Principality of the Mists





Spring Investiture, AS LIV 18 May 2019

From our Prince and Princess



Greetings unto the Populace of the Mists,

We have had many great adventures during our reign.

We have traveled all over the Principality and Kingdom, as well as out of Kingdom. But alas, it is now time for us to retire to our estates, and welcome in our heirs.

We thank you for your time and the opportunity to serve you and we hope it has been as wonderful for you as it has been for us.

For the Joy of Service,

James Princeps *Margaret* Princepessa

From the Lord and Lady of the Mists



Fair populace of the Mists and guests from near or far!

We would like to personally thank each and every one of you for attending this lovely event. We hope that you have a great time attending court and an even better time feasting with us this evening.

The Viking inspired feast prepared for us by Lady Argenteilin filia Elfin is something that should not be missed.

Please make sure you swing by the arts and sciences competition. This is the second of four such competitions to find the Mists Arts and Sciences Champion. We cannot wait to see all the marvelous entries.

We look forward to the beginning of our journey, bringing service and merriment to all that we encounter.

Long Live the Mists. Long Live the West.

> *Úlfr Grímmson* Lord of the Mists

Þýri Ávaldsdóttir Lady of the Mists

Sir Roland von Steinhaus

Hail the rise of Roland! Rakish Rascal, now peer! Fierce fighter of Wolf's Den First of Fenris brood raised

Youth of band of brothers Born to Erik, now passed To Live on, legacy Lady Eddie, laugh'ng love

He of Valiant Virtues Vying for fair victory Courage found in challenge Crown'ng Faith in companions

Giving of time and talk Teaching Hope t'tomorrow With great potent prowess Promised paths of mercy,

Once stout Stafnbui Swinging swords on sound skulls Proudly Princesses champion Proving power in arms

With wavy flowing locks Black writhing in West wind Long tresses of Luxury Ladies look with envy

Lord Stone the Skald

http://www.hurstwic.org/history/articles/literature/text/ Skaldic Poetry.htm



Sir Roland von Steinhaus, Beltane, 4 May AS LIV Compass Star Photography



Away, again, to war I watch you ride, The words to bid you stay locked in my heart, Though I would have you always at my side.

Two score the years since I was your new bride, And in your life and world took up my part-Away, again, to war I watch you ride.

At first, when you were called to war, I tried To stand and bravely watch as you'd depart, Though I would have you always at my side.

Long years have grayed our hair and slowed our stride,

Now, as my weary soul is torn apart, Away, again, to war I watch you ride.

The son I bore, on blood-soaked blade has died And you have vowed to rend his killer's heart Though I would have you always at my side.

I pray to God, through all the tears I've cried, You'll keep your vow that we shall never part. Away, again, to war I watch you ride Though I would have you always at my side.

Leah Raedaelf of Pagham (Linda Segal) 30 April A.S. LIII (2019)



THIS IS A STORY OF THE SQUIRREL RATATOSKR

I don't know if you know this, but the world tree Yggdrasil spans the nine worlds. Our own world, Midgard, being one of them. Others you may have heard of are Asgard, Jotunheim or Alfheim. But this story isn't in the nine worlds. This story is found in Yggdrasil itself.

A great tree such as Yggdrasil holds much life – there is a great eagle that lives at the top of the tree and a great wyrm (another word for dragon) that lives in the roots. The eagle and the wyrm have never spoken to each other directly. They have never met face to face for the domains of sky and roots have no easy pathway between them. There is another creature living outside of the worlds, living on and within the branches of Yggdrasil itself. And that is a squirrel. Not just any squirrel a giant squirrel. This squirrel knows all the pathways between the canopy of Yggdrasil and the roots beneath.

That squirrel's name is Ratatoskr. The eagle's name has been forgotten to time and the wyrm's name isn't important to this story – all you need to know is Ratatoskr's name. Remember it well and learn the lessons from this story.

The eagle and the wyrm do communicate – they are almost pen pals. Hmmm – I don't want you thinking that it's as friendly as pen pals. Maybe once in the distance of memory and time it started out that way. Some where some when - Ratatoskr carried a message between them, he has been carrying messages ever since. Ratatoskr likes to embellish; Ratatoskr adds a twist to every communication he carries between the eagle and the wyrm. You would almost think that Loki gave birth to Ratatoskr like he did to other monsters because Ratatoskr likes to cause trouble!

Now these tales carried to and fro by Ratatoskr have been going on far longer than any of us can know. And once...

The eagle tried to make peace with the wyrm. The next time eagle saw Ratatoskr poking his head up out of the canopy he called over and said "Can you tell wyrm a thing for me? I cannot even remember why I was so angry the last couple times maybe..."

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Ratatoskr interrupted "I remember why you were angry – that wyrm down there said that you aren't a real eagle that you are a simulacrum created by the dwarves and that you don't even have working parts – you know – down there and that is why a female eagle has never bothered coming all the way up here to..."

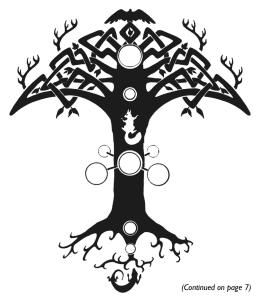
"What!" said eagle. "I definitely don't rem...."

"The wyrm is really smart you know, maybe it's true and maybe it isn't but that time he also told me that you are really stupid – bird brained and all that – that when Odin and his brothers carved up Borr to create the worlds and used bits of his great brain to endow thought to all free creatures that there just wasn't enough for you and so you have none at all." Sigh...

"Really?" said eagle. Eagle mostly remembered that the wyrm had insulted his brilliant plumage and said that he had mites that were so large that they could be mistaken for Slepnir the last time. Between

then and now he had realized that the wyrm couldn't know how amazing his plumage really was because the wyrm had never seen him. Eagle imagined that wyrm must be slimy and miserable stuck in the dark roots and felt a little sorry for him. Maybe they could become friends. But why would Ratatoskr say it was something different. Could Ratatoskr be sick?

"Ratatoskr – come here for a minute. Let me look more



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closely at you" said eagle.

Now Ratatoskr had a sudden fear that eagle might be considering a meal of squirrel, maybe he had gone too far this time. He darted back into the foliage of Yggdrasil – yelling over his shoulder "I'll tell wyrm about your memory problems!"

"By the sky and moon! Ratatoskr wait!" too late – even his tail was out of sight before eagle finished calling.

Now Ratatoskr didn't go directly to the roots of the great tree. He did what many squirrels do – he collected nuts and stored them away safely – found stashes of nuts that he had forgotten about and decided to move them to much better spots. Chittered angrily at the activities of men on Midgard. Spied on the comings and goings of the dwarves and elves. Time passes differently for Yggdrasil and for Ratatoskr than it does for us. In some soonish time he finished his tasks along the byways of Yggdrasil's branches and made his squirrelly approach down the great trunk and between the roots to the wyrm's lair.

The great wyrm was sleeping pausing in its work of chewing on the corpses of evil doers. Ratatoskr made his way over and stood quietly at the tip of the wyrm's tail and gave it a good nip! The wyrm snapped awake and swung its great maw and wicked teeth towards Ratatoskr. Snap! Ratatoskr was almost wyrm food! But he leaped away in the nick of time shouting "I'm sorry, I'm sorry! The eagle made me do it! He's holding my children hostage and said if I didn't sneak down here and do just that he would rend my youngest with his wicked beak and terrible claws!"

"Blast that eagle!" the wyrm thrashed in its den blowing smoke and small curls of flame. "Why didn't you take my advice and move your family down the trunk of Yggdrasil where the eagle can't get to you?"

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Ratatoskr sat up straight and jerked his tail in agitation – "I thought I could reason with him, but he kept on spouting nonsense saying that I am evil and must have be-spelled you into being my friend. That all squirrels should be put to death in the most gruesome ways. It makes my heart hurt thinking of my children at his mercy. Eagle also talked about you, saying that you are an abomination that you don't deserve to ever see the sun that the gods must have put you here because your ugliness would blight all the nine worlds!"

"Eagle said that he had a chance to talk to Thor the other day and carried tales that you are eating the roots of Yggdrasil and that you will kill us all by killing the great tree! I think he is asking Thor to come down here to kill you! I saw a lot of action and gathering of the gods on Asgard."

Wyrm hissed and swished in agitation "That eagle doesn't even know me! I am here as malice-striker to punish the worst of the worst. Murderers, liars and thieves. Eagle is obviously unaware of my beauty of my multicolored scales and beautiful wings. I do a service here keeping these restless evil doers from climbing out into the worlds. Of course, I would love to see the sun and fritter my days away, but I have honor and satisfaction of my job well done. Somehow, we must show eagle a way towards purpose.

Maybe if he had his own important task to do, he would turn away from tormenting you my dear friend. Stay a moment while I think of the way to word my message back to eagle."

"I know!" shouted Ratatoskr. "I will head there as fast as my feet will carry me and save my children and tell him how pointless his life is – that the great wyrm says so!"

"Ratatoskr – wait! I wouldn't say it like..."

Too late Ratatoskr was off on his merry way again. Leaving our wyrm

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to consider that Thor might be on his way to destroy him.

As he did before, Ratatoskr didn't go straight away anywhere. He wandered and played, gathered nuts to safely store in safe places and blithely forgot about where other safe places even were. He came down onto the grass at the base of Yggdrasil and visited with the Norns for a time, playing cute and making adorable faces at the goddesses of fate. He asked them if they knew where Thor was keeping himself these days. Because Ratatoskr had seen something disturbing deep in the roots where the wyrm lived that would of course be of great interest to Thor and his friends. "What did I see? Well whisper, whisper, whisper" Ratatoskr told the Norns the whole truth and nothing but the truth. That the well-known enmity between the eagle and the wyrm was getting even worse and that even now the great serpent in the roots was instead of chewing on the corpses of evildoers, he was chewing on the roots of Yggdrasil itself. Determined to chew and chew until the great tree toppled and brought down the eagle.

In his squirrelly way, Ratatoskr made it all the way to the top of Yggdrasil again to visit the great eagle who lived there.

"There you are Ratatoskr! I've been worried about you. It's been so..." Eagle started off right away but was interrupted by Ratatoskr.

"Wow eagle you would not believe the time that I have had! It's taken me so long to get back to you because the wyrm below was so disgusted by the idea of friendship with you that he has been holding me hostage this whole time and spouting all kinds of nonsense about you eating the droppings from Fenris which causes you to have really really bad breath and then he told me that there was nothing to be done but to chew through the very roots of Yggdrasil that bringing the tree down and ending all creation is the only way to free himself and

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the nine worlds from your grotesqueness that he knows you are pointless because the Norns have never even bothered to name you. Pointless and worthless and haggard and stupid and whew! He almost ate me! I am lucky to have escaped. I could hear him gnawing on the roots of Yggdrasil almost all the way up here."

"Whoa! Is the wyrm below insane?" said eagle. "I was worried that you were ill but obviously the wyrm is just plain crazy. The tree roots of the great tree are really strong, wyrm teeth can't do a lot of damage quickly and..."

"That's just it" squeaked out Ratatoskr fear obviously shaking his voice. "He is bringing his brothers to help him chew. A swarm of wyrms are assembling and chewing on the roots, right now! I saw Thor on my way up here feeding his goats Tanngrisner and Tanngnjostr on the sweet grass at the base of Yggdrasil. Maybe you could talk to him? Isn't Thor some kind of dragon hunting, serpent fighting, wyrm killing machine?"

"That's a good idea Ratatoskr. Maybe I can leave my important work for a moment and speak with Thor. Can you keep watch up here so that I know where the winds from my wings are needed most upon my return?"

"I'll try, it is still hard to be alone. I am so afraid that the wyrm will chew his way free and eat me because he knows that I am your true friend."

Ratatoskr enjoyed his time at the very top of Yggdrasil, watching as the winds with no guidance died down in some worlds and built great storms in others. Watched as the heat grew on these becalmed worlds and the winds raged and tore at others. Winds like to be with friends, they like to gather and frolic, it takes the attention of the great and wise eagle to tame the winds where they need to be tamed and to let them

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gather where they need to gather. With each flap of the great eagles wings he directs the wind to flow the way that causes the greatest benefit for all the worlds along Yggdrasil's branches. Ratatoskr watched and chuckled to himself as rivers dried and plains flooded, delighting in imagining the chaos being caused in those far away lives; every moment the great eagle was away from his task the more chaos was birthed. Even to Asgard did harm come because the great eagle wasn't guiding the winds.

The eagle did indeed find Thor with his goats at the bottom of the world tree; it looked like he had just finished a conversation with the Norns. And eagle was not amazed but reminded of how great the gods were because Thor already knew what eagle had come to say. A time passed - more than soonish less than longish before the great eagle returned to the top of Yggdrasil.

Immediately Ratatoskr shouted to the eagle. "I am still so terrified that I have to go now and hide in my burrow."

"You won't have to hide away too long" called eagle to the departing Ratatoskr, "this should all be resolved in three days' time. That's when Thor says he can gather what he needs and make his way into the roots of Yggdrasil. I think they are going to use a little-known pathway through Helheim. You will be safe soon dear friend."

The eagle got to work setting the winds to rights and shaking his head over that slimy dark dwelling wyrm and the evil that it was trying to bring to the worlds. Eagle couldn't possibly form a friendship with such a creature. Only enmity is the correct response to such chaos and destruction as the wyrm in Yggdrasil's roots desired.

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Now we know – Ratatoskr had no intention of hiding away for 3 days' time. How does time move for the great tree and the beings that lived there? With as much speed as his four legs could muster Ratatoskr rushed down the tree and straight away to the wyrm's lair within the roots. Chittering as he went "I have terrible news, terrible news! Thor is on his way to kill you with the eagle and Hela's help. They will be coming through Helheim itself to find you. Oh, dear oh dear - I cannot even believe that Thor believed the eagles lies about you wanting to start Ragnarok. The eagle is like a storybook villain, he just talks and talks and then you know everything in his bird brain. He told Thor that you were sick of chewing the corpses of evildoers and that instead you were going to come out from under Yggdrasil and eat the gods themselves and all of man carrying corpses under your wings in some gruesome display of your might and fearsomeness. Do you have any family that could come and help you? Maybe if there are enough of your family here you can force a hearing to prove that you are innocent and the eagle

detestable. An escape route wouldn't be a bad idea either – there is a thin spot between the roots over there into Niflheim (the land of the dwarves). Yggdrasil is so great that breaking through that one spot will not harm it. I spoke to the dwarves on my way here and they too know of the eagle's evilness. I am sure they will help you. Just tell me where to go and what to say and I will find your family to come immediately to your aid!"

The wyrm was startled by the words of Ratatoskr. "I was worried about the eagle spreading rumors about me, but I couldn't believe that any of the gods, especially Hela would forget my necessary task down

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here. How could everyone believe such evil of me and not repudiate the eagle's lies?"

Ratatoskr spoke again, "I know you are thoughtful and dutiful, true friend, but now is not the time for further thinking. Straight away begin chewing your way to Niflheim while I alert your family that you need aid!"

The great wyrm gave Ratatoskr the ways and means to find his family so they could render him aid. Ratatoskr ran off as quickly as his four feet could carry him. Hearing the wyrm calling at his back "Your aid is more valuable than you know – thank you!"

Truly concerned for his safety, the wyrm set to work on a portion of roots that seemed the thinnest between his lair and the world of dwarves. He began chewing but the healing power of the great tree was greater than poor wyrm' s halfhearted gnawing. The wyrm began to work at and chew the roots in earnest tearing away great pieces of Yggdrasil's roots. Thinking sadly that it was a grim day indeed when reason and logic couldn't reach and teach the eagle. Once he had his family with him and the dwarves aid; he could try reason again. Surely Thor, Hela and the other gods would listen.

Well I think we are all tired of Ratatoskr's troublemaking. There is still more to tell but only a little more.

Ratatoskr knew he had very little time to finish with his own mischievous plans so straight away, again, he rushed and ran to wyrm' s family. Once there he shared wyrm' s plight. That he was under a spell that was killing him quick; a spell sent by the eagle of course. The only way to break the spell was for wyrm (their brother, their son, their cousin) to find a charm within the roots of Yggdrasil itself. Yep – that's what he told them. "Oh" said the squirrel "don't you worry that chewing through the roots during your search will damage Yggdrasil for I myself have a charm from the Norns that will keep Yggdrasil safe."

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Wyrm's family was so alarmed that they left their homes and doors and chores all open and unfinished and rushed to wyrm's aid. When they arrived at wyrm's den they found him with his head buried deep among the roots gnawing, chewing and tearing. They began to do the same all over, searching and searching for the charm to heal wyrm. Ratatoskr, cheeky devil, crept quietly away.

It's true that there aren't many pathways into the roots that man or god can use. Ratatoskr for all his talk keeps his own ways secret. The pathways that Thor could use passed through Helheim and Hela stopped him as he entered to inquire what he was doing in Her realm. Which began long discussions and arguments that stretched through time as Thor tried to negotiate his way through Hela's realm. We can all imagine how that went – why that's a story in itself! I wish I could

give you better closure here but be glad that this story didn't end in three days' time. If it had that would mean that Ragnarok was already among us and all the worlds were ending.

Think instead of the strength of Yggdrasil to resist the chewing on it's roots and hope that Ratatoskr's wicked tales are discovered so that peace can be restored to the denizens of the world tree.

By Sigrun Billingsdottir (Rebecca Widmeyer)

This is a work of fiction based on the brief mention of Ratatoskr in Prose Edda, written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson.



The West Kingdom History Website and You

Baron Hirsch von Henford, OL, OP, West Kingdom Historian April, 2019 (Anno Societatis LIII)

hat *is* the West Kingdom History Website, and why should you care?

The SCA is a rather unique organization in that what we do and the way we do it is different from other reenactment or recreation groups. The group was created rather haphazardly, because as you may know, it started as a party – people had so much fun they decided to do it again, and again and ... and now, 54 years later, we're still doing it. We are more than willing to allow people to be as authentic in what they wear and do as they wish, and there's a lot of latitude for those who aren't as interested in being "truly" authentic.

The one thing most organizations are bad at is keeping track of their own history. Oral history is fine to a point, but what happens when the people who were there have left the organization, or, as happens over time, have passed on?

The Beginnings of the History Site

One of the folk who was active in the early days of the West Kingdom, Master Wilhelm von Schlüssel, started creating a document (*typed on onion-skin paper – I still have it in a binder on a bookshelf*) that was a chronicle of the events that occurred, mostly taken from newsletters, with handwritten notes in the margins. It's proven to be invaluable, but when I received it one day I didn't realize just how useful it would be. Sometime early in 2000 Master Wilhelm left me a present of an old notebook containing his history and a HUGE box of old newsletters on my doorstep. I was a bit confused, but interested ...

A few months after this happened three oldtimers passed away, I had gotten the news through the Yahoo groups online (SCA-West, specifically). That was sad, because even though none of them had been active for some time, think of what they knew and had experienced – their experiences were now gone!

West Kingdom History Website

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I had been contemplating what to do with all this information, when two folk who had been around for years but were also mostly inactive started popping up on SCA-West, and commenting, and reminiscing a bit, these were (*the late*) Steven MacEanruig and Stefan de Lorraine. A few things clicked in my head, and I started communicating with them in email.

Over the next two years my email account got seriously busy, and I built a small mailing list of old-timers, typing up the event descriptions in detail and passing them out to the "folk who were there". As we went, more people were added, and the list ended up with about 30 (or more) people on it. They would read what had been sent around, comment (and comment on other peoples' comments), and I would compile it all, sometimes throwing out some questions to clarify matters.

When we had made two full passes through Wilhelm's history (which covered the first 13+ years of the West Kingdom's History), I put everything into a WordPerfect document, edited it a bit (*there were some lively discussions that ended up needing trimming*) and made it available.

If you know much about the history of the Internet, the world-wideweb was really new at this point. I was learning some basic HTML and Javascript for my job, and realized this might be a great way to share the information that we had, as it would just be "out there". I first made the History site available November 16, 2000.

Almost immediately I started getting suggestions for enhancing it, including posting photos, and a lot more.

The History site has evolved a lot since then, and right now is in the second phase of at least 4 or 5 phases of upgrades to new code, but the site is there and many folk rely on it.

West Kingdom History Website

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What Is It?

This History website is a multi-purpose site, meant to be a repository of photographs, and historical information about the West Kingdom (and branches that have broken away from the West, including the beginnings of The East, the Middle, Atenveldt, and more), showcase art (there are many photos of artwork that people have created for the SCA), and much more, going back to before the SCA actually started.

The West Kingdom History Site can be found here:

http://history.westkingdom.org

Spend a little time looking at it, going through some of the early days, looking at old photos.

To make this useful, however, requires contributions from you, the people who attend the events!

How Can You Contribute?

I'm glad you asked! The site is being updated – the main purpose is to make it easier for people to contribute content. The original version of the website required that photos be emailed (or gotten to me in *some* form, CD, etc.), or that reminisces about events, or bardic works be emailed, and then I would have to go in and add them manually. As you might imagine, that takes a lot of work.

The *new* version is being set up to be more interactive. For example, if you were at an event and something memorable happened to you, you could write up a "No Sh*t, There I Was!" story and post it on the History site for that event. It would be there for anyone to see (*once approved by the administrator, because really, some stories probably ought to remain oral and/or private*), the same for photographs and more.

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Features that are already working and available:

Find an **event** (*from the main page, use the calendar on the right, most recent years at the bottom*), and write a story about the event (see above), and/or post photographs! (*I am trying to determine best methods of handling videos* ...). And even better, for photographs, if you tag someone, that photo will automatically show up on their "Who's Who" page, no one has to do anything to make that happen (*but only if they are tagged*). There are a lot of details on how to do all this available on the site (under "Help").

Look up people in the "Who's Who" and see who they are, get a feel for their contributions to the group, see photographs (if there are any), their coat of arms (if registered) and more.

(It should be noted, the Peers use the Who's Who to get resumes of people and their contributions, when discussing candidates for the Peerage.)

You can make **corrections or changes** to your own Who's Who entries ...

If someone has passed on, look them up in the **In Memoriam** pages, read what others have said, see photos, etc. If you knew the individual, you can add your own remembrances and/or photos (*this is the one place on the site that does not require a login to contribute*).

Look up **royalty** (*who reigned during a specific time*)? This includes the Kings and Queens, Princes and Princesses, and the Barons and Baronesses of the Baronies. You can see their armory as well in case you were thinking about making presents for the current royalty. (Continued from page 18)

Features that are planned (although you can view the older style versions as they are there):

Scribal Works – calligraphers and illuminators will be able to post photos of their work, with details (*one scribe posts "how I did it" photos, which are instructive tools for other scribes, and she does it with a lot of detail and humor*), and there will be the ability to search for works of specific time periods, places and styles (*keyword searches*);

Bardic Works – bards can post the lyrics to their pieces and will be able to upload mp3s (*sound files so you can listen to them perform the piece*) and other documents (*such as PDFs if they want to transcribe the music ...*).

Arts and Sciences – photos of works created, including award tokens, coronets, embroidery projects and much more (*basically arts and sciences items that aren't Scribal or Bardic works*). Some form of keyword searching will be added as well.

History of Local Branches with more detail than is currently there.

The Silly Side of the SCA (*if you don't think there is one, you haven't been paying attention*) will allow more contributions (again, photos and much more).

Administrative "stuff" including publications of the laws; being able to see old articles about the SCA published in local and national newspapers and magazines; lists of officers at Kingdom and Principality levels.

And as we move forward, there will be even more.

Most of these options will require you create a login to the site in order to contribute (*I don't accept anonymous contributions*), but you can view the site without needing one, but that's a straightforward process.

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Requirements for Photographs: standard photo formats (.jpg, .png, etc); you are the photographer or have permission of the photographer to post them, and there you go. File size should not be a problem, but really large photos may require some extra work.

But I Can Post Photos and Stories Now On Facebook, Why Would I Do It On Your Site?

Yes, you can post things on Facebook. However, as has been mentioned recently on FB, there are new members (*and old members*) who don't use Facebook much, if at all. Also, if you post your photos and stories on your wall, and others are not on your friends-list, they can't see them. The goal here is that it can all be in *one* place! In addition, there's no good way to link photos from Facebook to the History site, so if you post a really great photo of someone on FB, it won't be attached to their Who's Who on the History site where it would be particularly useful!

What happens when 5 or 10 years from now, no one is using Facebook anymore except a few diehards, and some new platforms come along with different and more cool interfaces? All that stuff that was posted on FB goes away, or doesn't continue being updated.

The History site will still be there.

Contribute Now, Contribute Often! It's YOUR History, It's OUR History ...

If you have questions, you can contact me from the site, or you can send an email to:

historian@westkingdom.org

Remember, this site is for all of us. Spend some time looking it over. Send suggestions for things that might be useful ... I may be able to implement them. I may not, I am one person, doing this on my own time, for free (*like all volunteers in the SCA*), but I am always open to ideas.

Attending a Collegium or A&S Tourney

By Katira al-Maghrebiyya aquiba_katira@yahoo.com

A n SCA collegium is an opportunity to try many new things or learn more about a favorite subject. To facilitate learning a particular art or science, classes are usually arranged in 'tracks'. A series of tracks make up the class schedule. Alas, one can only attend a single class during each class period. There is always a lunch break. Sometimes there is the opportunity to purchase a simple lunch and more rarely, there is a feast afterwards which may require a ticket purchase ahead of time.

Here are some suggestions to help you get the most out of the event.

Before the event:

- Oheck the class schedule. What classes are you interested in? Is there a class limit and if so, can you sign up before the event? If not, be sure to arrive early to get on the sign up list.
- Check the class descriptions. What does a student need to take a particular class? Special tools, materials, a fee? If you have questions about this, NOW is the time to ask the questions. ALWAYS bring a notepad and pen.
- If there is a fee, don't expect the teacher to make change! Bring a wad of \$1 bills. And if a class provides materials at no cost, a small donation is usually gratefully received.
- Depending on the site, you may need to bring a chair. If in doubt, ask the autocrat what the classrooms will be like. A collegium at a camping event (like the A&S Tourney) usually means you need to bring your own chair, while an indoor collegium usually has tables & chairs for each classroom.
- If a class will be messy like pottery or If a class requires specific movement like fighting technique or archery, plan to wear appropriate clothes that are easy to move in and won't get in the way.

Attending a Collegium or A&S Tourney

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- If you will be working with very small tools/materials, bring your best glasses or even something stronger for close up work.
- If no group lunch is planned be sure to bring food and beverage.
- ◊ If there is a feast, purchase a ticket.

At the event:

- Show up early to sign up for classes with limited slots.
- If a class is full, sign up as an alternate and show up....you never know. But have a second class choice just in case.
- Check the onsite schedule. Changes may have been made!
- Choose your classes but be sure you have anything required to attend, including exact change for any handout or materials fee.
- If you've signed up for a class, but changed your mind, do cross your name off the list. Otherwise, show up on time or you might lose your slot.
- ◊ Stay hydrated.

In class:

- ◊ If there is a fee, please pay it with exact change.
- Be attentive to the teacher. Class time is limited and you want to learn everything the teacher plans to share. And in a hands on class, you don't want to waste any of it.
- Follow instructions. A teacher wants to keep you safe while completing a project and again, time is limited.
- Do ask questions but don't get into a debate that takes up precious class time. You can always talk with the teacher again later.
- Offer to assist the teacher in setup/clean up.

Attending a Collegium or A&S Tourney

(Continued from page 22)

If you want to learn more, ask for the teacher's contact information.
 Perhaps the teacher would be willing to do a class for your local group.

After the event:

- If you took a hands on class and continued to do the embroidery or make the jewelry or carve the wood, share your efforts with your teacher. It will be an opportunity to learn more and improve. And just as important, they will appreciate seeing their art or science being kept alive in new hands.
- For any class, reconnecting with a teacher is a chance for more learning and that goes both ways.
- ◊ Share what you learned with your friends!
- Use your new knowledge and skill and enter an A&S competition!

I've been a student and a teacher for many years. I will never stop learning. When I figure out how to do something new, I want to teach it!



R ut I don't like beer!

How many of us have heard those words? A friend at a campfire, or a new member of a group, stating that "I love most drinks, but beer just isn't for me". Not to put down anyone's preference - there are certainly drinks out there that I don't much care for (or rather I'm sure there must be, I just haven't found them yet!) and very few modern doctors will tell you that anyone needs to drink beer but I'm here to make a case for the panoply of suds out there and encourage you to try/make something that is great beer for those who don't like it. If you are a brewer, share this with your group at your next tasting or let me know you made it, I'd love to try your version! If you are a person looking for a new beer to try, come find us at the Brewers' guild at Purgatorio (or another upcoming event) and I'll gladly share it with those who are interested (and of legal drinking age!). If you are a person who just doesn't like beer so far but is open to finding something you DO like, consider my case for the Gruit, a beer once lost to history.

In order to make this case though, what is beer? Broadly divided into ales and lagers, beer is a drink made from grain and water, often bittered and flavored with herbs and other stuff called adjuncts or additives and fermented by our lil' buddies, yeast. There are two varieties and seemingly endless strains of both (think of all the different varieties of apples). The two broadest categories of yeast define the two types of beer, ale needs slightly warmer temperatures for fermenting, and lager needs colder.

Ales are often thought of as the older and more traditional strain of beer's lineage, and there is good reasoning behind that. Beer making has changed a bit since its origins in Mesopotamia, but not overmuch. The methods and practices we use today are focused around the same fermentation process, converting sugars from our malted grain (malted means the plant had some time to start growing in the seed before being BAKED TO SUGARY DEATH in a kiln) into alcohol by means of (Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

yeast reproduction. A sort of tea/tincture is made from grain and cooled before introducing the yeast to begin fermentation - alcohol is made, consumed and contentment spreads. This yeast does fine in a slightly cooler than comfortable temperature so people made beer in cool cellars beneath their dwellings, or at least kept it there to ferment. Once the ale was done, it was for drinking and probably quickly, ale would sour after a few days and need to be discarded. The yeast succeeds because of the perfect environment for microbial reproduction and had to reproduce fast enough to hinder invaders from growing there alongside.

What makes a lager different? It is a yeast that can do the same reproductive cycle in a lower temperature environment. It would yield a lighter and crisper tasting beer, a favorite for those who had no air conditioning in hot summer months. It originates in the medieval period in Belgium and was immensely popular but hard to come by until well after the SCA period when the strain of yeast was isolated at the end of the 1800's. This ingredient-light beer is cheap to make though, and often served chilled to accentuate the light flavor and crispness, but cold temperature can really alter the flavor of a brew, often subduing less desirable flavors from adjuncts and cheaper grains like corn. This is the style that "american beer" had become synonymous from the post war era until the 1980's but it is far from the only beer there is!

In the past few years, a few fads have come and gone, leaving their marks on the brewing culture, perhaps one of the most influential has been the 2008-2015 IPA-ageddon, wherein craft beer became synonymous with extremely bitter and piney hops. I have avoided the mention of hops directly up until this point because they are not a critical part of beer per se. They are the most frequently used bittering and flavoring herb, much like barley is the most frequently used grain but neither define beer as a beverage. Bittering does more than temper

(Continued on page 26)

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the sometimes cloyingly sweet taste of some strong beer, it helps preserve beer for later consumption as well.

When I hear someone say that they "don't like beer" it sounds to me a bit like saying "I don't like soup". It's possible that the very concept of the foodstuff offends their sensibilities, but I feel the more likely story is that they do not like some ingredients or some styles of preparation. For those who have not yet found a beer that they enjoy, but are motivated to keep looking, may I recommend making this recipe or convincing a brewer you know to try it on for size? If you don't have a friendly neighborhood brewer to turn to, reach out to us at the West Kingdom Brewers' guild and we can point you to someone nearby.

The recipe is my own and I welcome feedback from any and all! It is called a "gruit ale" so named for being an ale type beer and using more than hops to bitter and preserve the beer. I will admit that I was worried about reducing the hops and the beer spoiling so I had a heavy hand with rosemary, if you do not love rosemary, maybe lessen the amount by a quarter or just omit the dried rosemary entirely. I did enjoy the brew though, don't serve it too cold, maybe just a tick below room temp. It is VERY different than what people would often expect from a brew and I hope you enjoy.

This beer is trying to replicate a medieval brew of western/central Germany before the purity laws were enacted. Wheat and other grains were likely used alongside barley based on what was affordable to the brewer or brewster making it, and the adjuncts and herbs used would all be available in the area at that period. All are documented ingredients in recipes for different gruits, although I have been unable to find a single historical recipe with all 5 adjuncts in 1 brew (Rosemary, lavender, woodruff, cedar tips and licorice). While this recipe does include hops, I chose a very mild bitterness varieties of hops to ensure it did not dominate the flavor and I have used it sparingly.

(Continued from page 26)

If you want to learn more about the history of gruit, check out the Compleat Anachronist from the third quarter of 2018, there is a wealth of knowledge there. If you want to purchase a beer of this sort to see what it might taste like, consider trying Anchor Steam's christmas ale different every year but usually very good, Aecht Schlenkerla Rauchbier - basically the same since 1405 or Franziskaner Weissbier -Dunkel - a dark wheat/barley beer. Heather beer is a very scottish form of gruit and might be found at your local specialty beer store or bevmo.

Yours in Service, *Michael O'Foley* Chancellor of WKBG Visit our google site! <u>(westkingdombrewers)</u>



In 1.5 gallons of water - raised to 150 deg. Steep your grains for 30 minutes

(1.5 lbs 2 row, 1.0 wheat flake, 1.0 something dark, I chose munich)

Sparge the grain (rinse with hot water at 150 deg. To get all the extra sugar out,

(DON'T SQUEEZE THE GRAIN BAG!)

To that add some bonus sugar from extract, I added 2lbs Bavarian Wheat and 1 lbs amber extract and bring it all to a slow boil

After boiling for 10 minutes, add 0.4 oz. hersbrucker hops.

After boiling for 30 min (20 minutes after the last step), add

0.5 oz dried rosemary

1.5 oz fresh rosemary

After 40 minutes (10 min after the previous step), add

0.5 oz hersbrucker hops

At an hour after you started the boil, take it off heat and quickly add

0.3 oz woodruff

0.1 oz cedar tips

0.2 oz licorice root (not the candy!)

0.1 oz lavender (i used dried, feel free to use fresh!)

Enough water to reach 5 gallons.

Let the whole mixture cool and add yeast when below 72 degrees

Yeast should be something neutral and ale-oriented, I chose Safale 04

Rack after 1 week to remove sediments

Rack again after a month, add 1.lbs dark amber extract

Wait for 3 months, bottle with 1.0 lbs dark amber and enjoy after 1 more month!

BARRED DALAV (lamb with rice)

Looking for a way to introduce more period cooking into everyday meals? Also want an easy one pot dish that you can share with your non-SCA friends? Try a palav! The basic idea is to pre-measure water for the amount of rice, bring it to a boil to cook the meat, then add rice and spices. The only thing that takes a bit of time is chopping the meat and an onion.

Place into a large pot or dutch oven:

3 lbs lamb (or beef) in ½-1"cubes 1 ½ tsp salt 4 cups water

Bring to a boil and then reduce heat to simmer for 20 minutes covered. Then add:

can (~12oz) garbanzo beans (drained)
 cups rice
 grated onion
 cup butter (1 stick)
 tbsp cinnamon ground
 ¹/₂ tsp pepper ground
 ¹/₂ tsp ginger ground
 ¹/₂ tsp cardamom ground
 ¹/₂ tsp clove ground
 ¹/₂ tsp caraway seed

Cover and bring to a boil briefly, then reduce heat to low for 30 minutes. Leave covered and DO NOT STIR. Part of the dish is to develop a "crispy" rice layer on the bottom. Serve directly from the pot.

Note that there is a good amount of meat, it should be enough to satisfy most meat eaters. *Make it vegetarian*: omit the lamb, add another can of garbanzo beans and a can of fava beans. You can also add a bag of frozen peas and carrots for a bit of color or a starch/veg side dish. *Make it vegan*: As in the vegetarian section, but remove the butter in favor of

Barreh Palav (Continued)

sesame oil (or you can use olive oil-tasty, but non-period.

Canned beans were used for convenience-dry beans can be used but should be cooked first, or they will not leave enough water to cook the rice.

From: *Maddat ol-Hayat* Dining at the Safavid Court (M R Ghanoonparvar translation), A 15th c. Persian cookbook and still made in the area today.

Wilhelm Appatheker vom Schwartzwald (William Chappell) (williamjchappell@yahoo.com)

West Kingdom Equestrian Group on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/406297362743872/





Mists Silver Spoon Competitions

The 2019 Principality of the Mists Silver Spoon Competitions uses as its inspiration the people who might have had a hand in growing, preparing, or producing food in period. All competitions are participant judged, so please be ready and available to talk about your dishes and to taste the other dishes.

The remaining themes are:

Fall Coronet: From the Farmer – ingredients grown or gathered by the farmer; eggs, milk, orchard fruits.

Fall Investiture: From the Baker - baked goods; breads, pastries, sweets

Upcoming Principality and Kingdom Events 2019

May 2019

18 Spring Investiture	Mists
19 Heralds Meeting	West

June 2019

1 Collegium Occidentalis	West
15 Duchess War Wolfs	scairn
21-23 Crown C)ertha

July 2019

3-7 AnTir /West War	AnTir
13 Mid-Summer Revel	Montagne du Roi
14 Kingdom Officers Meeting	West
20 Debardchery	Cloondara
26- Aug 11 Pennsic War 48	Slippery Rock, PA
28 Fox Wood Long shoot	Wolfscairn

August 2019

1-11 Pennsic War 48	Slippery Rock, PA
10 Northern Wolf Prize Tournament	Wolfscairn
23-25 Purgatorio Coronation	West
30- Sept. 2 Ducal Prize	West

September 2019

6-8 Mists/Cynagua War	Mists
20-22 Mists Fall Coronet	Mists
27-29 Autumnal Crown	West

October 2019

5 Hawks Haven Tournament	West
8-14 GWW	CAID

Upcoming Principality and Kingdom Events 2019 (continued)

18-20 Kingdom A&S Tournament	West
26 Mists Bardic	Mists

November 2019

9 Mists Fall Investiture Mi	sts
16 Borgia Feast College of St. Dav	vid

December 2019

7 Darkwood's Baroness Masked Ball	Darkwood
7 Allyshia Yule Feast	Allyshia
15 Beacons Gate Boars Hunt	Mists

Saltatoris Nebularum Schedule

May 18, Spring Investiture; Geloxia or Picking of sticks

June 1; No competitions but there will be Dance classes at Collegium.

October 18-21; Kingdom A&S Dance Competition

For more information about local dance practices join the West Kingdom College of Dance and Music on Facebook

Crystal of the Westermark Saltatoris Nebularum Minister



Crosston's Renaissance Dance Practice

Wednesdays from 7-9pm.

UPCOMING PRACTICE LOCATIONS

- On the 2nd & 4th Wens in May & June we're west of downtown SAN JOSE (at Cin & Raz' house).
- On the 1st & 3rd weeks in May & June we're in MENLO PARK (at Crystal & Matt's).
- On the 5th Wens in May, well, that's still TBD.

"A dance is the devils procession and he that entereth into the dance entereth into his possession." --*Bishop Francis de Sales*

Join our procession to dance a little dance, drink a little drink, play a little music and then off to dinner together at 9 pm. All of our dances are taught. All are welcome to dance or play music! Footwear is dance shoes, socks or even bare feet. We do social dances from any European source up to 1654.

UPCOMING EVENTS & HOLIDAY CHANGES:

- Projects before dance this week will happen. RSVPs required.
- Collegium 1 June, 5050 Hiller, Martinez CA

• Oddly, we don't know of any other Renn dancing nearby, but there is a Known World Music and Dance Symposium coming up this summer. See <u>www.kwds.org</u> June 2019 in Texas.



Meet your new Seneschal



Greetings to my fellow Misties, I'm Angelitta Marina Castillo DeGuzman. I was born in the year 1492, the same year Columbus sailed the ocean blue and the year that my beloved Spain reconquered its southern lands. Oh, wait ...that probably isn't what our mistress chronicler meant by write up an introduction for the Tempus Nebularum....ok, starting again...

I am the new Seneschal for the Principality of the Mists. Many people know me simply as Momma DeGuzman and I can usually be found near the Rapier field or surrounded by an ever growing group of teens and young adults. I first joined the SCA in 1991, but began a roughly 15 year break in 1998, after our oldest son was born and we moved from Antir to the West.

It is my job to handle the mundane side of the Principality such as signing contracts, recruiting event stewards for principality events, collecting reports from the various branches within the principality and helping the other officers to successfully fulfill their job requirements. I am also here to handle disputes or act as a sounding board to all the wonderful people who volunteer and help make this game we play possible. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me directly. <u>mommadeguzman@westkingdom.org</u>

Yours In Service,

Angelitta

~~Please Read~~

As the new Chronicler of the Mists, I have the task of putting all the information from our Principality – and sometimes Kingdom –in our newsletter.

With printing costs rising and everyone busy at Coronet or Investiture, we will be going **online** with our newsletter on the Principality website at http://mists.westkingdom.org/



The newsletter will be published there 3 days before any Coronet or Investiture for your viewing and printing pleasure. There will be only a few printed copies that the Seneschal or myself will have on hand.

So if you have a distaste for Facebook but want to know what's going on then feel free to go to the official website of our Principality and peruse the newsletter.

Lady Argenteilin filia Elffin Mists Chronicler





Thank you!

I would not be able to do all this by myself!

The Tempus Nebularum Creative team:

Argenteilin filia Elffin: Chronicler Moria of Kent : Deputy Chronicler Greth : Helper to Chronicler and Deputy

PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF THE MISTS

Ulfr and Thyri

royals@mists.westkingdom.org

GREATER OFFICERS

Seneschal: Angelitta Marina Castillo de Guzman (Nicki Powell-Ford) / 510-517 -4508 (Home/Cell) / 209-206-6904 (Groveland house cell, other number doesn't work there) / seneschal@mists.westkingdom.org / Arts & Sciences: Karius Hutzelmann (Vincent Flesouras) / 501-733-8786 / arts@mists.westkingdom.org/ Chronicler: Argenteilin filia Elffin (Michele Edler) / 707-331-3817 / chronicler@mists.westkingdom.org/ Constable: Nikolai Iastrebov (Kyle Shiells) / 650-924-5724 / kshiells@hotmail.com / constable@mists.westkingdom.org / Exchequer: Svanna McLeod (Melissa Roberts / 707-396-8494 / exchequer@mists. westkingdom.org / Marshal: Anton Barsuk (Jerry Petersen) / 831-915-6535 / marshal@mists.westkingdom.org/ Rapier Marshal: Symon Montgomery du Calvados (Kristofer Agerbeek) / 408.460.5248/ rapier@mists.westkingdom.org / Youth Combat: Contact Mists Marshal Sea Wolf Herald: Domamir Vlatko syn (David Derpich) / 858-922-9942 / herald@mists.westkingdom.org/

LESSER OFFICERS

Archer: James the Unhinged (James Whitten) / archer@mists.westkingdom.org / Chatelaine: Khalidah Bint Sa'Id Al'Attar (Dominique Ruffa) / 831-359-0899 / chatelaine@mists.westkingdom.org /

Lesser Officers

(Continued from page 37)

Equestrian: Luthold von Altstadt (Gregory S. Lutz) / 650-714-2429 / equestrian@mists.westkingdom.org / Gold Key: Khalidah Bint Sa'Id Al'Attar (Dominique Ruffa) / 831 359-0899 / goldkey@mists.westkingdom.org / Lists: Leah Raedaelf of Pagham (Linda Segal) / 408-245-4141 / lists@mists.westkingdom.org Youth Chancellor: vacant, contact Kingdom Youth Chancellor Regalia: Kelsy Aylesworth (Conni O'Neill) / 408-391-3540 / royalregalia@mists.westkingdom.org/ Web Minister: Allison de Saint-Loup (Allison Rolls) / 510-684-1845 / webminster@mists.westkingdom.org /

BARD OF THE MISTS: Stone the Skald (Michael Johnstone) /

bard@mists.westkingdom.org

MISTS LOCAL BRANCHES

Caer Darth, Canton DORMANT See Barony of Darkwood for information Caldarium, Shire (Marin Co.): Mark von dem Falkensfenn (Mark Fenn) / 415-499-0670 / P.O. Box 4292 San Rafael CA 94913/ caldarium@mists.westkingdom.org / Cloondara, Shire (San Francisco): Angus Duncan Cameron (Warren Klinger) / 415-444-6530 / AngusDuncan@sbcglobal.net Crosston, Shire (NW Santa Clara Co.): Geoffrey Mathias (Matthew Larsen) / 650-327-/ crosston@mists.westkingdom.org / http://crosston.westkingdom.org / Darkwood, Barony (S. Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Cos.): Helga Skjaldmear (Ariah Hume) / 209-581-8161 / darkwood@mists.westkingdom.org /

Baron and Baroness: Carrickk MacBrian and Mercy Grim (Stormy E. Winklebleck) 408-722-5781 /heartofdarkwood@gmail.com / Website: http://baronyofdarkwood.org /

Mists Local Branches

(Continued from page 38)

Hawk's Haven, Canton (S Santa Clara, San Benito Co.): Jacques de Sion (Blake Erickson) / 408-386-3018 / hawkshaven@mists.westkingdom.org / Mists, Province (N. Alameda Co.): Angeleta Marina Castillo de Guzman (Nicki Powell-Ford) / 510-517-4508 (Home/Cell) / 209-206-6904 (Groveland house cell, other number doesn't work there) / mistsprovince@mists.westkingdom.org / Montaigne du Roi, Canton (Monterey Co.): Rhys Gethin (Rhys Moore) / 831-789-9029 / montaigneduroi@mists.westkingdom.org / Mtg: 2nd Tues@7pm at MIRA. A&S Nights: 4th Tues@7pm at MIRA. / http://cantonofmdr.org St. David's, College (UC Santa Cruz): Marnie of St David's (Marnie Bryant) / 510-9299497/ mbbryant@ucsc.edu / St. Katherine, College: (UC Berkeley) Bersi Eðvarðsson (Bear Goodson) / 925-719-1264 / beargoodson@berkeley.edu / Southern Shores, Province of (Central Santa Clara Co.): Apollonia Faust (Ashley Flesouras) / 479-970-5614 / southernshores@mists.westkingdom.org / www.southern-shores.net / Teufelberg, Shire (E. Contra Costa Co.): Moira of Kent (Maureen Williams) / 925-708-5074 / teufelberg@mists.westkingdom.org / Vinhold, Shire (Napa, SW Solano, and E. Sonoma Cos.): Margaret of Vinhold (Margaret Woodbury) / 707-287-1771 / vinhold@mists.westkingdom.org / www.vinhold.org/ Westermark, Barony (San Mateo Co. and Central/south Alameda County): Sean Tracy of Newbury (Tracy Newby) / 510-386-7135 / westermark@mists.westkingdom.org Baron and Baroness: Balin the Hunter and Alys Graye (Bill Cole and Susan Cole) / 510-220-0346 / westermark-baron@weskingdom.org / http:// westermark.westkingdom.org/ Wolfscairn, Shire (N. Marin and W. Sonoma Cos.): Steinarr Ulfsson (Geordie McDermott) / 707-480-9914 / wolfscairn@mists.westkingdom.org /



"Help Wanted" section

Principality Event Stewards Needed

Fall Coronet 2019 Spring Coronet 2020 Spring Investiture 2020 Mist/Cyn War June 2020

Contact: mommadeguzman@westkingdom.org



EQ Minister for the Mists

Looking for a replacement

Contact: Luthold von Altstadt / Gregory Lutz

email: gs_lutz@yahoo.com

Construction of the second states and the second seco

If you are in need of a deputy, event steward, head cook, or just volunteering in general, this is the area to Place Your Ad!

Contact :

Lady Argenteilin filia Elffin chronicler@mists.westkingdom.org

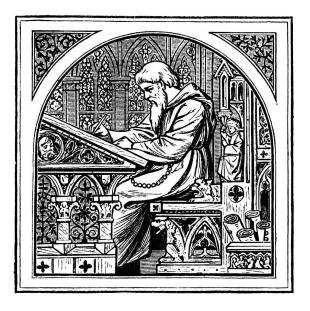
Ermine Company War Unit

E rmine company war unit is looking for fighters to join them in battle at AnTir / West war and Great Western War. You need not camp with the company but be ready for muster at the Ermine Flag by 8:45am.

All non fighters can bring a fighter, join us on the war field ready to defend the West against all that attack her!

For more information on how to be with Ermine Company War Unit, Contact Catherine of Wessex at <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> catherineof.wessex





Guilds and Groups

Brewers Guild: Chancellor: Michael O'Foley (Josh Roberts)
Mists Needleworkers: Juliana of Sunsetshire (Judy Pearce) / juliana@twitterpated.org
Mists Representative of Kingdom Chirurgeons Guild: Finn the Bald (Paul Bennett) /408-998- 5423 /nazghash@yahoo.com
Saltatoris Nebularum: (Dance): Crystal of the Westermark (Crystal Larsen)/ Deputy: Cera inghena Corbbi (Tiana Hanson)/ dance@mists.westkingdom.org
Silver Spoon (Cooking): Da'ud ibn Ali (David Williams) / 925-708-5075 / silverspoon@mists.westkingdom.org

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We want you to share YOUR artwork, articles, Poetry!!

Contact chronicler@mists.westkingdom.org for details