

To the Dream. To the West. Oertha Forever.



The Guardian

Newsletter for the Principality of Oertha, Kingdom of the West

From the Prince and Princess...

This is the Spring 2015 issue of The Guardian, a publication of the Principality of Oertha of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Guardian is available from the Principality Chronicler. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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Greeting all to whom these letters come,

We want to thank our populous for a wonderful winter. With the melting of the snows we look forward to spending time with everyone at upcoming events in the warmer weather.

Attention all fighters, if you plan on fighting in summer coronet Letters of intent should be submitted no later than June 17th 2015. The Coronet Tournament shall consist of multiple qualifying tournaments each using a different weapon style, each fight shall be the best 2 out of 3 with the victor moving on to the next round. Depending on the number of fighters in the list will determine the number of tournaments that will be fought prior to the final.

Tournament 1: Glaive (6' to 7.5')

Tournament 2: 6' and under 2 hand weapon (great sword, Axe, Hammer, Maul)

Tournament 3: 9' Spear (possibly over a barrier)

Tournament 4: Florentine (weapon in each hand, ie. two swords, sword and dagger, inverted sword and broad sword)

Tournament 5: will be as Her Highness chooses.

Final Tournament shall be weapon of choice and the number of fighters moving on to the final tournament will be determined by the number of fighters in the list.

Shawn and Arabella
Prince and Princess of Oertha



Cherry Blossom Viewing

May 9, 2015
Barony of Eskalya

Spring has reached us once more, and it's time to gather to celebrate it! We invite you to join us once again May 9, 2015, at the Jewel Lake Parish.

It wasn't uncommon for idle samurai to duel each other to settle issues of honor or prestige. We offer a prize for the best duel challenge issued by a fighter (heavy and rapier, both). You need not win the duel, merely deliver the challenge in the most dramatic / amazing / hilarious way. Contest begins when the site opens, but sign-up is encouraged to be certain that no entries get missed.

We will have a Go tournament, with a prize for the champion. Sign-up will be available any time from site opening until the beginning of the tournament.

For the children there will be paper bead folding for necklace creation. Finally, on the tables there will be provided both flowers and zen gardens. There will be a prize for the best decorated table. Feel free to bring your own supplies, as always, but the provided decorations should be incorporated in some way.

Site Information: Jewel Lake Parish, 3833 Strawberry Rd, Anchorage, AK 99502. Site opens at 12pm (noon) and closes at 8pm.

Event Fee: Adults: \$10 Children: (ages 6-18) \$5 Under 5: Free Family Cap: \$40. \$5 non-member surcharge applies.

Food: Dinner will be served around five in the afternoon. White rice, miso soup and matcha tea will be provided by the hall. The rest of the meal is potluck style. Bring what you feel like; it was yummy last year. Dessert of daifuku (red bean stuffed mochi cakes) will be provided.

Autocrat: Leonia the Mouse and Adam of Eskalya

Feast of St Breanainn

May 15-17, 2015
Shire of Ravensfjord

Word has come that Breanainn of Clonfert has stories of distant lands and it is the wish of Their Highness' of Oertha that their subjects pilgrimage to the Shire of Ravensfjord to relive these tales. Take heed scholars and artisans for there will be classes and competition, archers prime your bows and fletch your arrows, fighters of all types brace your arms, cooks make provision, and dancers lace your gillies - for we shall Geld the Devil for sure!

Classes to be taught will include lessons on Traveling Dishes by Her Excellency Clare Elana, Painted Bird Feathers by Her Excellency Isabella Hawke and Wool Paneled hats by Mistress Anna di Caterina Neri.

His Highness' whim is to be entertained during feast with bardic competition and Her Highness' whim is to engage in "combat embroidery" with an emphasis towards period versions of "Minions".

Competitions abound with Archery to slay the Sea Monster and Rapier Plank battle, Two on Two mixed weapons for heavy fighters and a last couple standing dance competition for those looking for physical exertion. For those members of the populace keen on competing using a little less sweat there will be several A&S completions. Make your best Short-bread (with documentation), Cordials (added points for Irish Creams) and period eating or drinking vessels from wood, ceramic or metal.

Site Information: Centennial Campgrounds (349 Centennial Park Road, Soldotna, AK 99669). The site will open at 5pm on Friday for set up, 11am start time on Saturday and Sunday for activities and site closing at 5pm on Sunday.

*** Please note, there is no electricity or potable water

Continued on Page 6...

Pas d'Armes

May 23-24, 2015
Barony of Selviergard

The Barony of Selviergard welcomes you to a Pas d'Armes unlike any other held in these fair lands. Baronos Halfdan, *Prōtokurios* of Selviergard welcomes all, far and wide, to attend and celebrate Chivalry. He asks that all fighters polish helm, banners are unfurled, and shields are painted fresh for pageantry is but a part of a grand Pas d'Armes!

A Quest is at hand! The Chalice of Peace is to be returned to the people! It will be gained by the most chivalrous of champions. There will be many trials along the way. There will be many fights as well as subtler tests. The endeavors will include a lady in distress and a barrier fight with a Giant. The populace and our guests will determine the Most Chivalrous Fighter and the Most Gracious Lady by awarding ribbons for words and deeds that exemplify the best of our period values.

In addition; the Baron, the Autocrat, and the Principality Arts and Sciences Minister will sponsor a table to display the arts and sciences of the populace that represent the theme of the event: The Courtly and Chivalric Virtues. Items may be from the past or newly created.

Site Information: France Equestrian Center; Alaska State Fairgrounds. Please note as per Alaska State Fair rules no dogs are allowed. Site is wet.

Event Fee: \$10 per Adult, \$5 per child; \$5 non-member fee will apply. Please make checks payable to SCA, Inc. - Barony of Selviergard

Food: A soup lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday. Feast on Saturday will be a potluck style with the meat provided by the Barony of Selviergard. More information on the potluck will be made available.

Autocrat: Viscountess Isabella Hawke (Melissa Snyder)

Calendar

May

- May 9 Cherry Blossom
Eskalya
- May 15-17 Feast of St. Breanainn
Ravensfjord
- May 23-24 Pas d'Armes
Selviergard
- May 30-31 Spring Captaincy
Winter's Gate

June

- June 6-7 Three Baron's Fair
Eskalya
- June 13-14 Three Baron's Fair
Eskalya

July

- July 4 4th of July Parade
Selviergard
- July 17-19 Summer Coronet
Principality of Oertha
- April 25 Fool's Revel
Winter's Gate

Autocrats and Seneschals: it is important to advertise your event! Please ensure that your local events are posted on the Kingdom Calendar.

Spring Captaincy

May 30-31, 2015
Barony of Winter's Gate

Spring is upon us once again and it's time to gather to do battle to decide the next Captain of the mighty Winter's Gate militia! Watch as they fight for the honor of the next Heart of Winter's Gate, for it is she (or he) that keeps our souls warm during the throws of winter.

Listen as the Sandhill Crane heralds the coming of spring and the warmth that is to follow! The autocrat welcomes any form of heraldry to be entered into the A&S competition in honor of spring. Additionally, the baronial whim will be woven items. As always, documentation is highly encouraged!

Further, there will be a class for our treasures taught by Lady Ciara. Additional classes, if any, will be announced at a later date.

Site Information: Moose Creek Pavilion at Pioneer Park (Airport Way and Peger Road, Fairbanks Alaska 99701). Site opens at 12 pm - 8 pm Saturday, and 12 pm - 5 pm Sunday.

Event Fee: \$5 for adults 18 and up (with \$5 surcharge for non-members), \$3 for ages 12-18, and under 12 free.

Food: Dinner will be a potluck as usual. Please bring enough to feed 6-8, and bring a list of ingredients so we can properly appreciate your skills (and the allergic know what to beware of).

Autocrat: Elisheva bint Sitt al-Sirr (Sheva Corning) and Nathan Hartman (Nate Web)

Please note that in some cases the event copies were formatted for publication. In all cases the important information is included. Please check with the Yahoo Groups or Facebook for more up-to-date information regarding a particular event or contact the Autocrat.

Oerthan Summer Coronet

July 17-19, 2015
Principality of Oertha

With the successful conclusion of a most excellent Winter Coronet (seriously, what a blast!!), our minds now turn to thoughts of summer! We therefore invite you to join us at Oerthan Summer Coronet and Investiture, to be held at the France Equestrian Center within the Palmer Fairgrounds on July 17-19, 2015. Come witness the selection of the heirs of Their Lupine Highnesses, Shawn and Arabella, Prince and Princess of Oertha.

So that all are aware, no animals besides service animals will be permitted on site. This is a prohibition of the site's owners and we will therefore be strictly enforced.

Site fee will be \$15 for individuals over the age of seventeen, \$10 for those age ten to seventeen, and free for those under ten. The non-member surcharge will be \$5. The family cap will be \$50.

A potluck dinner will be available Saturday night. If you are interested in coordinating this, please contact the event team.

Please be aware that space around the Eric will be reserved for period encampments. Space nearby will be available for modern tents and RVs.

The Stewards' Whim is a period camping accessory (table, chair, bench, lantern, etc.). We look forward to seeing what is created!

If your group or guild is interested in hosting a fundraising breakfast or lunch, please contact the event team

We look forward to seeing you all this summer!

Clare Prima et Clare Secunda
Event Stewards

The Last Tournament

Diana Paxson, 1966

In honor of the Society for Creative Anachronism's fiftieth year the following is presented from the West Kingdom History website. Diana Paxson tells her story of, what we call reverently in the Society as, 'The First Tournament.'

TO STUDENTS of English literature, "The Last Tournament" refers to an event which took place in Scotland in 1839. The Earl of Eglanton, a high-minded young nobleman, complete with castle, serfs, and a head full of the novels of Sir Walter Scott, decided to dramatize the values of the Middle Ages, which were Scott's and his own answer to the problems of the Industrial Revolution, by having a tournament. Costumes were prepared, banners sewn, and the springs of the London hansom cabs broken by the weight of men in armor being borne to practice. It was the social event of the year. The Great Day arrived, the splendid procession processed, the jousting commenced. And then it began to rain ... do you know what happens to armor in the rain? And banners? And respectable English gentlemen without any shelter? That was the end of the Romantic Period in England.

But that Tournament, ill-fated as it turned out to be, cannot truthfully be considered the last. Chivalry is not dead – my back yard bears proof of the same!

Sometime toward the end of February, Dave Thewlis and Ken de Maiffe came over to practice swordsmanship in my backyard, and the Great Idea was born. The May Day Tournament owed its existence to this, to the peculiar nature of my backyard, and to the fact that instead of telling me I was crazy, my roommates said "Let's do it!"

It really was planned, carefully and in advance, but, as when one is cooking and discovers that the ingredients on hand are not exactly those one had planned to use,

the result was marvelous but somewhat unexpected. Felice has asked me to tell her how one of these things is planned. Ha! Little does she, or I, know! But I think I can remember what actually happened.

At twelve noon (official starting time) there were about four people standing around admiring each other's costumes; one of my roommates was still finishing her dress, and I was wondering what else you can do with four people in costume. Then it was 2:30, and there were people in medieval clothing all over the yard. The official Judge, Dr. Elizabeth Pope, head of the Mills College English Department and incidentally the one who told me about Tolkien had arrived. She was wearing her academic gown and hood (well, they haven't changed since the 15th century!) She was seated next to the official archbishop and second Judge, Sir Jon de Cles, on a red-covered thrown in front of a purple hanging. Beside the judges, the crown, to be awarded to the Champion's lady, reposed on a purple cushion.

A triumphal march was heard (Processional from the *Play of Herod* – 13th century) and around the corner appeared a procession of knights and ladies. Two by two they paced forward, bowing to the judges and parting to circle round and join again. The long note of a horn ... the Herald, resplendent in a green satin cloak, announced the blessing of the swords. At this, the Archbishop rose and let the sonorous Latin roll forth, "Ecce Edardus ursis scalis nunc rump-tump-tump occipute gradus pulsante, post Christophorum Robinum descendens ...", and the assembly chorused, "Amen."

The first combat was announced: Sir Siegfried X Hoflichskeith and Sir Kenneth with mace; then a

Continued on page 7...

St. Breanain, continued from Page 2

on site.***

Event fee: \$10 for adults 18 and up, Teens 13-17 are \$5 and those under 12 are free. A family cap is set \$30. This is a campground and is subject to additional fees ONLY if you stay overnight. If you wish to camp the fee is \$20 per CARLOAD per night.

Food: A lunch of soup and bread will be served for Saturday's lunch and Saturday evening's feast will be Potluck with grilled meat provided. Potluck will be by Society first name A-F breads, spreads and cheeses, G-L fruits and veggies M-R starchy dishes (potato goodness) and S-Z desserts. Note there is no electricity or potable water on site.

Event Steward: Lord Aldyen of Eskayla (Tom Rheume)

Oerthan Officer Positions Available

Looking to help out the Principality of Oertha as an officer? The Principality of Oertha has one office currently looking for a deputy successor:

Stellanordica Scribe

If you are interesting in this Principality-level position please contact Mistress Anna di Caterina Neri, the Principality Seneschal.



St Brendan (Breanainn) and the Whale from a 15th century manuscript.



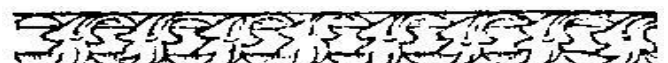
The Oerthan History Guild

The Oertha History Guild is active and we're collecting any details of past events, and ask members to submit a review, recap, thoughts of one event per year, recent or ancient. The Oertha History Guild is active and on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/groups/OerthaHistory/.

Photos posted to the West Kingdom History Pages are encouraged. Everyone should check their information on the Who's Who website as well, and you can add to your SCA resume, including offices (primary or deputy) held and events hosted or cooked for, and other achievements.

--Khevron Oktavii Tikhovich Vorotnikov



Tournament; continued from page 5

gladiator, Aeginius, and Nathan the retarius (net and trident). While the dust settled and the knights caught breath, singers hailed the season with the ancient “sumer is a-cumin in”. Another combat, a challenge, then rest again, and this time there were four dancers doing a pavane. The combats again. Sir Frederick of Holland, Sir Aeginius, Sir Henderson, Sir Paul, Sir Deutsche Bursenschaft, Sir David the Herald, who was knighted on the field, and many more.

What swords were splintered that day! What cries of exultation and anguish, what sounds of blows and what good knights struck to the earth, and what resplendent ladies looking on! No tongue can tell the glory of it, or pen write, but the fame of that day will be bread to the poets for as long as men love to hear of knightly deeds! (And that last is a direct lift from Layamon’s *Brut*, 13th century – the first version in English of the story of King Arthur.)

To speak truth, I rather lost track of events after those first few fights, since challenges were being issued left and right and everyone was more or less transformed, making recognition difficult, but the preceding lines are straight – no ironic asides, because that’s the way it was, incredibly real. Intermixed with the combats were things like a reading from *The Battle of Braunanburgh* in Anglo-Saxon by Nan Braude, and my rendering of a bit of the *Chanson do Roland* in Old French, a language which rings and clangs and is in my opinion the only tongue in which to speak of battles. Then there was the father of one of the singers, who took one look and rushed home for his crossbow and longbow, with which he gave an exhibition. It was very impressive, and gratifying to Dave and Ken – an arrow from the longbow took some paint off one of their shields, but the arrowhead curled right up! Some Spanish friends of one of my roommates, glorious in 16th-century plumed hats, did a scene from a Cervantes play; there were various sorts of food and drink (we are all good hobbits here), and of course the Maypole dance by the ladies of

the company, which we actually managed without tangling.

The costumes were very good. Astrid Anderson came as Queen Lucy of Narnia in a red velvet dress with a bird on her arm, and David Bradly, in green, was her knight. Marion Breen was Donna Ximena (wife of El Cid), but Walter was a “hairy hermit wild,” or friar of the Chaucerian sort, complete with wineskin. Sir Siegfried’s lady wore a 14th-century dress of blue and grey satin and gold brocade. Mary, in a flowing leopard print with high-dressed hair and monkey, was something Sir Kenneth found on the crusades. My roommate, Molly Titcomb, who has long golden hair, wore the white dress and midnight blue cloak of the Lady of Rohan. Felice was gorgeous in turquoise satin, Suzanne was a princess in blue, and Benjy, in a russet cloak, was a hobbit. Enough of who wore what – the style of this has become depressingly like that of the Women’s Page, and it would be impossible to do justice to everyone anyway.

By 4:30 the judges’ list showed that six people had won two or more times. The judging was rather intriguing; foil bouts were judged by regular fencing rules, but for those who fought with medieval weapons we had to find another method. When someone landed a blow, the judges (plus an informal committee composed of all other fighters) calculated what effect the blow would have if a real weapon had been used; i.e., if the shield arm were hit, the fighter had to drop it; if the sword arm, he changed the sword to his other hand; if the head, he staggered around (that wasn’t acting); if a leg, he dropped to his knees. When he was considered to have been completely chopped up, he was adjudged defeated. This sounds rather comic, but the fighting was for real – one knight managed to put a dent in a fencing helmet, which is almost impossible, and this with a wooden sword. That same knight ended up with a broken finger (I wonder how he explained that up at Cowell Hospital?) – he tried to parry a sword of which both blade and hilt were gone! Actually, and to my

Continued on page 8...

Tournament; continued from page 7

great relief, no one suffered anything more serious than welts, minor cuts, and bruises ...

The finalists were Sir Aeginius and Sir Deutsche Bursenschaft – Dick Barnhart, a student at San Anselmo Theological Seminary, and Paul Wolfgangel, from Germany, a graduate in linguistics here at Cal. (Believe it or not, we were in the same fencing class a year ago, and I even got a few touches on him. I insert this bit of self-egoboo in view of the result of the tournament.) Sir Aeginius’ “helmet” – the clear plastic faceplate of his motorcycle helmet – had been cracked by a blow from the same wooden sword that dented the fencing mask a little later, wielded in each case by Sir Deutsche, but Sir Aeginius finally managed to shatter that sword and mash the hand which held it so Sir Deutsch could no longer even carry a shield. The final combat – Sir Deutsche in complete white fencing costume, with a mace in one hand and the other held behind his back; and Sir Aeginius, in black, holding a spear, and crouching behind his black, silver-blazoned shield. They circled round, scuffling in the dust, Sir Deutsche wary and Sir Aeginius feinting with his spear. He thrust. Sir Deutsche avoided the blow. They circled again; then Sir Deutsche darted in. We heard the “clonk” of a blow caught on the shield, then the mace swung up, fell, and hit Sir Aeginius between neck and shoulder and brought him to the ground. If the weapon had been sharp ...?

Sir Deutsche Bursenschaft was the winner. He placed the crown on the head of his lady, a “simple peasant maid.”

What do you do after the Tournament? We, about twenty-four of us, formed into another procession and processed – all the way up Telegraph to Bancroft and back again. It’s the thing to do in Berkeley, protest – we were protesting the 20th century.

What do you do after the procession? About twelve people were left by this time, so they went to get food and a fire, and we all sat around eating roast chicken

and singing and dancing. The night remained clear, with a moon whose paleness disputed the light of the fire, which flickered over the banners and reddened the violet of the hangings, and gleamed from sword hilts and satin cloaks.

So there was no abrupt ending, no anticlimax. Until after midnight people sat in the light of the fire and the moon, discussing, singing, drinking the wine, springing up to how this or that sword thrust would be done.

Does this sound like a purple passage? That is the way it was.

...they are planning another tournament for Midsummer’s Day ...

The Guardian will publish historical items from The Kingdom of the West and The Principality of Oertha for the duration of the Fifty Year Celebration. If you have a story about your first event, an old photograph, or any other historical item you would like to share please send your contribution to the Principality Chronicler for publication.



50
YEARS

THE SOCIETY FOR
CREATIVE ANACHRONISM

Regarding the 'Nifty Nine'

At this summer's Coronet, the Autocrats will be hosting a Nifty Nine Largesse Derby to collect largesse for Their Highnesses. To enter the Derby bring nine items of a single type (e.g. nine pieces of trim, nine note cards, nine balms, nine sewing kits, etc.) tagged with your name and group.

One item from each entry will be entered into a prize pool and the other eight will be provided to Their Highnesses and Their heirs to distribute as largesse. Everyone who enters will be given a chance to pick an item from the prize pool, and an additional prize will be given to the Derby winner.

Period items with documentation are strongly encouraged, but not required.

Let's show off the skill and bounty of Oertha's artisans!



**My beak is bent downward, I burrow below; I
grub in the ground and go as he guides,
My gray, old master, foe of the forest. Stoop-
shouldered my warder walks at my back,
Fares through the field, urges and drives me,
Sows in my track as I sniff along.
Fetched from the wood, cunningly fitted, Brought
in a wagon, I have wondrous skill.
As I go my way on one side is green; On the other
side plain is my dark path.
Set through my back hangs a cunning spike;
Another fixed forward is fast to my head.
What I tear with my teeth falls to one side, If he
handles me right who is my ruler.**

Answer to the riddle in the Summer edition of The Guardian

From the Chronicler...

Spring has arrived to the lands of Oertha. The birds return bringing new songs to our ears, the sun warms the earth and prepares it for a gown of green as Oerthans prepare for a coming season of fun, camping, and excitement.

On a historical note: on May 1st the Society for Creative Anachronism celebrates fifty years! Join with me in celebrating *The Dream*! For those that would like to celebrate in a creative way I ask you to do one (or more) of the following things: write something about your first event or your favorite memory in the SCA; share a photograph of something that inspires you or that you created, express your idea of *The Dream* in story or rhyme. By sharing your vision of *The Dream* you inspire others as well.

The Guardian is published four times a year, twice in hard copy and twice in digital format. This gives ample opportunity for you, gentle reader, to contribute to this publication so that others can grow and learn in *The Dream*. Please take a moment to consider what you would like to share with your Cousins in Oertha.

In Service,

Despotes Halfdan Ôzurrson,
Chronicler of Oertha





It is that time again! We are now accepting bids for the 2016 Oerthan Winter Coronet. Get together your budget and your autocrat team and submit your bid via email to [annaharie\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:annaharie(at)gmail(dot)com) for review.

Bids will be accepted through May 15th, 2015.

Anna di Caterina Neri
Seneschal, Principality of Oertha

Regnum



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Shawn and Arabella
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Halfdan "Two Bears" Ôzzurson
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Long live the King and Queen of the West!

*Long Live the Prince and Princess of
Oertha!*



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