



# THE RUNESTAFF

January  
2024

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-17<sup>th</sup> Century European history. Mag Mor is located in the Kingdom of Calontir, modernly Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and parts of Nebraska and Arkansas.

*Mag Mor,*

*Yule was a smashing success.*

*Thank you to everyone who volunteered, cooked, and attended to make it such a delightful day. And especially thanks to Aurick, Morgana, and Asa for the meat.*

*Congratulations to Lord Jean for his successful term as Baronial bard, and to Baron Half-Troll for his selection as the next bardic champion.*

*As a reminder, we are always looking for people to run our quarterly revels. If you are interested, please get in touch with ourselves and our seneschal.*



*Also please remember we are soliciting applications for A&S Minister and Gold Key coordinator; letters also to be sent to ourselves and the seneschal.*

*We look forward to seeing all of you at events in the coming months!*

*Takauji and Lelia*

*Baron and Baroness of Mag Mor*

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## Letter from the Seneschal



Happy New Year, citizens of Mag Mor!  
Have you made your resolutions for the New Year? May I suggest studying new-to-you arts and sciences?  
Their Excellencies are accepting letters of intent for the position of Arts and Sciences Minister; please send yours soon if you are interested in holding a Baronial [officer](#) position. See the December Moot notes for more details.

After Moot, I received an email from the Seneschal Deputy Reeve regarding updates to the Crown Tournament and Coronation rotation. It will be our turn to ensure a bid for 2024 Summer Coronation (July 13, 2024) gets submitted. This is only six weeks before Cattle Raids. We are not required to host the event, only to make sure that a bid gets submitted. The link to the updated schedule of traditionally reserved event weeks can be found at

<https://www.calontir.org/seneschal/reeve/>.

Officers: Quarterly reports are due January 15th. I have emailed the officers who owe a Domesday report to the Kingdom. Please check your Baronial emails regularly to ensure you receive the information you need to complete the work. Remember to forward a copy to [seneschal@magmor.calontir.org](mailto:seneschal@magmor.calontir.org) as the system doesn't do so automatically. (I also need to sign some of those Domesday reports before you turn them in.)

Have a great new year!

Yours in service,

**Tófa in eldra Eiríksdóttir**Letter



### Upcoming Kingdom Events:

- \*January 27, 2024—Clothiers Seminar, Independence, MO  
Hosting Group: Shire of Cum an Iolar
- \*February 5 – 11, 2024—War Of The Phoenix, Tolleson, AZ  
Hosted by Kingdom of Atenveldt
- \*February 17-- Winter War Maneuvers Columbia, MO  
Hosting Group: Shire of Wyvern Cliffe
- \*February 24—Chieftains: 40 Years Of Hospitality, Bridgeton, MO  
Hosting Group: Barony Of Three Rivers
- \*March 09-17—Gulf Wars, To Be Announced
- \*March 09—Spring Rush, Emporia, KS  
Hosting Group: Shire Of Moonstone





## Populace Meetings:

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



Greetings,

The meetings have been booked at the Walt library through March 6th. Here are the following dates and which room we are in thank you.

All the meetings will be at Walt Branch Library at 6701 S 14th Street unless otherwise noted:

Jan 10 room 1  
Jan 17 room 1  
Jan 24 room 1  
Jan 31 room 2 \*

Feb 7 room 1  
Feb 14 room 1  
Feb 21 room 1  
Feb 28 room 1

Mar 6 room 1

Symbol with \* means different room.

YIS,  
Cera Ingen Ruadhán



## 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.

## **Armored Fighter/Cut & Thrust Practice:**

2nd & 4th Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Northern Lighthouse Church, 6141 N 14<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Archery practice is done for this year. Practices will resume in the spring. Please contact Lord Yoichi with any questions. Baronial Archery Championship will take place in the spring.



## **Moot notes**

**Meeting held January 3 at the Walt Library at 6:30 PM CDT in Room 1. ~10 people in person, 3 online.**

## **Officer reports:**

**Exchequer (Lady Lhiannan):** The barony account stands at \$13578.06. Two checks are outstanding. The storage locker rent is paid thru end of March. The coronet project requires Kingdom input. There is no contract in place.

**Gold Key (Lady Morgana):** No activity to report.

**Arts and Sciences (Lady Morgana):** Sunday funday starts again the 7th at 1 PM. Contact her for the address. Please email her regarding your A&S activity for October, November, and December, so that she may compile her 2023 Q4 report, which will be submitted 15 January.

**Chronicler (Lord Carlos):** Please send your Runestaff submissions by January 7th. He would like to distribute the Runestaff by the 14th. Please send summaries of and photographs from Yule Court or Kingdom activities that you may have attended. He also requests that you send him any poetry, songs, or project documentation that you would like to have published in the Runestaff.

**Herald (Lord Jean):** Not in attendance. Per LOAR, Aurick's device has passed. Meriilda's device and Leofwynna's device edit are in the works.

**Media Cryer (Lord Jean):** No activity to report.

**Webminister (Laurencia):** No activity to report. HE Uji reported that a member of the Adrian Empire contacted us regarding meetings. The Adrian Empire focuses on reenactment of the European Middle Ages (years 793 to 1625).

**Chatelaine (Lord Aurick):** Not in attendance.

**Minister of Youth (Lady Adelheid):** The kids who attended Yule Court had lots of fun. The fishing game was a hit. Coloring station was well received. Lots of games, enjoyed by all.

**Largess Coordinator (Lady Emma):** The 5th Wednesday of the month (29 Jan) is Largess night. The current proposal is to make cow-shaped keychains as site tokens for Cattle Raids 2024. We could use leather needles, extra thread, leather scraps if you have any to contribute to the project. Please forward any largess you have to her.

**Archery (Lord Yoichi):** Not in attendance, so recap of previous report. No significant activity to report, as archery is on hold until spring. There was a proposal to combine the baronial championship archery shoot with Herd Master in 2024. This will be discussed again later—the plan is to hold the event(s) no later than May 11-12th 2024.

**Marshall's report (HE Volkmar):** Fighter practices have moved indoors to the Northern Lighthouse Church the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Though the combatants are few in number, they fight with enthusiasm. No cut and thrust lately. There is a combat demo at the tattoo convention January 13th.

## **Guild reports:**

**Scribes (HE Gyda):** Out of preprints. You can request the address to mail completed scrolls from her.

**Music (HE Gwyneth):** The next music practice is January 4th. practices are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 PM, at Isadora and Volkmar's place. We missed a few practices due to the holidays, etc., but we should be on track now.

#### **Old Business:**

Crown bid was not submitted as another group's bid was accepted. We were asked to submit a Coronation bid instead. We can try to put a bid together, but it's only 6 weeks from Raids. This might be too much for us in too short a time. We have decided to focus on Raids.

**Coronet proposal**—awaiting Kingdom input.

**Park Middle School demonstration summary.**

The kids enjoyed it, there was some fighting, had some interesting questions from the kids.

#### **New business**

##### **January meetings**

**January 10th is A&S:** Start work on the keychains for largess.

January 17th is Discussion Night. The topic is 'Introduction to the Stoics', led by HE Uji. We will be discussing Seneca's Letters 2,3,5,6,7,8. Watch for a post to links to the free versions on the Baronial Facebook page.

#### **Meeting topics for rest of year:**

**The proposal:** Divide the themes quarterly over the year to aid in facilitating the A&S and Discussion nights, choose a culture/time & place for each quarter and build meeting rubric from there.

The decision for A&S nights:

Quarter 1 leather

Quarter 2 textiles

Q3 &4 TBD

Baronial MOAS

#### **Expectations for the role:**

Facilitates 2nd meeting of the month, the MOAS is not required to give the presentation themselves. Need to ensure that the meeting has a topic (contingency plans).

Is responsible for filing quarterly report.

Must be a sustaining member (not associate membership)

There is some room to make the job your own, speak with Their Excellencies regarding expectations for the role.

#### **Domesday reports:**

Herald, Exchequer, and Chatelaine owe reports to the Kingdom.

Summary of the Known World Chatelaine Symposium on 30 December 2023.

Excellent discussions on recruitment & retention.

Tofa recommended the presentations by The Shire of Roxbury Mill and Jameson Wheeler, which described two groups' plans and actions that led to increased recruitment and retention.

Most of the classes were recorded, will be posted on YouTube.

The schedule can be found at <https://www.calontir.org/known-world-chatelaine-symposium/> .

#### **Other announcements:**

Donation of a bow to the Barony

Would anyone be willing to donate food to a Peerage ceremony for Christine at Chieftans?

Later this month is Virtual Known World Heraldic and Scribal symposium. Find more information here (<https://heraldry.sca.org/kwhss/> ), additional information forthcoming Moot.







## Traveling Journeymen Class, given Nov. 29, 2023 by HL Natalya Alekseyeva Vasilova

I recently gave a presentation on itinerant journeymen. This is a synopsis of that class. I use A & S projects as a way to learn about daily life in period. Through my research for the recent Kingdom Arts & Sciences competition, I imagined a young German man, Albert Gutekunst, a wood carver. My projects (the first was started about 15 years ago) were intended to highlight areas of personal living history. My carving entry (nested spheres) showed a craft, but was also about philosophy/science; Albert's Journal showed daily life, parts of the guild system we don't really consider in the SCA, and how big events might

impact ordinary people's lives; and Albert's pack was a visual exploration of how someone might travel. I also told of some mistakes I made in the competition. I hope other artisans can learn from them.

**Mistake #1**--I started the nested spheres before I found a period example. I just thought they were cool. After a year or two, I found actual period examples, which looked nothing like what I was carving. I turned to philosophy and science to explain why Albert chose to make nested spheres in the way he did. I decided that Albert was very religious and wanted to make something beautiful, but also enlightening, showing how God's plan is revealed by science. The layers of the spheres represent all the science known in the 1500's—the four layers represent the four elements—earth, water, air, and fire (or aether). Each layer is carved and shows the center layer, earth (carved with plants) is covered by water (shown by fish, dolphin, otter, and swan), the sphere of air covers them both (where men live and work), and finally, the aether (where angels dwell). Every time I got stuck on the carving, I did persona research, which led me to traveling journeymen and their "Wander year". In Vienna in 1984, I had seen the "Nail-Studded Stump", a place where journeymen carpenters drove a nail as they left town, showing they left their heart there and intended to return. A Wander year was traditionally 3 years and a day, but could be longer. A time of travel and learning was actually required to become a master in many guilds, though some waived the requirement for a fee. Those journeymen who did not travel were often mocked and called "old maids". Itinerant journeymen are known to have been active at least as far back as 1450. I found records of journeymen's travels in many fields—shoemakers, glovers, carpenters, sculptors, painters, etc. Journeys began at the Guild, either a specific craft guild or a guild for journeymen. The journeyman got a kundschaft (work letter) and learned secret handshakes/phrases to verify membership. The kundschaft was a work record and a journeyman could not be employed without it. It included a description of the man and the dates of his employment and was stamped with the town or guild seal. Later it became a wanderbook, which acted as a passport and included the rules the journeyman was to follow (honorable conduct, no begging, no fraudulent work entries) and numbered pages so any bad reviews would be noticed if removed.

**Mistake #2**—I fell in love with the idea of wanderbooks, even when I found out (about a year ago) they were out of period. Wanderbooks came into use around 1770-1800. I had made a wanderbook for Albert early on and adapted it to the SCA culture, but I should have left it out of my competition entries. Modern traveling journeymen usually travel for 3 months and work for 3 months at a time. In period, I suspect shorter times were common, except during winter, when a journeyman might prefer to winter over in one place. These journeys were not camping, though occasionally the journeyman might stay at "Mother Green's" (outdoors, in Mother Nature). Journeymen usually stayed in inns, hostels, or asked or traded for a place at a farmstead. Journeyman's Guild members began the hostel system, often run by retired craftsmen called "Herbergsvater" (hostel father). They were traveling on roads and paths with villages or towns 2 to 10 miles apart. When a journeyman came to a town or village looking for work, he went to the local tavern or guild hall to see if there were masters willing to take on a journeyman. He would be paid the going daily wage during his tenure and would have to live on those wages during his travels. There were two different gifts that he might receive; one was the Geschenk (Town Gift), which, if accepted, obligated the journeyman to stay in employment for at least two weeks. The other was the Zehrpennig, a gift from the Journeymen's Guild and might be given if no work was available. My second competition project was Albert's journal of his travels. This gave me a chance to use all the things I had learned about Albert's life to make his story more real. It also meant more research. I had to try to write in the style of a 16th C journal. I tried to present Albert's impressions of what travel was like for ordinary people, what he got paid and what things cost, which meant trying to figure out the names of the coins in use in different areas/countries (I will write another article detailing what I learned about money in period). William Arthur Shaw's book, *The History of Currency, 1252 to 1896*, was an informative, if exhaustive, survey of monetary systems. I also researched the art and carvings Albert might see as he traveled and make sure it was actually there at the time he was traveling. I mapped out a route for much of Albert's journey, using Albrecht Durer's journal of his trips to Venice and the Low Countries for a reference and using Google Maps for travel times. I figured Albert could travel 10 to 20 miles a day, depending on terrain. I estimated that he traveled about 800 miles in his three year journey. Then there was the overall history, like how the Reformation and Counter-reformation affected the areas Albert was traveling in. I imagined

how the change to the Gregorian calendar would be seen by an ordinary citizen and, since the change happened a different time in different places, how disruptive it might be to a traveler. I tried to use German terms when they were appropriate to the story. Writing the journal as if it was 1580 was a challenge. Period journal grew out of account books and so were not as personal as a modern diary. I read a few autobiographies and parts of period journals and a book about journal writing in the early modern period. The author James S. Amelang had a warning, though—“One must take care not to assume that the wording of the printed autobiographies is necessarily identical to that found in the original manuscript.” He meant that what we might read today had probably been through several revisions as it was brought forward in time, with each translator/researcher correcting grammar and phrasing to make the text easier for their readers. Albert’s travel pack/kit was my third entry and was the most interactive. This was a lot of speculation and common sense, as there was little firm information about what a man might carry on a journey. I looked at several re-enactor sites for ideas and spent a couple years asking SCA people at events what they would carry on their back for an extended journey. It was in the Misc. category because it didn’t fit anywhere else. Judges had trouble with it, especially when they reached the “workmanship” category. The entry included a display board that showed wanderyear info, pack info, illustrations of how to carry items, and a photo of current journeymen (to show the tradition continues to this day). The pack itself weighs about 10 pounds and contains: Outside canvas/duckcloth, should be oiled or waxed; used for tarp, ground cloth, tent; Taup line; to make carrying handle or shoulder strap; Rope, should be hemp rope; to tie pack, use as straps and misc use; Wool blanket; for warmth; Snapsack; a fabric tube tied at the end; cords could be used to carry snapsack separately; Spare shirt/braes; Bowl, spoon, knife, fork, though a pricker might be used instead of a fork; napkin; Metal cup, to drink from and something that could be heated over a fire; Bouillon cubes, for a warm broth when out in the open, Fire starting kit, Soap, comb, for personal hygiene; Money; Tools for his craft; Something for his feet—Stockings or hosen or foot wraps (this is an area for speculation as to which would be most practical and cost effective); Sewing kit, Leather scraps for patching, String Outside the pack, in a bag or pouch, Albert might carry frequently used items—Sketchbook, Pencil, Kundschaft, Devotions book or other personal recreation items like cards, dice, or flute, Work knife, Money pouch (around neck) My judges thought this would be a good demo item. One suggested it should have been a research paper, but I wanted to get people to stop and look and think about the information, which doesn’t happen with a written paper.

**Mistake #3**—I used the same bibliography for all 3 items because there was so much overlap; this was just laziness on my part. The judges of the pack thought I had too many Wikipedia searches listed. I used them to check what the carvings looked like and where they were located, so Albert could travel there and describe them in his journal.

<sup>1</sup> Mark Walker, *German Home Towns: Community, State and General Estate 1648-1871*, Fee instead of travel for mastery

<sup>1</sup> Katrin Seyler, *Opening the Cognitive Tool-box of Migrating Sculptors* (1680 – 1794), “Old Maid”, ridiculed if he did not travel

<sup>1</sup> French Carpenters’ Guild website, Guild report on Nicollas Vatecar, 1450—beaten, robbed, kidnapped, held for ransom

<sup>1</sup> Walker, *German Home Towns: Community, State and General Estate 1648-1871* ,

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<sup>1</sup> Seyler, *Opening the Cognitive Tool-box of Migrating Sculptors* (1680 – 1794), 2 week periods common in journeyman work history

<sup>1</sup> Walker, *German Home Towns: Community, State and General Estate 1648-1871* ,

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<sup>1</sup> Walker, *German Home Towns: Community, State and General Estate 1648-1871* , zehrfennig, the Journeyman’s Guild gift

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*A Snippet from the Editor:*

It came known to me that the Strategic Air Command Museum is hosting a da Vinci Machines Exhibit.

**Title of the exhibit:** Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion

**When:** January 27, 2024

**Where:** Strategic Air Command Museum In Ashland, NE

**Time:** 9am-5pm 7 Days A Week

**Cost: Monday - Thursday**

Adults: \$16.00

Senior Citizens: \$12.00

Active/Retired/Veteran Military (with Valid Military ID): \$12.00\*

Children (Ages 4-12): \$8.00

Children (Ages 3 & Under): FREE

**Friday - Sunday**

Adults: \$17.50

Senior Citizens: \$13.50

Active/Retired/Veteran Military (with Valid Military ID): \$13.50\*

Children (Ages 4-12): \$9.00

Children (Ages 3 & Under): FREE

For more information go to website: <https://www.sacmuseum.org/>



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