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## A LETTER FROM OUR BARON Ulrich Halfdon Ulfsson

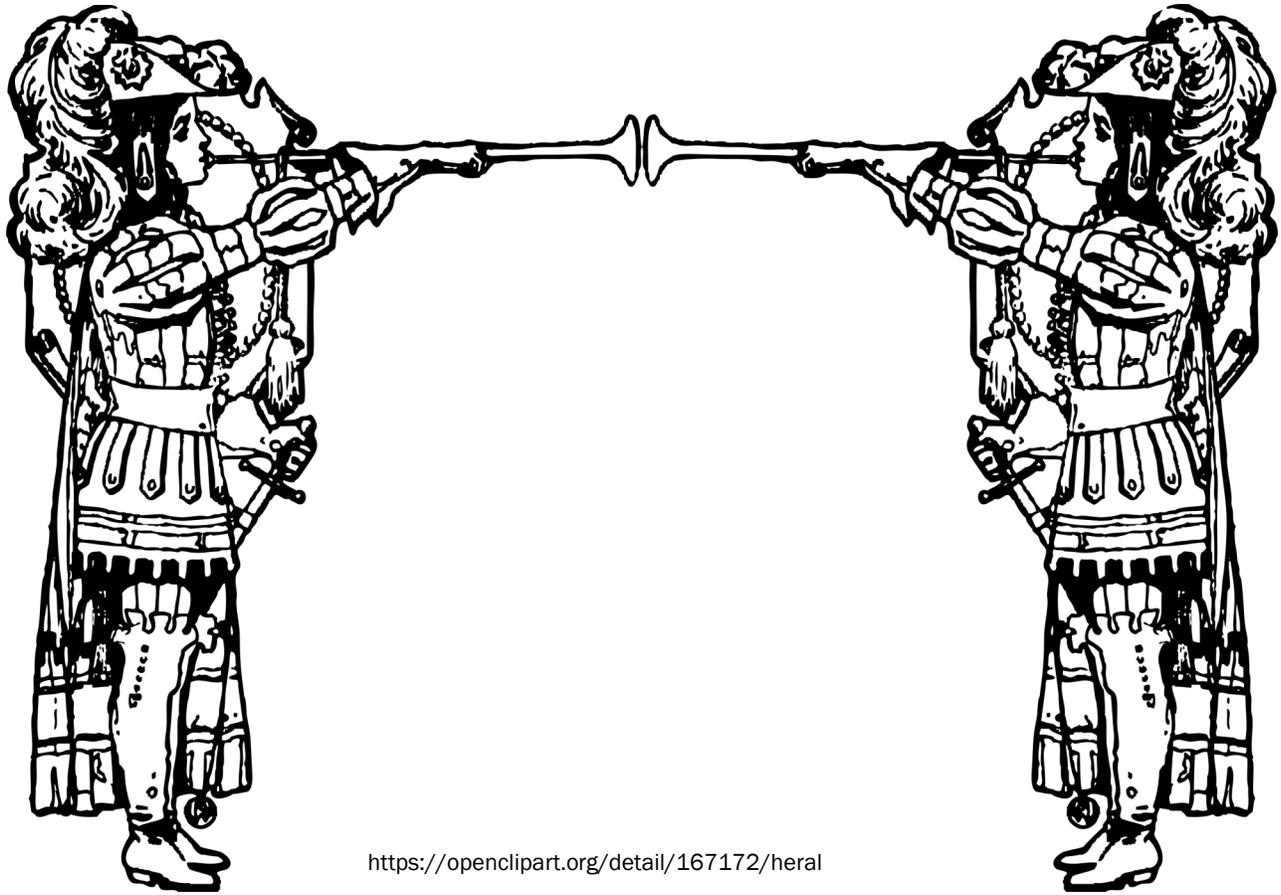
Hailsa!

The winds of war are blowing, the drums are beating in the East and there are sightings of the Tiger army on the move. I have faith that the Baronial levy will fight with ferocity and honor if hostilities break out, and if history is any indication, then war is all but assured in the near future. So, sharpen your blades, string your bows, and make ready your armor for the Dragon army will need everyone to do their part to find victory on the fields of Pennsic!

Once the war is over and everyone has returned to his or her hearths we have Mounted Wargames to look forward to where, most of you already know, Their Majesties have asked us to host their Tournament of Chivalry. I know this will be a lot of work, especially after hosting such a successful Coronation this last spring, but I also know the commitment and amazing folk of our great barony, I have no doubt it will be amazing! So, let us step up and show **the Kingdom, yet again, why they can always count on Shadowed Stars! Draco Invictus!**

Yours in Service,

Ulrich



<https://openclipart.org/detail/167172/heral>

## BARONIAL CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

### July 2019

#### Weekly Activities

Mondays: Monday Sewing Nights

Wednesdays: Rapier and Heavy Practice

Business Meeting: Monday July 22nd

Pennsic War Start: July 22nd

### August 2019

#### Weekly Activities

Wednesdays: Rapier and Heavy Practice

Business Meeting: Monday August 26th

Pennsic War End: August 11th

Mounted War Games Star: August 29th

### September 2019

#### Weekly Activities

Wednesday: Rapier and Heavy Practice

Mondays: Monday Sewing Nights

Business Meeting: Monday September 23rd

Mounted War Games End: September 2nd

#### NOTE:

For the times, locations, class information, and most up-to-date info on these and other Shadowed Stars activities, please visit the Baronial Calendar online at: <http://shadowedstars.midrealm.org/calendar>.

Also check recent posts on the Shadowed Stars Facebook group page for last-minute updates and possible cancellations or schedule changes.

A Word  
from our  
Minister  
of Arts  
and Sci-  
ences

Lady  
Kolfinna

Photo Credit:  
Brian Mo-  
hacker and  
Leandra Corzi

*Arts and Sciences are those skills, crafts, and technologies that were practiced within the time period and the cultures covered by the SEA.*



Good Afternoon Stars! So, we have had a few classes. Thank you to Fergus for hauling his equipment to Tek to set up for the coining class. The class was attended by one person. Also, Thank you to Aoife for setting up to teach a Tunic facing class. Unfortunately no one attended.

Upcoming classes: Block Printing, Goodwill to Garber, Italian Rapier, Calligraphy and more!! If you would like to teach a class, have an idea for a class, or volunteer some ones skill to teach a class ( wink, wink ) please get ahold of me.



***Examples: Beekeeping, Sewing, Coining, Cooking, Historical Martial Arts, Blacksmithing, Weaving, Brewing, Jewelry Making, Woodworking, Painting, Calligraphy, Illumination, Papermaking, Embroidery, Shoemaking, Tent design and creation, Research, Music, Perfumery, Hair braiding, Fabric Stamping, Sword-Smithing, Book Binding, Falconry, and ETC.***

# The Importance of Inclusion in the SCA

Mistress Maggie MacKeith

Photos Credits : Sara Hasenkamp and Astridr Zahra Ymirdottir

There has been a lot of talk lately about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the SCA. The conversations that have resulted have been useful and varied, and recently, I had an experience that I'd love to use to spark another conversation. I was at a demo at Germanfest and a young woman of color and her daughter stopped by to see what we were about. Her daughter was the first recipient of one of the lovely hats made for the kiddos by our dear friend, Mistress Alaina of Andelcrag. I helped her with her hat and talked with her for a bit as they settled in to watch the fighting. Later, they came by the table to talk to me more about what we were doing. Mom was very interested, as she also loves History. However, there was a moment when she took a beat, looked around at all of us and hesitantly asked, "Is this only for white people, though?" I assured her it wasn't, and even whipped out my phone to show her some friends in the SCA who are POC (people of color) and began describing the wide variety of cultures from which she could choose. Her enthusiasm grew as she took in all the pics, including one of our current Prince, a man of color, crowning his Princess. I have emailed her to invite her to an upcoming meeting, and I sincerely hope to see her again.

But it got me to thinking. What CAN we do to encourage people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures to join us? How can we be more appealing to a wider audience? I will be working with my friends who are POC to find out what drew them to the SCA and what keeps them coming back. I encourage you all to give it a little thought, as well. What aspects of the SCA appealed to you? How can we broaden our appeal to as many people as possible? If we truly are inclusive, we will be strengthened as a group as our community widens. We want to ensure we are actively encouraging a true variety of people to join us, rather than just watching from the sidelines.



History Hall at Midrealm 50 Year

Baron Fergus MacPherson

Photos courtesy of Baron Fergus MacPherson



Draco Invictus!!

Recently, the Middle Kingdom celebrated 50 glorious years. Several of us were heavily involved in the planning and running of the event. Several others donated their time, volunteering in a number of different ways. I ran the History Hall with His Grace, Talymar, and when I had the chance, helped out at Gate.

Groups from around the Midrealm brought their stories to display for all to see. Northshield and Ealdormere sent emissaries to display their treasures. A few of the items they brought haven't been seen in the Midrealm since they broke off. A set of crowns have made their way through each of the offspring kingdoms, and are currently held in Ealdormere. The peerages were allowed space to display some of their regalia and history. The Laurels brought examples of the arts and sciences, which had been created over the years. The Masters of Defense brought examples of their regalia, as well as a few items that represent the traditions of the rapier community. Count Sir William took it upon himself to display the many faces of the Chivalry. The poor Pelicans had only a small display which said, "Sorry, we are very busy." Some of my favorite pieces came from the royal peers.



Mostly gifts from the populace during their reigns, but a few had creations of their own. The stories that went with these were a joy to hear. Count Sir Jehan, although not a Midrealm royal peer, was the premier Baron of the Middle Marches. He spent quite a bit of time in the hall relating stories of the first Pennsic War. Feel free to visit my Facebook page to view the history hall album. Otherwise you may have to wait another 25 years to see some of our kingdom's history.

In Service,

Fergus MacPherson



More Pictures from Mid-realm's History Hall

Photos Courtesy of Baron Fergus Mac-Pherson



Notes from the Seneschal's Desk

Mael Duin mac Gilla Ennae

Photo Credit: Leandra Corzi



Note from the Seneschal's Desk:

Ahhh, Springtime in the Midrealm.

The trees, much like trees anywhere in the Known World, begin to sprout their leaves; birds return from their Winter sojourn to the warmer climes of Trimaris; cries of "Draco Invictus" ring out from the fields of combat; and we take a few moments out of our busy schedules to place the Crown upon the brow of a new King.



This year, as have in years past, we played host for Coronation. Once again, the Barony of Shadowed Stars put on an amazing event.

There were a great number of people who helped make the event so successful. Numerous enough that in no way shape or form could I remember all the names of those who pitched in.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone who gave their time to make sure that Coronation was the success it was.

In Service to the Barony and the Dream,

Mael Duin mac Gilla Ennae

"No one of Consequence"



Getting  
Started: A  
Beginner's  
Guide to  
Rapier  
Fighting

Part 1

Rashid Al-  
Sanna

Rapier

Photo Credit by  
Leandra Corzi



Hello Shadowed Stars! This is Lord Rashid al-Sanna, your local fencing fanatic. I get a lot of questions on what it takes to get started in the beautiful art of the blade. Well, it's simple and doesn't take a deep understanding of martial arts to dive in. One of the first things to know that this type of swordfighting differs somewhat from our armored fighting in the sense that it's much lower in impact. This is an art of finesse and skill and encourages fencers to study the medieval and renaissance manuals that have survived to the modern age.

Before we get into the difference styles and philosophies of fighting with the rapier, I want to go over some of the required weapons and protective armor. The protective "armor" isn't armor in the traditional sense. In fact, we do our best to conceal the protection that is required for safety reasons. It can vary from kingdom to kingdom but in general all combatants must wear protection that cover the whole body.

#### Protective Gear

In our glorious society we have rules and regulations. As stated before, the armor standards are there for our protection and are meant to appear as normal clothing for the person in the middle ages or renaissance period. There are more details on each type of protection but for the newer fencer all you need is some gloves, comfortable shoes, and clothing that doesn't expose your skin (long sleeve t shirt and sweatpants are fine). The rest should be provided by your local group until you are able to purchase your own gear. With that in mind there are three types of material that are needed to be properly fitted for fighting.

Those types are abrasion-resistant, puncture-resistant, and rigid materials. The front and top of the head need to be covered with rigid material. Typically a 3 weapons fencing mask will suffice. Most standard built fencing helms (stainless or mild steel) will work as well. Throat protection is required as well, typically any of the commercially available gorgets will be fine for fencing. The requirements for that are made from a rigid material as noted. It will also need to be backed by a puncture-resistant (such as a hood or coif) between the skin and the throat protector. The same is required for the fencing mask or helm.

Abrasion-resistant means that under normal combat usage (i.e. a blade makes contact with the material) and doesn't tear. This material can be made from but not limited to the following:

- broadcloth
- a single layer of trigger cloth (poly-cotton blend)
- sweat pant or t shirt materials
- opaque cotton, poly-cotton or spandex tights

Puncture-resistant material is any material that can withstand puncture from a steel blade, even if that blade is broken. Those materials include but are not limited to the following:

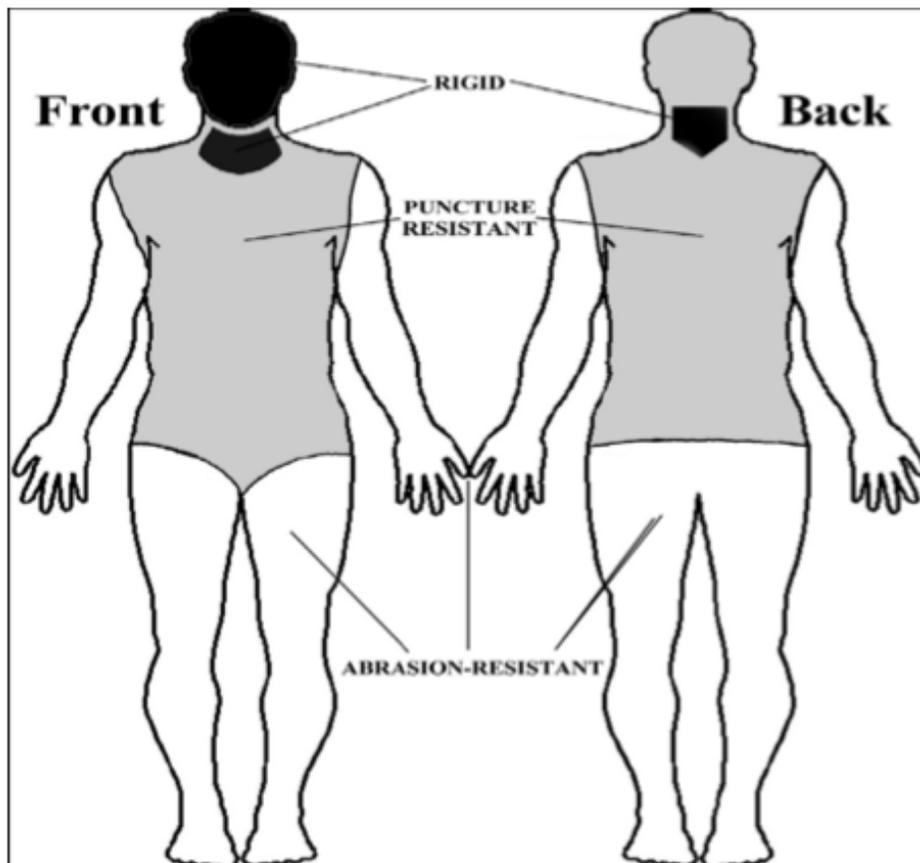
- 4 oz of leather
- 3-4 layers of heavy trigger cloth
- ballistic nylon rated to at least 550 Newtons
- a commercially produced fencing jacket rated to at least 550 Newtons

Rigid material is puncture-resistant and will not have significant flex, deform or spread apart when under pressure of 12 Kg. Here are some examples of rigid material:

- 22 gauge stainless steel
- 20 gauge mild steel
- 16 gauge aluminum, copper, or brass
- one layer of hardened, 8 oz leather

Below is a diagram of what protection goes where.

**Note that men must also have rigid protection over their groin area.**



## Weapons and Styles

The single rapier is our primary weapon's style and to many the epitome of the art. The weapon originates from the late 15th century and is primarily used in dueling and for self-defense. Within the context of the SCA the weapons in use must be blunted (unsharpened steel) and have its tip covered in a cap made from leather, hard rubber, or plastic. Other period weapons like the side sword, saber, messer, katana, and the longsword may also be used for combat, if that weapon meets the standards laid out in our rules. If you are curious to what those are be sure to consult your local groups rapier marshal.

Outside of the primary weapon, fencers are allowed to use an item in one's off-hand. That can range from the dagger, a shield (buckler), the cloak, a stick or walking cane. If you fancy you are able to use a second rapier in your off-hand, this is referred to as a case of weapons. This will offer some variety when fencing, making the game a bit more dynamic. Again, if you have questions be sure to ask your group's rapier marshal or a more experienced fencer.

If your interests are in learning from the period masters there are a ton of great resources available. One of the foremost masters that gives beginners an easier path to learning is Nicoletto Giganti. He was an Italian fencing master dating from the late 16th and early 17th century. His teachings are structured in a way that each lesson builds upon the previous one, getting more complex along the way. One of the best translations (sorry, the original is in Italian) into English is from Tom Leoni called Venetian Rapier: Nicoletto Giganti's 1606 Rapier Fencing Curriculum. This is a book I can personally vouch for and comes highly recommended from those that practice in the style of Giganti.

## Conclusion of Part 1

To sum it up, we've covered the basics of getting started with fencing. Having some basic protective garments and what weapons can be used will get you set on the right path. In Part 2 the basics of how to fence will be covered and a more in depth explanation on effective partner and solo drills will be shown as well. I do want to thank you for reading this article and do not hesitate to ask questions. Learning is key to this art and is amazing fun.

## Citation

"SCA Rapier Combat." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 21 Aug. 2017, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SCA\\_Rapier\\_Combat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SCA_Rapier_Combat).

"The Midrealm Rapier Marshals Handbook." Middle Kingdom Document Library, 21 May 2014, [library.midrealm.org/marshal/rapier/](http://library.midrealm.org/marshal/rapier/).

## Thorkel Returns Home

## Thorhalla Carlsdo ttir af Broberg

The bitter wind whipped around her stout figure as she stood on the pier, her cloak swirling around her and gray hair escaping from her braid, fluttering like small birds around her head. She could see the long ship in the just entering the harbor. Tears began to sting her green eyes but she held them back. She was the daughter of a hersir, a chieftain, she would not cry. "Móðir", said a voice behind her. She turned and looked at her tall handsome son. "Yes, Egil?" "It was my wyrd not to be on that raid with my father, my wyrd to be recovering from this injury.", he said, lifting his slinged arm. "Yes, I know." Coming down the pier was Radegunda, Egil's beautiful dark hair and dark eyed, Frankish wife with Egil's children Thorkel, Thorkatla, and Carl. Thorhalla looked warmly at her grandchildren and daughter-in-law. "You all honor my husband by being here." she said. "Of course, Amma." replied young Thorkel. Soon, Thorhalla realized, young Thorkel, having seen 13 winters, would be going with his father on his first raid in the spring.

The long ship arrived at the dock with a thud against the wooden poles. A tall dark-haired man jumped off the prow and ran to Thorhalla. "I am so sorry, cousin. But he will feast in Valhalla. Your husband died well." "Let me see him" Thorhalla replied in a flat voice. Thorhalla's cousin Ragnar Bloodaxe called "Bring forth our courageous brother!" Six men stood forth and picked up the body of their fallen comrade. Thorhalla recognized the men of her village carrying her slain husband, all except for one man. He was tall and of stocky build, completely bald with a long braided white mustache. Thorhalla, both offended and incredulous, demanded "Who is this stranger that bears the body of my husband?" Before Ragnar could answer, the man spoke: "I am William of Coventry, good lady. I had the honor of fighting next to your husband. He fell at my side. The berserker rage was upon him, it took seven warriors to bring him down. Know that I personally sent each of those warriors who drew his blood to hell. They shall suffer for killing such a noble fighter." Thorhalla regarded the man, nodded and said, "I am in your debt, William of Coventry." "Thank you, my lady. That is very kind of you." William replied.

The body of her beloved husband was laid gently on the pier. Thorkel the Berserker was covered in his bloody cloak, there were many wounds upon his body. "Let me see him." Thorhalla said. Ragnar shot a worried look to William and uncovered the body of his kinsman. Thorkel's helm had been cleaved through and the head wound was the fatal blow. Thorhalla flinched and trembled but remained tearless. Egil put his arm around his mother to strengthen her. "Faðir" cried out Thorkatla and Carl, both beginning to weep. Radegunda began to weep silently. "Ragnar, take your kinsman to be prepared for his funeral" Thorhalla said in a leaden voice. Egil said "Móðir, my father will have the finest funeral with many rich grave goods. Please, let Radegunde and I make these preparations." "I will." Thorhalla consented. "I wish my daughter were here." she whispered to herself.

A large knorr had entered the harbor. It was sitting low in the water, it being heavily laden with goods. "A merchant ship. Now is not a favorable time for a merchant to arrive." Thorhalla muttered. "I will handle it, cousin." Ragnar said. The knorr approached, Thorhalla squinted, trying to make out what might be a familiar figure, but she wasn't sure. Standing on the prow stood a strong looking woman with sharp blue eyes and blonde hair blowing in the wind. Her clothes were Anglo-Saxon, not Norse, but as the knorr approached the pier, Thorhalla gasped. It was Thorkatla, her daughter, who

had been traveling on trading missions. Thorhalla's heart leapt for joy. Her daughter was home! Next to her daughter was a beautiful dark-haired woman of small build with the grace of a dancer. The knorr had barely docked when Thorkatla jumped out and ran to her mother. "Móðir! The news traveled through the merchant circles quickly. Where is my father?" Thorhalla grasped her daughter and drew her close, pointing to the body on the pier. Breaking her mother's hold on her, Thorkatla wailed "Faðir!" She knelt beside her father's bloody body and began to weep. The dark-haired woman rushed to Thorkatla's side. "And you are?" said Thorhalla. "Forgive me, my lady, I am with your daughter. I am Boudica." the lady said. "If you are with my daughter, you are welcome in my Hall of the Mountain Bridge." Thorhalla replied.

Ragnar was dealing with the merchant knorr. After talking with Ragnar, a tall dark haired and dark eyed man of powerful build strode up to Thorhalla. "I come to pay my respects to the wife of Thorkel the Berserker. Even the Merchants Guild has heard tales of his courage, he has much word fame indeed." said the stranger with a thick Scots accent. "Thank you, my Lord. I am Thorhalla Carlsdottir af Broberg." she replied. "I am Gamelin, the Right Hand of the Guildmaster." he replied. Gamelin gave a small bow to Thorhalla and returned to his knorr to make arrangements for the unloading of the goods he had for trade. "Ragnar, you gave your approval for trade during this time?" said a startled Thorhalla. Yes," replied Ragnar, "Gamelin is who he says he is, I recognize him. He must be here on Thorkatla's request as it is highly unusual for the Right Hand of the Merchants Guild to travel on a trading mission to our small village. I am sure that he has many items that we can add to Thorkel's grave goods." "Understood, kinsman." replied Thorhalla.

Two very different men have come to Thorhalla during this time. She considered what omens were present in their arrival. William, the fighter and Gamelin, the trader. Both men had an unusual aura about them. Although William seemed to be a brave warrior, a poet's spirit seemed to radiate from his heart. His blue eyes had shown forth compassion and sorrow for Thorhalla. Gamelin was a charismatic man, much more accustomed to the silent and mysterious ways of the Merchant Guild than being a simple merchant to Broberghold, even if Broberghold was on the way to Birka. Gamelin was there for a reason and Thorhalla was going to find out what that reason was, but now was not the time to quiz her grieving daughter about her traveling companion.

Thorhalla turned and trudged down the pier. Ragnar was organizing the men not needed to bear Thorkel to the Hall for preparations to unload the heavily laden knorr. She stopped and turned around. "Ragnar!" she called. Ragnar ran to her. "Yes, kinswoman?" he asked. "You know this William of Coventry, yes?" she said. "Yes, I do. He fought bravely with us, having joined our ranks shortly after we made camp on Britain's southern shore. He is a good man with an upright heart who worships our gods." Ragnar replied. "And this Gamelin?" Thorhalla asked. "He is more than what he appears to be. He is a Scotsman but he follows our gods as well. He is a man of hidden ways and subtle wisdom. I do not distrust him but I reserve the right to watch him." said Ragnar. "Agreed. Inform them both that they may enjoy the hospitality of my Hall of the Mountain Bridge. Let neither of them break the funeral peace, Ragnar. I will house William and Gamelin but you are responsible for them." "Of course, Thorhalla". Ragnar said. Thorhalla turned and headed back to her Hall. For whatever reason, her *wyrd* was tied to these men, she could feel it. It was time to cast the runes and find out why.

In Memory of  
Treise nic Giolla  
Phadraig

Baroness Hall-  
dora

Photo Credit Geneva  
de St

I was honored to ask to write a short piece in honor of Treise nic Giolla Phadraig . Kathy Luther was among the kindest souls I have been blessed to have known. She served as our exchequer through many years and officer changes. And while her work schedule did not always allow her to join us at demos, she came when able. Among the longest to serve as any officer in any calling. Treise was among our earliest Guests at local meeting and events. I helped her make her first garb, which was in preparation for her first event, which if memory serves was the event at which Master Geoffeys was elevated to Laurel. Active in many fandoms she was always interesting and happy to share what she could in time, spirit, and knowledge, be it history, DR Who, or whatever. It is a true loss that more of our newer members could not have gotten to know her as I came to. So in passing remember that a kind word or deed no matter how small truly has a lasting effect. Baroness Halldora Egilsdotter. Aoa, osw, Opf, CB and all around useful person.



Huntington Library Demo, 2004. Treise and Leandra

# Mid year Thoughts

Lady Leandra Corzi

Photo Credit:  
Leandra Corzi

Words from the Chronicle



We are at the mid point of the year, just a little over a month till some of us shall be heading to Pennsic, where classes and battles will occupy our days, and nights will be spent in the company of those that share this fabulous hobby. In this hobby we have friends that will joins us for a time, and those who will be our friends till the end. I have met some of the kindest and most wonderful people in this group. I was looking for some photos to use for this newsletter, and in doing so found photos of friends who no longer play, and of some who I have known for almost 20 years now. It was a little bit awesome and a reminder of how

long I have been doing this, and how many of my friends have been there for a very long time. It struck me that outside the SCA, the only friend that I have had longer, is a girl who lived down the street when we both were still just kids. I love looking at photos, and realizing that yes, I have really known some people for long enough that I have to admit, that my life wouldl be much less if they were no longer in it, or if they had never come to play. There have been Pennsics and parties, Weddings and wakes, and everything in between. We have all had good times and bad times, but in the end, we are still bound together in this love of our hobby, the SCA.



## BARONIAL OFFICERS

### **Seneschal**

Warder Mael Duin mac  
Gilla Ennae

### **Chatelaine**

Lady Aiofe  
inghean Eoghain

### **Minister of A&S**

Lady Kolfinna

### **Herald**

Muirenn ingen Fáelchon Uí  
Clerigh

### **Exchequer**

Baron Fergus MacPherson

### **Knights' Marshal**

Lord Gavin Hawkerton

### **Rapier Marshal**

Andries von Voorburg der  
Erlund

### **Archery Marshal**

Velos tou Patmos

### **Thrown Weapons**

#### **Marshal**

Lady Prudence of  
Colleah

### **Equestrian Marshal**

Lancer Gwendolyn of  
Shadowed Stars

### **Webminister**

Lady Prudence of Colleah

### **Chronicler**

Lady Leandra Corzi

### **Historian**

Lady Zoe Dukiana

### **Bardic Coordinator**

Lady Muirenn Ingen Fael-  
chon Ui Clerigh

### **Chief Armorer**

Lord Gian di Fauro

## FROM THE CHRONICLER

THE BARONY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- ◆ We need everyone to submit content for our newsletter! Things like: Editorials, pictures, Event Reports, Persona Bios, Artwork, and short stories for the quarterly newsletter!
- ◆ If you would like to create a regular or semi-regular column or have ideas of things we can include in future issues, please contact us at [shadowedstars.chronicler@midrealm.org](mailto:shadowedstars.chronicler@midrealm.org)



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ **Submit by Sept 20th 2019, for inclusion in the next issue.**

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ Release Form types:
  - \* Creative - For all articles, poems, original artwork that is not a photograph, and the like // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
  - \* Photographer - Photographs // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
  - \* Model - For the recognizable person(s) in the photograph(s) // You get signed by people in your submitted photograph, turn it in with your photo, and we keep on file.
- ◆ Model Release Forms are available for download from [midrealm.org/chronicler](http://midrealm.org/chronicler).
- ◆ **If you are unable to print needed Release Forms, please let the Chronicler know and they will be supplied for you.**
- ◆ Pictures:
  - ◆ Submit as many photos as you can of our Barony activities as well as events and happenings of the SCA groups around us!
  - ◆ Needed with Submission: Name of Event, date, location, SCA titles and names of those in the photo
  - ◆ Appropriate Model Release forms for those who are recognizable
- ◆ Images from the internet:
  - ◆ If you include an image from the internet with your submission, please make sure to include the active URL link to it.

PUBLISHED MEETING MINUTES:

- ◆ Monthly Business Meeting and Officers Meeting minutes are being transcribed and are available for viewing after the meeting takes place.

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This is the Fall 2018 issue of The Shadow Press, a publication of the Barony of Shadowed Stars of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Shadow Press is edited by and available from Leandra Corzi, email: [gwerithkay@gmail.com](mailto:gwerithkay@gmail.com). 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 from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.