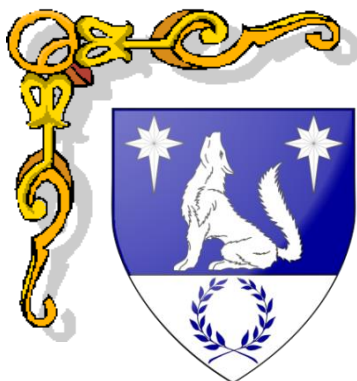


To the Dream. To the West. Oertha Forever.



The Guardian

The newsletter for the Principality of Oertha, Kingdom of the West

CONTENTS

Information for Upcoming Events

The Oerthan Calendar!

Principality Law Change Notice

and more!

This is the Spring 2017 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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From the Prince and Princess...

It's April in the North and winter begins to release its icy grip on our beloved Principality of Oertha. As the snow melts, Oerthan's have more opportunities to travel within Our lands. His Highness and I are looking forward to Fool's Revel in Winter's Gate and Beltane in the Shire of Hrafnfajodr and most especially to the highly-anticipated Principality Collegium on the 22nd.

As Our Reign is focused on celebrating the Arts and Sciences, We encourage our populace to volunteer, to teach, and to learn at this event and to enter the rescheduled Oerthan Arts & Sciences Championship contest for Textiles: Small Item of Clothing.

Soren and Astenor

Prince and Princess of Oertha



Collegium

April 22-23, 2017
Principality of Oertha

Are the cold northern winds bringing you down? Fear not, for we have the remedy! Drown those dreary winter blues with KNOWLEDGE! Join your fellow scholars of Oertha for a weekend full of classes and learning new things at Oerthan Collegium! Arts! Sciences! Martial Skills! Service! We have a little something to suit everyone's fancy and thirst for knowledge.

Member Adult Registration: \$5.00. Non-Member Adult Registration \$10.00, Children under 12 free.

Site Information: UAF Campus (314 South Chandalar Dr. Fairbanks, AK 99709).

Site opens at 10AM and closes at 7PM on Saturday and opens at 11AM and closes on 3PM on Sunday.

Event Steward: Anna di Caterina Neri (Georgia Pfile).

Local Event Steward: Elisheva bint Sitt al-Sirr (Sheva Rose).

Site Coordinator: Liam the Archer (William Hargrove).

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Artisans!

There will be a formal Arts and Sciences display at Purgatorio Coronation and Oertha Investiture in August. This is your chance to show off your best work to not only the Principality but to those making the journey from central West Kingdom.

More details and the exact date and time will be forthcoming when the schedule for Purgatorio is finalized. Start your planning and arting now, don't wait until the last minute.

Beltane

April 29, 2017
Shire of Hrafnafjodr

Come one, come all! Join us in celebration of Beltane, as spring rears it's beautiful head! There will be a potluck feast, games, a tournament, Their Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Oertha holding court, and even dancing! There may even be an appearance of the Maypole.

More definitive details will be forthcoming! If there are any questions or volunteers feel free to contact the Autocrat.

Site Information: Soldotna Creek Park (44149 Sterling Hwy, Soldotna, Alaska 99669).

Site opens at 1PM and closes at 8PM.

Event Steward: Merrick McAllister

[Facebook Event Page](#)



Law Change for the Principality of Oertha

Dated this 7th day of February, A.S. LI

A section shall be added: The Oerthan Order of Hospitality.

Section 2.22: The Oerthan Order of Hospitality Offered to those gentles in other lands who provide care and comfort to the Royals and members of the populace during their travels beyond the borders of Oertha. The token for this award will be a roundel depicting a road through the mountains suspended on a cord in Principality colors.

Oertha's Summer Coronet and Investiture will be hosted by the Barony of Winter's Gate on

July 14-16, 2017

at Riverside Park in Anderson, Alaska

More information on this event will be posted as it becomes available.



Calendar

April

- April 8 Fool's Revel
Barony of Winter's Gate
- April 21-23 Culinary Symposium
Kingdom of the West
- April 22-23 Collegium
Barony of Winter's Gate
- April 29 Beltane
Shire of Ravensfjord

May

- May 5-7 Beltane Coronation
Kingdom of the West
- May 13 Cherry Blossom
Barony of Eskalya
- May 19-21 Spring Offensive
Barony of Selvieregard
- May 26-28 Wolf Wars
Barony of Winter's Gate

June

- June 3-4 Three Baron's Fair
Barony of Eskalya
- June 10-11 Three Baron's Fair
Barony of Eskalya
- June 17 Newcomer's Welcome
Barony of Eskalya
- June 23-25 Barmaids
Shire of Ravensfjord
- June 23-25 June Crown
Kingdom of the West

Cherry Blossom

May 13, 2017
Barony of Eskalya

Spring is near, and the cherry blossoms are approaching full bloom. Join the Fair Sister Baronesses of Eskalya for a spring event sure to melt away the cold of winter. Fighters prepare your weapons for an honorable tournament of the warrior, both Heavy and Rapier styles. Artisans, look to the colors of the spring season and fashion an item that is inspired by the bright blossoms of the Cherry trees.

There will be a Miso soup bar and rice provided. Bring an appetizer item to share for the day.

Member Adult Registration: \$12.00. Non-Member Adult Registration \$17.00, Children (Ages 5-12): \$5.00.

Site Information: Alaska Pacific University—Carr Gottstein Seminar Room CG104 (Anchorage, AK).

Site opens at 11AM and closes at 8PM.

Event Steward: Anna di Caterina Neri (Georgia Pfile).

Co-Steward: Caspian of Eskalya (Jordan Pfile).

[Facebook Event Page](#)



Spring Offensive

May 19-21, 2017
Barony of Selvieregard

Once again, the Warlords Horn will sound to call the fighters of Oertha together for the annual Spring Offensive. Join the Barony of Selvieregard on the field of battle and prepare your units for the upcoming Wolf Wars.

We will be running a number of scenarios to prepare all fighters for the war field. There will be open field battles, a woods battle and bridges to fight for control. All fighting will include heavy and rapier scenarios.

Now is the time to breakout your camping equipment and repair your armor and weapons, test your skills on the battlefield and see how comfy your camp can be.

There will be a potluck feast with the main meats sponsored by the barony.

We will have archery and thrown weapons competitions, cooking contests and the offensive garb wars and children's activities.

Mark your calendars for this annual event in Sunny Selvieregard.

Member Adult Registration: \$10.00. Non-Member Adult Registration \$15.00, Children: \$7.00. Family Cap: \$30.00.

Site Information: Houston Campground (Houston, AK).

Site opens at 5PM on Friday and closes at 4PM on Sunday.

Camping: Camp site fees to be paid to the city of Houston separately. (\$7 night).

Autocrat: Fergus mac Thomais (George Thompson).

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Wolf Wars

May 26-28, 2017
Principality of Oertha

Heed the Call, as the Baronies of the Principality of Oertha come together for The First Wolf Wars!

Registration: Adult Event Registration: \$25, Adult Member Discount Event Registration: \$20, Children (Ages 6-17): \$10, Children under 6: Free. Family Cap (two adults and any minor children in your household): \$50

Site Information: Chena Lakes Recreation Center (3780 Laurence Rd., North Pole, AK).

Site Opens at 3PM on Friday and Closes: 2PM on Monday.

Site is discreetly wet.

Directions: Make your best way to North Pole, AK. From the Parks Hwy (AK 3 north) and Fairbanks continue onto the Mitchell Hwy to the Richardson Hwy, AK 2 east towards North Pole/Eielson AFB. Take the Dawson Rd/Buzby Rd exit from AK-2 E. At the end of the exit, turn left and go under the overpass. Turn right at the first right onto Mistletoe Drive. Mistletoe Drive becomes Laurence. Follow Laurence around to Chena Lakes Recreation Area. Follow the SCA signs to the site at/near the Chena Lakes Green.

Please note that this is a camping event. Dogs are allowed as long as they are leashed and under the direct control of their owners and picked up after.

Please be Bear Aware of your food and your refuse!

Those with RV's will have to pay additionally for a camp-site. Camp-sites are first come first serve at Chena Lakes and we cannot guarantee a location.

Autocrat: Baroness Cemper of Winter's Gate

[Facebook Event Page](#)

From the Chronicler

The Guardian is the newsletter for the Principality of Oertha, and as such, I need your help in keeping it full of information, articles, and such. If you are an autocrat of an event please consider sending your event information to the Chroniclers (both the Principality and the local branches) so that others may have the opportunity to attend your event.

If you have wisdom to share please consider using the newsletters as a way to share it so that others can learn as well. The newsletters are only as good as the items submitted to it. Take a moment to think about what you can contribute to this and other fine publications around our Principality.

The Guardian is published quarterly; twice in paper edition and twice in electronic form. The deadline for submissions for the Summer edition of *The Guardian* will be July 1st.

In Service,

Halfdan "Two Bears" Ozurrson
Principality Chronicler

Are you interested to learn more of the history of the Great Principality of Oertha? Do you have items from our past that you would like to share?

Join the Oertha History Guild Today!

The Oertha History Guild is for people endeavoring to recover and preserve the glorious history of our Principality and all its Branches.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OerthaHistory/>

Oertha Shines at Winter Coronet

Event Report for the Principality of Oertha's Winter
Coronet and Investiture

*"O Januarie, what myghte thee devinaille
To them who to Oertha on shippes saille?
What delices and mirth dust you see
At Oerthes corounet feste and reveli?"*

-Faunus de Arden, Autocrat

In the snow-washed days of the beginning of the new year the Principality of Oertha once again held a great tournament to determine the next Prince and Princess of Oertha by Right of Combat. While the outdoors was cold; many stayed warm with fine wools and furs as well as by the warmth in the hearts of many as the populace came out to witness a grand event. This Winter Coronet and Investiture, an event celebrating the reign of Kenric and Dagmar and welcoming in the new Heirs, was a diverse and exciting event and one that will be remembered fondly by many people.

Alongside many Oerthans from around the Principality there were many notable visitors from the other expanses in the Kingdom of the West. Our esteemed visitors included Roger and Zanobia, the King and Queen of the West, Princess Helga of the Mists, as well as long-time Oerthans including Viscountess Aryana Silknfyre and Mistress Anne of Bradford, as well as a variety of visitors grand and noble from far off and distant lands.

People entered the Great Hall and signed in and visited before things got started; all of them ready for the weekend's activities to take part in and experience.

People gathered and visited as they waited for the opening court of the day to start the event. Before opening court, Lord Sevastian Agafangelovich Golystin was named as a member of the Queen's Guard, an honor bestowed by Queen Zanobia's own hand.

Opening court took place amid the beauty of a mechanically devised aurora borealis accented by candles—one of the most stunning and beautiful hall decorations seen in a while. From the opening statements from the Prince and Princess of Oertha, as well as Baron Faunus de Arden, the Autocrat for the event, the Invocation for the Tournament was begun with pageantry and splendor. Each fighter presented his or her inspiration for entering the tournament. Banners were processed in with some of the fighters and grand speeches were made including one, while not extravagant with words, was quite memorable—when presented for the invocation; Lady Úlfhildr Sverradóttir, who was being fought for by Lord Nikor of the Isle of Oaks, told the royalty in perfect Nikorian fashion that "Nikor fight...for me."



Those who fight in the tournament take the Oath and prepare for the tournament. Photograph by Yamano Yuki. January 21, 2017.

With the end of the Invocation Court, the fighters prepared to head outside where the tournament would take place.

Thirteen fighters took the field that day. The populace, bundled in many layers of clothing to keep warm, witnessed a delightful tournament filled with chivalry, skill, and valor both on and off the field. The tournament was started by the invocation and at the words of the marshals the Coronet Tournament began.



Lord Hans Shaefer and Lord Sevastian in the Coronet Tournament. Photograph by Halfan Ozurrson. January 21, 2017.

The fights were crisp and quick, and a single bout and by double elimination determined who would progress in the tournament. The fights showcased very skilled and talented fighters from around the Principality who fought in the tournament to name their inspiration as Prince or Princess of Oertha the next day.

But as with all tournaments, there could be only one winner. The populace watched intently as the number of entrants dwindle slowly down to the finals.

The finals came down to Duke Skeggi Nyewcombe and Sir Søren j Alborgh. In the first fight Sir Søren landed a good quick shot on Duke Skeggi. The second round saw both fighters testing each the other with blows and blocks until Sir Søren landed a beautifully placed blow against his noble opponent, thus landing him the fight and the Coronets of Oertha for him and his lady amid the cheers of the populace watching the tournament.



Sir Søren names his Lady, Mistress Alienor, as Lady Borealis at the conclusion of the tournament. Photograph by Halfdan Ozurrson. January 21, 2017.

There was hardly a dry eye to be seen as Sir Søren j Alborgh received the token of the The Borealis and conferred unto his inspiration, Mistress Alienor Fitzhenry, the title of Lady Borealis to be crowned the next day and to sit as his side as Princess of Oertha.

A series of pickup fights took place shortly after the Coronet Tournament as the fighters wanted to continue having fun in the snow. Additionally, many Rapier fighters took the opportunity to have fun outside as well. Many of the populace braved the weather to watch both groups.

After the fighting there was an evening court held for both the Principality of Oertha and the Kingdom of the West. This court would see many individuals recognized and honor for their effort and hard works.

In the Court of Kenric and Dagmar it was Lady Mór ingen Donnchada who was bestowed the Diamond Willow for her service to the Principality. Afterwards, Lady Elena verch Rhys and Lord Hans Shaefer were noted for their great hospitality and awarded the Argent Flame. From there, the Oerthan Order of Grace was then bestowed upon Viscountess Violet Tailyeaour and Lady Elena verch Rhys—both noted for their courteous behavior to all. From there the Prince and Princess of Oertha invited Fella-Bjorn Gunnarsson into

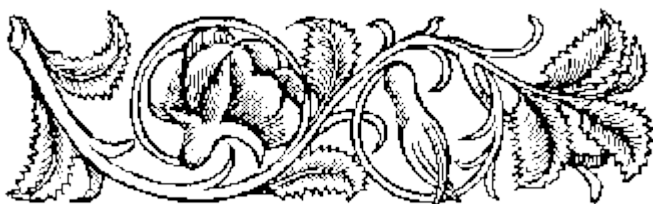
the Order of the Oerthan Sword for his skill in combat on the field.

The Sister Baronesses of Eskalya had business in the Court of Kenric and Dagmar as well. Trailed by two youths carrying the Ancient Coronets of the Barony of Eskalya, Baroness Cynehild and Baroness Clare returned these relics to their rightful owner; Viscountess Aryana Silknfyre. Her Excellency, Aryana, gave kind words unto the Baronesses and to the populace and received the storied historical items unto her person.

From there the Court of King Roger and Queen Zanobia started with Sorcha Caraman and Duke Skeggi Nyewcombe, escorted in by the members of the Guild of Defense, being brought forward before Their Majesties. Both Mistress Sorcha and Duke Skeggi were offered elevation into the Order of Fence, and both were quite honored with the decision by Their Majesties. Mistress Sorcha agreed to be elevated the next day while Duke Skeggi asked for admission at a later date.

Last but not least Mistress Saphira the Navigator was called forward and elevated to the position of the King's Huscarls. The Huscarls members are asked to serve as the King's house guard, specifically during war time and is, indeed, a most notable honor.

In the evening and after court, the Autocrat invited those who purchased feast tickets to enjoy the Tattered Tabard Tavern held in the hall downstairs in preparation for the grand meal. With specially selected music and the hall lit only by candles, the tavern was a beauty to behold and evoked a wonderful atmosphere for an amazing set of period dishes and delights.



High Table is ready and The Tattered Tabard Tavern is all set for feast to begin. Photograph by Yamano Yuki. January 21, 2017.

All of the items for feast were based on period foods from a variety of sources. Each dish was only modified slightly for the modern palate and then only with items that would have been a normal substitution in the time period. The first course consisted of artesian breads and Oyle Soppes, a version of onion soup served with stale bread underneath the soup. The second course was Roast Fowl with bread stuffing, vegetable fryttors, and baked root vegetables. The Roast Fowl was brought out with great pageantry to be displayed at High Table dressed as a goose—a fantastical illusion to behold. The third remove was Roast pig alongside Rysshews of fruyte and a custard of squash. The final remove saw a selection of scrumptious tarts.

Tales and songs were presented alongside the courses in the Tavern; and the entries for the Principality of Oertha's Arts and Sciences Competition also took place at that time. The whole tavern atmosphere was immensely enhanced by these additions and made a very memorable experience.

The day ended with many people headed to homes or to their cabins to continue the celebration of the day's event and to prepare for the next day. In the upper hall, Sir Duncan ap Llywellyn and Master Rodrigo de Reinosa took the opportunity to duel with miniature siege weapons. Marshmallows flew back and forth and

there was much laughter by those witnessing such an event.

The next day opened with cold outside in typical Oerthan fashion; but that didn't stop the activities planned to conclude the event. There were plenty of things to witness and partake in including a showcase of rapier skill, the final court of Kenric and Dagmar, the first court of Søren and Alienor, and a Kingdom court as well.

The Rapier Community, led by the West Kingdom Guild of Defence honored the Queen of the West with a display of period techniques from a variety of different Masters of the later time frame of the Society. The Queen braved the temperatures so different from her homelands and was amazed and quite pleased with the skill and prowess of the various Oerthan rapier fighters in which she gleefully noted in a later missive that "The enthusiasm for their martial art, and the research and execution of the various masters of defense was a joy to behold."



A demonstration of Fencing Masters is put on by Lord Sevastian Agafangelovich Golystin and Mistress Sorcha Careman. Photograph by Yamano Yuki. January 22, 2017.

As with all Coronets there is an Investiture Court towards the end of the event. It is here that, witnessed by the populace and following tradition and ceremony, the Prince and Princess acknowledge the victor of the

tournament and proclaim them as the new Prince and Princess of Oertha.

However, before the Investiture of Their Heirs, Kenric and Dagmar had a few other items of business in court. The Diamond Willow was bestowed to both Viscountess Isabella Hawke and Baron Faunus de Arden for their services to the Principality. Afterwards, there was a presentation of new regalia for the Principality; two new haversacks crafted by Viscountess Violet Tailyeaour, Baroness Elisheva bint Sitt al-Sirr and Lady Elena verch Rhys who presented it to Their Highnesses amid great "oohs" and "ahhs" from all those witnessing. Mistress Margarita di Calvi also received the Silver Ulu for her work in the kitchens at many events for creating delectable edible wonders.

Principality business was also conducted in court in which Sir Duncan ap Llywellyn stepped up as the new Knight Marshal for the Principality of Oertha thus relieving Sir Cyrus Aurelius from his long and honorable vigil.

More awards were presented afterwards with Mikael auraprestr, whom many in Oertha know as Father Mike, and Duchess Eilis ni Roibeard O'Boirne being admitted to the Oerthan Company of Wandering Wolves—an award for those who have contributed greatly to the Principality of Oertha but do not reside in these lands. Additionally, Lady Mór ingen Donnchada was acknowledged with the Coronets Favor for great services rendered unto the Prince and Princess. Last, but not least, The Shield of Chivalry was bestowed upon Lord Bartram Sinclair who showed great prowess and chivalry on many fields of battle. From there, and after the court was released, Prince Kenric gave his final words to the populace of Oertha and the Coronets of Oertha were passed unto the Heirs, Søren and Alienor.

After the Coronets were passed, there was a change in the Princess' Champions, new lords and ladies of the court were named, new guardsmen selected for duty, and talented artisans were called to take their place in

the court. Prince Søren thanked the populace for attending and stated that he and Princess Alienor looked forward to traveling throughout Oertha, seeing his beloved populace, and meeting new people during his reign.

After the Investiture Court notable events took place in Their Majesties court. The first of which was the admission of Mistress Sorcha Careman into the Order of Defense; the first person be elevated to the Order in the lands of the Principality of Oertha. Her ceremony was quite beautiful, and included kind words from many people, the gift of white silk scarves as a sign of her elevation, and a token that had been made the night before by Duke Skeggi Nyewcombe, The Honorable Lady Kharakan Saran, and Lady Cassandra of Winter's Gate.



Duke Skeggi Nyewcombe offers newly crafted regalia for Mistress Sorcha Caraman who is inducted into the Order of Defense. Photograph by Yamano Yuki. January 22, 2017.

After the ceremony; Lady Celestria Tatrix and Master Gavin Woodward were called before the King and Queen of the West and received high praise for their hospitality and were awarded the Crowns Favor. Viscountess Violet Tailyeaour also received a Leaf of Merit for her astounding continued works in the Kingdom of the West. Additionally, Master Fergus mac Thomais was honored with admission into the Royal Missile Company; an honor that also bestows with it a

Grant of Arms. Afterwards, Viscountess Dagmar the Red was called before Queen Zenobia and thusly made a Queens Guard, and Lady Cassandra of Winter's Gate and Baroness Clare Elana, known for their many skills, were made Queens Artisans.

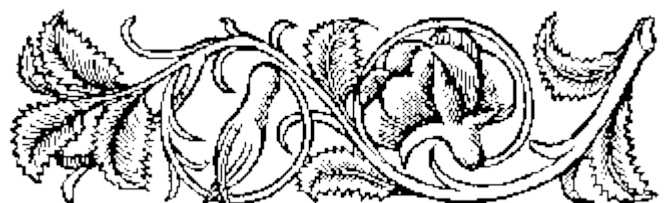
The final business in the court of the King and Queen of the West was that Tiarna Brann mac Finnchad was called before Their Majesties and offered admission into the Order of the Laurel for his amazing works in costuming. Tiarna Brann mac Finnchad asked to accept the elevation at a later date so that he would have time to prepare and Their Majesties honored his decision commanding him to prepare a suitable vigil.

After the recognitions of many of the populace, the King and Queen of the West thanked the Principality of Oertha for their hospitality. With three cheers for the new Prince and Princess of Oertha, the King and Queen of the West, and all the other Princes and Princesses of the West the event was officially over.

While Coronets come to Oertha twice every year each one is unique and full of fond memories. Each person, no matter if Autocrat, Peer, populace member, or visitor, leave an indelible mark on these events. This Winter Coronet and Investiture will be remembered fondly by many for it was a weekend where friends were made, honor shined brightly on the battlefield, a new Prince and Princess took the thrones, a great feast was enjoyed by many, and our loved ones were recognized for their hard works and efforts.

The Selviargard Associated Press

Originally published in the March 2017 edition of The DragonTale.



The Art of Writing an Event Report

By *Despotes* Halfdan Ozurrson, OP
Group Historian for the Barony of Selviergard

Having an event report—a written and published account of what happened at an event—is helpful in many ways. An event report preserves history for future generations, tells a story of great deeds that happened, encourages participation to future events, and at the least, is a filler for your local newsletter or website. Sometimes these reports are written out, sometimes they aren't. Writing out an event report is something easily accomplished with a little know-how and some effort.

Crafting a good event report is telling a story; your story. With some determination, some skill, and some ideas anybody can write a report of a past event down on paper and get it published. Writing an event report is easy to do once you have an idea on what you should write down and present to the rest of the populace.

I first started writing event reports when I couldn't find historical items from more than three years ago in my local group. I was planning the tenth anniversary of my local group and was looking for ideas on what activities to have, and, figuring that delving into the past was a good start I explored many avenues... and found nothing that was helpful. Besides dubious apocrypha and some old event notices I didn't have much to go on. I told myself that day that things had to change.

"Crafting a good event report is telling a story; your story."

How to Get Started

Write your thoughts down on paper, preferably at the event; what do you want to write about, what interesting things are happening, and so forth. Keep

notes of what is going on, fun things that you have heard or seen, and other items that would be interesting to future generations. You can quickly get started by creating an outline of what you want to write about—this serves as a “cheat sheet”. This outline you create is simply a tool and often times you will see sections move, separate, or even get added to other sections during the actual writing process. This is perfectly fine, as the outline is simply a tool and not the final product.

Writing your initial thoughts and ideas down in a notebook is preferable to an electronic device. Not only does this help preserve the medieval atmosphere of an event by not using technology but also it takes longer to write something down on paper and you are more likely to put more thought and effort into it.

What to Include in an Event Report

When writing an event report you may want to include key items to help make your story a more useful and interesting one. Items that are particularly important to include are: Awards that were given out, tournament information (such as the style of the tournament, who won, and the entrants to the list fields), the storyline of the event (if any), what competitions were going on and who won them, any feast information such as the menu or entertainment, any historical basis for the event (most notably if it is based off a local level historical activity or perhaps one from history), and any memorable happenings such as a new squire or the elevation of a Peer.

You can include other items that you find interesting as the above are just ideas and what I usually include in event reports. Adding these items in to your event

report help tell your story and give as much information as possible so that somebody who didn't attend the event can learn what happened and perhaps be inspired.

Where to Get Your Resources

Besides your own personal notes of the event there are many resources to use when writing an event report. From missives, websites, and even Facebook or your local Email groups; good information is out there to find—you just have to explore.

Sometimes you will find a missive from the Royalty or the Autocrat for the event. These items sometimes have good information for you; who won a tournament or what happened. Another good source that I use often is the Awards page on the kingdom website. If awards were given, even for a baronial level event, this is where to find them and the recipient's name. Another source that will help you is the event copy. The event copy will tell you what was planned, when and where the event was held, and who was the Autocrat. Although this information may differ from what actually happened the event copy is a great place to start.

Don't be afraid to ask the Autocrat of the event if there was a storyline involved with the event or if the event was based off a historical (either world history or group history) activity. Sometimes the storyline of the event gets lost in translation at an event and asking the Autocrat for more information is always a good idea if the story wasn't clear.

Crafting the Event Report

I usually start by writing out a rough plan and work from there. Many, if not all, of my event reports are done chronologically as I have found that is the best way to talk about what happened. I go from the

opening court to the final court and write about everything in between. I write out an outline and work from there. Your outline is only a tool, so feel free to move things around or add or subtract from the outline.

"Your outline is only a tool."

Start writing. This advice seems simple enough, but all of those great ideas go to waste if you don't start writing it. Compose your first draft and don't worry about spelling errors or wrong grammatical choices. Your rough draft is just that, rough. The goal is to get your ideas and thoughts onto paper as soon as possible.

When you think you are done with your rough draft start going through your document and fix those blunders; odd sentences, grammatical mistakes, and fix those spelling errors while you are at it. From here, you will find that you want to add something else, combine sentences or paragraphs, or perhaps delete some instead. Take the time to rework your rough draft and do it well.

You will go through this process several times; trust me on this.

After you think you are done send the event report to a friend to have them look over it. By this time you have looked over the event report a hundred times and will want a new set of eyes to look it over for you. After your friend sends the document back to you with remarks and corrections, make those improvements and put the document away for a day—sleep on it. The next day take a look at your work and decide if you need to go back again and fix more errors. If not, congratulations—you are done!

Continued on Page 13...

Thoughtful Inclusions to Any Event Report

Adding something other than just the raw information in an event report is a good idea. From photographs to quotes; the inclusion of these items adds extra character and style to any written report. Including these items turns your event report from bland to exciting.

Use Proper Names and Titles. The correct spelling of a name, along with a title (such as Lord, Master, Prince, and so on) is always preferable. These people worked hard to pass their names through the College of Heralds or get those titles and should be honored thusly. Take the time to look up the correct spelling of their name, such as on kingdom websites or even on their Facebook page or other missives sent. Also, when mentioning them for the first time in a missive I usually include their full name. For example, Lord Charles Woodward the Wooden Headed is mentioned several times in a missive, after the first time I refer to him as Lord Charles Woodward. This is simply so that we know which Charles is being written about, but we don't necessarily need to know his full and exhaustive name.

Adding Photographs. For smaller events, such as baronial level activities, I include between three to five photographs if possible. These photos can usually be found uploaded to Facebook or can be attained from your friendly local photographer who was at the event. Always be sure to include who took the photograph and some information about the photo that you present. For example: "Baron Halfdan bestows the Order of the Gules Claymore, an award for service, to Lady Angelique at Selviergard's Yule. December 7, 2016. Photograph by Charles Woodward the Wooden Headed." If the photograph was submitted by a person and you do not know who took the photo, replace "Photograph by" with "Submitted by."

When adding photographs try to choose something interesting that fits in with the story you are telling. Good placement in the document is key as well. If you

are talking about baronial court try to find a picture of somebody receiving an award in that court—don't use a photograph of the tournament. The photographs that you use will help tell the story so finding a good one that fits in to the event report is important.

Including Quotes. Sometimes I like to include quotes, usually at the beginning of the event report and sometimes near the conclusion of the event report itself. Adding a quote, or several quotes, adds extra flair to your event report and, when done correctly, looks amazing. A good quote is usually one or two sentences, but depending on what is being said you might decide to add another sentence or two...keep it short. You can usually get quotes in three ways: snippets heard at the event, gleaned from post-event missives, or creatively faked quotes.

Quotes heard should reflect the idea of the event or exemplify something that happened. Doing this type of quote means you need to be listening and you need to have a pen and paper with you to capture the sentence. Write down the quote as accurately as possible and write down the name of the person speaking. It is an extremely good idea to get the person's permission to publish the quote—not necessary but defiantly a good idea.

Quotes gleaned from post-event missives is quite easy; simply find a sentence or two that conveys the feeling of the event. The person writing it is the person that you are quoting. I have done this many times with my event reports even if it is from a missive from myself either as autocrat of the event or simply a participant. I have even used a quote from the "thank you" missive from the Queen of the West for one of our events.

Creatively faking a quote is fun and this is something I will do from time to time especially if I want a quote but forget to write them down or didn't hear one at the event itself. For one event report I came up with a quote that I could have said and added that to the event report (even though I didn't say it but probably thought it) and it turned out to be a quite nice addition

to the event write up. Faked quotes should always follow the rules of the other quotes you use: it shouldn't be embarrassing to any individual and should only exemplify and glorify the event. Additionally, faked quotes should only be "sourced" as from you, or an unknown person, or even from a "forgotten document lost to time."

"Quotes should reflect the idea of the event or exemplify something that happened"

A note on using quotes: do not quote something that was said in private or that could be considered rude or embarrassing. These items should not be included in the event report as you are trying to write about the best possible aspects of the event. Only use positive, fun, or quirky quotes that help advance the ideas of The Society.

When to Write an Event Report

It is best to start writing the event report as soon as you can as you can write about an event easily while it is still fresh in your mind. Helpful tricks include taking notes at events, writing things down in a notebook when you get home. Plan on writing an event report no more than two weeks after the event. No worries if the event report will not get done by the time a newsletter is published; take your time to create something noteworthy.

Who to Send the Event Report To

Once you have completed the event report, now it is time to share it. The first person to send it to is the local chronicler for inclusion into your local newsletter. Your Chronicler will thank you. Additionally, sending

the information to a historian, either kingdom level or local level (or both is always good). This ensures that the information is saved for future generations even if for some reason it wasn't included in the newsletter.

Always keep a copy of your event report. I usually save mine not only to my personal computer but a backup hard drive as well. You could also save them to a blog to save it online if so desired. Keeping a copy of your event report is important as sometimes your work may not appear in a publication or website and if you have a backup it is much easier to resend the information than to rewrite it again if needed.

Conclusion

By writing event reports you preserve your local history and help to ensure that the Chronicler is happy. Rest assured that your contributions to The Society are noted and appreciated. It may take some work in the beginning to craft that event report but the end result is always the same; an event report you can be proud of a great resource in the future.

Do you need to be the Autocrat of the event to write an event report? Not necessarily. In some cases the Autocrat may write out a report and publish it so check with the Autocrat of the event to see if they were going to write something out. If you have a smaller group, you may already know if event reports are being written or not so go ahead and write them with style.



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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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