



THE RUNESTAFF

August
2023

A.S. LVIII

Welcome! The Barony of Mag Mor is the Lincoln, Nebraska branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), an international non-profit organization dedicated to recreating and researching pre-17th Century European history. Mag Mor is located in the Kingdom of Calontir, modernly Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and parts of Nebraska and Arkansas.



Mag Mor,

Everyone is in full swing preparing for Cattle Raids, and we are thrilled to see how much hard work is being put in to make the event successful. We hope that everyone has a tremendous time at our Barony's premier event.

If you see someone going above and beyond in any area, please remember to put in an award recommendation for them. This can be for Kingdom awards, Baronial awards, or both!

We are looking for someone to help coordinate the archery revel this fall. Please contact ourselves and our Seneschal if you are interested or have any questions.

Takauji and Lelia

Baron and Baroness

This is the May 2023 issue of the Runestaff, a publication of the Barony of Mag Mor of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc). The Runestaff is available from Lenwood Mobley, chronicler@magmor.net. It is not a corporate publication of the SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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Kingdom Events Calendar—

Aug 18-20—My First “Blank”, Emmetsburg, Iowa;

Hosting Group: Incipient Villa Frumentaria

Sponsoring Group: Shire of Heraldshill

Aug 25-27—Cattle Raids, Tecumseh, NE

Hosting Group: Mag Mor

Sept 08-10—Kings’ Company of Archers, Smithville, MO

Hosting Group: The Canton of Aston Tor

Sept 06--- Blood of Heroes, Fayetteville, AR

Hosted by: Shire March of Grimfells

Sept 22-24—Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Lawrence, KS

Hosting Group: Carlsby

Sponsoring Group: Carlsby

Sept 29-Oct 1---Griffins Fest, Elsberry, MO

Hosting Group: Barony of Three Rivers



Populace Meeting:

ALL meetings will be in person, as well as on Zoom. --For a link, contact the seneschal. Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Walt Library, 6701 S 14th Street

- 1 st Wed. of each month—A & S night
- 2 nd Wed.—Moot (business meeting)
- 3 rd Wed.—Discussion night
- 4 th Wed.—Philosophy night



Armored Fighter/Cut & Thrust Practice:

2 nd & 4th Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Woods Park, 27th & J St. Arrive earlier if you need time to gear up, to maximize daylight fighting time. Donations accepted to help defray site cost for fighters. Lonely Tower is having some informal, unofficial practices at varying times on weekends. For more about Lonely Tower practices, look for the BLT Lounge on Facebook Messenger.

Archery Practice:

Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm as weather permits NE Game & Parks Outdoor Rec. Ctr. at 4703 N. 44th St. (North side of Superior St., west of 48th St.) Loaner equipment is available to anyone who wants to try archery. If you are left-handed, please contact Lord Yoichi in advance so the correct equipment will be available. Baronial Archery Championship will take place in the spring

Mag Mor Local Events Calendar



Music Practice--1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month (usually), 7:30 pm

Volkmar & Isadora's house, 441 Christenson Ct. Contact Gwyneth or Isadora for more information.

Arts & Sciences Sundays—1 pm every Sunday,

also available on the Baronial Discord server. Contact Morgana, A & S Minister for more information.

Scribes Guild—Kingdom pre-prints may be available from HE Gyda.

Brewers Guild—Contact Isabeau or Carlos.



Letter from the Seneschal



Greetings citizens of Mag Mor!

The winter wheat harvest has commenced, so I am spending long days in the field. Some days I feel like the peasants in the van Gogh painting 'The Siesta After Millet'. I take deep satisfaction in participating in an ancient tradition (and grateful for modern conveniences like combines with air-conditioned cabs).

When I look at the wheat berries in the palm of my hand, I imagine farmers throughout history analyzing their grain in the same way. What diseases or pests prevailed this season? Did my crop suffer badly from the hail and winds?

During my work outside of Calontir, I have met many people in the Kingdom of Artemisia. They, like us, must suffer long-distance travel to events and welcome new friends. I have been studying their activities. Equestrian events are popular here, and they practice some interesting variations on different crafts. One gracious lord has permitted me to share notes and photographs from his class on silver casting using cuttlefish bone (yes, the supplement for birds!).

Yours in service,

Tófa



Moot notes

Meeting held 9 August 2023.

Officer reports:

- **Exchequer (Lady Lhianna):** the barony coffers total \$9736.63. There are four outstanding checks, including one for \$75.00 to St. Mark's on Campus. Lady Lhianna's acceptance of the Exchequer position means her spot on the Financial Committee needs to be filled. Lady Cera will be taking that spot. Storage unit, need 1 volunteer 10-2, 2-4.
- **Gold Key (Lady Morgana):** The rolling rack and bins for loaner gear = \$100.
- **Arts and Sciences (Lady Morgana):** Next A&S meeting (6 September) will be about garment decoration and embroidery.
- **Chronicler (Lord Carlos):** The revised Directory will be published 16 Aug 2023; please be sure your information is correct. Get your Runestaff contributions to him by 13 August.
- **Herald (Lord Fasti):** No report.
- **Webminister (Laurentia):** The online contact form is broken—and officer emails are still sent to magmor.net. The correct addresses end in magmore.calontir.org. Calontir Web Minister—no forwarding to personal emails.
- **Chatelaine (Lord Aurik):** Reinhart demo, Half-troll demo. A walkabout at UNL.
- **Minister of Youth (Lady Adel):** Working on schedule for Cattle Raids, need a few volunteers between 1-3 PM to oversee D&D.

- **Media Cryer (Lord Jean):** KSMC ads--Mia. Flyers for Cattle Raids, with activities highlighted. Regular library poster, schedule posted.
- **Archery (Lord Yoichi):** No report.
- **Largess Coordinator (vacant):** No report.
- **Marshall's report (HE Volkmar):** Will attempt to continue fighter practices indoors in October.

Guild reports:

- **Scribes (HE Gyda):**
- **Music (HE Gwyneth):** Music practices scheduled for 17 Aug, 7 Sept, 21 Sept.

Old Business:

- **Today's Cattle Raids discussion:**
 - **Iain's background check has been submitted.**
 - **The schedule is up.**
 - **Volunteers to arrive at noon on Friday. [Event steward, the Seneschal, or a deputy of either must be on-site at all times during the event.]**
 - **The Royal entourage may enter at 3 PM on Friday.**
 - **All other populace may enter the site at 5 PM Friday.**
 - **Lunch will be lentils and falafel. Please contribute individually-wrapped cookies. (Gwynneth)**
- **Aug 16 meeting: facilitated by Morgana and Gyda. Cattle Raids planning to continue.**
- **Aug 23 meeting: Cattle Raids planning to continue, facilitated by Morgana and Gyda; Financial Committee meeting for Tithe @ Cattle Raids, facilitated by Lhianan.**

New business:

- **Aug 30 meeting: facilitated by Morgana, Gyda, and Aurick. Cattle Raids wrap-up by Morgana and Gyda. Demo discussion by Aurick, there are three upcoming demo opportunities.**
- **Sep 13 is Moot. [Following notes by Tofa, not discussed at meeting: Facilitated by Tofa via Zoom. Please remember that it can be difficult to follow the conversation when people speak over each other, especially when they are far from the microphone. HE Gyda will help by taking notes. Topics for discussion include delegating responsibility to meeting leaders for Sept 27th and Oct 4th (A&S).]**
- **Sep 20 meeting: Laurencia will present an email discussion.**

Baronial Comments:

- **Thank you to all volunteers for your efforts in organizing Cattle Raids!**
- **Prepare to discuss plans for the Fall Archery shoot to choose a new champion (last year's Champion was Aurick) and for Winter Yule.**
- **As always, send their Excellencies any award recommendation**



Mag Mor

CATTLE RAIDS

Highland Games

Aug 25-27, 2023

Something for everyone!!

Highland Games -- Equestrian Activities -- Archery
Armored Combat -- Cut & Thrust Combat -- Youth Activities

Classes: *Tablet Weaving Trouble Shooting*
Cooking with Norse Herbs

How to Wear a Plaid--If you would like to "do"
your own, please bring a piece of plaid fabric at least 4 yds long,
a sturdy belt, and maybe a pin

A & S Competitions: Unicorn in any medium, Tartan in any medium,
Scroll Border Wars--English vs. Highland (prize for individual best
& the side with with the most entries will be announced)

Lunch Tavern Available

FEAST \$15

NEW SITE! (Dog friendly and with camping available)

Johnson County Fairgrounds, 633 N. 1st Street
Tecumseh, Nebraska 68450

Site opens Friday at 5 pm--closes at noon Sunday

Site is WET, but please remove your empties

Site fee--Adults \$25 Adults with Member Discount--\$20

Minors--\$10 each Age 10 and under FREE

Event Stewards: Lady Morgana MacDermott

mcnerdycostumes gmail.com

HE Gyda Glora

gydaglora gmail.com



Summary of The Summer Thing, 4-5 August 2023

This Norse-themed camping event was held in the Shire of Silver Keep (Bozeman, MT). Activities included equestrian, fighting, an archery shoot, and classes. I observed six equestrians of different experience levels try their hand at ring-spearing, tilting, mounted swordsmanship, and agility obstacles. Fighting and the archery shoot were held concurrently, so I'm afraid I don't have many details to report on either event. The leading entry in the largess competition was a set of 6 penannular brooches, decided by popular vote. Two classes held on Saturday included a lucet cording class and the silver casting class described below.

Reinmar von Baden offered a class on casting silver jewelry using cuttlebones (cuttlefish bones). Cuttlebones are available anywhere you can purchase pet bird supplies. The structure of the bone will leave a wavy pattern on the surface of the metal, similar to that observed on Damascus steel, if you carefully clean the mold before casting (Photo 1). As with any material that produces fine particulate matter when worked, wear a mask while carving cuttlebone. [TE notes: Reinmar was wearing a mask before Photo 1.]

Obtain a large cuttlebone and cut it in half. You can carve the mold for a ring or pendant by hand or press an existing item into the soft cuttlebone. Be sure to leave sufficient distance to the cut edge that the casting will be easily poured yet maintain the complete form of the item (Photo 2). Ensure that no sideways tunnels or channels are created while creating the mold. The delicate cuttlebone may crack if handled with too much force. After creating a clear mold of the jewelry item, carve a sprue (groove for pouring the hot silver into the mold) that joins with the casting mold. Next, carve two vent holes with small tunnels to allow air to escape ahead of the metal flowing into the mold (Photo 2). The vents allow the air to be pushed out of the mold ahead of the metal so a complete ring will be formed.

Align the two halves of the mold as perfectly as you can—this is essential. The two grooves on the outside of the mold ensure correct alignment (Photo3). Improper alignment will give you a poor cast (Photos 4 and 5). Heat the metal in a crucible until it flows freely. [TE: Reinmar performed this part of the process for the students, for safety reasons.] Prop the mold upright and keep hands clear of the mold while pouring (Photo 6). Keep the torch on the crucible of metal even during the pouring process to ensure it flows into the mold properly. Remember that the metal must have a constant source of heat upon it to remain liquid; once the heat source is removed, the metal will cool rapidly and solidify. This process will also scorch the cuttlebone. [TE: it smells awful.]

Once cool, the mold may be opened to examine the cast piece (See Photo 7). Improper alignment of the mold, poor venting, or insufficient melting of the metal will all affect the success of the cast. Reinmar also noted that thicker rings are easier to cast, as a larger mold allows the molten silver to flow in more quickly. He also reminded us that dropping hot metal into water is dangerous, and to let the cast item cool in the mold for some time before removing it. Work with an experienced person when learning this technique.

Thank you to Reinmar for his excellent class!



Photo 1. Reinmar cleans excess dust out of the mold before casting.



Photo 2. The cuttlebone mold. Note the distance from the top edge, the sprue, and the vent hold cut into the mold. The grooves for the binding wire are clearly visible along the sides.



Photo 3. A clearer view of the grooves on the outside of the mold.



Photo 4. Correct alignment is essential to a successful cast.



Photo 5. The mold with the wire binding it closed. Note the air vents are visible here.



Photo 6. Preparing to cast a ring. The cast is securely wired closed and propped upright between the rock and the Dutch oven. The crucible of silver is to the left of the rock.



Photo 7. The results of the casting process. Note how the molds are scorched due to contact with the flame during pouring. The incomplete ring (arrow) was probably the result of inadequate venting and rapid solidification of the silver during the pour.

Officers' contact information

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Page 6—Mag Mor CattleRaids Highland Games, © 2023 Anita Mohlman (Natalya Alekseyeva Vasilova)

Pages 7-8-- my summary of The Summer Thing and your class with photo, © 2023 Connor Pollock (Reinmar von Baden)

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