

# VOX CYNAGUAE

The Newsletter for the Principality of Cynagua,  
Kingdom of the West—Summer Investiture AS LIII



Photo by Treásach Pjódhagi

# HELP WANTED

This is a list of Officers who need a deputy or a successor. Please consider volunteering; it's a lot of fun and a great way to keep Our Principality going. Please Contact the Officers directly for more information. Details on how to contact them can be found in Regnum at the back of the Vox.

**Chatelaine:** Deputy

**Chronicler:** Deputy

**Constable:** Deputy/Successor

**Copper Spoon:** Successor ASAP

**Exchequer:** Deputy/Successor

**Equestrian:** Deputy

**Lists:** Deputy

**Minister of the Bow:** Deputy

**Seneschal:** Deputy

**Regalia:** Deputy/Successor

**Web Minister:** Deputy ASAP

**Youth Point Minister:** Successor/Deputy ASAP

About the cover:

This photo was taken by Treásach Þjóðhagi at the Investiture of Eibhear and Catherine in AS 49. It was digitally edited by Sarah Bakestre.

*By Our words, and this token of Our rule,  
do We pledge fealty and protection  
to the populace of Cynagua,  
and swear to rule fairly,  
to temper justice with mercy,  
to moderate Our will with the  
judgment of the Peers of this realm.  
To lead in arms in time of war,  
and in service in times of peace,  
to return service with its reward,  
and treachery with its own.  
So say We, Prince of Cynagua.*



*By Our words, and this token of Our rule,  
do We pledge fealty and protection  
to the populace of Cynagua,  
and swear to rule fairly,  
to temper justice with mercy,  
to moderate Our will with the  
judgment of the Peers of this realm,  
to foster courtesy, chivalry, and service by example,  
and to reward and nurture  
the Arts and Sciences,  
that this Principality might flourish  
and shine among the nations.  
So say We, Princess of Cynagua.*



## *From the Prince and Princess*

Dearest Cynagua:

We cannot begin to describe how very wonderful a gift it has been to sit upon the Swan thrones. We want to thank you, from the bottom of Our hearts, for all the love, joy, gifts and sheer happiness you have shared with Us. At each event, you came and chatted with Us. We've been continually surprised by your support and words of encouragement. You showed Us who Our populace is, and We can honestly say, Our hearts are full.

Our Coronet weekend was nothing short of magic, and it is because of you, and all that you bring with you. Never have We felt such love and camaraderie as We did during this reign.

Cynagua is full of kind, compassionate people that reach out to each other in times of need. Our ability to come together and support one another has been nothing short of astounding. We are so proud to be a part of such a place. Our hearts go out to all of those currently mourning a loss. Know that We grieve with you.

Thank you. We love you. Our faith in this Society has been renewed because of you.

One last time,

Kith and Arianwen  
Prince and Princess of Cynagua

## *From the Lord and Lady of the Swan*



Thank you Cynagua for the fabulous Spring Coronet replete with arts & sciences classes, archery, and equestrian activities.

The Coronet Tournament was wonderful, all the combatants inspired greatly by their consorts, fought well and with Honor and Chivalry. Congratulations to Raven and Brenna. Raven fought with Honor, and Brenna should be proud of his exemplary behavior both on and off the field.

The Lord Defender tournament was stoutly contested, and We are pleased with the new Lord Defender who will step up at Our Investiture.

The Bardic Competition was very entertaining. We look forward to hearing more wonderful pieces from Our extremely talented incoming Bard.

Saturday evening was a very interesting and informative discussion about the future of the Principality. Thank you to everyone that was able to attend for your input on all sides of the issue. We look forward to hearing more input from Our populace on how the Principality can best prosper.

Thank you to everyone for your help and support. We look forward to serving you.

Rolf and Danaë  
Lord and Lady of the Swan

# Long Live Cynagua

I am a child of Cynagua  
and there have been times that I have struggled.  
Growing wild, adored, and spoiled  
youthful adventures I have bungled  
but inspired by Cynaguan grace  
I have grown, learned, and dazzled.

You are Cynagua's children  
plucked from your ordinary days.  
Newcomers looking for guidance  
and old timers sometimes stuck in their ways  
both enchanted by the love of honour and chivalry.  
Let Cynagua's exultation set your heart ablaze

You are Cynagua's Grace.  
Our Prince and Princess;  
your hold our honour in your hands  
With strength of duty  
and Loving Hearts  
you give life to the dream.

We are Cynagua's people.  
An army strong, loyal, and true.  
Our doubts and apathy cast aside,  
Joy in our hearts, our spirits flying anew.  
Brothers and sisters standing together,  
let the words from your lips burst through!

Long Live Cynagua!

by Tuathflaith ingen Maedoc



# Investiture Summer 2018 Menu

Beer Bread and Butter  
Cheese, Egg, Bacon pasties  
Sausage & Kraut  
Chicken & Pear Stew over Barley  
Pork Roast with Apples & Sauce Dumplings &  
Gingered Carrots  
with Red Onions  
Candied Walnuts and Almonds  
Cheese & Apple Tart



## In passing moments

In passing moments / When I think of you  
I see you standing / Strong and true  
A smirk on your lips / A twinkle in your blue.  
In passing moments / I find something to share  
Only to find / You will not be there  
Sadness strikes true / Like a fell blade  
Cleaving my soul / My heart bare is laid.

In passing moments / I see your quirked eye  
The judgment on your lips / "Really dood. Do not cry.  
For I am stealing Odin's ale / Pulling Thor's hair  
Filling Heimdal's time / Defiling Loki's lair.  
Riding the serpent / And petting the crows  
Felling tall giants / Their bodies in rows!  
I shall stand on the day / Hair streaming wide  
So do not sing sad songs / Or lament that I died.  
For I shall be here arms wide / Ale mugs in hand  
Waiting for my company / Black is the brand  
We shall yell tall tales / To the sky and moon  
Drink ourselves full / And sleep in till noon  
We shall watch over our young / Guide them we will  
With the promises deep / In the silence and still  
We shall whisper to them / In the darkest of night  
Take heart my lovelies / You have my might.  
To care and soothe / To heal and to mend  
For this is the beginning / And not the end.  
I shall be here waiting / A galaxy in blue  
My arms held wide / To gather such as you."

In these moments I feel / Lighter and cleansed  
My gut unclenches / My thoughts I do send  
You better save me ale / We can drink until dawn  
Because one more time I would hear -  
"HEY YOU - GET OFF MY LAWN!"

In loving memory of Lord Art MacOrm aka Steve Compton  
By Lash





## From the Exchequer

Greetings Cynagua, Edmond here. I have enjoyed being the Exchequer for the principality these last few years. Today, I take my leave in order to prepare for a greater journey (kingdom exchequer) next year. Thank you for all the support and love. I leave the office in great hands. Etain Ingen Chellaig will be taking over, and I have every confidence she will do an amazing job.

In service to the Crown and Coronet,

THL Edmond of Surrey  
[exchequer@cynagua.westkingdom.org](mailto:exchequer@cynagua.westkingdom.org)



## From the Sable Swan Herald

Greetings unto the Populace!! As you know, we are always looking for volunteers at every level of our Principality, as many hands make light work. You might not be sure where you fit in or if you can just 'try' something to see if it works for you. Trying something new with the Heralds is totally doable! At Spring Coronet, we had a volunteer that asked to learn Field Heraldry. He was on the field for two rounds - and did an incredible job! - but came to me afterwards and told me that although he had fun, it was not his normal 'fit', but at least he could help once in a while. This makes me so happy!

Here is a down-and-dirty list of our basic job descriptions:

## Voice Heralds

Duty Heralds - perform duty shouts and announcements

Field Heralds - think 'round announcer' for the lists, naming the combatants & announcing the victor

## Court Heralds

Prince side - 'the voice of the Prince' - works directly with the Royals to organize & run court, maintain a sense of decorum & ceremony, and follow up after court to report all awards so that they may post to the Page

Princess side - 'the voice of the Princess' - works directly with the Prince side to organize court, takes over court if the Prince side needs to step out

Back up Herald - steps into the Prince side or Princess side position as needed, reminds the Court Heralds to drink water so they don't lose their voices.

## Book Herald

Names - learns and maintains a knowledge of historical and medieval naming practices, sometimes specializing in a time or place.

Devices - learns and maintains a knowledge of historical and medieval heraldry rules

Consultation - works directly with individuals to help them develop a name and/or device for their SCA persona. This position requires a high level of patience and social interaction on a face-to-face basis.

If you wish to know more, you can check out detailed descriptions at the Heralds website at: [www.heralds.westkingdom.org](http://www.heralds.westkingdom.org) - there is a wealth of information about the what and why we do the things we do.

If you want to learn any of our Herald-y jobs, please come speak to me, and we will make it happen!

In Service,

Caoilinn Rose Maddox

[herald@cynagua.westkingdom.org](mailto:herald@cynagua.westkingdom.org)



## From the Sable Swan Scribe

Greetings to their Highnesses and the populace of Cynagua!

The scribal arts are alive and well in Cynagua. The College of Cynaguan scribes have been busy these last months. Today you will see some of the efforts produced. Scrolls are commemorations of the awards given by the Prince and Princess. The college of Cynaguan Scribes produces these scrolls and other works as gifts from Their Highnesses. These are a labor of love.

Are you interested in helping the College? You don't have to be an "artist". There are several levels that go into making a scroll. Do you like the idea of design, lining, tracing, painting, or calligraphy? Then we can help you learn a new skill and give your service to the Principality. Please come and talk to me! There are scribal nights happening in various parts of Cynagua and I can hook you up with people in your area.

So, how do you get a scroll? You can request a scroll be completed for you by sending an email to me - I prefer email, that way I have a record of it. Once I have received the request, I offer it to my scribes as an assignment. Do you have to have your name and device passed? No, you can have a scroll with the words "Our subject known as", or you can wait until your name and device has passed the College of Heralds. For scrolls that have depiction of your arms, it is suggested you have passed them, but it is not required.

I look forward to helping you with your scribal needs.

Baroness Moira O'Connor, OP  
[scribe@cynagua.westkingdom.org](mailto:scribe@cynagua.westkingdom.org)



## From the Chronicler

Hello Cynagua!

I need your submissions and corresponding release forms.

Officers, Autocrats, Guilds - if you have information to share, send it to me. Are there upcoming competitions in Cynagua? Fund raising efforts? Special formats for tournaments? Community goals you'd like help with? Is there interesting news that others should know about? Send it to me! It doesn't take much; around 250 words will fill a page in the Vox nicely.

I need photographs, artwork, stories, poems, articles, etc. If you have a few minutes, consider sending me a doodle that would make a good page divider or corner, or border, WHATEVER!

I post reminders in the Principality and area Facebook pages asking for submissions in the weeks leading up to the deadline.

Without your submissions, this is going to be a very boring newsletter. Please don't make me write a bunch of stuff; no one wants to see that!

I am also in need of at least one Deputy. If you have any interest, you can email me, find me on Facebook, or at an event. I'd be thrilled to answer any questions you may have.

**The deadline for the Fall Coronet issue is October 5.**

Send items early, and often!

In service to Cynagua,

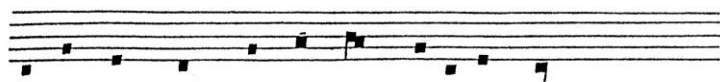
Treásach Bjóðhagi  
chronicler@cynagua.westkingdom.org

PS – As an example; this page minus header is roughly 220 words.

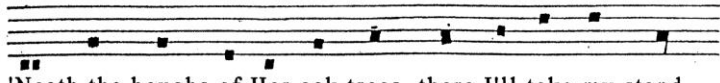


# The Green Woods of Rivenoak

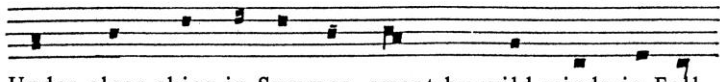
by Lady Saive nic Andreis



Up in the North Valley, lies Rivenoak land.



'Neath the boughs of Her oak trees, there I'll take my stand.



Under clear skies in Summer, swept by wild winds in Fall,



The Green Woods of Rivenoak are the fairest of all.

A once mighty oak tree was struck by a storm.

It fell and was shattered; its proud spirit we mourn.

But the seeds of its greatness shall flourish again,

In the Green Woods of Rivenoak, in the hearts of her men.

There are shires more mighty, there are shires more bold,

But the stout hearts of Rivenoak, all virtues uphold.

Her archers are crafty; her ladies are fair.

With the Green Woods of Rivenoak, there is none can compare.

In a grove of tall cedars, a tourney was fought.

The brave fighters of Cynagua, for a new prince they sought.

'Twas Rolf the Relentless stood first in the fray.

The Green Woods of Rivenoak saw his victory that day.

At Purg Coronation, to a new state was raised,

The Barony of Rivenoak -- King Christian be praised!

Now spread the glad tidings throughout our fair land,

And be love and rejoicing shared among all our band.

Repeat first verse as end verse

(sung to the tune of "Pretty Saro")

Revised by Lady Saive nic Andreis, 2011

# UPCOMING EVENTS

8/4	Fettburg Feast / Rapier Championship
8/11	Silver Desert Championship
8/17-19	Dante's Inferno
8/24-26	Purgatorio Coronation
8/31-9/3	Ducal Prize
9/7-9	Mists/Cynagua War
9/14-16	Kingdom Arts and Sciences Tournament
9/21-23	Silver Desert Collegium/40 Year Anniversary
9/29	Rivenoak Championship
9/30	Danegeld Tor Rapier Championship
10/3-8	Great Western War (Caid)
10/12-14	October Crown Tournament
10/20-21	Silver Desert Agincourt
10/20	Bestwode Championships and Harvest Feast
10/26-28	Cynagua Fall Coronet
11/3	Fendrake Marsh Plague Feast
11/11	Cynagua Archery Championship
11/16-18	Rivenberg War
11/24	Golden Rivers Anniversary Banquet
12/1	Fettburg Yule Feast
12/8	Rivenoak Yule Feast
12/15	Silver Desert Yule

For more event information, go to:  
[westkingdom.org/calendar/cynagua](http://westkingdom.org/calendar/cynagua)



# Privy etiquette



- Approach the privy. Identify a privy which appears to be available (green showing at the knob).
- Knock on the privy and then wait 4 seconds. (Occasionally people may be in the “open” privy and be unaware that the knob is set to “open”)
- Open the privy, assess the state of the privy to confirm your garments are not going to drag in someone else’s muck.
- Enter the privy. Confirm there is toilet paper available in the privy.
- Do your business.
- Completely close the lid on the seat of the privy (this will allow the fumes to escape out the top of the privy rather than accumulating IN the privy).
- Exit the privy and close the door softly. This is especially important late at night when there may be folks sleeping near the privy. Lord knows you don’t want to listen “Bang-pap” going off all night long and waking you up.
- If you used the last of the toilet paper in the privy (or nearly so) or if you identified other privies that have no toilet paper pass that information on to the autocrat/event steward so that they can fix the situation for the next person (and so it’s fixed the next time you try to use them).

Mistress Sylvie la Chardonniere

# Dante's Inferno Prize Tourney and Feast

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 12pm – August 19<sup>th</sup>, 4pm

Come join us for the Dante's Inferno Prize Tourney and Feast with your host Dante deCollino, for a weekend of fighting, feasting, and demonstrations in Granite Bay CA.

Heavy Tournament will be 2v2 random draw Prize tourney.

Friday night is potluck night.

Saturday night is a Feast.

There will be Demos and Classes on Saturday. If you are interested in teaching a class or leading a Demo, please contact the Danegeld Tor A&S Minister Micheila MacCullum at [Kim@gallagherclan.net](mailto:Kim@gallagherclan.net).

Parking is limited; carpooling is highly encouraged.

Tickets are first come, first served.

We will be taking reservations for the Feast until August 1<sup>st</sup> or if we hit 75 max feast attendees.

Camping space is limited. We have fifteen 15x15 camping spots available. (This does not mean that there are only 15 tickets available; just only 15 camping spots.) Privies available but please bring your own potable water.

Saturday Day Trip attendance is limited to 100 people.

For event sign ups and feast tickets, please contact Rhys at [Rhys.Baird@westkingdom.org](mailto:Rhys.Baird@westkingdom.org).

Site Fee: Donation only

Feast Fee: \$10

5730 Moss Ln, Granite Bay California 95746

# Third Annual Silver Desert Collegium and 40 Year Anniversary Feast & Celebration

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 12pm - September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 pm

Come & join The Province of the Silver Desert in celebrating our 40th anniversary while you learn some new arts & sciences. We have included in our lineup, a demo in reposé work by Douglas Pryor, Culinary Arts, Fiber Arts, Bardic Arts, Brewing, & the History of Beekeeping. Additionally, we are offering a lineup of classes on fighting & war technology.

If you are interested in teaching, please contact the autocrat no later than 1 September 2018, there are still class slots available. Since this Collegium is being held at the home of Their Graces, Rolf, Prince of Cynagua & Duchess Aurora, most of the A&S class space will be held in doors.

The Silver Desert will be hosting a potluck feast on Saturday evening & will be supplying smoked beast for the feast. This is a camping event & promises to be warm during the day with cool nights. Bring plenty of water & sunscreen. You will be expected to pack out your own garbage.

Autocrat: Teresa Maria Isabella Castro (Teresa Mullins) 775-843-7861 (please no calls after 9:30 pm)

Martial Arts Autocrat: Mahon MacDiarmada (John Mullins) 775-843-6961 (please no calls before 5pm & after 9:30pm)

Site Fee: Adult (16 and over): \$15, Adult member \$10, Children 10-15 \$5, Family Cap \$40, Family Cap (all adults members) \$30.

1226 Deer Lodge Road Reno, NV

Directions: take your best route to Reno & continue north on US 395 (interstate 580) for 17 Miles to Red Rock Rd exit. Exit & turn right (east bound) on Red Rock Road for about 14 Miles to Deer Lodge Rd & turn right (only way to turn). Site is on the left.

From the north, take Red Rock Exit on the Nevada side & turn left (east bound) & follow the above directions.

# Rivenoak Championship

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 7pm

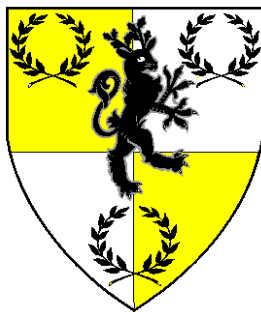
The Baron of Rivenoak invites all to join the Barony in determining the next Champions of Rivenoak. Come witness the fierce competitions of heavy combat, rapier, archery and Youth Combat. There will also be a groaning board so remember to bring some delicious foods to share. This is a DRY site. There will be a largesse competition. Check out our Facebook event for more details. So come - strap on your armor, double check your weapons, or pull up a chair and find out who the newest Champions of Rivenoak will be! Fighting is to start at noon, we must be out of the park by 8pm.

Event Steward: Lady Finna Kottr Godormsdottir (Ileah Dotson)  
finna.kottr@gmail.com (530) 391-6271

Site Fee: Adults: \$15, Adult Member Discount: \$10, Children 12-18 \$5, 11 and under free. Family cap of \$30.

Bille Park, 501 Bille Road, Paradise, CA 95969

Directions: Use best GPS directions to the address above and watch for the signs pointing to the entrance gate/parking lot.



# Danegeld Tor Rapier Championship

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 6pm

Scaling the Cliffs of Insanity, Battling Rodents of Unusual Size, Facing torture in the Pit of Despair - True love has never been a snap.

However, tossing your rapier and feast gear in the car and joining us sure is.

Thor Hyerdahl, The Shire of Danegeld Tor and The Dread Pirate Roberts invite you to bear witness to the tournament to choose their rapier champion.

It is Inconceivable that you would not attend this most enjoyable event, in a fantastic family friendly park.

Let me 'splain... no, there is too much. Let me sum up.

Woodbridge Park 415 Sierra Blvd, Roseville, CA 95678.

So Tweasure your wuv and join us for a fun filled day of rapier fighting followed by a pirate's feast.

There will also be a fiber arts salon for those interested.

Then let's look on the bright side: We're having an adventure, and most people live and die without being as lucky as we are. See you there?

As

You

Wish

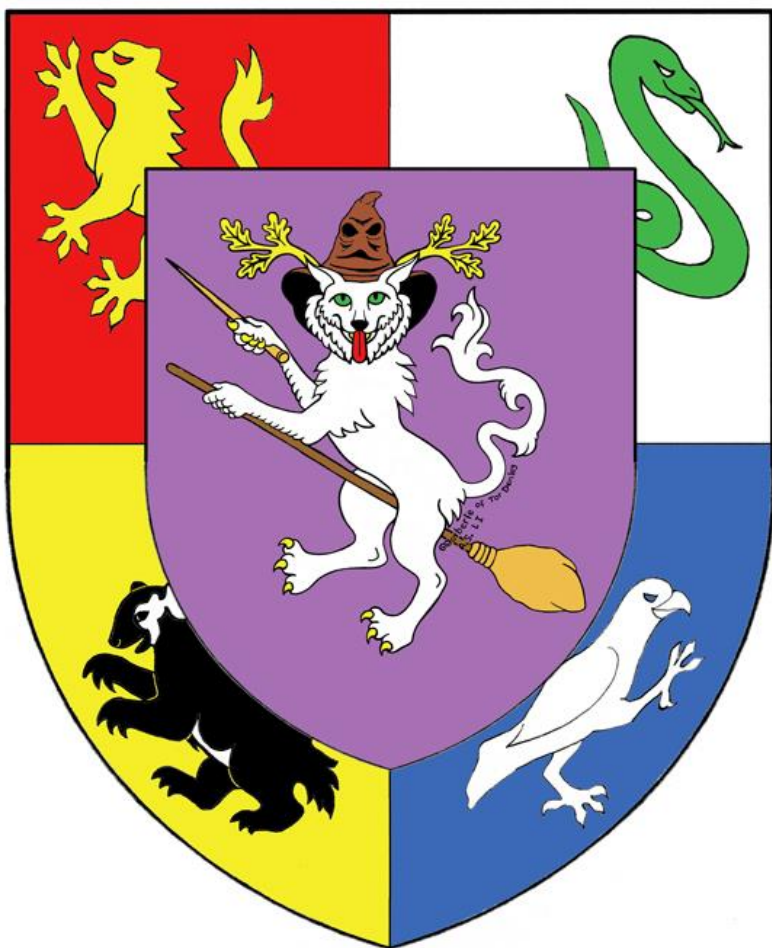
Autocrat: Randel o'Gallchobhair

Randy@gallagherclan.net

916-517-7448

Site Fee: By donation

Directions: Take your best route to Roseville on I-80. Exit Eureka Road and turn left off the freeway. Right on Yosemite St. Right on Sierra Blvd.



Harry Potter themed badge made by Morberie of Tor Denley and Arthur Lemner of Wesley for the 2018 Barony of Rivenoak Fool's Tourney. "Because the Rivenoak device has a Calygreyhound as it's main charge, I put a Calygreyhound wearing a sorting hat, holding a wand, and riding a broom on a small shield on top of a Hogwarts style device, quartered with a version of the devices of the four houses at Hogwarts." These were hung as banners at the event.

# How to do great documentation for SCA A&S competitions

by Bjorn Jorsalfar of Bearhaven – Summer 2018 edition

If you find yourself intimidated by the process of entering and documenting your various projects in Arts & Sciences competitions, you're not alone... however, every working artisan in the SCA makes our Current Middle Ages better for everyone. So, if you're doing art, enter it into competitions! Furthermore, the better documentation you do to go along with your project, the better the project will be, \*and\* the better and more competitive your entry will be in any competition you enter it in.

What's that, you say? You don't know how to do documentation for A&S competitions? Well, you've come to the right place. The method I'm going to cover in this article is hardly the \*only\* way of doing documentation, but it's a method that works well if you're having trouble getting started. So, with that in mind, here we go:

Well, sure, I like to do art and stuff, but why should I bother competing in A&S competitions? Competing (and preparing to compete) is how you get better at just about anything. Runners have track meets, musicians have recitals, and SCA artisans have A&S competitions. You want to make good art, and improve your skills and knowledge? Then compete and try to enjoy yourself doing it! And always turn in documentation, even if the competition description says you don't have to!

Okay, so competing is good—but why should I turn in documentation? Documentation can count for as much as 33% of your final score on a piece, depending on when and where you compete. This basically means that if you do an awesome piece of work but don't turn in documentation, the best grade you could get on it would be a C-, no matter how good the work is. Besides, you worked hard on this thing, so you should let the world know how

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hard you worked, in detail! (Sometimes, pieces that involved more difficulty and effort on the part of the artisan can actually be worth a higher score, depending on the competition.) So what actually IS ‘documentation,’ anyway? “Documentation,” for the purposes of the SCA, is a piece of written work by the artisan that explains the historical context of the piece you’re entering, and the process you used to create it. Doing documentation well can make you a better artisan, as long as you start your documentation process as early as possible in the process of creating your piece. You get better results when you do research beforehand, and when you do research, document what you’ve done so we all can see your efforts and give you better feedback towards your next project.

That sounds doable... but what should my documentation look like? I recommend that the original writing that you submit with your entry be no more than one page in length if you can help it. Why? Two reasons: one, because you want to be concise and direct when you document your piece. Two, because you want the judges to actually read what you’ve written, and that means not turning in a giant novel’s-worth of original writing—but almost anyone can convince themselves to read through one page. (However, this is NOT the only piece of paper you turn in, but we’ll get to that later.)

Speaking of judges, who ARE these people who’ll be reading this stuff I’m going to write? The audience for your writing are usually a group of two to four judges for each competition, and each judge usually fits into one of three broad categories that will help you understand what your documentation needs to accomplish:

- One, the Specialist Artisan. This is someone noted in the field that your piece fits into, such as a woodworking Laurel if you’re entering a piece of wood furniture. This judge will want to see how

well you know the sources in the field you're competing in, and how your process measures up to what others in the field are doing. This judge is why you don't try to B.S. any part of the documentation process!

- Two, the Generalist Artisan. This is an artisan who has many different specialties that might or might not include the focus of the competition, or simply has a different focus than the competition's. This judge will want to see just what your art is all about, and then will be looking at how well you documented your process, both in scope and details.

- Three, the Consort Royal. This judge is someone whose fighter has won a tournament, and as part of the ceremony that made them a sitting royal, they often have given an oath to 'foster the various arts and sciences' within their domain, and now they're making good on that promise by helping to judge an A&S competition. Do not make the mistake of assuming that any of these folks are dim or uninformed about medieval/SCA topics—the overwhelming majority of them are bright, accomplished people who might even be awesome artisans in their own right... but they also might be a different kind of awesome entirely. This judge is why you must explain your art as clearly and concisely as possible in language that regular people can relate to easily, without ever disrespecting or talking down to the reader.

So now that I know who I'm writing for, what do I WRITE? This is an easier question than it sounds, it's just a little time-consuming... but so worth it. I recommend that your work answer the following categories of questions, in whatever way and order that seems best to you, and that still fits on one page:

- WHAT is this thing?

What was this thing called in period? Did it have multiple names?

Did this thing replace something? Was it later replaced?

What's this thing made of?

What could this thing have been made of in period?

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- WHEN did this thing appear in time?

How long were these things around for?

WHO was connected with these things in period?

Who made these things?

Who paid for these things?

Who used or benefited from these things?

(For example, with illuminated manuscripts, these three above might all be different people, but with metalworking tools, all three would most likely be the same person.)

- WHERE did these things appear?

Were these things unique to a small area, or did they appear in multiple areas, or were they everywhere?

Did these things originate somewhere, and then develop elsewhere?

- WHY did these things exist in the first place?

What need or desire were these things fulfilling?

What factors influenced how these things looked or what they were made of?

- HOW did you make this thing?

Was the process that you used to make the thing different from the process used in period, and if so, how?

What steps did you take to make this thing?

Did you make the tools to make the thing as well as the thing itself? What did the period tools look like?

What new things did you have to learn how to do or work with in order to create this thing?

How did you find out what you know about these things, and what sources did you refer to?

And perhaps the most overlooked question of all...

- WHO CARES? You're obviously drawn to some aspect of this thing you made, or you wouldn't have made it, so make some effort to get across the judges why this thing you made is so cool.

(page 4 of 6)

Enthusiasm can be infectious, and that can lead to better scores, and more importantly, better feedback and mentoring.

Okay, I've written my one page of documentation—now what? Well, the single page is the only page of original writing, but I don't recommend that it be the only paper you turn in. In addition, I strongly suggest you include a "Works Cited" or "Bibliography" page, which details which specific sources you used or that influenced the work you did. Ideally, you also attach photocopies of the title pages of any book you mention with that Works Cited page, as well as photocopies of each page of the book (or printouts of each web page) that directly informed the project, with the most relevant part of the page highlighted in yellow or another bright color. This way, the judges can home in on exactly how you know what you say you know quickly.

So just to review, the packet you actually turn in would ideally look like this, stapled together neatly in this order:

- 1.SINGLE PAGE OF ORIGINAL WRITING
- 2.WORKS CITED/BIBLIOGRAPHY PAGE
- 3.PHOTOCOPIES OF THE TITLE PAGES AND RELEVANT INTERIOR PAGES (OR WEB-PAGES) OF EACH SOURCE, IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR ON THE WORKS CITED/BIBLIOGRAPHY PAGE, WITH THE RELEVANT BITS HIGHLIGHTED.

Anything else? I also recommend that you turn in at least three copies of your documentation packet, so each judge has her or his own copy to peruse—that way they can spend as much time as they want with your work and don't have to share. This is cheap, usually just a handful of change to make the copies, or even less if you're doing them on your own equipment, and totally worth it.

Should I use any of my titles when I put my name on the documentation? This is might be a trick question—some

competitions require anonymous entries. The theory is that it helps the judges to be more objective about your work... but not all A&S competitions work this way, so ask the person running the competition ahead of time if at all possible.

What do I do after the competition is over?

- Review your score sheets to see how you did, and if you got feedback, pay attention to it—sometimes, judges will invite you to talk with them afterwards for more specific suggestions.
- It's also totally okay to ask the judges for help if you want more information or clarification, or if you just don't understand why you got a particular score...
- ... but also accept the fact that some judges will give feedback that you just don't agree with, or you won't find useful or enough, (or won't make themselves available for feedback at all—remember that it's their vacation-time, too!) and move on.
- Never ever bad-mouth another competitor, their works, or anyone who gives you feedback.
- If you keep getting the same feedback on your projects, though, it's time to take that feedback more seriously...

... and then get on with the next project. Good luck!

• • •

BJORN JORSALFAR OF BEARHAVEN (OL, OP, KSCA, Viscount, Baron, Knight Banneret) is an early-twelfth century Norse crusader knight and court scribe, who followed the young king Sigurd Jorsalfar, or “Sigurd the Jerusalem-Traveler,” from Norway to Rome, and then to the Holy Land on “armed pilgrimage.” He is very glad to be home. JAMES CORNWELL is an instructional aide at a school for special-needs young people in northern California, and a published author. His reference book on symbolism in Christian art, Saints, Signs, and Symbols, Third Edition, which was co-written and illustrated with his wife Hilarie, was published by Morehouse Publishing in 2009. He's available for contact on Facebook, or at: [bjornjorsalfar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjornjorsalfar@sbcglobal.net).



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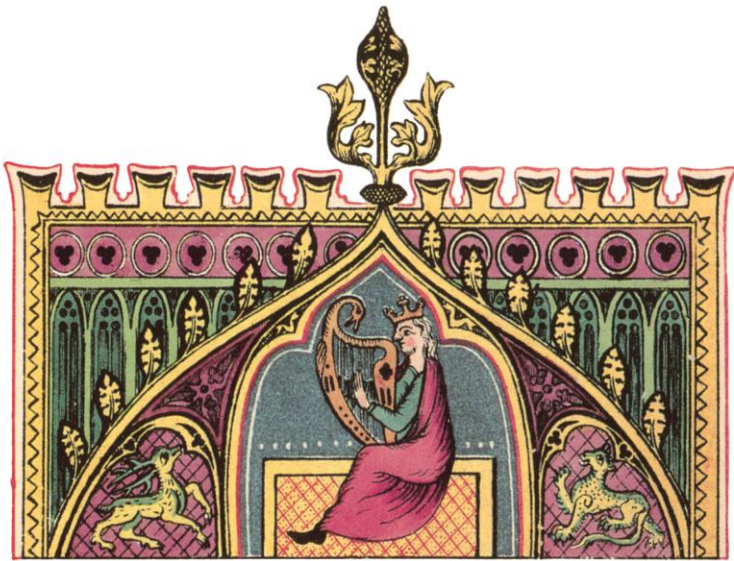
Illuminated excerpt page 7; Hillarie the Puppeteer

Photo of Art MacOrm page 9; Tzipah the Healer

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**Good people of Cynagua, we know  
you have talent! Submit to The Vox!**

We know you can draw, we know you can take pictures, we know you can do unnatural things with those pictures in Photoshop. Further, we know you have writing talent as well.

We know there is a long history of bardic excellence in Cynagua and that only skims the surface. Out there, among her people, the skills of the swan lie dormant and now is the time to put those skills into service. If you have songs, poems, drawings, photos or anything else that you think might be of any use to the Chronicler of Cynagua, let her know. Email to: [chronicler@cynagua.westkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@cynagua.westkingdom.org). The Vox Cynagua is Cynagua's voice, not just that of her royalty or officers, but that of her people as well. Make your voice heard!

This is the July 2018 issue of The Vox, the official quarterly newsletter of the Principality of Cynagua in the Kingdom of the West, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA), PO Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036-0789.