



March 1998 ASXXXII

List of Officers

Canton Seneschal:

Ben Rivera aka Ben of Broken Bridge (718)436-6278. express@dorsai.org or ben.rivera@citicorp.com pager (800)225-0256 pin 319039

Deputy Seneschal:

Albert Ward III (212)491-9588.

Knight Marshal:

Django Lowe (718)398-1718.

Herald Pursuivant:

Daniel Myers aka Chou Fei-Hong (718)857-4732.

Minister of Arts & Sciences:

Pacita Prasarn (718)857-4732.

Chronicler & Chatelaine:

Criss Ittermann aka Alyessa Oaktree (718)436-6278.

Deputy Chronicler:

Chris Piner (718)230-0839.

* * * *

Current openings exist for other officers and deputies,
please contact the seneschal or appropriate officer if you are interested.

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Cover Art: Gaston Phoebus, Book of the Hunt. France, Paris, 15th Century.

Submissions, letters, comments, critiques, etc. should be sent to:

Criss Ittermann
190 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11218
express@dorsai.org

Please include all copyright information with your submissions!

Seneschal's Report

Greetings to all!

I am happy to report that all is well in our canton. All of our scheduled activities are taking place and we have regular participation. I'd like to focus for a bit on our fighters, however. We seem to have an unusual large number of folks wishing to fight who currently do not own armor.

The Canton is actively seeking to ensure that all that wish to fight are able to. Therefore we are mounting a crusade to increase our meager Iron Key holdings, and to encourage potential fighters to armor up. We have received a contribution to Iron Key of one helm, from a gentleman responding to my request for Iron Key donations on the SCA Arms home page. We have a supply of both rattan and leather. If anyone out there in this Province or Kingdom can spare any equipment, we'd appreciate it, as we seem to have quite a few potential fighters with light purses. This can be otherwise phrased as: "Help us good sirs! Arms for the poor? Arms for the poor?"

Some folks have already taken advantage of the availability of that leather to start working on armor, but have not finished yet. Now is the time to continue work on it in order to be ready for spring and summer practice. In addition, Boldo's Armory has agreed to provide us with a "new canton" discount on armor and helms purchased from his shop if we include it all as one bulk order. We have had similar offers from Ice Falcon and one or two others in the past. If you are seriously contemplating the purchase of new armor, contact our Knight Marshall or me and we will try to coordinate a road trip and a bulk purchase and save everyone some money. If you need to work on your armor, contact our Knight Marshall and he will arrange a time and date convenient for all.

A note here for any interested party: I am currently setting a basement workshop with power tools, leather tools and misc. useful items. Further, after armoring, I will personally serve all the FREE BEER AND/OR MEAD drinkable by one person, in one night, to anyone completing useful pieces of armor for our iron key. We have some materials available for this project.

Yours in society,

Ben of Broken Bridge.

Chronicler's Report:

To all goode gentles,

After a comment by one of our readers, I have made some minor changes to the layout of the WUTB. The center page can now be pulled out and used as a monthly calendar, and on the back of the center page you will find both our activity listing and the directions to our sites. This makes it an ideal fridge-magnet thing.

As for submissions: I am looking for mainly color artwork for covers, articles, stories, poems, letters. I would love original black & white artwork and dingbats for the interior of the WUTB, however I have NO END of public domain (copyright-free) black & white artwork. I know that some of you are artists & writers, and the WUTB has a current circulation of appx 170 persons, so it is great exposure!

Also, if anyone has an idea for something they would like to see published, please send in a letter. If you can't do it yourself, perhaps there's someone who can out there!

Love, Light & Laughter,

Alyessa Oaktree

Announcements:

Carpooling

I am organizing a carpooling list. If anyone in the area has extra seats in their car(s) or needs to be transported to an event, please contact me at (718)436-6278. Please have ready the number of seats (needed/available) and the amount of gear-space (needed/available) and the event(s) you are interested in going to. There is a database to match up people's needs, and (with permission) set up the appropriate contacts. If you are willing to publish your needs/gifts & phone number in the WUTB, please let me know.

Alyessa Oaktree (Criss Ittermann)

Roll of Arms project

Please send your S.C.A. name, device, date of registration and a list of your arms & awards to Yosef Ben Lazar (Jeff Zeitlin, 305 Sixth Ave, Apt 1D, Pelham, NY 10803, (914)738-2962).

Celtic Silliness (March 21st)

Will be advertised in the March *Pikestaff*. Cost of the feast is \$8. There will be lunch and a 1-remove feast. Please see *The Seahorse* or *Pikestaff* for more information.

Crown Tourney

The Seahorse Pursuivant (herald) is in desperate need of criers for Crown. Please contact Jeff Zeitlin (above).

Archers

If anyone is interested in a fletching workshop, please get in touch with Gabriella Verde (Michelle Cardone) at (914)835-7260, 6-10pm. If you are interested in having it in Broken Bridge, please contact Pacita Prasarn (see Officer's List) and she will make arrangements. Michelle is also willing to marshall for archery practices. Please contact your local seneshals to arrange for a site.

Provincial Officer Openings

Three provincial posts are coming available: Minister of Arts & Sciences, Historian and Chateleine. Please send your application to the Provincial Senechal, Andrea Caitlin MacIntyre (Denise Wolff, 6 West Ave., Putnam Valley, NY 10579, (914)526-3614), the Viceroy, Ian of Clan Mitchell (Mitchell Krevor, 150-38 9th Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357, (718)767-0757) and the Vicerene, Katherine Gillesfleur (Debby Krevor, 150-38 9th Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357, (718)767-0757).

Herb Classes

by Alyessa Oaktree

comparative herbalism • hands-on medicine preparations

wild herb identification • and much more

Every first Monday, 7pm at 190 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn.

R.S.V.P. & all questions/comments to Criss at (718)436-6278

For directions please see page 10.

Wanna Fight?

by Gunnbjorn Gunnarsson (Michael S. Rosecrans). Reprinted by permission.

Part One: Getting Started in SCA Combat

(editor's note: Parts Two (Swords) and Three (Shields) are forthcoming)

NOTE: The opinions expressed herein are those of the author, and may not reflect the policies of the Society for Creative Anachronism, its members or its affiliated organizations, or anyone else on the damn planet. Those with opposing viewpoints are invited to write their own bloody articles, or else bugger off.

Why fight? Shouldn't we all be trying to live together in peace and harmony? Why would you want to put on a heavy and uncomfortable quilted coat, cover it with heavy and restrictive plates, put on a steel helmet that restricts your breathing and vision, go out in the hot August sun and engage in furious physical activity while trying to smite thy brother and sister on the head with a bloody great stick? WHY?

^ CAUSE IT'S BLOODY GREAT FUN, THAT'S WHY! Come on, get with the program here. Seriously, please take note of this:

Whatever your reasons for wanting to fight, if you're not having fun you should not be doing it.

Take note of this, as well; no one expects you to fight. Gentlemen, no one will think the less of you if you choose not to become an SCA fighter. Ladies, you don't have anything to prove either, and there are easier ways to meet men;¹ but by the same token, don't be discouraged by the fact that medieval women didn't (generally) fight, and if you think you might like to give it a try, by all means do so.

The SCA is more than a bunch of people in armor hitting each other with sticks. We've got so many different things going on that I haven't the space to list them all here. Talk to people, find out what they're doing besides fighting, and if something sounds interesting try it yourself.

And if you're still interested in fighting, read on.

What is SCA combat? Is it a martial art? Is it a competitive sport? Is it a recreation of medieval combat? Is it a large lump of sentient green putty from another galaxy stranded in Tulsa, Oklahoma over labor day weekend?

Well, in a way it's all of the above (well, okay, not the putty thing) and in a way it isn't any of them. Is that cryptic enough for you?

SCA combat is a **martial art**, though not a formal one. We have no system of progressive awards, such as the belts used in oriental martial arts, indicating levels of mastery. This can be confusing, since squires wear red belts and knights wear white ones. Remember that a squire's red belt indicates his or her service to a knight and conveys no rank; and that while mastery of arms is a requirement of knighthood it is by no means the only requirement, and possibly not the most important one. More on that later.

Like other martial arts, SCA combat is to some extent a **competitive sport**, but with an important difference: our concept of personal honor and chivalry. When you're fighting in the list, you're not trying to impress the judges at ringside. (Although some judged tourneys have been experimented with.) The marshal in the list with you is not a referee, although he can be called upon to act as one. When you receive a blow that feels "good" to you (don't worry, you'll learn the difference) you are honor-bound to call it good. And the same applies to your opponent. Often you'll find one fighter in a contest insisting that the blow they just received was a good one, while the fighter who threw that blow insists that it wasn't.

When was the last time you saw Isaiah Thomas get up and say, "No, ref, he didn't foul me, I just slipped and fell." Get real.

Another important difference. We, as individuals, do not fight for our own glory or advancement; we do not fight for our own honor, but for that of another, the lady or lord who inspires us to fight as their champion. And yes, I'm being serious.

Chivalry is an ideal that everyone in the SCA is expected to try and live up to, fighters and non-fighters alike. The ideal of chivalry requires that one give courtesy to all, aid to the distressed, defense to the weak, and to inspire chivalry in others by example. No kidding; I mean it. Remember that to become a knight, it's not enough to excel in the combative arts; one must stand as an example of chivalry, courtesy, courage, and honor. Listen to their oath of fealty sometime.

We are **recreating medieval combat**, or at least an ideal of medieval tournament combat with a strong emphasis on safety. If some realism must be sacrificed in the name of safety, so be it; late period tourneys made many of the same sacrifices for the same reasons. Safety is period.

Sticks and foam can break your bones, so you might want to wear a bit of armor here and there. It's the law, you know, punishable by six months in traction and a whopping great hospital bill.

So here's what you're required to wear by way of protection (no condom jokes, please). (This is from the Rules of the List and Conventions of Combat, which you must read for yourself just the same.)

- **A steel helmet.** This is the only piece of your armor that's required to be made of steel, at least sixteen gauge or thicker.
- **Elbows and knees.** Rigid material² that extends past the pivot point of the joint on both sides.
- **Kidneys.** Rigid material over at least a quarter inch of padding. (A padded weight lifter's belt is minimum.)
- **Groin.** An athletic cup or its equivalent.
- **Throat and upper vertebrae.** Rigid material over at least a half-inch of padding, OR a skirt of heavy material (leather, chainmail, heavy cloth, etc.) that hangs down from your helmet.
- **Hands and wrists.** Rigid material over padding. A hockey glove is the minimum.³ NOTE: Your sword and shield can be built in such a way as to make additional protection unnecessary.
- **Women: Chest Protection.** Rigid material that fully covers your chest.⁴ Not required for men.
- **Shoes.** They go on your feet.

If you're wearing all of this stuff, then you're armored enough to fight. If that's all the armor you're fighting in, you're out of your tiny little mind, and you're about to discover the true meaning of pain. Let me suggest a few items you might want to add.

- **Gambeson.** A padded garment worn under armor.
- **Thighs.** Rigid material.
- **Hip joint.** Rigid material.
- **Forearms.** Rigid material over a little padding.
- **Shoulders.** Rigid material.
- **Short ribs.** Whatever covers your kidneys should extend around to cover your short ribs.
- **Boots instead of shoes,** preferably with steel toes.
- **Men: Chest protection.** Not as important as it is for women, but still a good idea.

If you're wearing everything I've got listed now, then you're armored to what this Viking considers minimum standards.

"And just where am I supposed to get all that junk?" ... {Editor's Note: This article refers to the Author's home shire and borrowing from their Iron Key. For information on the Ostgardr Provincial Iron Key, contact Dwayne Herron at (718)327-6356.}

You can buy armor (if you can afford it; a basic set could run you about \$400 mail order) or you can make it yourself. It isn't as hard to make as you might think. There are a number of

Broken Bridge Activity Calendar

March 1998

(directions on page 10)

- *** **Provincial Fighter Practice:** (Ongoing Tuesdays 6-9pm, Dewey Middle School 136) Sign in as "SCA" at front entrance. Ben Rivera (718)436-6278.
- 3/2 Herbal Class:** (1st Mondays at 7:00pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway. **RSVP!** to Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278.
- 3/9 Commons Meeting:** (Second Mondays at 7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Pacita Prasarn at (718)857-4732 for additional directions.
- 3/16 Sit & Spin: Spinning Workshop:** (7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Pacita Prasarn at (718)857-4732 for additional info.
- 3/23 Heraldry & Persona Workshop:** (7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Daniel Myers at (718)857-4732 for additional info.
- 3/29 Stitch & Bitch: Garb Making Workshop:** (7pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway. Please call Christina Ittermann at (718)436-6278 for additional info.
- 4/6 Herbal Class:** (1st Mondays at 7:00pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway. **RSVP!** to Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278.
- 4/13 Commons Meeting:** (Second Mondays at 7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Pacita Prasarn at (718)857-4732 for additional directions.



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
9 Broken Bridge Commons 7:30pm	10 Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	11 Gulf Wars Begins (Meridies– aka Mississippi)
16 Sit & Spin 7:30pm	17 Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	18
23 Heraldry & Persona Workshop 7:30pm	24 Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	25
30	31 Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	1
6 Herbal Class 7pm	7 Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	8
13 Broken Bridge Commons 7:30pm	14 Ostgardr Fighter Practice 6-9pm	15

Events
1998

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
(12)	(13)	(14) Mudthaw (Newton, NJ)}	(15)
(19)	(20) Ostgardr Commons 7:30pm	(21) Celtic Sillyness (Ostgardr)	(22)
(26)	(27)	(28)	(29) Stitch & Bitch 2pm
(2)	(3)	(4) East Kingdom Coronation (Manville, NJ)	(5) Curia Regis (Whitehouse Station, NJ)
(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)

Directions to Sites in Broken Bridge

190 Ocean Parkway, Ground Floor (bet. Albemarle Rd & Church Ave),
Bklyn, NY.

By train: F train to Church Ave, walk down Church Ave (past “Rite Aid”).
Left at Ocean Pkwy. We are halfway down the block.

By car: *From Manhattan & Queens.* Take your best route to the
BQE/Gowanus Expwy (“West” towards Staten Island). Exit at the
Prospect Expwy. See “From Prospect Expressway” below.

From Staten Island Expressway & Southwest: Take BQE North to Prospect
Expwy. Follow directions “From Prospect Expressway” below.

From Prospect Expressway: Get off the Church Ave West exit (last exit) and
stop before you get to traffic signal. We live on that block.

From the South & Long Island: take your best route to the Belt Pkwy. Exit at
Ocean Pkwy North and drive appx 4 miles. Left on Ave C. Right on
East 5th Street. 3 blocks, right onto Albemarle Rd. Right at stop sign
onto Ocean Parkway. We live on that block.

85 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY. a.k.a. “Martha Washington”

By train: 2/3 train to Eastern Pkwy station, walk up and over the hill. or D
train to 7th Ave (in Brooklyn) station. Walk up Flatbush Ave (past
theatre & Blockbuster video). Left at Park Circle, appx 3 blocks to
Eastern Pkwy. Left, 1 1/2 blocks to 85.

By car: *From Manhattan:* Take your best route to the Brooklyn Bridge. Left
onto Atlantic Ave (about 10 blocks). See “From Atlantic Avenue”,
below.

From the B.Q.E.: Find your best route to the B.Q.E./Gowanus Expwy. Exit at
Atlantic Avenue, follow directions “From Atlantic Avenue”, below.

From Atlantic Avenue: Continue past Atlantic mall (Caldor, Pathmark, Office
Max, etc. on left). Bear wide(!) right onto Washington Ave (double
check you are on correct road). Bear right onto service road at Eastern
Pkwy. The building is over the crest of the hill, about 1/4 down the
other side.

Dewey Middle School 136, 4th Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets, Brooklyn
By subway: (B or N 1 express stop from Atlantic/Pacific stations) take the
B,N,R,M to the 36th Street stop, then walk 4 blocks (past Taco Bell).

By car: *From Manhattan & points North:* BQE toward Verranzano (West). Exit
at 38th St. Make a left “U-Turn” at the light, then go appx 2 lights, right
onto 4th Avenue. The school is on the right, appx 1 block away.

From Long Island & the South: Belt Parkway to BQE/Gowanus Expressway
toward the Bklyn Battery Tunnel. Exit at 38th St. Right at the light, go
appx 2 blocks, the school is on right.

Broken Bridge Commons Meeting

February 10, 1998

In Attendance:

Ben Rivera	Daniel Meyers	Jenn Marrus
Christina Ittermann	Pacita Prasarn	Jay (?)
Christopher Piner	Jessica McGuinnes	
Django Lowe	Eddie McGuinnes (Wolf)	

Pacita and Christina discussed and set next month's Arts & Sciences' calendar.

Wolf requested a clarification to the directions printed in the WUTB for 85 Eastern Parkway.

Ben announced that, as per the provincial herald, all heraldry in the province should be re-submitted to the rolls. He will have new heraldry forms for future submissions of name and device.

Dan may write up heraldry submission guidelines for the WUTB.

Dan informed us that he was unable to pursue any heraldic research while in England, however he aquired more research materials.

Pacita agreed to aid Whyt Whey in setting up the Courtly Love class at 85 Eastern Parkway, #4A. Pacita may write of her travels in England for submission to the Seahorse.

The chronicler requested submissions.

The chatelaine has need of people to post flyers in Brooklyn neighborhoods.

Ben reminded people to attend Crown Tourney and suggested that people help at provincial events. Ben also requested that people try to get in touch with missing canton members.

Django confirmed his kimono workshop.

Jessica announced that she is now the Provincial Seneshal's drop dead deputy.

Jessica, speaking for Lion's End, discussed the possibility of running a joint event with Broken Bridge. Much discussion ensued regarding the possibility of running an event in June with a Japanese theme (or a Russian/Mongolian theme as a backup). This item was to be discussed with Lion's End members at their common's meeting. Django volunteered as FeastoCrat and co-autocrat. Dan and Criss volunteered as kitchen staff. Wolf volunteered to be in charge of cleanup.

Django will research and write an article on period Japanese feasts to help us with styling the event.

We were invited to the Lion's End commons meeting to further discuss the event.

{Note: at the Lion's End commons meeting it was decided that it would be better if we co-run the Lions in Winter event next December, since the calendar is so burdened already}



sources for information on armoring for the beginner, so I won't go into that subject here (I've listed a few sources for you in the appendix). A lot of us around here have made armor, and are free with advice.

And let us not overlook the value of scrounging. If you ask around, you may find people that have spare bits of armor they'll sell you cheap, loan you, or even give you. Some athletic equipment can be modified for use as armor, particularly hockey equipment.

You're going to need one more thing—a copy of the Rules of the List and Conventions of Combat as mentioned above. Before you'll be allowed to authorize, you'll be asked if you've read and understood them; if you don't say yes, you don't fight. Your Knights Marshal should have a copy you can read.

A bit of advice for when you authorize. If your armor is ugly and/or blatantly modern (all hockey gear and ABS plastic, for example, like mine), cover it. It won't make you fight any better, but at least you'll look like you know what you're doing.

Now let's accessorize that new outfit. Wouldn't a sword and shield round out that ensemble nicely?

Don't get too eager to fight polearm or greatsword just yet. Your first authorization **must** be sword-and-shield, so let's concentrate on that for the time being.

For our purposes, a sword is a rattan stick. Rattan resembles a hardwood, but it's actually a grass. It's available locally in nine foot staves from Plymouth Reed and Cane in Plymouth (where else?). If you ask around, you might find someone who has some to spare.

A sword for SCA combat may not be less than one and a quarter inches thick at any point above the hilt. It may have either a cross hilt or a basket hilt, but I recommend a basket hilt to start out with.² Incidentally, a basket hilt is a good first metalworking project, and will teach you most of the skills necessary for more complex projects like a helmet.

In another chapter, I've given instructions for making a basket-hilted sword. Instructions for making a crosshilt may be found in the Known World Handbook, if you want them.

There two basic types of shield; round and "heater." (A heater is the traditional flatiron-shaped shield.) Both are usually made of plywood. Heaters are usually curved in a shield press, while most round shields are flat. Which you use is mostly a matter of personal choice, but there are a few things you should consider.

Round-shield is a more aggressive fighting style. It has to be. In order to block incoming blows, a round shield must be moved farther and faster than a heater. Heaters are easier to block with, but some think that they're harder to learn to use, and that round-shield is an easier style for the novice.

I disagree. I have yet to see anyone have real difficulty learning heater style from the beginning. Heater is the style that fighters in this area seem to prefer. Even among experienced fighters, however, there is no clear consensus on which style is better. Remember that the most effective style for you may not be the one that's easiest to initially learn.⁵

I've included instructions for the construction of a heater shield in another chapter. If you want to make a round shield, once again the instructions can be found in the Known World Handbook. Just don't tell me you're doing it.

There are other types of shield that you'll occasionally see in the lists; among them are kites, coffin lids, Viking rounds, snowcones, Wankels, barn doors, and very small round shields called bucklers. None of them are really suitable for the novice.

As with armor, fighters will occasionally have extra swords and shields that you can beg or borrow. Ask around.

Marshal Law. I've mentioned marshals already, but I've yet to explain what it is that they do. Let's just see how much you already know about them, shall we? Just take this little quiz.

A marshal is...

A) A man wearing a six-gun, a tin star, and a ten-gallon hat

- B) The guy who played “Daktari” on TV (before you were born, probably)
- C) Someone who has been trained to supervise SCA combat and combat-related activities
- D) All of the above

The correct answer, of course, is D. A and B, however, are seldom encountered in the SCA.

You can’t have a tourney without a marshals, one of whom will be the Marshal in Charge for that particular tourney. They are responsible for order in the lists, and make sure that all rules and conventions of combat are followed. They have the power to eject a fighter from the lists, should that fighter’s conduct make it necessary. Marshals inspect armor and weapons before any fighting takes place, and can (and will) reject any equipment they feel is unsafe. The marshal-in-charge of an event can, on their own authority, withdraw SCA sanction of an event. All in all, rather potent individuals.

Have no fear; the marshals are your friends!⁶ Remember that the marshals are there to keep you from getting hurt, and to keep you from hurting someone else. To this end, each new fighter must go through an authorization procedure before they will be allowed to fight in the SCA. (That’s what I’m trying to get you ready for, remember?)

P **practice makes perfect.** Now that you’ve equipped yourself for combat, you’re probably eager to go out and actually use that stuff. So get your butt in gear and get to fighting practice!

You should seek out your local knights marshal, the person responsible for organizing your group’s combat-related activities, to find out where and when fighting practices are held. And start showing up.

Don’t expect to just jump right in and start bashing away at people; take the time to learn a few fundamentals. Things like stance, shield blocks, sword blocks, how to hold a sword, throw a blow, judge a blow, move, breath, and so on. For some of these things, there may be only one right way to do them but a hell of a lot of wrong ways. Remember, we’ve been at this for twenty-five years now; we don’t know everything, but we have acquired a fair amount of knowledge regarding things that work and things that don’t. Take the time to learn to do it right.

“*How much training will I need to authorize?*” The only answer I can give to that is, “As much as you can get.” Don’t try to authorize after your first fighting practice. Or your second. In fact, don’t try to authorize until the experienced fighters in your group, with whom you’ve been training, think that you’re ready.

I have seen people authorize successfully after almost no practiceeyes, it can be done. In spite of this, I firmly believe that it should not have been done, and shouldn’t be done. It’s easy for a new fighter to develop bad habits that a premature authorization can set in concrete. The rationalization goes something like this: “They let me authorize, so obviously I’m doing this right.”

Wrong. Being authorized *does not* mean that you’re doing it right, it means that you’re *not* doing it *dangerously*. There’s a helluva difference. I’ll say it again: Take the time to learn to do it right.

It’s important for you to know that while natural strength, speed, and athletic ability will certainly help, they will only carry you so far. When you’re tired and slow (and you will be) you’re going to have to rely on your technique to keep you alive. Innate ability without good technique may let you progress quickly at first, but you’ll peak faster (and lower) than someone who has spent time developing their technique.

When you *are* ready to authorize, have someone at practice run you through a mock authorization. Trust me; knowing what to expect will help you immeasurably when you try to do it for keeps.

One last bit of advice. Don’t get discouraged if your progress seems slow, or if you fail to authorize on your first attempt. Keep at it. And have fun.

A **n armed Society is a polite Society**, so here are a few tips regarding SCA combat etiquette.

“...*your most noble and worthy opponent*,” deserves your respect and courtesy, just as you deserve theirs. Remember to be chivalrous at all times.

Inevitably, there will be disagreements over blows. Talk to each other. If your opponent doesn't take a blow that you thought was good, don't be afraid to ask him about it. Discuss it (briefly) if necessary, consult the marshal if you need to, but accept your opponent's word for it if he or she doesn't agree with you.

On the other hand, when your opponent questions your acceptance of a blow, be honest. Think about what happened, listen to what your opponent and the marshal have to say; and if there's a reasonable doubt in your mind, take the blow.

“*Pay heed to the marshal...*” The marshal in the list with you isn't a referee, but if their opinion is offered or asked for, listen to it.

No Whining! When you and your opponent walk off the list, it indicates that both of you accept the outcome of the fight. Complaining about the outcome afterwards doesn't do either of you any good; it's discourteous to your opponent and demeaning to you.⁷ Trust your opponent's honor, and see to it that they can trust yours. We are each of us responsible for our own behavior.

Footnotes:

- ¹ Originally, I had written “there are better ways to meet men,” but my friend Lady Elyana Lilly advised me to change it. “There are easier ways,” she says, “but none better!”
- ² “Rigid material” means either steel, plastic, or heavy leather.
- ³ While a hockey glove is accepted as hand protection under the current rules, many of us would like to see that change. It's probably enough protection for your shield-hand, but I strongly advise you to make your sword with a basket hilt that fully covers your sword-hand. Steel gauntlets are an-other option, but they are expensive and difficult to make, and you won't really need them until and unless you want to authorize in a two-handed weapon style. If you feel you must wear hockey gloves, at least add some sort of rigid material over the fingers.
- ⁴ Aren't you proud of me for not making a tasteless, sexist joke here?
- ⁵ I must confess to having inherited a certain amount of shield-shape prejudice from Duke Sir Dag, who once said: “I love round shields. I wish everyone would use one...as long as I can keep my heater.”
- ⁶ They made me say that.
- ⁷ Or as Duke Sir Dag puts it, “nobody wants to hear your whining.”

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Attention:

Please help keep us up to date:

We go through the trouble of mailing our newsletter to anyone who wants it, so help us ensure the proper receipt of it! We'd also like to conserve postage, paper and postal worker deaths due to undeliverable-address-stress-syndrome. Please send your address changes & add your friends and newbies to our list!

Database Update
c/o Criss Ittermann
190 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11218

or call and leave a **clear, loud** message on the answering machine at (718)436-6278, to 10pm.

Note: if you know of anyone who joined Ostgardr in the last two years, or is newly joining, their name probably is not on our mailing list. Please let them know about *Water Under the Bridge* and give them a photocopy of the form below so they may request our newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Alyessa.

New Member Confirmation Correction Please Send New Membership Info

Mundane Name _____
Society Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____

email address _____
Interests _____

Skills _____

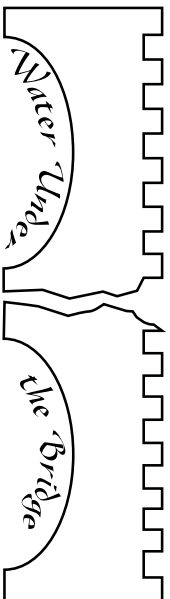
Do you have spare gear/garb/fighting equipment? The canton has **much** storage space, and many new members who are enthusiastic, yet unequipped. Enclose a note regarding what you have, and what conditions you would be willing to part with or loan stuff under. You can't **Possibly!** wear all your garb to every event!

Would you be interested in an Adobe Acrobat version of our newsletter (email rather than paper & postage) when available?



Christina Itermann
190 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11218

**Broken
Bridge**



W.U.T.B. is a publication of the incipient Canton of Broken Bridge, the downtown Brooklyn area of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a publication of the SCA, INC., and does not delineate SCA policies.

**Please Forward.
Address correction requested.**