear anything SCA Halloween party (Loup Marin). Location: Kita-Sakado Station, Saitama-ken. Cost: \$3.00. Autocrat: James de Valdez 0492-89-9895

- 21 Nov: New World Feast (Loup Marin). Location: Yokota. Autocrat: Lee Sharpeyes 264-5766

- 19 Dec: In-Garb Christmas Caroling (Loup Marin). Location: Yokota. Autocrat: Lord Cynfor ap Meredith

- 9 Jan: Twelfth Night (Loup Marin). Location: Yokota.

BARONIAL UPDATES

THE BARONEY: Our new Baron & Baroness are; Lord Christoforo Alfonso Pallavincino da Firenze, esq and Mistress Marixsa of Crawfordmuir.

Awards given by Baron Johann and Baroness Duversa the 9th day of October, A.S. XXVIII:

Order of the Sea Griffin
Amytis de Fontaine, Rebekah of Hillsvew, Lee Sharpeyes

Order of the Burdened Bouget
Rebekah of Hillsvew, Ella of the White Lilly, Michelle MacCurtin, Thomas MacCurtin, Bernard the Nameless, James de Valdez, Gabriel Alexis

Order of the Attic Helm
Francis de Orsi, Lee Sharpeyes, Haarek Stormraven

Order of the Oriental Dragon

Robert de FeCamp, Sebau en el Iskandariya

Order of the Hibiscus

Marie de Serra de Estrella, Amytis de Fontaine, Talbot Stormeagle

Order of the Empty Shell

Eugenius Magnus ap Llywd, Haarek Stormraven, Tony Pashodia

Awards given the 11th day of September A.S. XXVIII, but announced in the above courts

Order of the Empty Shell

Chryse Rapties, Dawid de Ferrera, Margaret de Ferrera, Diana de Ferrera, Ariadne de Ferrera, Blitz de Ferrera

Awards given by Baron Christoforo and Baroness Marixsa the 10th day of October, A.S. XXVIII

Ginger Flower

Cynfor ap Merideth, Eric Weavyorn

Far West Support

Derek ap Cynfor

- The new Baronial Champion is Eric Weavyorn.
- The winner of the Bardic Competition was Hjordis Liv Siv Vig Vald.

OFFICERS

- Chirurgeon: There is still a need for a Baronial Chirurgeon.
- Chronicler: I will need a replacement by April as I am leaving the Far West. Contact me if interested.

THE KNIGHT AND THE CHEMISE

The second half of the 12th century saw the most romantic and glamorous aspects of the Tournament, in the Languedoc, thanks to the splendid songs of the noble troubadours of Provence. Here is one story, which is probably true:

At a Tournament that was to last for several days, there were three young knights who all sought to wear the favors of a noble lady in the jousts. She liked them all, but couldn't decide which one should wear her favors on his arm in the lists the next day. So she said: "whichever one of you will joust tomorrow wearing my chemise instead of his hauberk, shall wear my scarf!"

They looked at each other; two of them said "No lady, you ask too much. Far too dangerous!" But the third one went down on his knee and said, "Yes, I'll wear your chemise." Then he got up, and looked her in the eye: "But I ask a favor of you in return. Will you wear that same chemise at dinner, after the jousts, instead of your gown?" "Yes", she flashed back, "I will".

So next morning he put on his shirt and his underpants, pulled on his stout leather breeches that came down below his knees, put on the mail chausses which protected his legs, and instead of putting on his aketon and his long mail hauberk, he put on the chemise. Then with his arms and shoulders protected only by his shirt, he tied the lady's scarf on his right arm, took his great helm from his squire along with his shield, and mounted his horse, taking his lance in his ungloved hand.

He ran the courses. The first came to nothing. He hit his opponent's shield, and broke his lance fairly, but the other missed him entirely. Next time, both lances were skillfully broken, with no injury; but his third opponent was a tough and experienced jouster. However, he of the chemise hit him square on the helm, and he fell backwards over his horse's crupper - but his lance point pierced the knight's unarmoured shoulder.

His squire unarmed him, dressed his wound and sewed it up, and after a rest he was ready for dinner. As he entered the hall, he saw his lady sitting at the high table, wearing her chemise as she had promised, all covered with his blood.

They both won great honor for this, but he story ends here. We are not told what happened after dinner that night.

ACTIVITIES IN FULL ARMOUR

In the Middle Ages, a man-at-arms, properly trained and fit, was expected to be able to do what is expected today of a United States Marine. Here is a list compiled by the Marshall of France in the 1380's, of some of the exercises a knight performed as a matter of course.

"He made a somersault, fully armed except for his bascinet. He leapt onto a horse without placing foot in stirrup, fully armed. With a strong man mounted on a war-horse, he leapt from the ground onto his shoulders by gripping his sleeve in one hand, without any other hold. Then, placing one hand on the saddle-pommel of a war horse and the other near the horse's ears, seizing the mane, he leapt from the ground through his arms and over the horse. Next, between two high walls an arm's length apart, he would climb to the top and down again, simply using the strength of his legs and arms - fully armed. Again, wearing a mail hauberk, he climbed up the underside of a long ladder, without using his feet, just using his hands on the rungs."

CALLIGRAPHY CONTEST
A FOURTEENTH CENTURY BOOKHAND

tñ iuf miz go ema^omz
et mis perō naz per
lonaz proceam. Supp-
wgo q sint due emā
nes pz q sint tñ due
perōne proce^oes. vma

The above (enlarged) example is a tracing of lines 10-12 of Plate 98 ("Britain, 1336") from Samuel Harrison Thomson, *LATIN BOOKHANDS OF THE LATER MIDDLE AGES, 1100-1500* (London, Cambridge University Press, 1969). The manuscript, according to the footnote, was written by Willelmus de Kyrkeby, a professional English scribe working in Paris.

The script is small and compact; there are about five lines per inch, and the distance from baseline to baseline is only twice the "o" height. The most unusual letter is the "a", which is formed by two broad parallel strokes connected with a light, angled stroke. Joins occur often between looped letters (eg, "st", "ce", "ci", etc.). The text is much abbreviated. Capital letters are found only at the beginning of sentences.

I will add a free issue to their subscription for the first person that can tell me what the lines say in English. Contest deadline; Twelfth Night. HINT: It's from a very famous English story.

SOURCES

I've indicated the prices in the catalogs with the following code: under \$20-\$, 20-40-\$\$, 40-60-\$\$\$, and over 60-\$\$\$\$.

PLATES/BOWLS

- Your local PX/BX/Exchange; theres still alot of PI stuff around.
- 3 Feather Pewter, PO Box 232, 221 Jones St, Shreve, OH 44676-0232 \$\$
- Pillaged Village, c/o Wendy Kimmel, 1304 Norwich Ln, Centerville, OH 45459 \$-\$\$
- J. Townsend, 133 N. First St, PO Box 415, Pierceton, IN 46562 \$-\$\$

FORKS/SPOONS

- Ramshead Armoury, PO Box 653, Champaign, IL 61824-0653 \$\$
- 3 Feathers Pewter \$
- Authentic Forgeries, 9312 Hayne St, Bellflower, CA 90706 \$\$
- J. Townsend \$

GOBLETS

- Das Edelweiss, PO Box 3062, Covina, CA 91722 \$\$-\$\$\$
- 3 Feather Pewter \$\$
- Authentic Forgeries \$\$
- Trobore's Leatherncraft, PO Box 13246, Overland Park, KS 66212 \$-\$\$\$
- Pillaged Village \$\$
- J. Townsend \$-\$\$

ODDS & ENDS:

- The Sano Education Foundation is building an Elizabethan style village on the grounds of the Shirakawa Cultural Center, in Shirakawa, Fukushima-ken about 144 Km from Tokyo. The village will be called "British Hills" and will have 8 houses, a pub and a craft house.

The following song was written by Baron Alwyn Stewart to a tune provided by Illyana Vasilina Alexandrova. It was composed while riding the "Iron Dragon" from Seoul to Taegu to attend the Fasching Ball.

"The Far West"

COME JOIN US NOW, A TALE WE SHALL TELL
 THE TALE OF OUR BARONY
 FAIREST AROUND, IT MAY BE FOUND
 FAR ACROSS THE SEA.

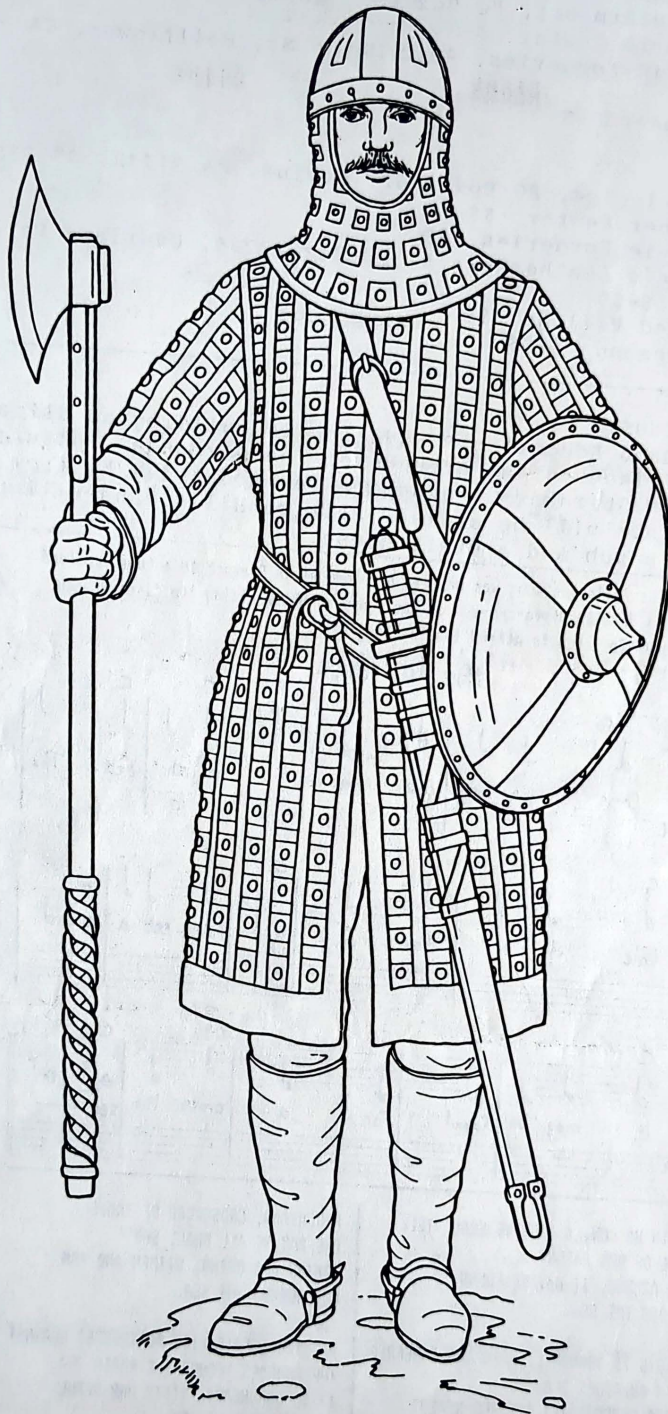
BLUE MISTS IS TRANQUIL, WARM AND CAREFREE
 AWASH IN AN AZURE SEA
 IT IS THE OLDEST, YET TIS THE NEWEST
 PART OF THE BARONY

ETERNAL WINDS LIES FAR TO THE NORTH
 AN EMERALD AMID THE SEA
 ITS A DELIGHT, THE LADIES ALL FIGHT
 THE PLACE I LONG TO BE.

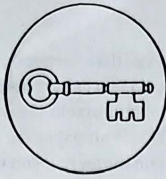
NIHONYAMA, CROSSROAD OF TRADE
 ONE DAY WE ALL SHALL SEE
 COMING AND GOING, HITHER AND YON
 OUT ACROSS THE SEA.

WARRIOR'S GATE LIES BUTTRESSED AGAINST
 THE HOARDES 'CROSS THE AMRER SEA
 IT IS OUR HEART, IT IS OUR SEUL
 IT CONTAINS THE KEY.

REMEMBER DEAR GENTLES, THE TALE WE DID TELL
 OF THIS FAIRE BARONY
 JEWELL OF THE CROWN, FAIREST ERR FOUND
 IT IS HOME TO ME.



Capetian Warrior, 10th century. This warrior wears a studded leather byrnie and is armed with a sword and battle-axe.



From the Steward

THE ART OF SCA POLITICS FOR THE NON-POLITICIAN

(Or even the anti-politician . . .)

William the Lucky and Hilary of Serendip

In the attempt to avoid anything that smacks of "politics", people often become blunt to the point of rudeness and insensitive to each other's needs. Although the word evokes images of wheeling and dealing and sneaky tricks, an adept politician has no need for unsavory tactics. You can avoid backbiting and favoritism and the other forms of obnoxious behavior often lumped in with politics under their own names, and still use true politics as a benign and constructive force.

This article presents a political toolbox - a set of techniques that will allow you to work with the people around you without creating unnecessary obstacles for your ideas. Our assumption throughout is that the goals you picture as you imagine applying our techniques really do serve the common good as well as your own welfare. If you're out for material or emotional profit at the expense of others around you, you'll need to look elsewhere for instruction — because this stuff just won't work. (If you try it with a hidden agenda, people will notice the difference!)

Listen Constructively

The first and most basic part of getting someone to listen to your ideas and arguments is to listen to his. Really listen to what he is saying -- and to what he is trying to get across, even if he is not managing to express it very well. If you just keep quiet until he finishes, then launch into your own prepared speech, it does *not* count as listening.

Pay attention to what he says (you may, after all, find that you already agree), and start your reply by summarizing what you heard. Rephrase his statement right back at him: "Let me be sure I understand. The way you see it . . . Right?" Before you present your side, give him a chance to correct your interpretation. Then begin with the areas where you're closest together, and point out the details that also let him get what he wants. In the long run, you'll get much more of what you want if you arrange things so your erstwhile opponent is also satisfied with the results.

The process of restatement, outlining areas of agreement, and advancing new possibilities works best in small stages. You may be certain that you've analyzed and solved a problem, but it's still unwise to open a discussion by taking the first ten minutes to tell your potential convert everything you've concluded. Toss the subject matter into the conversation in a fairly neutral fashion, and invite comments on it.

By the same token, if someone offers you a controversial topic, respond with a brief summary of your opinion. It's hard to work constructively if either party holds the floor for more than a minute or so at a time -- the listener's attention wanders, and points made at the beginning get lost. Take it slowly, and you'll go farther.

Know When to Stop

No matter how many wonderful arguments you've worked up, you only need the ones that gain agreement. Once someone's with you, stop urging the point -- let him sell it back to you if he still wants to talk about it, or change the subject if he wants a rest. It's entirely possible to lose someone by harping on an argument until he's sick of it.

Help People Think Well of Themselves

Everyone is the hero of his own autobiography. (This is a good thing. People live by their own views of themselves, and someone who was sure he was a villain would seek out greater villainy.) When you're dealing with the social interactions we call "politics", remember that every description of a controversy or series of events is colored by someone's heroic self-image, and that two first-person accounts can be diametrically opposed without any conscious alteration of the truth by either narrator. It is always best to read or listen with a grain of salt, and to form conclusions based on as many separate accounts as possible.

If someone's position seems untenable to you, try to work around it, rather than attacking it directly in a way that forces him to defend it. On the one hand, discussion of different aspects of the case may bring out the points that you missed, and on the other, it will be easier to work together if you haven't forced your opponent into a position where he looks foolish. As a general rule, it's always best to find solutions where all the participants look good, both to themselves and to others. Making someone "lose face" over an issue only earns you an enemy who will seek to interfere with your plans regardless of their intrinsic worth, for the simple satisfaction of making you lose face in return.

Use Reason -- Don't Abuse It

An appeal to reason may be either the most or the least useful approach in any discussion. If you are trying to get your ideas adopted on their merits, you should appeal to reason and logic. On the other hand, if the opposition to your wonderful idea has an emotional basis, you're unlikely to overcome it with pure reason addressed to the objective facts of the situation. Indeed, someone with an emotional objection will only get more emotional when faced with a determinedly logical and reasonable argument. As a rule of thumb, you should have a reasoned argument ready, but do

not insist on using it to the exclusion of the emotional concerns of those who do not immediately embrace it.

All substantial disagreements have both a logical and an emotional component to them, even those presented as purely logical. It is tempting to follow the logic in someone's exposition, and to assume that pointing out the flaws in the logical chain will be sufficient to make him see that he is mistaken. Wrong! A purely intellectual attack is likely to make a person retreat to a position based on two points: He likes his way anyway, *and* he doesn't like you because (he thinks) you think he's a dummy. From your point of view, this is not desirable. Better to restate his position -- where have we heard that before? --and let him correct the flaws in your restatement (and NEVER point out that they were in his position to begin with). If he accepts your version of his version, simply go on as though you thought it made sense, and move toward the results you want. You don't need to prove his logic wrong in order to bring out different and sounder logic, or to provide new information which supports the course of action you recommend.

Turn Away Wrath

If you grew up in a subculture where yelling and loud arguments are a normal part of life, even among friends, you may find yourself surprised and hurt when those around you mistake your invitations to cheery verbal scuffles for blood insults. By the same token, if you come from a background where people try to at least look calm under all circumstances, you may find some of your associates reacting as though they think you simply don't have any feelings.

While everyone needs to be aware of the cultural component in the behaviour of others, prudence dictates that you speak as gently and calmly as you can. Even those from obstreperous cultures are rarely disturbed by quiet discussion, and most SCA people do expect courteous restraint. A slanging match may turn those who overhear it against you and your position even if both you and the person you were arguing with were enjoying yourselves immensely. (If you are from one of the 'noisier' cultural backgrounds, and you find that the person you're talking to is looking inordinately upset, stop and ask "Have I been shouting again?" It's a hard pattern to break and an easy one to slip back into, even with the best of intentions.)

Of course, on a highly emotional issue, you may well say something less than perfectly restrained. Outbursts do happen, and they don't even necessarily harm your case. They can help to clear the air, and allow you to find a real solution to the problem at hand -- *if you rapidly and visibly haul yourself back under control*, and return to rational discussion. On the other hand, despite the benefits that can flow from a real outburst, faking one will not help you gain your point. A contrived outburst can do damage -- especially if people guess what you're up to.

In writing, even more than in speech, it is important to put your ideas and arguments calmly and clearly. People may forgive an emotional outburst in the midst of a discussion, but not in a letter. Words on paper are cold, because you've had time to think them through. If you write something hurtful, your reader will assume you meant to hurt him, and react accordingly. Take the time to review and revise after the heat of the moment has passed. Before you seal any letter written in anger, wait at least a day and read it over. And if you find yourself getting worked up again when you read it, find someone who is less emotionally involved in the dispute to help you tone it down.

Remember -- it's results that count. Be very clear on what you want to happen as a result of your letter. If you want someone to do something that will please you, do not settle for the lesser pleasure of making the person feel awful. No matter how satisfying at the moment, a nasty letter will only make things worse in the long run.



Carolingian Warrior, ca. 700. He wears a bynie made of small metal plates over a leather cuirass. He is armed with a sword and carries a leather covered shield.

from the steward



Events and Parties

My cousins, the two questions about the new Corpora that seem to come up most often are: *Just what is a "Society event," anyway?* and *Why don't we talk about "official" or "unofficial" events any more?* So this quarter my quest for Stewardly work simplification takes me back to the mechanics of the SCA.

A *Society event* is any gathering sponsored by any branch of the SCA—inter-kingdom wars, canton meetings and fighter practices, and everything in between. There are no hairs to split; if SCA officers and members get together and say they're meeting as the Society for Creative Anachronism or as one of its branches, it's a Society event. If they collect or spend any money in the course of the event, it's supposed to show up on the SCA tax return—and doesn't need to show up on their own. All their activities are bound by the relevant kingdom and SCA-wide rules. And they have the Society's full support—the SCA insurance is in force, the branch treasury is available for advance expenses, and the SCA's officers at all levels can be called on for advice about the event, or for help with any problems that may occur.

All this is true whether or not the event is on the kingdom calendar. The kingdoms control how events get onto their calendars and how much space events get in their newsletters, but as long as the Seneschal of the sponsoring branch acknowledges an event and makes an honest effort to see that all the members living in the area served by the branch are invited to attend, it's a real Society event.

However, some things can only happen if an event has been listed on the kingdom calendar and publicized in the kingdom newsletter. These include Crown and Coronet Lists, Coronations and Principality Investitures, and the proclamation of law, the appointment of Great and Lesser Officers, the establishment and advancement of branches, and the presentation of individual awards and titles. This helps ensure that anything with a long-range effect on the Society gets done out in the open, so all interested parties have a chance to attend and comment. In addition, to simplify the administration of the insurance policy, I normally order insurance certificates only for events publicized in the kingdom newsletter—but the Kingdom Seneschal can intercede for a locally-publicized event in an emergency.

Under the old Corpora, the SCA only accepted responsibility for "official" events, meaning events that were listed on the kingdom calendar and announced in the kingdom newsletter. Everyone knew branches did lots of other stuff, but those events and meetings weren't quite real; they were

"unofficial." No one could figure out exactly how far SCA rules applied to such events, and there was a feeling that the SCA could somehow disown them if they got out of hand.

Around the time we started work on the new Corpora, the notice for a big baronial anniversary fell out of its kingdom newsletter. The autocrat needed an insurance certificate, but our rules said he wasn't eligible for coverage. When I tried to explain the problem to the broker, he said we should ignore it. He advised that it didn't make sense—neither the insurance company nor the park department would ever believe it wasn't an SCA event, despite the missing newsletter notice, because SCA officers were spending SCA money to get SCA members together. I drafted new rules to say when an "unofficial event" was really an SCA function, but the Seneschal of Ansteorra pointed out that we wouldn't need any special rules if we just stopped talking about "unofficial" events. The Board and I boggled a bit, but agreed that we either sponsor something or we don't, and the same term does work for everything. Now the things that used to be restricted to "official" events have to happen at events publicized in the kingdom newsletter, but we don't go cross-eyed trying to tell them apart.

So what if you want a gathering that isn't a Society event and doesn't follow Society rules? Fine! The SCA doesn't regulate your outside life, and you can hold all the private parties you please. Even medieval-theme parties. Just keep them separate from the SCA: plan them on your own time, not at SCA branch meetings; raise and spend your own money on them, without using an SCA bank account to avoid taxes; and reserve the site in your own name, not that of the SCA or any of its branches. You may even be able to use a kingdom newsletter to invite people to your party (as long as you make it clear that it is a private party, not an SCA event), but don't assume you have a right to do so. It's up to the editor to decide whether or not the party reflects credit on the SCA and is of interest to the members, and also to decide whether or not to charge advertising rates for the announcement.

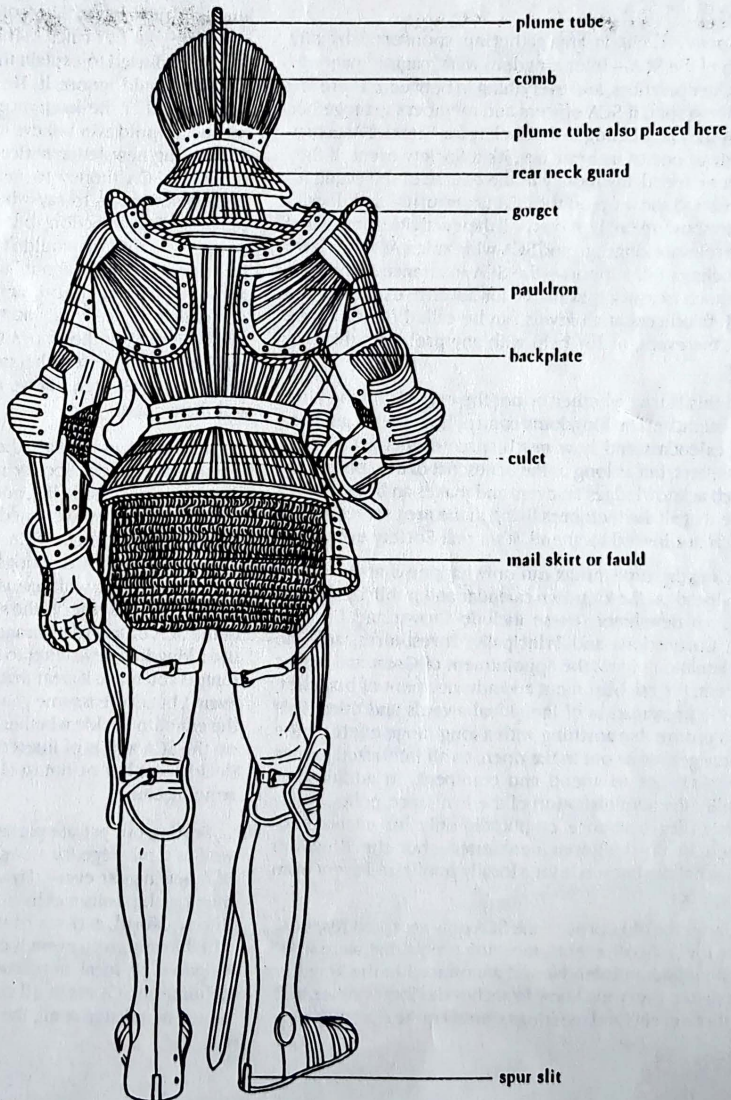
Sorting out private parties and SCA events is a duty as well as a privilege for newsletter editors at all levels. The SCA gets bigger every day—we're pushing 17,000 on the membership rolls and have over 600 branches around the Known World, and we have got to be able to figure out whether any given event is ours or not. The write-up in the kingdom or local newsletter is one of the main points defining an SCA event. (If an event is too small to show up in any newsletter at all, the branch Seneschal's notes and

FROM THE STEWARD

calendar are what govern—so those records need to be clear enough to answer any questions that may come up!) A proper newsletter notice identifies the branch sponsoring the event—that is, anything from a canton to a kingdom, but not an incipient branch, and not a household or a private guild. The sponsor may use an incipient branch, a household, or some other subgroup to organize and run the event, and the notice can give them credit for their work—but the sponsor has to be a full-status branch, and the income and expenses have to run through an SCA bank account.

It's a grand thing to have hundreds of branches flung across half the world, all playing essentially the same game. However, to keep up that network, the branches have to pay attention and make sure that they *are* playing essentially the same game, and that cuts down a bit on local spontaneity. But not all that much. Just keep track of when you're doing things as the SCA and when you're not—and remember to call it a private party when you get together outside the umbrella of the SCA! ✚

The Parts of Armor: Rear View





- Double left
1. step left
 2. step right
 3. step left
 4. move right foot so it joins the left (feet together). After joining the feet, first rise on the tiptoes then sink (descend) so heels are flat.

PAVAN
BELLE QUI TIENT MA VIE

thanks to
Boheund von Breifshalen

Reverence

- I S_L S_R D_L (forward)
S_R S_L D_R (forward)
- II S_L S_R D_L (forward)
S_R S_L D_R (back)
- III S_L S_R D_L Woman circles counterclockwise about man and returns to her original position in 16 beats
S_R S_L D_R
- IV S_L S_R D_L Man circles clockwise about woman and returns to original position in 16 beats
S_R S_L D_R

FEFEGT I through IV

END WITH REVERENCE

Abbreviations:

- D = double
S = single
L = left
R = right

- Single left
1. step left
 2. move right foot so it joins the left (feet together). After joining the feet, first rise on the tiptoes then sink (descend) so heels are flat.

To perform the above movements when designated Right, reverse right and left in the given directions.

REVERENCE a bow (gentlemen) or a curtsey (ladies) utilized to begin or end a dance. The men withdraw the left foot behind the right, bending the knees, then straighten them so they return to the initial standing position. The women may or may not move the left foot (if so only slightly) depending on their need for balance.

BELLE QUI TIENT MA VIE

Orchographie, 1577



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