

*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

### A Trip Down the Silk Road: Summer Coronet Event Report

### The Oerthan Calendar!

### and more!

This is the Fall 2018 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.

Copyright © 2018 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork, please contact the Chronicler who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

## From the Prince and Princess...

Fighters of Oertha! Hear Us and heed what We say!

While Our time is not yet at hand to find successors for the Coronets of Oertha, it is time for Us and you to look to the future. It is Our wish that every heavy fighter bring their best until semi finals of Our tournament under standard double elimination conventions.

A true test will present itself at the semi finals where the convention will evolve into a best of three in matched weapons in which the weapons cannot repeat. For example 1 of 3 can be sword and shield; 2 of 3 has to be different weapon form; and, if necessary, 3 of 3 has to be different than the 1st and 2nd bouts. Double elimination will still be in play.

Finals will evolve even further to where fighters will test themselves in a best of five matched weapons, again, no weapon can repeat as the round progresses. The weapons to be used in the finals will be provided by Us and the order of the weapon format will be determined at the time of the fights by Her Highness and the finalists' consorts.

We look forward to seeing the best that Oertha has to offer. Any questions about the conventions can be directed to His or Her Highness.

In service,

## Culann and Sefa

Prince and Princess of Oertha



---

## Samhain Masked Ball

October 20, 2018  
Barony of Eskalya

---

The wind is wild, the mist gathers on the moors, and there are rumors of strange folk, beasts, and spirits as the barrier between two realms grows thin. All good gentles, be they old or young, are invited to don masks and your best garb, and dance through this gathering. Dances will be taught earlier in the day so all will know the dances. The ball will be held before feast.

Some activities of the day include:

A&S Competition Masks! Period or Fantasy (Youth and Adult)

Desserts of the Season (Halloween or Fall)

Competition: Best Table Decorations featuring the use of Candles (flameless plz).

Games: Quick the Bard and Stomp the Duck; and perhaps more!

**Site Information:** Church of Love Spenard (3502 Spenard Rd, Anchorage Alaska 99503)

Site opens at NOON and closes at 7PM

Directions: From Northern Lights Blvd, turn left on Spenard Rd. The Church will be on your right. From Minnesota Drive, turn right on Spenard Rd. The Church will be on your left

Feast will be a potluck with Meat Provided. Please bring a dish that will feed 6-10 people.

**Event Registration:** 10, Adult Member Discount Event Registration: \$5, Children (15 and Under) : \$FREE, Family Cap: \$25

**Autocrat:** Viscountess Bella Hawke (Melissa Snyder).

---

## Samhain Haunted Harvest

October 27, 2018  
Barony of Selviargard

---

Come one come all and celebrate the Samhain Haunted Harvest with the Barony of Selviargard Let us meet, eat and be joyful of the abundant harvest! We can bob for apples or sip warm mulled cider whilst enjoying the company of dear friends. Fight in the "keep your wounds" tourney (better line up some mourners, or someone to help feed you if you are gravely wounded or killed).

We will have a Meat of the Hunt in (moose or caribou) a Barley Vegetable soup, Roasted Vegetables of the season (potatoes, carrots, rutabagas or parsnips) whatever the harvesters may come upon, and Colcannon Potatoes. Please bring a Pot Luck of your Best of the Season's Recipes to add to the above for all to feast upon.

Please bring candy for the treasures or the youth at heart... to trick or treat at tables. Decorate your table in our harvest theme and win a prize!

**Site Information:** Ewetopia Farms / 3911 S. Caudil Rd. Palmer, AK 99645

**Event Registration:** \$15, Adult Member Discount Event Registration \$10, Children (5 to 12 ) Registration Fees \$5, Youth (5 and under) free. Family cap \$25 (with adult membership).

**Autocrat:** Lady Ally of Selviargard (Laurie Mitchell) and Magistra Vicana (Bobbie Sampson)



# Viking Collegium

November 3-4, 2018  
Barony of Winter's Gate

*Hwæt we gardena in geardagum þeodcyninga þrym gefrunon hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon!* Come, learn about the Vikings! Immerse yourself in an amazing learning experience with the College of St. Boniface, November 3-4.

List of Workshops offered at St. Boniface Collegium

- Ostenstitch Viking Embroidery
  - Silk Block Painting
  - Panels and Hoods
  - Beyond the T-Tunic
  - Cooking Viking Style
  - Archeological Textiles
  - Viking Wire Weaving
- Viking Tunics and Dresses
  - Viking Shoes
  - Leather Lab
  - Shield Painting
- Great Weapons and Melee Tactics
  - Spoon Carving
  - Basic Lyre
- Easy Viking Wire Rings
- Falconry from Medieval to Modern.
- Historical Navigation and Astronomy
- Go "A-Viking" Viking on a budget (tentative)
- Drafting the Basic T-Tunic



# Calendar

## October

- October 13 Michaelmas  
*Barony of Winters Gate*
- October 20 **Samhain Masked Ball**  
*Barony of Eskalya*
- October 27 **Haunted Harvest**  
*Barony of Selviergard*

## November

- November 3-4 **Viking Collegium**  
*College of St. Boniface*
- November 16 **Bjodann Bjodannskona**  
*Canton of Bjarnarstrond*

## December

- December 1 **Yule**  
*Barony of Selviergard*
- December 8 **Yule**  
*Barony of Eskalya*
- December 29 **Jól**  
*Barony of Winter's Gate*

## January

- January 19-20 **Winter Coronet**  
*Principality of Oertha*

Bolded items have event copies in this newsletter.  
AUTOCRATS: Please submit your event copies directly to your local chroniclers / Principality chronicler for addition to newsletters.





“Lee Shore”

Original artwork by Lord Colum Mac Eoghain Uí Niall



---

## Bjodann eda Bjodanskona

November 16, 2018  
Barony of Winter's Gate

---

The fine folk of the soon-to-be Canton of Bjarnarstrond are hungry for knowledge and skills. As such they will be holding an A&S workshop that they might clothe themselves well, and to learn to make the weapons and armor that will enable them to successfully defend our northernmost border. Merriment to celebrate the visit of the Prince and Princess (and other exalted visitors) will follow this day of learning.

Barrow (Utqiagvik) is on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Please bring clothing appropriate to the weather. Be aware that weather delays may affect travel in and out of Barrow (Utqiagvik). Home hospitality is available, albeit extremely limited. RSVP is required to arrange housing and ground transportation.

**Site Information:** 2426 D St (Barrow (Utqiagvik) AK 99723)

Site Opens at NOON on Friday and closes at 7PM on Sunday. Merriment and informal instruction to follow until all the visitors have left on Sunday.

Directions: No roads in. No roads out. Capture a dragon (they are free to come and go here) and travel to the top of the known world. Ensure that your dragon comprehends to return for you. Be aware that fluctuations in weather may delay your dragon. Not common but known to occur because dragons aren't stupid. Barrow (Utqiagvik) is only accessible by air and is on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Be aware that weather delays may affect travel in and out of Barrow (Utqiagvik).

For this event RSVP is required.

**Event Registration:** FREE

**Autocrat:** Niell Mac Nyven (Nathan L. Meadows)

---

## Selviergard Yule

December 1, 2018  
Barony of Selviergard

---

As the holiday season approaches, thoughts turn to family and friends. Please join the Barony of Selviergard as we celebrate Yule tide traditions with tournaments, games and feasting. We will have a cookie exchange, ornament making and bardic caroling. There will be heavy and rapier tournaments and the famous "Rock, Paper, Scissors" open to all.

After the activities of the day we will feast on traditional yule time foods as the carolers entertain the populace.

Feast Details

Roast Turkey

Roast Pork in fruit and ale.

Bread Stuffing

Roast Squash

Selviergard Carrots

Mulled Cider

Deserts will be pot luck, please bring a yule tide desert to share, this will also serve as your entry into the desert contest.

**Site Information:** Lavern Griffin Camp, Wasilla Alaska / 4495 W. Little Cloud Drive, Wasilla AK 99623

Site opens at 10AM and closes at 8PM.

**Event Registration:** (Adults Non-Members) \$15.00, Adult Members \$8.00, Non-member Children 5-12 \$10, Members \$5.00, Under 5 free. Family Cap (NM) \$35.00, Family Cap Members \$25.00

**Autocrat:** Viscount Master Fergus MacThomais (George Thompson)



---

## Eskalyan Yule

December 8, 2018  
Barony of Eskalya

---

Come brave the snow and witness a grand day of joy, laughter, and happiness. The Sister Baronesses have found Their time to be coming to a close and they look to Their Heirs, Gavin and Celestria, to lead the Barony into a new season of prosperity.

Dinner will be a potluck style, the Barony will supply two types of meat and side dishes will be as mundane last names:

A-I	Starches
J-R	Salads
S-Z	Deserts

**Site Information:** Anchor Lutheran School / 8100 Arctic Blvd, Anchorage AK

Site opens at 11AM and closes at 8PM.

Directions: Take best way to Dimond Blvd. Go north on Arctic Blvd, turn left onto W 81st Ave. School is first left before stop sign

**Event Registration:** Adult Registration (non-member) \$20, Adult member discount \$15, Children 6-17 \$5, Children 0-5 free, Family cap \$60

**Autocrat:** Soren j Alborg (Leon Ayers II)




---

## Jól

December 29, 2018  
Barony of Winter's Gate

---

Happy Jól (Yule)! Winter Solstice – the time of year when the days get longer and the sun begins to return. This is truly a cause for celebration in Winter's Gate! Join us as we gather together and celebrate the Norse traditions of feasting, celebrating, and reveling in each other's company during this yule season. While we may not be burning a sun-wheel to entice the sun to return or sacrificing a wild boar to appease Frey in hopes of fertile farmland, we will be enjoying some other ancient traditions while we eat and drink our fill.

**Baron's Whim:** Things that keep your head warm! Show off your hats, hoods, and other head coverings!

**Baroness' Whim:** TBA

**Autocrat's Whim:** Homebrewed mead and/or wine. The autocrat loves a good homebrewed mead. She also loves a good homebrewed wine. Documentation is not required but strongly encouraged!

**A&S Whim:** All Things Bright: Metalwork and Sparkly Things. Documentation is not required but strongly encouraged! All ages are invited to participate!

**Site Information:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks, 4448 Pike's Landing Road in Fairbanks, AK 99709

Site opens at 10AM and closes at 10PM

**Food:** The Barony will provide a meat dish (most likely a form of wild boar, but more modern). Each adult attending should please bring one potluck contribution to feed 6-8 people. (Don't forget desserts count too!!)

**Adult Event Registration:** \$15, Adult Member Discount Event Registration: \$10, Children (6-17): \$5, Family Cap: \$30

**Autocrat:** Sefa Hrafnadóttir (Sheva Corning)

---

## Nifty Nine Largess Derby Information

---

Greetings Unto the Populace of Oertha!

At this upcoming Winter Coronet, Their Highnesses will be hosting a Nifty Nine Largess Derby to collect largesse for Their Heirs to be distributed throughout the Principality and Kingdom as well as be gifted to Others.

To enter the Derby, please bring nine items of a single type tagged with your name and group. There is an extra challenge in this derby in that Their Highnesses are requesting unisex or male related items as they are in scarce supply (e.g. nine hoods, caps, hats and mittens or gloves, nine mugs, nine belt pouches or haversacks, nine armor repair kits, nine calligraphy kits, nine knives, etc). 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.

If you would like to mail entries in, please contact Lady Celestria Textrix and she will be more than happy to assist with your generosity.

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



## 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 other items of interest. While this newsletter contains important upcoming events there are many, many more things that I would like to add to this publication.

Sometimes people ask me “What do you need for the newsletter?” and my simple response is “anything.” I am always looking for artwork, “how-to” articles, event reports, poems, recipes, stories, research material, and more. Basically, anything that somebody might find interesting can be added to this newsletter, which reaches a wide audience. In the past I have received thoughtful articles, amazing artwork, and skilled poetry and songs that all help add to the glory of our Principality.

Autocrats of events are highly encouraged to send the Chroniclers event copies directly instead of relying solely on social media to get the information published. A lot of my time is spent searching for these items and ensuring that I have the correct edition or data. Event copies are always welcome as long as it is before the deadline. I want to make sure that your event is well advertised!

Thank you to everybody who sends artwork, poems, songs, and articles—you help make this newsletter a great publication for this Principality. If you would like to contribute items for publication please let me know either in person or by message.

The Guardian is published quarterly; twice in paper edition and twice in electronic form. The deadline for submissions for the Winter edition of *The Guardian* will be January 1<sup>st</sup>.

In Service,

Halfdan “Two Bears” Ozurrson  
Principality Chronicler



## A Trip Down the Silk Road

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

**Principality of Oertha, Kingdom of the West**—The Shire of Hrafnafjorðr hosted the Principality's Summer Coronet and Investiture this year amid a beautiful weekend with many people from all over Oertha as together they celebrated the reign of Skeggi and Kharakhan, the Prince and Princess of Oertha, and welcomed Their Heirs to the Lupine Thrones.

Many populace members arrived on Friday to set up pavilions and encampments in preparation for a full weekend of activities that included tournaments, courts, bardic, and much more. Additional time on Friday was spent visiting with friends and family and laughter filled the campsite liberally.

The event opened early on Saturday with a fundraiser breakfast being served and Turkish-style coffee offered. Populace members waited for the event to officially open with court by relaxing and preparing themselves for the day's activities. Later in the morning it was time to start the event with the opening court of the day that would lead to the tournament to determine the next Prince and Princess of Oertha.

In opening court announcements were given regarding the event and upcoming activities. The Autocrat of the event, Lady Sylvia of Thrace, welcomed all and gave information on what to expect during the weekend. Additionally, Mistress Anna di Caterina Neri, the Principality Seneschal, had some words as well.

From there His Highness, Prince Skeggi of Oertha, welcomed all to the event in which he made known his appreciation for all those in attendance for what was to be a joyous weekend. His Majesty, King Uther, had a kingdom court opened for business, first starting with calling Their Highnesses forward to swear fealty.

Afterwards Peers of the Realm were called forward to swear fealty as well and then His Majesty proceeded to inviting the populace to pay homage to the Crown of the West if they wished to do so.

His Majesty then called forward Lady Talorc Caer Arienrhold and presented her with a Court Barony. In addition to her title she was presented with a baronial circlet for her new position within the court of the West. There was much cheering from those in attendance.

From here, King Uther took the time to address the assembled populace about recognizing compassion and kindness in the Society. It was here that he encouraged everybody to write out a thank you note during the event and to present it to another person so that the recipients of these kind words would be encouraged to continue their works and deeds that exemplify the Society that we live in.

The court then transferred back to Prince Skeggi and Princess Kharakhan as they concluded court for the morning in which several awards and recognitions were given to members of the populace. The Order of the Orion was presented to Lord William the Archer for his skill in archery within the Principality of Oertha. While Lord William was not present, Baroness Elena of Winter's Gate accepted the award and scroll on his behalf. Additionally, the Order of the Argent Flame was presented to Adelaide the Weaver and Arnthorr Hesthofdi for their exemplary hospitality.

More awards and recognitions followed with Sir Culann mac Cianain being presented with the Order of the Oerthan Sword and Lord Bartram Sinclair being presented with the Ash Leaf by Their Highnesses. The



Oerthan Sword is a Principality award presented to those whose martial prowess and chivalrous behavior on and off the field is exemplary and the Ash Leaf is presented to those who excel in the fighting aspect of the Society on a kingdom-level.

With awards and recognition bestowed upon members of the populace it was time to start the ceremony to begin the Coronet Tournament. Seven fighters were called forward to take part in the Invocation. After presenting themselves and their Consorts to the populace and the Prince and Princess of Oertha; the fighters concluded the ceremony by taking the oath and choosing their opponents for the first round of the tournament.



Entrants to the Coronet Lists swear of the Axe of State at the Principality of Oertha's Summer Coronet and Investiture. July 21, 2018. Photograph by Halfdan Ozurrson.

With the end of court it was time to prepare for the Coronet Tournament.

The Tournament for the Coronets of Oertha was in the format of best two out of three fights and double elimination. The tournament itself was quick compared to some tournaments in the past but it was no less exciting to watch. All combatants fought with skill and honor but, in the end, it would come down to the final two who would both vie for the Coronets of Oertha.

The finals were quickly upon all. A brief break before

the finals allowed a wonderful opportunity for pageantry. The final combatants, Sir Culann mac Cianain and Viscount Fergus mac Thomais, alongside with their Inspirations were escorted by friends and family onto the Field of Honor along with heralds and banner bearers. From this amazing scene the tournament started. The first fight went to Culann, and the second fight went to him as well—thus the Tournament went to Sir Culann .

It was on the field of honor that Prince Skeggi elevated Sir Culann mac Cianain as the Lord Borealis while the assembled populace watched. From there, the Princess of Oertha presented the Lord Borealis with a wreath of which he crowned Lady Sefa Hrafnisdóttir as Lady Borealis with. There was much cheering and the congratulations lasted for quite some time after the ceremony.



The Lord and Lady Borealis are proclaimed at the Oerthan Summer Coronet and Investiture. July 21, 2018. Photograph by Halfdan Ozurrson.

The ever-favorite Roses Tournament was held directly after the ceremony. The eric was once again opened for those who wished to continue fighting and an area was set aside for those who wished to cross rapier blades. While the sun was hot there were many who took part in this activity that exemplified the romantic chivalry of the Society. Roses were won by both the heavy and rapier community for various persons who they found inspirational. The roses, bestowed by the

person who lost the fight at the direction of the winner, were sent to many in the encampment alongside the kindest of words.



The Rapier Community takes part in the Roses Tournament at the Oerthan Summer Coronet and Investiture. July 21, 2018. Photograph by Halfdan Ozurrson.

After rest, relaxation, and visiting it was time to finish up the day with a court. Evening Court opened with a procession of the King of the West, the Prince and Princess of Oertha, and the Lord and Lady Borealis. From there, the court began in which many were honored and recognized for their contributions to the Principality of Oertha and the Kingdom of the West.

The Principality Arts and Sciences Minister called forward Magistra Cynehild Cynesigesdohtor and proclaimed her the winner of the ongoing Arts and Sciences competition. As is law in these lands she was bestowed with the Lumen Borealis by the Prince and Princess of Oertha much to the cheering of all.

More awards were given out in the court of Their Highnesses including several notable achievements and honors. Mistress Anna di Caterina Neri was bestowed with the Order of the Snowy Owl, an award for Arts and Sciences within the Principality of Oertha. From there, members of the Oerthan Largess Anonymous, a mostly unknown group within the Principality, was called forward. With their faces veiled to protect their identity they were acknowledged as members of the

Princess' Patrons. Continuing with the Arts and Sciences theme; Viscountess Tama Katerina Evstokh'eva was bestowed with the Boreal Fireweed given to those who teach the Arts and Sciences and Lady Sylvia of Thrace was recognized with the Argent Stylus for her artwork on numerous scrolls.

Lord Johannes von Roth was awarded the Order of the Glove; an award recognizing individuals who show chivalry and prowess on the Rapier field and who possess the qualities of a courtier. Additionally, the Raven's Heart, and award for youth in the Principality of Oertha, was presented to Xander of Eskalya for his continued good deeds and hard works. His mother, Lady Celestria Textrix accepted the award on his behalf.

A brief pause in the court of Skeggi and Kharakhan, Prince and Princess of Oertha, allowed for King Uther of the Kingdom of the West to acknowledge several individuals in his own court.

The King of the West called forward Lord Bartram Sinclair and, with the approval of the gathered knights, Lord Bartram was placed on vigil for his upcoming knighthood the next day. There was plenty of cheering from all who witnessed this wonderful announcement.

King Uther of the West took the time to present Viscount Fergus mac Thomais and Master Rodrigo de Reinosa with tokens of The Royal Missile Company; recognitions that both had received in the recent past. The tokens were well received by these two worthy individuals.

It was also in this court that the results of the polling for the new Baron and Baroness of Eskalya were announced. King Uther called forward Master Gavin Woodward and Lady Celestria Textrix and announced that they would take up the mantle as Baron and Baroness of Eskalya in December of this year.

House Tundra Weasel, the group that hosted the tavern that welcomed all at the event with a place to enjoy refreshments and good company, was called forward by His Majesty and proclaimed worthy of great

honor. The household was proclaimed as the newest recipient of the West Kingdom Paragon's of Merriment.

Additionally, Thorgrimm the Dane was bestowed with an Award of Arms for his continued good works in the Society. Additionally, Lord Fearghus mac Gylifynnan was recognized for his continuous hard works in the Society and elevated to the position of a Court Baron of the Kingdom of the West. Last, but not least, Viscount Nathan Hartman and Viscountess Lilla æt Sceaphylle were called forward and bestowed with the honors of Court Baron and Baroness in the Kingdom of the West.

From there, Lord Sevastian Agafangilovich Golytsin was called forward by the King of the West alongside the Knights and proclaimed worthy of great honor and admitted to vigil for his own knighthood to be held the next day. There was much cheering from the populace as they witnessed another member of the Principality of Oertha being recognized for his great deeds and skill upon the battlefield.

After the court of His Majesty; the Prince and Princess of Oertha once again opened their court. It was here that members of the Princess' retinue were acknowledged and thanked for their service with the Coronet's Favor.

After court everybody started to prepare for a feast. Many dishes, including a roasted pig, a delectable salad, and even dessert pies were brought out by the Autocrat and her team to be enjoyed by all. Feast was held amongst small groups throughout the encampment with all enjoying each the others company.

After feast the Bardic circle opened. It was here that favorite songs were sung alongside newer ones. Additionally, House Tundra Weasel ensured that their tavern was open for those who wanted to visit and have refreshments of drinks and pickled vegetables. Later in the evening, the Vigils for Sevastian Agafangilovich Golytsin and Bartram Sinclair were opened allowing well-wishers to congratulate the upcoming newest Knights in the Kingdom of the West.

The general atmosphere was one of celebration and the cheer and laughter that went well into the night and into a good portion of the next day.

The next morning saw Peerage meetings, a sponsored breakfast, and people getting ready for the end of the event.

The closing court of the event was met with a procession of the Prince and Princess of Oertha as well as Uther, King of the West. Court opened with various awards and recognitions from Princess Kharakhan to the rest of her retinue. In addition, Lord Sevastian was bestowed with the Shield of Chivalry for his heroic and chivalrous activity most notably during the Princess' reign.

Uther, King of the West opened his court to induct both Lord Sevastian Agafangilovich Golytsin and Lord Bartram Sinclair into the Order of Chivalry. The ceremony, not often seen in these lands, was witnessed by friends and family of the two newest knights of the Kingdom of the West.



The Knighting Ceremony of Bartram Sinclair and Sevastian. July 22, 2018. Photograph by Yama No Yuki.

After the Knighting ceremony the court once again switched to the final court of Skeggi and Kharakhan, Prince and Princess of Oertha, as they released their court and champions in preparation of a new Prince and Princess of Oertha. With final words to the populace the Prince and Princess of Oertha welcomed



in Their Successors, Culann and Sefa.



The new Prince and Princess of Oertha. July 22, 2018.  
Photograph by Yama No Yuki.

Fealty was given unto the Principality and her peoples, in addition to the officers, peers of the realm, and the populace members, but before the new Prince and Princess of Oertha could give fealty to the Crowns of the Kingdom of the West his Majesty had a surprise for Princess Sefa—elevation to the Order of the Pelican. After this, the Prince and Princess of Oertha were able to give fealty to the King.



Princess Sefa is inducted into the Order of the Pelican. July 22, 2018. Photograph by Yama No Yuki.

New champions and members of the court were called forward by Their Highnesses and installed into their positions.

As is law and custom; those who served the Principality as Prince and Princess are bestowed with the title of Viscount and Viscountess. Duke Skeggi Nyewcombe and the Honorable Lady Kharakhan Saran were so honored and presented each the other with Viscounty circlets in court that they had made.

At the end of court there was final words given by not only the Autocrat of the event, who thanked everybody for attending, but also words from the new Prince and Princess as well as the King of the West.

And thus, with three cheers, the court and the event concluded.

With pavilions packed and farewells given the celebrants to the Oerthan Summer Coronet and Investiture headed home—some near and some very far. These types of events often feel too short to spend together, but nonetheless are always fun as we spend a weekend together celebrating these, the Current Middle Ages.

It was at this event we saw many amazing things; peerages bestowed to worthy individuals, strength and valor displayed upon the field of valor, great memories made, and friendships renewed once again. We welcomed the new Prince and Princess of Oertha in style and pageantry and once again proved that Oertha, in all her glory, is an amazing place to live.

***The Selviargard Associated Press***





# The Great Hunt: The Historical Perspective and Themes in the Mythology of the White Stag

By *Despotes Halfdan Ôzurrson, O.P.*



Image 1. Depiction of a Knight and the White Stag.

The White Stag is an important historical-religious figure found in European and Eastern European mythology. In Celtic tradition, the White Stag is considered a messenger from the Otherworld and often thought to appear when one was transgressing a taboo. In Arthurian legends the White Stag was thought to represent mankind's spiritual quests and that it perennially evaded capture. In English folklore, the White Stag is associated with Heme the Hunter and even kings. In Christian tradition, the white stag is, in part, responsible for the conversion of several saints, including Saints Eustace and Hubert and often a representation of Christ. In Hungarian myth it was the White Stag that led the brothers Hunor and Magor into Scythia to found two great Empires—the Huns and the Magyar.

The White Stag was a powerful symbol to our ancestors; representing many diverse ideas, encouraging change, and even representing divinity.

But are these creatures exclusively of myth and legends or is there a basis for the White Stag mythos in a variety of cultures and religions?

White stags, though rare, are in existence today meaning that they would have been encountered by ancient mankind. In today's world; the color of the creature's coat is now more understood by science rather than mythology. The natural appearance of white deer is from a recessive gene which causes leucism—a genetic condition that reduces the normal coloring of the hair and skin

It is important to note that leucism is not the same as albinism. While the two genetic conditions have similar characteristics, albinism also causes the eyes and nose to be red due to the lack of pigmentation (Cooper, 2008) which allows the blood vessels to be seen—effectively causing the red coloration. Plants and animals can exhibit albinism but the animals with albinism tend not to live very long due mostly to the fact that the congenital defect causes poor eyesight which, when coupled with being easily visible in the wild, can lead to quick predation (Miller, 2016).

There have been several modern white stag sightings, most notably in Great Brittan and Ireland, but also in the United States of America as well. White stags in the wild are a very rare occurrence, with the majority, if not all, of the sightings this past century in Northern Europe. The last known sighting of a white deer in the wild was in 2008 in the Scottish Highlands by Fran Lockhart of the John Muir Trust. Besides just being found in Northern Europe, the United States has several protected herds of white deer found in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and even New York though little to no information on wild white deer in North America have been recently reported.

Understanding that white stags are a real creature which have not only occurred in recent history but the distant past as well, we can examine the cultural and mythological significance of this amazing animal by learning the history and mythos of different cultures without the incorrect assumption that the White Stag is based solely in the realm of the mystical.

### The Celtic White Stag

The Celtic tribes of the Northern Europe revered the stag. Not only was it a resource for early man but the stag had a pseudo-religious quality that evolved over time. In fact, it is stags that pull the chariot of Flidass, the Celtic goddess of Wild Things. The stag is also representative of the god Cernunnos, a male figure with antlers spreading out much like a crown and who represents fertility, hunting, and growth—essentially the male half of the cosmos. And while stags have a special connotation in Celtic mythologies it is the White Stag itself that has special meaning.

*“Hunters of old pursued the  
miraculous stag, not  
because they expected to  
kill it, but because it led  
them in the joy of the chase  
to new and fresh  
adventures, and so to  
capture happiness.”*

Baden-Powell's farewell  
speech to the Scouts



Image 2. Image of Cernunnos.

In The Mabinogion, a collection of Welsh tales of classic hero quests considered the earliest prose stories of Britain, the White Stag is seen as a warning. When Pwyll trespasses onto the hunting grounds of Arawn, one of the two kings of the Otherworld, a White Stag appears as a warning to the hero of the story. It is in this tale we see that the White Stag is a messenger of the Otherworld—warning Pwyll that his act of trespassing will undoubtedly end up angering one of the kings of the Otherworld for daring to commit the taboo of hunting on sacred lands. Pwyll, to atone for his misdeeds, takes the place of Arawn for a year and eventually defeats the second Otherworld king, Hafgan.

### The Arthurian White Stag

Since the Celtic and Arthurian legends of the White Stag come from the same geographical location there are similarities to the mythos. It is, however, in the Arthurian legends the White Stag becomes less of a symbol of warning and begins to take on the mantle of divinity.

The White Stag appears in the beginning of Sir Thomas



Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* as a signal of the beginning of the reign of King Arthur. King Arthur, on several occasions, sends the Knights of the Round Table out to quest for the White Stag—leading to several stories and epic quests. Arthurian legend, however, tells us that the creature can never be caught. This part of the legend possibly alludes that King Arthur's pursuit of the animal represents the unattainable goal of mankind's spiritual quest in this world (Evans, 2014).

### The British Isles White Stag

Past the Celtic and Arthurian influences, or perhaps inspired by them, the British Isles White Stag is comparable but has its own unique mythos which separates it from the stories of the Celts and King Arthur.

Scotland has a mythology of the White Stag that starts in 1128AD and is connected with King David of Scotland. Going against the advice of his priest the king goes hunting on the Feast of the Holy Rood where he encounters a white stag. The king gave chase and was thrown off his horse when the white stag turned around to attack. David calls out to God to save him and as the king grappled with the stag the creature's antlers turned into a cross and the stag simply disappeared. David built a shrine on the spot of the attack which later evolved into Holyrood Abbey leading to the development of Holyrood Palace (Evans, 2014). Holyrood Palace was an important administrative center from the 12-15th centuries and, today, is the official residence of the British Monarch in Scotland.

Herne the Hunter, a supernatural figure, is said to haunt Windsor Forest and is described as wearing antlers on his head; alluding once more to the importance of otherworldly stags in British Isles lore and possibly stemming from Paleolithic origins or early Celtic deities; though Anglo-Saxon origins are possible as well. Herne the Hunter's earliest recorded mention comes from William Shakespeare's play "The Merry Wives of Windsor" (1597) but it is unknown how old

the legend is or what pagan deity, if any, he represents with certainty (Lloyd, 2016).

### The Christian White Stag

The White Stag has often been associated with divinity and can easily be seen in Christian art and mythology. It is a white stag, for instance, that Saint Eustace meets in the wilds and which ultimately leads to his religious conversion. Additionally, the White Stag is often representative of Christ himself in artwork especially from the Middle Ages, again, following on the divinity aspect of this creature.

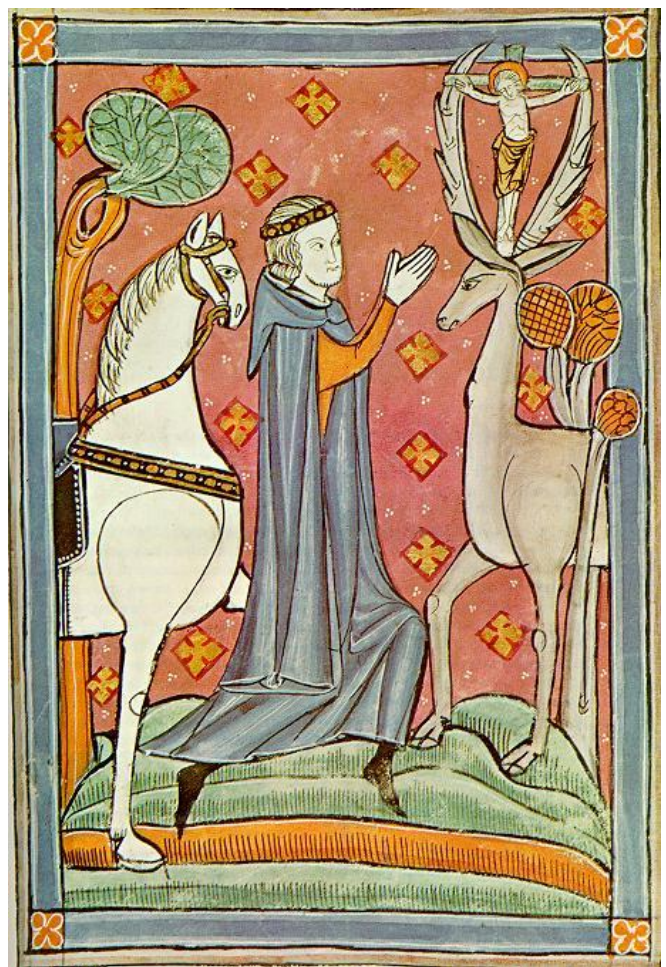


Image 3. St. Eustace and the White Hart.

The unicorn—another mythological creature—is often used as a depiction of Christ and was utilized extensively throughout Europe as this symbol. The absence of the unicorn in Northern European culture,

for whatever reason, points to the possibility that the White Stag, a symbolic stand-in for the unicorn, was divine.

### **The Hungarian White Stag**

The Hungarian White Stag lead to the creation of the Huns and the Magyars. These two cultures are said to have sprung forth from two brothers, Hunor and Magor, the sons of King Nimrod. In the story; the brothers go hunting for the stag which leads them on a great adventure. In this myth, the white stag is either a doe or a hind, either horned or not—leading to the idea that the horned doe, a hermaphroditic creature, is representative of the cosmos. This is further collaborated by the fact that the Hungarian stag carries the sun in her horns (**Phelps, 2004**) or that the horns are wreathed in flame.

### **Other Mythologies Regarding Stags**

The White Stag mythos is found in many places of the world and, while not usually citing the color of the stag, still revere the animal for one purpose or another. For example, in Ancient Mesopotamia the god and co-creator of the universe is called *Daramah* which translates as “Great Stag.” In Finnish mythologies the stag is the favorite animal of the Queen of the Underworld and, interestingly, a white stag is seen as an ill omen in that culture. The Ugrian of Siberia White Stag mythology involves the hunting of the beast as a metaphorical quest for the return of the sun (**Phelps, 2004**). In Japanese stories it is the hunting of a great stag that leads to the discovery of the island of Japan (**Phelps, 2004**). Japanese culture has another encounter with deer in the tale where white deer came out of a cave to listen to a sermon by the founder of the Rinzaï sect of Zen Buddhism.

### **Common Themes and Elements of the White Stag Mythology**

There are three common themes associated with the White Stag: divinity, hunting, and quest culture or

change. These themes overlap the various mythologies of this animal and, in most cases, point to the importance of the figure to the various ethnic and spiritual groups that the White Stag is associated with. Examining these themes and elements gives us a greater understanding of the White Stag and its importance to our ancestors.

### *The Divinity of the White Stag*

The White Stag is often portrayed as a symbol or actual representation of divinity. In the Celtic tradition; the White Stag is sometimes seen as a representation of Cernunnos and in the Christian traditions the White Stag is associated as either representing Christ or as Christ himself—in Christian traditions; the Roman soldier, St. Eustace, encounters a white stag with a cross between its antlers while hunting. The stag then reveals himself as Christ thus leading to the soon-to-be saint’s conversion to Christianity (**Evans, 2014**). Other cultures, such as in Ancient Mesopotamia, see the divine in the White Stag as well; especially as the god of the cosmos.

The White Stag in other cultures has close ties with the divine, such as pulling chariots of gods and goddesses or favored animals of deities most notably in early Celtic and Finnish mythologies.

The connection of stags and White Stags with deities shows a strong affinity to the White Stag as a divine or pseudo-divine being. The fact that the idea of the divine White Stag crosses so many cultures as well as ethnic and religious boundaries is unique in the animal world.

### *The Act of Hunting the White Stag*

In ancient times, the deer was hunted for food and raw materials and was an important part of hunter’s lives. Hunting was vital to survival. Therefore, finding a rare and magnificent white deer was something to be noted. It is of no coincidence, then, that a good portion of the mythologies surrounding the White Stag



involve hunting the creature or the stag appearing before a hunter. Sometimes the hunter knows that the beast is a part of the supernatural, while other times the hunter is clueless.

### *The Quest Culture of the White Stag*

Questing for the White Stag fits heavily into not only the Arthurian mythologies but also that of Hungarian as well. It is the act of hunting the White Stag that leads to the creation of two great Empires in Hungarian tradition or the act of pursuing a noble goal in the Arthurian mores. In the Japanese mythos it is the act of hunting a stag that leads to the discovery of Japan. The Quest, then, leads to adventure, peril, change, or even creation.

### **The Contemporary White Stag**

The White Stag is so engrained in our culture that it appears today in many different forms and media. For example, in the popular online game World of Warcraft; the White Stag is the representation of Malorne, the demi-god of nature. Other white stags can also be found in the game as well and is part of the mythology of the Tauren race in which the demigod Cenarius was born from a white stag—Cenarius being noted as “the Forest Lord” and patron god of druids. The White Stag also appears in The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim as the focus in the quest “Ill Met By Moonlight.” Hunting a white stag also features in several other games as well—most if not all within the fantasy genre.

In *The Prisoner of Azkaban*, the third book of the Harry Potter series, the White Stag is a Patronus charm used by the future Harry Potter to save not only Sirius but his younger self from the Dementors. The White Stag also appears twice in C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*: the first time in which a white stag is drawing the White Witch’s sleigh and, second, in which the Pevensie children, now adults in the land of Narnia, hunt a white stag and eventually make their way back through the wardrobe. Additionally, the White Stag in Narnia granted wishes to those that

caught it. The White Stag also makes its appearance in Snow White and the Huntsman as well as The Hobbit (both book and the film adaptation – *The Desolation of Smaug*) when the Company crosses the enchanted river in Mirkwood and spots a white stag which they waste their arrows trying to kill.

Additionally, the White Stag is featured on several brands including consumables, businesses, and other companies most notably originating from Northern Great Brittan and Ireland—usually with no religious connotation with few exceptions. The stag appearing on Jägermeister, the name of which translates to “Hunt Master” or “Master of the Hunt”, features a flaming cross between it’s antlers is relevant to the mythology of St. Eustace, the patron saint of hunters.

Heraldically speaking; the White Stag is the main device of King Richard III of England. Heraldic stags, white or not, can also be found on the armory of many people or groups in the Society for Creative Anachronism notably the Golden Stag Players in the Kingdom of the West and the main charge of the Kingdom of the Outlands.

Our culture, no matter how far removed from our medieval and ancient ancestors, still acknowledge the White Stag in one way or another. Even with these examples of the contemporary White Stag we still see the three common themes of the White Stag mythology: the White Stag as a divine figure, as a sign of warning or change, and that the act of hunting of the stag is a quest—in some cases quite literally.

### **The White Stag in the Principality of Oertha**

In my local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism we have our own mythology of the White Stag. I include it here for comparison to the mythos of the White Stag in historical context. The story was told by Michael Truffa; a member of the Order of the Argent Bear who archived the tale.

In A.S. 32 the Canton of Inbhir na da Abhann had an

event in which the participants were invited to great hunt. The Hunt had been a longstanding event celebrating the end of the summer with fighting and revelry. It was at this particular event that the local mythology of the White Stag took shape. Three fighters took the parts of the wild animals with one, an unnamed fighter who wore a white surcoat, declaring himself the White Stag.

Before leaving for the woods, the White Stag petitioned his Baroness "I am the mythical White Stag. It is my destiny to venture into those woods and meet the hunters and their dogs therein. Should I be so fortunate to make my way back to the edge of this camp, would you extend your protection to me against the hunters?" to which the Baroness readily agreed (Truffa, 1999). From there, the White Stag made his way to groups of ladies within the encampment asking in turn for their protection should he make it back.

Off into the woods the fighters went to hunt the mythical animal. With the hunters closing in, the White Stag gave them a merry chase—encountering the hunters twice, and, seeing that it would be only a matter of time before he was caught, carefully made his way to the encampment to collect on the promises of protection from those therein. However, the hunters caught up with him just in sight of the camp and surrounded the mythical beast.

The ladies within the encampment, noticing the commotion, quickly gathered and ran towards the White Stag. The hunters, knowing nothing of the agreement between the ladies and the White Stag, thought that the gentler sex had come to witness the taking down of such a mighty beast. Much to the hunter's surprise, the ladies had come to protect the White Stag and the beast, in which the hunters graciously gave way and so the White Stag made his procession into the encampment surrounded by the women.



Image 4. Reproduction of the White Stag's Presentation.

For many years afterwards, the White Stag, usually an unknown fighter but often (if not always) a knight, and wearing a torse with red antlers, would come to the Summer Hunt in which he offered fruits to the ladies who had protected him as well the honor of recognizing the lady who inspired those who would challenge him in single combat.

Within the Barony of Selvieregard, the custom of the White Stag and the Summer Hunt was readopted as a hunting event in which a tournament is held to determine who will take the role of the White Stag and the remainder of the fighters go into the woods to hunt for him. Depending on the number of fighters; other animals are chosen via tournament to waylay the hunters. The White Stag must make it to a predetermined area to elude the hunters for another year echoing back to the original story of the Canton White Stag.

### Conclusion

The White Stag, indeed stags in general, fit into the mythos of a variety of cultures and religions. While the animal covers a wide variety of themes in general we can see that the White Stag itself was an important part of ancient man and an aspect that still has value in our modern lives.

Through the stories that we tell, the adventures that

we take, in many aspects of the world around us both within and outside of the Society for Creative Anachronism; the White Stag is alive and well, and ready to take us on a grand adventure, to teach us valuable lessons, or to instill within us the wonders of the world around us.

### Bibliography

Cooper, G. (2008, February 12). Ghost-like white stag spotted in Scotland. Retrieved from Reuters: <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-stag/ghost-like-white-stag-spotted-in-scotland-idUKKIM25136920080212>

Evans, Z. T. (2014, April 26). Mythical Beasts: The White Stag. Retrieved from Under the Influence!: <https://zvetevans.wordpress.com/2014/04/26/mythical-beasts-the-white-stag/>

Lloyd, E. (2016, January 12). Herne The Hunter – The Horned God And Lord Of The Forest In British Mythology. Retrieved from Ancient Pages: <http://www.ancientpages.com/2016/01/12/herne-hunter-horned-god-lord-forest-british-mythology/>

Miller, M. L. (2016, February 3). White Deer: Understanding a Common Animal of Uncommon Color. Retrieved from Cool Green Science: <https://blog.nature.org/science/2016/02/03/white-deer-understanding-a-common-animal-of-uncommon-color/>

Phelps, B. T. (2004). The Origin of the Legend of the White Stag. Retrieved from White Stag Leadership Development: [http://www.whitestag.org/program\\_spirit/legend/ethnic\\_stories\\_of\\_the\\_white\\_stag.html](http://www.whitestag.org/program_spirit/legend/ethnic_stories_of_the_white_stag.html)

Truffa, M. (1999). The White Stag Challenge. Retrieved from Order of the Argent Bear: <http://www.alaska.net/~truffa/argentbear/deeds/white.htm>

### Image Sources

Image 1. Depiction of a Knight and the White Stag. The human figure is most likely that of St. Eustace. From A Postcard Almanac blog. May 20, 2013.

Image 2. Image of Cernunnos. Most likely a depiction of the god Cernnos but possibly another horned god. Found on the Gundestrup Cauldron on display at the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen.

Image 3. St. Eustace and the White Hart. From a 13th Century illuminated English manuscript. Image from the Biblioteca Marciana.

Image 4. Reproduction of the White Stag's Presentation. Photo taken in 1997 in the Barony of Eskalya. Image from The Argent Bear website.

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/>



# Regnum

## ROYALTY



King and Queen of the West  
Christopher and Maurya  
crown@westkingdom.org



Prince and Princess of Oertha  
Culann and Sefa  
royals@oertha.westkingdom.org

## BARONAGES



Eskalya  
Clare Elana and Cynehilde  
baron.and.baroness@eskalya.org



Winter's Gate  
Hans and Elena  
wgbaroness@gmail.com



Selviergard  
Halfdan  
selviergard@westkingdom.org

*Long live the King and Queen of the West!  
Long Live the Prince and Princess of Oertha!*



## OFFICERS



Seneschal  
Anna di Caterina Neri  
seneschal@oertha.westkingdom.org



Minister of Arts and Sciences  
Elena verch Rhys  
arts&sciences@oertha.westkingdom.org



Chronicler  
Halfdan "Two Bears" Ozurrson  
chronicler@oertha.westkingdom.org



Constable  
Ceara der Alcan  
constable@oertha.westkingdom.org



Exchequer  
Caitriona inghean ui Chionaodha  
exchequer@oertha.westkingdom.org



Stellanordica Herald  
Rodrigo de Reinosa  
herald@oertha.westkingdom.org



Knight Marshal  
Hans Shaffer  
marshal@oertha.westkingdom.org



Chatelaine  
Rin McCray  
chatelaine@oertha.westkingdom.org



Rapier Marshal  
Tama Katerina Evstokh'eva  
rapier@oertha.westkingdom.org



Web Minister  
Soren j Alborg  
webminister@oertha.westkingdom.org