

FAR

WEST



CONTENTS



Dec 93

BARON AND BARONESS

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FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Changes in Membership Requirements

What follows are some of the modifications of the Society's governing documents that were adopted during 1993.

1. What are the membership requirements for holding office?
Officers may be paid members of any type, as long as the residence where they live receives at least one copy of the kingdom newsletter.

The requirement that some types of officers must be subscribing members has been abandoned. The change also applies to royal lists - both members of a competing couple may be associate or family members, as long as they each meet the newsletter in the house requirement.

2. What is the new rule on membership for combat?

As of 1 January 1994, all authorized participants in SCA combat and related activities will need to:

- a) Be current paid members of the Society, AND
- b) Have valid combat waivers on file with the Membership Service Office.

The rule applies to armored combat, marshalling etc... in combat. Current members who intend to take part in any of these activities after the first of January should fill out the new waiver and request replacement membership cards from the Registry now.

3. Is there a grace period for the combat-membership transition? NO

4. Do I have to join the SCA before I start training for combat?

No. Local marshals may maintain trainee-waiver files at their fighter practices. Non-member trainees must have waivers on file at every practice where they participate, and may not be permitted to engage in combat or related activities at Society events other than local fighter practices.

FROM THE BARON

Well, now it's that time of year to be thinking of the next Baronial Tournament, so in this issue is the official rules. It will be a Martial..ouch!ooh!...sorry, an A&S Tournament. We (well mainly the Baroness) have tried to simplify it a bit to make it more accessible and more in line with Kingdom A&S standards. Get a copy of the Kingdom A&S Criteria from your Minister of Arts/Sciences. These are the judging standards. Remember, your work will be judged against the criteria, not against other peices (with the exception of Fighting), so start work now. NOTE: Fighting

is an ART. A tourney will be held (either double-elim or round robin, depending on the number of A&S fighters) and the ranking will be used as the score for that A&S category.

Also, on the second day will be a Tournament to determine the Baronial Martial Champion. This is being changed to a one-year (2-reign) job. If the Champion leaves the Barony or becomes Baron/ess or Consort, the runner-up becomes champion, as per Miss America rules. During Martial Baronials, an A&S champion will be chosen, also for a year. Thus, at Baronials, there will always be fighting and A&S, with the coronet and championship alternating between the two. Basically, I like a whole lot of people to be standing up with the Herald, Martial Champ. and Us at court. It makes us feel less lonely. If you have any good ideas for a cool name for the A&S, and what standard they should use, please let us know. (I want to call the Martial Champ "The Warlord of the Far West" but I want to have something equally nifty of the A&S Dude/tte.)

Included, at no extra cost, in this issue should also be changes to Baronial Laws 'n Customs. These include the changes listed above, as well as others, to make life a little simpler, and more fun. Any questions? My number is listed in the front, and my phone is also a FAX.

WE NEED BIDS FOR THE NEXT BARONIALS!!!! ASAP!!! We will need space, with tables,, for A&S judging, as well as fighting space. Get a move on, people!

(more baronial ranting and raving)

WRITE RECOMMENDATIONS!!!! ASAP!!!! You know how your neighbors are improving life in the SCA and the Far West, but We don't! Let Us Know! Of course, it is will known that I, your lovable Baron, is indeed psychic. However, my powers only have a 200km range. Thus, all the Far West groups are beyond my mystical senses.

At Yokota, on November 21, we only gave out a couple of awards. I like giving awards, but cannot give them if I don't know who to give them to. A list of Baronial and Kingdom awards should be in this issue. Tell your friends; tell your enemies; tell your enemy's friends; tell your friend's...well, you get the picture. All it takes is an envelope and some stamps, and a couple of minute's time. Also, let us know when your members are to be transferred out, so we can give Empty Shells.

Lastly (hurray!) Eternal Wind, Chuzan, World's End, and Nihonyama should have 2 belt favors (lovingly crafted by Ld. Johann) for the Baronial Guard. Please hold an internal tourney to determine the Guard. Wear these favors with pride, as they come from our hands. Also, when we have court, Guard members should process with the Baron and Baroness, and stand at court. (Yes, if I had my way, there'd be more court members than populace, Isn't it grand?) To my knowledge, only Nihonyama has chosen their Guard members; Lds. Bernard the Nameless, and James de Valdez. Fight, win, and guard. It's as simple as that. Well, that's all for now. Thank you for your support.

+ *Christoforo Alfonso Pallavincino da Firenze* +

Signor Christoforo Alfonso Pallavincino da Firenze, Palatine Baron of the Far West

- **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.

ATTENTION: Your subscription will expire after you receive the APRIL issue.

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.

Nihonyama: 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

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

- 9 Jan: Twelfth Night (Nihonyama). Location: Yokota. Autocrat: Lady Marie ferch Cadfael

BARONIAL UPDATES

THE BARONEY:

- Bids are now being accepted from the cantons for the hosting of the April Baronial Tournament. The Tournament will be an Arts and Science's Tourney and will be held during the second weekend of April. Any canton wishing to submit a bid, please send two copies; one to the Baron and one to the Baroness.

- Though an oversight the following awards were not listed in the last issue:

Awards given by Baron Christoforo and Baroness Marixsa the 9th day of October, A.S. XXVIII at the October Baronial Tournament:

Order of the Burdened Bouquet:

Kurtz Fitz-Osborn, Adrienna Keira Tenour, Watali

Awards given by Baron Christoforo and Baroness Marixsa the 21st day of November, A.S. XXVIII at Nihonyama's New World Feast:

Order of the Burdened Bouquet:

Cynesige Ap Caernarfon

Order of the Attic Helm:

Johann Bohrer von Elsave

Order of the Empty Shell:

Johann Bohrer von Elsave, Davessa Mac Sweeney

Members of the Baronial Guard:

Bernard the Nameless, James de Valdez

- Nihonyama's name change submission to make us officially Loup Marin was shot down by the College of Heraldry. Another submission will be going in shortly. Until such as that happens the chronicler will list them by the name the group was formed under in 1987 and re-started in 1989.

OFFICERS

- Chronicler: A letter was sent to all the local seneschals requesting their help in finding a replacement for me.

THE SYMBOL OF THE GLOVE

Fairs were always held in traditional places and were open for a fixed number of days as granted by the King and Queen. During the time of the fair a white glove was hung out at the prison for all to see. While the glove remained posted no one could be arrested or thrown into prison for owing debts. This was to encourage merchants to come to the fair. Many of them had huge debts and would have been thrown immediately into debtors prison under normal circumstances.

But when the fair was on and the glove was up, merchants had a chance to sell wares and make money so that they could pay back their debts and not go to prison. The glove remained up for two days after the fair, which meant that some people left town with pouches full and debts still unpaid. Shire "Reeves" (local officials whose title was eventually changed to sheriff) would chase them down to get their proper due, or dues. Eventually fairs came up with a new system; merchants were required to pay their fees up front, before the fair began, but the symbol of the Glove remained, eventually becoming the symbol that a fair was being held.

BARONIAL AND KINGDOM LEVEL AWARDS

BARONIAL

Awards:

Order of the Sea Griffon. This award recognizes those who are the very ideal of what the gentry of the current middle ages should be. It was established to recognize members of the populace who have made great sacrifices of themselves in service to the Barony, who have demonstrated great courtesy, chivalry, and grace at all times, and who have achieved much in the arts and sciences.

Order of the Burdened Bouget. This is the Baronial service award. It was established to recognize members of the populace who have made great sacrifices of themselves in service to the Barony.

Order of the Attic Helm. This is the Baronial award given to recognize fighters of high calibre. It was established to recognize members who, in addition to fighting skills, train new fighters and show chivalry on and off the field.

Order of the Oriental Dragon. This is the Baronial award given to recognize great skills in the arts or sciences. It is given to those who both do and teach.

Order of the Hibiscus. This is the Baronial award established to honor those members of the Barony who are at all times examples of courtesy and grace.

Order of the Empty Shell. This is the Baronial award established to honor those members of the Barony who have participated in the Barony's various activities thereby enriching it. This order is only given to members who are leaving the Barony.

Honors:

The Ginger Flower. This honor is presented to fighters whose prowess on the field of battle is exceeded only by their ability to die with panache and flair.

Baronial Gratitude. This honor is presented to those who have through some special deed or service made life easier for the Coronet.

Far West Support. This honor recognizes continued work for the growth of the Barony in such diverse areas as autocratting, running demos, feastcratting or gold key and generally lending a helping hand where needed.

Kingdom Awards and Orders

Award of Arms (AA, AdA). Given out by the Coronet or the Crown, gives a person the "right to bear Arms." The recipient is known as an armiger and may be called Lord ____ or Lady _____. The first-level reward. Mostly left to the Coronets to give, except for people who live in the the Marches and so aren't in any Principality. A pre-printed scroll is given.

Leaves of Achievement. There are two kinds of Leaves:

1. *Leaf of Merit (OLM).* Given out by the Crown or may be given by the Coronets with the Crown's permission, it's for service to the Kingdom. Carries an Award of Arms with it if the person isn't already armigerous; it's a pewter laurel leaf on a ribbon. Recipients are *Companions of the Order of the Leaf of Merit*. A second-level reward. A pre-printed scroll is given if the recipient isn't already armigerous. Sometimes this is the first step towards consideration for candidacy for the Order of the Pelican.
2. *Rose Leaf (ORL).* Given out by the Crown or may be given by the Coronets with the Crown's permission, it's for arts and sciences. Carries an Award of Arms with it if the person isn't already armigerous; it's a gold-dipped rose leaf on a ribbon (older Rose Leaves were made of copper). Recipients are *Companions of the Order of the Rose Leaf*. A second-level reward. A pre-printed scroll is given if the recipient isn't already armigerous. Sometimes this is the first step towards consideration for candidacy for the Order of the Laurel.

Grant of Arms (GA). Given only by the Crown. The Royal Company of Archers are automatically given a Grant (only one person per reign may be added to the Royal Archers). Often given to the following if they aren't already peers: Great Officers, Landed Barons, sometimes the Lesser Officers of State, and for the more major Principality officers, especially in the outlying Principalities. Recipient gets a scroll and may be addressed "Lord/Lady so-and-so."

Patent of Arms. These are given with the peerages and royal peerages. Given only by the Crown, except the Coronets are allowed to give a Patent of Arms making their successors a Viscount/Viscountess. Knight, Laurel, Pelican, Count/Countess, and Duke/Duchess are all Patents of Arms in this Kingdom, which is why the scroll has to say "by Letters Patent." Recipient receives a scroll.

The Queen's Order of Grace (QOG). Given by the Queen to those whom she finds courteous and thoughtful to everybody. The super-courtesy award and very highly valued. It's a pewter rose topped by a crown with a pearl dangling underneath, worn on a ribbon (older QOGs were made out of plaster and painted -- they are very valuable to their proud owners).

The Queen's Cypher. Given by the Queen to those people who are of service to the Queen or whom she finds pleasing. It's usually a pendant with either an element of her personal Arms on it, or a monogram using her first initial and the letter R, for *regina* (the Latin word for queen).

Court Baron/Court Baroness. Given by the Crown at their whim. Territorial Barons automatically become Court Barons when they step down. Recipients get to wear a coronet of their choosing, usually something simple which may or may not have pearls on it.

The Order of the Rose (OR). All Queens are made members of the Order when they step down. A left-over from the days before they had the titles of Countess and Duchess. (The corresponding thing at the Principality level is the *Order of the Pearl* in the Mists and the *Order of the Crystal Swan* in Cynagua.) Their token is a red rose.

The Wreath of Valor. Given by the Crown at the Crown Lists. A wreath of rosemary wrapped with red ribbons, it symbolizes valor upon the field, and is given to a fighter who performed exceptionally well in the Lists.

The Wreath of Chivalry. Given by the Crown at the Crown Lists. A wreath of rosemary wrapped with white ribbons, it symbolizes chivalry and courtesy upon the field, and is given to a fighter who was exceptionally courteous and chivalrous in the Lists (he need not be a member of the Chivalry).

The Mucklin' Great Clubbe (MGC). The Kingdom award for ferocity (but not necessarily intelligence) in combat. Awarded by the current holder, at Court at each Crown Tourney, the Clubbe is a huge piece of oak with a spike driven through it. It is usually presented with a pound of paste wax, which the new bearer must apply before passing the Clubbe on.

The Old Battered Helm (OBH). The Kingdom award given for the most spectacular death. Awarded by the current holder, at Court at Beltane and Purgatorio, it is an ancient blue pot-helm made out of a Freon canister, suitably battered, with a machete sticking out of it. The current holder of the Helm must make a mark on it before he can pass it on to another, and this must be done before witnesses.

Commendabilis. A title given to the fighter who was in the finals of the Crown Lists but did not win. The current holder of the title wears a silver oak leaf on a ribbon. The "Sorry, but you lost" consolation prize.

Order of the Wooden Spoon (OWS). The Order of the Wooden Spoon is a guild which encourages period cooking. They hold a cooking contest at every Kingdom event and the winner is inducted into the Order. This is done at Court while the Crown looks benevolently on, usually having helped judge/taste. The token is a wooden spoon on a ribbon.

The Order of the Silver Mantle. Given for having pretty period armor. The members decide who they're going to induct, then it's done at Court under the eyes of the Crown.

The Order of the Silver Nib (OSN). Given for doing neat scribing work and lots of it. The emphasis is on those who do more than their average share of scribe's work. The members decide who they're going to induct, then it's done at Court. The token is a pen-nib on ribbons of black and gold, which are the College of Scribes' heraldic colors.

The Order of Arachne's Web (OAW). The lacemaker's guild. Given for outstanding lace-making. The members decide who they're going to induct, then it's done at Court. Members wear the badge of the Order, which is a black circle with a silver spider sitting at the middle of a spider web.

Pied d'Argent (PdA). Is French for "silver feet" and is the dance guild. The Order conducts a competition at every Kingdom event, and the winner is automatically made a member, which is done at Court. The token is an oval of silver depicting a dancer's slipper, worn on a ribbon.

Order of the Silver Mullet (OSM). Founded by Duke Henrik, it was originally called the *Knights of the Silver Mole*. This is now the award for courtesy and service to all, above and beyond the call of duty. Members decide who to induct, and there's a ceremony held at court. Members of the Silver Mullet are allowed to difference their Arms with the badge of the Order, and they wear cloaks patterned after the badge -- white, with a golden crown on a red pile.

The Order of the Golden Poppy (OGP). Given to the winner of the Arts and Sciences competition for the year, members have the right to wear a wreath of poppies. The newest member of the Order is expected to help run the Arts and Sciences competitions of the following year. This accolade is given at Twelfth Night by the Crown.

Defender Of The West (DotW). Given to those persons who support the Armies of the West by driving many, many, many miles to Kingdom wars, frequently to have a terrible time in terrible weather.

LATE BREAKING BARONIAL NEWS:

- The office of Baronial Herald will be available in late summer. Contact Lord Bernard.
- The next Baronial Chronicler has stepped forward and will be Lord William John. His first issue will be the June issue next year.
- The Tourney dates will be, 9 & 10 April.
- Letters of Intent to compete in the Coronet Tourney (yours & your consorts mundane & SCA names and xerox copies of yours & your consorts membership cards or cancelled checks) are due to the Baron and Baroness by the 10th of March.

FROM THE BARONESS

GREETINGS UNTO THE POPULACE FROM THE BARONESS.

Well, I had planned to not write a letter for this newsletter, but too many things have come up about the next Baronial Coronet list to let things ride until Feb. This is turning out to be a complex planning undertaking and I need help!

Please, anyone who is knowledgeable in any of the areas, particularly the esoteric ones, we are looking for help in formulating criteria for the various general categories. Particularly, we need information on what is period and what is not and what judges, who are less familiar with the subject should be looking for. The calligraphy and illumination criteria and the costuming are covered, but please let me know if you know about one of the other areas. You can call (after 10p) or send a postcard (42 yen) or just send info. I need all ideas by Jan 15th or thereabouts so that it can go into the next FWT. I know this is short notice and I'm sorry, but please help. I need info on all 5 of the judging areas but most on authenticity and technical expertise.

The Baronial Coronet Tourney will be on the 9th and 10th of April and will be a two day event. The A&S Coronet competition will be on the 9th and the martial champions competition will be on the 10th. We want bids. If you have questions call or drop a line to Chris or myself.

Anyone who wishes to enter the Baronial Coronet Tourney will need to send a letter of intent to the Baron and myself by 10 March. This letter should include yours and your consorts mundane and SCA names and xerox copies of yours and your consorts membership cards or the dated check for membership. If you don't have a consort yet, you may get one right up to the event, but make sure your prospective consort is a member.

NOTE: Advance warning - find your membership card if you want to judge the Coronet Tourney or get your renewal money in now.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BARONY'S CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

The following are changes proposed to the Customs and Traditions of the Barony of the Far West. They are being made in the hopes of clarifying the basic rationale of the Arts Coronet Tourney and Martial and Arts Championships. They are also being made in order to update some areas to meet kingdom law.

(ed note: refer to either the Kingdoms Admin issue of the PAGE or the April 93 issue of the FWT for the complete Customs and Traditions.)

III. Duties and Responsibilities of the Coronet.

B. (addition) The position of Baronial Martial or Arts Champion, being deemed such a conflict, should the champion achieve the Coronet at the tourney following his/her winning of the championship, he/she shall surrender said championship to second place winner of the event. Consorts holding a championship shall be equally bound.

X. Events in the Barony

A. (change in date) There shall be two Baronial Coronet

Tourneys and investures per Society year. They shall be held as close as possible to the middle of October and the middle of April.

2. (change of wording) There shall be a Baronial Championship Tourney held following the Baronial Coronet Tourney or on the Sunday of the event.

3. (addition) When the Baronial Coronet Tourney is martial, the Championship Tourney shall be Arts and Sciences. When the Baronial Coronet Tourney is Arts and Sciences, the Championship Tourney shall be martial.

a. Each champion shall serve for a year unless winning the coronet or becoming consort and both champions shall stand at court as befits their high honor.

b. Champions shall be styled Baronial Martial Champion and Baronial Arts Champion respectively.

F. (addition) Baronial Evetns shall be submitted to the Page to be listed as official West Kingdom events.

XI. Coronet Tourney

A. (word change) The Baronial Coronet Tourney shall be rotated among the groups in as much as is feasible. No group may host it twice in a row and the hosting group must be able to enter at least five (5) competitors for the Coronet. (change from "field").

B. (deletion - "usual") The order for Coronet Tourneys shall be to alternate between standard heavy weapons list and an arts and sciences tourney.

C.1. (change 2-1 month per kingdom law) Both must have been residents of the Barony for at least one (1) month and promise to remain so during their reign should they win.

F. (a lot of changes and some additions) If the tourney is arts and sciences, certain conventions must be met. They are -

1. (change) The arts and sciences tourney shall be open to all arts and sciences of the middle and current middle ages.

2. (addition) There shall be a minimum of 10 categories, including miscellaneous arts and sciences categories.

3. Entrants shall enter no more nor less than five (5) entries, at least one of which needs to be an art and one a science.

3. No more than two entries may be entered in any broad category, nor more than two in any subcategory.

3. (number change from 2. Change of word "created") Entries for the arts and sciences competition shall have been completed while the competitor is in residence...

This concludes the changes and additions to the Baronial Customs and Traditions as proposed by Baron Christoforo etc. and Baroness Marixsa.



I Didn't Expect An Inquisition

General reflections on life in the SCA

"Time And Space"

By Sir Guillaume "Lord Of The Garden Squires" de la Belgique

"My lords and ladies! Opening court will begin in 10 minutes. Anyone with business before the Crown should speak with the herald immediately!"

"Opening court in 10 minutes! Geez, the schedule in the *Crown Prints* — that bastion of Caidan truth and wisdom which would never, ever drop Guillaume's column just because it was a few days late — said opening court was supposed to be held half an hour ago!"

"Well, I heard that the whole tourney is going to be delayed because the autocrat is in the bathroom throwing up after he drank a quart of tequila last night when he heard the feast cook was in the hospital with second degree burns over 40 percent of her body."

"Right! I'll bet they had to delay court because the King was putting an extra coat of white polish on his boots. Or maybe the Prince had to tie a new set of strings on that damned puppet this morning."

"All I know is that if they don't get this fiasco started soon, we'll all be standing around the edge of the field with flashlights during the final round. Hey, here comes the herald again ..."

"My lords and ladies! Opening court will begin in 15 minutes!"

So goes the typical conversation regarding a phenomenon commonly known as "SCA Time." For those of you who have only been in the Society for a few days and have not had the opportunity to experience this, let me explain: Most tournaments, although scheduled quite rigidly, run "slightly" behind the published agenda. This delay can be as little as 10 or 15 minutes (which will cause people to say, "Hey, I missed court. Are they actually running on time?") to as much as a whole year late, such as last year's Starkhain Anniversary tourney which Sir Richard told me would be "somewhat delayed" on account of rain and was subsequently postponed until 1993.

Keeping Time With The Society

Most people complain about SCA time; they feel that if they went to the trouble to haul themselves out of bed at the crack of dawn (8 a.m.) on a Saturday, the event should start at the published time, even if that means there's only six people at court — none of them being the King or Queen.

While we try hard to give our events the flavor of the Middle Ages, mastery of time is a 20th Century holdover that we choose to ignore; we gripe about SCA time, but very few of us have experienced true Medieval time.

To understand Medieval time, just follow this simple procedure. First, do what you've wanted to do for years and bash your alarm clock with your broadsword. Then, after you've awoken with no clue what time it is, leave your watch behind and don't look at any kind of timepiece all day long.

In the modern world, we have watches and clocks to keep us on schedule. In the Middle Ages, however, the primary time keeping device was the "monk," a marginally dependable instrument which was able, via a complex system of Gregorian chants, to distinguish such accurate times as: time to wake up, the middle of the morning, time to have a beer with lunch, the middle of the afternoon, time to have a beer with dinner, time to have a beer before bed, and "Shut up with the singing, I'm trying to sleep!"

Of course, there were other highly reliable time-measuring devices, the most common being a time candle. This was a thick candle which burned at a constant rate and had hour notches —

a clock which, in terms of Medieval costs, was similar to allowing your car to idle in the driveway all day if you knew exactly how long it would run on a tank of gas. Time candles could also be affected by such small things as undetected air currents causing the wax to melt unevenly, or some boneheaded peasant forgetting to light the wick in the morning. Hourglasses and water clocks were also available to people with lots of money — note, however, that all of these are time *measuring* devices, not time *keeping* devices.

People in the Middle Ages must have been quite relaxed about their schedules (except, of course, for the heralds, who were probably uptight about trivial matters even back then). Undoubtedly the Medieval nobles — who, if someone complained about their being late, would either stab them, excommunicate them, or tax them — must have lived by the philosophy, "Everything in its own time."

Here There Be Mappes

While we're on the subject of concepts we take for granted in the 20th Century, here's another. Page through the "event announcements" in this issue of the *Crown Prints* and count the number of times you read the phrase "map not to scale."

SCA maps and directions are notoriously bad, but even with as much trouble as we have finding SCA tournaments ("I can't read this handwriting. I think we have to turn on Wung Duck Street.") our maps are incredibly accurate compared to their Medieval counterparts, which often included such recognizable landmarks as "greate rockkes," dragon's lairs, cloud formations, and restaurants which serve food containing remarkably few rodent hairs.

The Medieval concept of direction and travel was very different from ours. Hundreds of things could affect a journey — weather, wars, terrain, poor directions, wars, illness, wars ... At 60 m.p.h. on the freeway, we assume we're going to get to our destination in the allotted amount of time, and any little delays, such as traffic jams, road work, or drive-by shootings, are considered aggravating inconveniences. Imagine trying to find an SCA event using a Medieval "travelers' map," which is basically nothing more than a straight line with a sequential listing of cities between two points.

Folks in the Middle Ages must have had an extremely relaxed attitude about travel, just as they did about time. They certainly never said, "We're going to be 15 minutes late. We'd better think of an excuse!" If someone arrived at a faire, tournament, or distant gathering within a week of their plans, they were probably considered extremely punctual.

Certainly time and direction are not the only modern conveniences which we take for granted while we pretend to be citizens of the Current Middle Ages. I imagine if the SCA encouraged its members to relinquish modern pharmaceuticals, hygiene, transportation, cuisine, or (God forbid) sunglasses, the group would be much less popular, even if it was more historically accurate.

It's interesting, sometimes, to step back and appreciate our anachronistic mix of the Medieval and modern worlds. I'll see you at the next tournament — don't get lost and don't be late!

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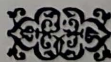
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