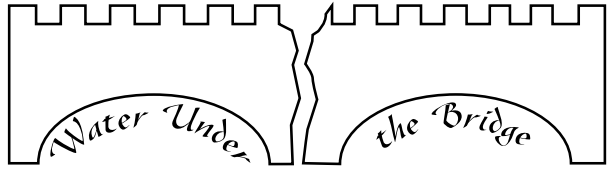


The Incipient Canton of the Broken Bridge



Volume 2, Issue 6



October 1998 ASXXXIII

Regnum

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* * * *

Our web site at <http://members.aol.com/alyessaoak/broken/> includes complete pdf (Acrobat format) archives of back issues of *WUTB*.

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Cover Art: Battle of Dunkirk (1383). Jean Froissart, *Chronicles*. 15C.

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

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Please include all copyright information with your submissions!

Greetings from the Chronicler & Chatelaine:

I extend my apologies for the black & white cover on this issue, our color printer is in need of repair.

This month I'm featuring new member handouts, with permissions to reprint (refer to the copyright information included with the specific articles). They are laid out in a handy pull-out format, which can be photocopied front-to-back and folded as a small brochure.

This is in keeping with my current big project of reformatting new member materials and possibly coming up with a **new** new member handbook. I have been discussing this with other Chatelaines in the area (and across the Known World), and they are very supportive. Many of the Chatelaine and SCA handouts need to be re-formatted, with new masters for photocopying. I'm also working on making electronic versions that can be stored on the web. If you have anything interesting, or wish to help write new materials, please contact me.

For the oldies <grin>, I have an article by Lord Matsuyamaji Mokurai, who has been kind enough to allow me to reprint from his html document in the newsletter. He makes many enlightened observations about how established SCA members handle new members, and how we **should** handle new members. *Vivat!*

I've included in this issue a letter of introduction. If you are (ever) going to autocrat an event, please check it out. With so many potential sites in my area, it will be easier for me to "mass mail" copies of this letter before I actually call people to harass them or go physically to the site for a meeting. Please feel free to use the letter as you wish within the scope of the Society!

Love, Light & Laughter,

Alyessa Oaktree



e-mail response to Wanna Fight? III, printed in the Sept 1998 WUTB:

Date: 98-09-08 23:20:07 EDT

From: Mary_Radich@peoplemag.com

1) I remember reading (years ago) a pamphlet on the martial arts written by Duke Cariadoc. If memory serves, his suggestion for curving a heater shield involving soaking it pretty thoroughly (i.e. for a few days) with water, then putting strapping around the shield and tightening the strapping over a period of days until the desired curvature was attained, then drying for a week or so (!!!!).

2) Affixing the back-of-shield straps as drawn on Figure 2 part 2, i.e. with the straps virtually parallel, would result in a shield that it would be impossible to hold up for any length of time without excruciating pain ensuing! The human hand and arm aren't built to hold it. I seem to recall from A.S. iii armoring classes that the forearm strap was affixed, then the fighter held the UNattached hand strap firmly in the shield hand and someone else marked on the shield the places where the hand strap should be bolted on, then lower bolt was put on, then the fighter held up the shield again for final, final adjustments, and then the upper bolt was put in. This essentially produced a customized shield. It also means fewer error holes drilled into the shield.

The Delicate Art of New-be Gathering

Some tips and caveats from one chatelaine

by Lord Matsuyamaji Mokurai,
Chatelaine for the Shire of Eisental (East)
mokurai@browser.net
Reprinted with permission.

I am a SCAdian who appreciates almost every aspect of what the Society does. Particularly, I enjoy exploring my historical persona and fighting. I also enjoy serving as a Chatelaine for my local Shire. Many times my friends see this job as working at cross purposes with my other interests.

“Hey Mokurai, why aren’t you fighting tonight?” they ask.

“Can’t. There’s a new person I need to talk to.”

“Hey Mokurai, are you going to the event with us this weekend?”

“Can’t. We’re doing a demo for the library.”

I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t disappointed sometimes when my duties interfere with fun. But I never regret it. I have made up my mind that my office and what I do is absolutely necessary for the Society. Without new members, we would stagnate. Without new energy and new ideas, the same people would go on doing the same things year after year until they’d burn out, drop out and the group would fizzle. Without positive public exposure, the Society would suffer from stereotyping and have a harder time interacting with others—even for such basic things as acquiring event sites.

“Ok, Ok, I get the idea,” people say when I try to express this.

But the real shocker for some is this idea: Every Single Member of the Society Is a Chatelaine.

“No way, man. Not me. I hate talking to mundanes. I’m here to (fill in the blank...) and that’s it.”

Well, all right. I can see that we are here to have fun, but nobody ever said that Chatelaineing is torture. It can in fact be extremely rewarding. More to the point, whether we want to or not, chances are that at some point in our SCA lives, we will each find ourselves speaking to a new person or a mundane about what we do.

“Hey Joe, what’s that picture of you and those people in the funny clothes doing on your desk?”

You can either say it was a costume party, or you can fess up and admit that you lead a not-so-secret double life.

One response you’ll get is—*“Oh, uh... OK. Whatever floats your boat, pal.”*

Another response—*“Gee. You know I really like history and that sounds like fun. How can I get involved?”*

ZAP! You are now a Chatelaine! So what do you do now?

Basically, you just answer questions, offer information and be friendly. But there are a few points it is important to keep in mind if you want to be successful. All common sense, really. Here is an explanation of the delicate art of new-be gathering, as I see it. These tips apply to just about any first encounter between you and an interested mundane. They work at demos when you get pulled aside, or at fight practice when a visitor shows up, or at the office, school, etc.

Of these venues, I find the most common is practice. This means two things: 1) the new person may have already seen you at a demo or otherwise found out about the local SCA and wants to know more. 2) he or she is coming onto your “turf” and may feel unsure as to how welcome he is in what seems to be a “private” activity. It is easy for anyone checking out any new organization to feel exposed and shy—that’s why this is a “gentle” art. Here’s how to handle it...

Do: Be friendly and open if you encounter an unattended new person. If a chatelaine is handy, take the new person to him or her. If you wind up being the “chatelaine on the spot” make sure you get the basic information (name, address, phone) from the new person.

Do not: Crowd them. In our enthusiasm, SCAdians can sometimes get carried away when we meet a new person. Everyone wants to meet the new person and show him how friendly and interesting we are as a group. Everyone is curious. However, if we physically crowd a new-be or crowd his senses with too much information, we can give a “feeding frenzy” impression.

You can imagine it...

“Come!”

“Join us!”

“We WANT you...”

“We REALLY like you.....”

And the new person says, “Yikes!!!”

Case in point—we recently had two new people come to a shire fight practice to check us out. This was their first exposure to SCA. Suddenly, they found themselves surrounded by people all talking at once and crowding around them. In our enthusiasm to meet and greet these new people, we overwhelmed them and you could actually see them shrinking as they stood there.

The reaction could be as simple as “Uh, I felt kinda weird” to “Jeez! These guys have GOT to be a cult! They were love-bombing me and pressuring me to join and everything!”

Either way, exit one freaked-out mundane.

One person, or maybe two, should approach and talk to a visitor. If you see that a new person is present and someone else is talking to him or her, don’t go up and jump into the conversation. If you do, others will follow and soon you have a whirlpool. Just be patient. The person talking to the new-be should at some point, take him around and introduce him to a few other SCAdians. That’s the time to make your greeting. If you are not introduced, don’t sweat it, it is probably because the new-be is getting over-loaded and is ready to go home—not because you are odious or anything. Remember that it is just as important for them to see you having a great time as it is for them to actively talk to people.

Do: Respect their curiosity—there is no such thing as a stupid question. Try to answer their questions honestly and concisely. If they ask follow-up questions, then elaborate, but try to avoid rambling on if they seem bored.

Do not: Make up answers or guess at the answer. If you don’t know the answer to something—admit it. Try saying something like “Hmmm, that’s a very good question and I’m sorry but I don’t have an answer; but let me introduce you to someone who may know...”

Do: Give them some basic written information about the Society. At the very least, provide them with your Chatelaine’s and/or Seneschal’s mundane name and phone number. Hand-out information varies from group to group. Typical pieces you may use include a local newsletter, copies of the *Welcome to the Current Middle Ages* flier, *Forward Into The Past: An Introductory guide to the SCA*, a kingdom newsletter, etc. Ask your Chatelaine what’s available.

Do not: Push them to join. The balance between being enthusiastic and being pushy is very subjective. Try to feel out your new person as to just how interested, confused, excited, overwhelmed or shy she or he is. If he is excited, give him as much information as he wants. If she is shy or overwhelmed, back off and simply let her know that you and the others are always willing to answer her future questions. This is a matter of faith - have faith that the person’s genuine interest will eventually draw him into the group at his own pace.

Do: Offer to help them learn more. Be sure, especially if you are talking at a fight practice, that they understand that the SCA has something for everyone (A frequent question is “*Is fighting all you do?*”). Tell them you look forward to seeing them again.

Do: Watch for signs that the new-be is getting tired or overwhelmed with information. There is a lot to this SCA thing —too much to absorb in one visit to a practice or meeting.

Do not: Make promises of time or help on which you can not deliver. Just be honest with yourself and honest with the new person.

Do: Introduce them to friendly SCAdians and those with answers to their specific questions. A big part of new-be gathering is making introductions.

Do not: Hog your new-be. This is part and parcel with the above. Never consider yourself to be the absolute best or only contact for a new person; even if you are an experienced chatelaine. If a new-be gets the impression that she is only permitted to talk to you, or that he has to check

with you first before doing anything, he could sour quickly. Or worse, you could find you have an insecure new member following your every step long after that initial excitement over finding them has faded. If you love some new-be set them free... This is much healthier for them and you will enjoy seeing them explore and learn from others as they find their proper niche in the group.

Do not: Spread rumors or gossip. There's nothing more sure to scare away and new person than being inundated with negative gossip and cattiness. If your group is experiencing some inner turmoil, keep it to yourself. If you are involved in some faction in a dispute, do not try to win the new person over to your side. The zealot will assume that they are saving the new-be "from making a big mistake and getting involved with THOSE people." no matter how much you may think that you are right, chances are the new person (who is first of all an innocent bystander, an outsider and a mundane) will decide they do not want to be dragged into something like this. Life is stressful enough. Or the thought process may go "*Hmmm those people on the other side of the fence seem really cool*"

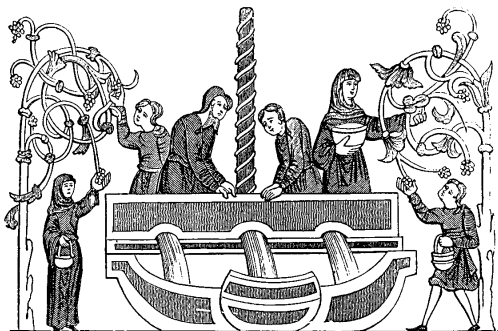
Do not: Try to sell anything to the new person or promote a private business either verbally or with business cards, etc. Too often this can cause new people to believe that the Society itself is a business—we are not. We are a Non-profit Educational Organization. We don't begrudge you your business venture, but please do not use your first contact with a new person as a sales pitch. It could drive them away and it simply is not appropriate.

Do not: Hit on them. This is vitally important for what I hope are obvious reasons. I have unfortunately witnessed instances where Society members have attempted to charm a brand-new person they found attractive. Perhaps the overture may be appreciated. Perhaps not. At best this behavior is part and parcel to "hogging the new-be". At worst, it could give the Society a bad reputation and could not only drive off the new person, but hurt them as well. Now I do not want to discourage chivalric courtesy and playful things like hand-kissing. But asking for a date, bringing out a cloven fruit, making sexual innuendoes, etc. goes too far in my opinion. Save your personal interests for a later time.

This extends to the relationship between a veteran SCAdian and a fosterling (a new member attached to a vet. for the purpose of "learning the ropes" many groups have such a program in place). My most disturbing example is an old story of a SCAdian in my region who took on an under-aged fosterling and proceeded to have a relationship with her which turned very sour. His reputation within his group was damaged to the point that he became inactive. The fosterling left the Society for good.

Do: Be courteous and chivalrous at all times. Only rarely have I encountered really negative attitudes from mundanes who were checking us out, but it can happen. Do not be affected by any rudeness. Think of your first contact with a new person as a "demo for an audience of one". Remember that you represent the entire Society when you speak to a mundane. Even if it seems like they are definitely going to join, don't assume anything.

Do: Have Fun. Helping a new curious person discover the Society is incredibly rewarding. Often, you will find that you are befriendng a very interesting and unique individual. Chances are that if they have taken the effort to seek out the SCA, they already feel like it is a place where they can make a positive contribution and have a good time. Show them that they are absolutely right!



New Member's Guide to Activities

by Alyessa Oaktree

This guide describes the different types of S.C.A. gatherings. Each has different purposes, and the level of involvement of the public and participants vary. Some are medieval re-creations and you are expected to show up "in garb" (in costume) and behave in "persona" (in character) to a certain extent. Others are less formal and are "out of persona", where modern clothes and conversation are expected.

What are the different types of S.C.A. Activities?

Commons - general membership, multi-purpose business meeting, out of persona. Members discuss upcoming events, request volunteers, give out information on local classes and meetings. People from out of their area are welcome at a commons, so feel free to travel! Bring portable projects (ie: handsewing, spinning, embroidery, etc.), and a pot-luck dish, paper and pen.

Workshop - informal space to practice, learn and get hands-on experience with companionship and guidance from people who know something about the topic, or who give informal demonstrations and explanations. Typically out of persona. Bring a notebook and pen, money in case of materials fees, or your own supplies (call ahead!), and a pot-luck dish.

Class - Formal instruction, often lecture-based, regarding an art, science, or a topic of research. A notebook is almost always helpful and sometimes there are handouts.

Demo - showcase or string of lectures on Medieval subjects. May be given at museums, to inform the general public, or at schools for students of history. There may be hands-on demonstrations of arts and sciences, handouts, fighting demonstrations, etc. Members are usually strictly in persona at a demo. Food and refreshments will probably not be served.

University/Collegium/Schola - one-day Event full of classes in a single location, usually in persona. Sometimes there is a "day board" (see below). If so, bring your own table settings.

Feast - one-day Event. Entertainments or tournaments during the day, and a formal dinner feast in the evening, followed by dancing, etc. Formal garbed occasions, in persona. There may be a day-board. Bring your own table settings. Bring extra money for merchant's goods.

Camping Events - multiple day Event, sometimes with a feast included. Bring garb and tableware, and your own bedding. If there are no cabins available, bring your own tent.

Pennsic War - camping Event where you can attend from (approximately) three days to 17 days. There are many tournaments and battles, courts, merchants, an ongoing "university", etc.

Event slang

autocrat - the organizer of an event. Before the event, most questions regarding scheduled activities, directions or accessibility at the event. should be directed to the autocrat.

babes-in-arms - babies under 3 who are normally free at events

damp, wet, dry - Wet—alcoholic possession is only restricted by age. Dry—consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited. Damp—wines, ciders, meads and beers are allowed.

day board - usually included in the general site fee, this is a buffet usually consisting of cheese, bread, and fruits, etc. Usually requires at least a mug or goblet.

day tripper - just there for the day, not camping, or will be leaving before the feast

"discreetly damp/wet" - all alcoholic beverage containers should be kept out of sight, out of mind. Consumption of alcohol should not be obvious to onlookers.

feastocrat - main cook, coordinator of the kitchen staff. The easiest person to locate if you want to help out. Speak to the Feastocrat a few weeks before an event if you have dietary requirements.

munchkins - the terms used for young children who may be free at some events.

onboard, offboard, outboard - Onboard—eating the prepared feast. Offboard—a place at a table on the fringes of the feasthall, bringing your own foods. Outboard—not eating in the main feast hall (ie: going to a local restaurant, eating in a campsite or in a cabin).

post revel - something to do after the event, to hang out. Ranges from pre-planned parties to spontaneous get-togethers. If you find yourself invited to one, don't miss it, they're usually loads of fun!

royal progress - An event where the king and queen will be officially attending, and a formal

royal court session will take place (see below).

Sanctioned SCA Event aka “Event” - announced in the kingdom newsletter. They are usually large and elaborate affairs, but sometimes are small and homey.

site fee - entrance fees, fees to get onto the event site, paid by reservation check or at troll.

token - received when fees are paid and you check in at troll. Your receipt, usually it is worn in plain view during the event, and becomes a keepsake after the event.

troll - the office of collection for entrance fees and giving out tokens (see below). We call it “The Troll” regardless of the numbers of people there are at the “Troll Booth”.

Courts

Courtesy note: Conversation should be kept to a minimum so that everyone can hear. The paths should be kept clear for people to walk by, and the isle directly before the dais should only be passed through as quickly as possible, only if it is necessary.

baronial - (including provincial) handle business on a fairly local level, and usually are used to handle business, local awards, and prizes for the days activities.

royal - presided over by the ruling king and queen, these are a forum for kingdom awards to be presented, and similar business which the king and queen must publicly attend to. If there is a crown prince & princess, they will possibly also be present.

What to bring

garb - your medieval costume, Undergarb (bras, underwear, chemisa, undertunic, socks, etc.). Garb (Tunic, surcoat, tabard, leggings, stockings, pants, gown, etc.). Overgarb (cloak, wrap, etc.). Accessories (shoes, hats, scarves, belts, jewelry, knives, etc.)

feast gear - table setting (plate, bowl, mug, fork, spoon, sharp knife, napkin, tablecloth, candles, candleholder, matches). You may borrow some in advance from Gold Key (call your local Chatelaine). Usually wood, pewter, silver-coated, etc.

money for your entrance fees, public phone calls, transportation, merchants, and emergencies. Some merchants take checks and credit cards.

directions, maps and anything else you might need to help you get to the event

food & beverage - for camping or off board, a cooler full of your foodstuff. Remove food and drink from non-period containers at your table, or keep soda containers under the table and discreetly fill your vessel from it.

For **overnight events**, bring sleeping bags, toiletries, portable alarm clock, garbage bags, etc.

For **camping events**, also bring a tent (modern nylon tents are fine), a tarpulan or ground cloth, extra blankets, pads or air mattress if desired, extra garbage bags to protect gear from rain.

You may want to bring extra snacks and drinks or dishwashing soap to clean your feast gear.

A note about knife behavior: never wave your knife about, whether or not it is in the sheath. Not only is this simply rude, it might get someone hurt, and it might get the SCA thrown off of a site. Normally, knives and swords are required to be peace-knotted to prevent accidents (tied into the sheath so as not to slip out or be plucked out by a child, etc.), however you may well be using a dagger to cut your roast beef at table, so please be careful where you point it, and keep it out of the reach of little hands.

What to expect

Even if you have pre-registered, you must “Seek out the Troll” to check-in, get information on where activities will take place, where to set up your camp, or which cabin you are sleeping in, etc. Make sure you get your token. Troll is usually found in an area between the parking lot and the main gathering areas (park, then pay), or “on the way” when you are driving to the parking lot (pay, then park). If you are On- or Off-Board, be sure to inquire about seating in the feast hall while you are at troll.

Then you will want to find an appropriate place to change, or unpack and set up your gear before changing. Once you are settled and in garb, try to get an idea of the schedule and locations of events, so you wont miss out on anything you consider important.

In the later afternoon, people will start preparing for the feast or court. If there is a feast seating chart, you are expected to write yourself into it well before the feast is served. Hopefully someone thought of you and wrote you in already, so check for your name first. When the hall

Broken Bridge Activity Calendar

October 1998

(directions on page 12)

- Stitch & Bitch: Garb Making Open House:** (Anytime, just call ahead) at 190 Ocean Parkway. Please call Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278 for additional info.
- 10/5 Herb Class:** (1st Mondays, 7pm) 190 Ocean Parkway. **RSVP!** to Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278.
- 10/12 Orientation Meeting:** (Second Mondays at 6:30pm)
Commons Meeting: (Second Mondays at 8:30pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway, ground floor. Please call Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278 for additional directions.
- 10/19 Sit & Spin:** (7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Pacita Prasarn at (718)857-4732 for additional info.
- 10/23 Bardic Circle/Sleepover:** (at 6:00pm-?) at 190 Ocean Parkway. See the announcement on page 17. Questions and comments, etc to Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278
- 10/26 Heraldry & Persona Workshop:** (7:30pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Daniel Myers at (718)857-4732 for additional info.
- 11/2 Leathercraft Workshop:** (at 7:00pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway. Questions and comments, etc to Ben of Broken Bridge at (718)436-6278 or *benbroken@aol.com*
- 11/9 Orientation Meeting:** (Second Mondays at 6:30pm)
Commons Meeting: (Second Mondays at 8:30pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway. Please call Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278 for additional info.
- 11/13 Harvest Feast:** Please see pg. 17 for more information. 16 spaces available in this feast for 22. **RSVP!** to Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278.
- 11/16 Fencing Footwork: Fooths-on Class:** (7:00pm) at 85 Eastern Parkway, apt 1G (bell #06). Please call Daniel Myers at (718)857-4732 for additional info.
- 11/23 Stitch & Bitch: Garb Embellishment & Accessories:** (6:00pm-?) at 190 Ocean Parkway. Please call Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278 for additional info.
- 11/30 Banners & Tabards & Shields! Oh, my! Painting Heraldic Devices: Hands-on Workshop:** (6:00pm-?) at 190 Ocean Parkway. Please call Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278 for additional info.
- 12/14 Orientation Meeting:** (Second Mondays at 6:30pm)
Commons Meeting: (Second Mondays at 8:30pm) at 190 Ocean Parkway, ground floor. Please call Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278 for additional directions.

O C T O B E R

**& November
Events
1998**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
(28) <i>Stitch & Bitch</i> (6:00pm)	(29)	(30) <i>Orientation Meeting</i> (7:30pm)
(5) <i>Herb Class</i> (7:00pm)	(6)	(7)
(12) <i>Orientation</i> (6:30pm) <i>Commons</i> (8:30pm)	(13)	(14)
(19) <i>Sit & Spin</i> (7:30pm)	(20)	(21)
(26) <i>Heraldry & Persona Workshop</i> (7:30pm)	(27)	(28)
(2) <i>Leathercraft Workshop</i> (7:00pm)	(3) <i>Election Day</i>	(4)
(9) <i>Orientation</i> (6:30pm) <i>Commons</i> (8:30pm)	(10)	(11)
(16) <i>Fencing Footwork Class</i> (7:00pm)	(17)	(18)
(23) <i>Stitch & Bitch</i> (7:30pm)	(24)	(25)
(30) <i>Painting Heraldic Devices</i> (6:00pm)	(1)	(2)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
①	②	③ <i>Coronation (Carolingia: MA)</i>	④
⑧	⑨	⑩	⑪
⑮	⑯ <i>Provincial Commons (Bronx)</i>	⑰	⑱
⑳	㉓ <i>Bardic Circle & Sleepover (6:00pm-?)</i>	㉔	㉕
㉙	㉚	㉛ <i>Agencourt (Östgard: Huntington, NY)</i>	①
⑤	⑥	⑦ <i>Crown Tournament (Towers:MA)</i>	⑧
⑫	⑬ <i>Harvest Feast (Reservations Req'd)</i>	⑭	⑮
⑰	⑳ <i>Provincial Commons (Queens)</i>	㉑ <i>100 Minutes War (Rusted Woodlands: NJ)</i>	㉒
㉖	㉗	㉘	㉙
③	④	⑤	⑥
East Kingdom Brewer's Collegium (Northpass)			

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.

**Your Picture, Poem
or Artwork could be Here!**
**Please donate to your local
newsletters. Aren't you tired
of clip art? We are!! -P.S.A.**

is opened for preparations, set up your place setting and wait for the lights to be turned down before lighting your candles.

Feasts are served in courses called "removes" which usually have both sweet and savory dishes in them. Pace yourself, there is usually an enormous amount of food at a feast. If you are still hungry after, inquire for that favorite dish at the kitchen, there are often leftovers that you can fill up on.

Conversations during the day and through the feast will probably be on medieval topics. You may want to avoid modern topics such as computers and television. Ask after people's SCA interests, such as brewing or cooking, and avoid asking after their normal means of employment. This is their vacation time.

Of course this does not mean you should avoid asking questions! Ask away! Don't forget to ask for their phone number or email address to keep in touch with them or ask questions later.

After the feast, there is usually some dancing, often with lessons. If you don't feel comfortable participating, feel free to watch.

At camping events, there is often merriment at campfires, including Bardic Circles, drumming and dancing. Listen for the merry-makers. As for permission before approaching if it looks like a private camp or festivity.

Always clean up after yourself on the event site. If you camp or stay in a cabin, take your garbage out with you. Always try to leave the site cleaner than when you arrived so we will be invited back.

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SCA on a Shoestring

How to survive in the SCA with little time or money
by Alyessa Oaktree

Garb (costumes)

Gold Key - garb which is maintained specifically to loan to new members. If you call ahead with your size and gender, it is possible to have it brought to the event for you. Call your local chatelaine (new member contact).

check your closet - The second best is to check what you already own for what might work as garb. Remember what you got at that Renaissance Fair or street fair, or that shirt that you haven't worn in 10 years, etc. You may be willing to alter something to work, or you may have something already.

thriftshops/yard sales/second-hand stores - for \$10-12 you can get a shirt and pants that, with a little alteration, will work as garb. Add in \$5 worth of trim, \$2 of buttons, and you will look smashing! The only trick is finding out what will work and what won't. Take a look through the wardrobes of members, ask around, get help for your shopping trip, etc. This method involves some resourcefulness, and a little bit of skill with needle and thread, but does NOT require a sewing machine or a lot of time. You can sew on the subways, at the commons meeting, while watching TV, waiting for the microwave, or waiting between classes. This method works best for people who are somewhat small, since more items will fit or can be made smaller than can be made larger.

\$1/yd fabrics - fabrics don't have to be expensive. Check remnant bins, sale fabrics, etc. For as little as \$4-6 you can have enough fabric for a 2 piece outfit! Check fabric stores in ethnic neighborhood, not only do they have lower overheads, but indian and african prints can be both inexpensive and very period-looking. If there are many stores in one area, there is more

competition, so look for fabric districts. Check out the prices at large craft store chains, but I have found that even their remnants are not discounted and I've never seen a price better than \$4/yd. Of course, once you have the fabrics, you'll need help sewing an outfit. Contact your Chatelaine, who probably knows who the local costumers are.

Feast Gear

Look for silver platters, ceramic or wooden bowls and plates, silverware, two or three tined forks, mugs and steins, silver wedding goblets, ceramic or crystal stemware, etc. Try thrift stores, yard sales, 99¢/Dollar stores. You might be surprised at what you can find!

Feast Fees

Ask after the menu or the theme of a feast, and if you won't be happy with it DON'T BUY IT! You are trying to save money, so don't buy food you aren't going to eat. You can find out weeks in advance what is planned for the feast. If it is a vegetarian middle eastern feast and you only like meat or hate middle eastern food, go offboard and bring food you'll like, and you'll be happy! Look at all the money you saved! Same goes the other way around: If you are vegetarian, and the feast is geared towards the meat-n-potato types, save your money and go off-board. As wonderful as all the vegetarian side dishes might be, you are paying cash for all that meat and you may come away from the table disappointed. If you have a huge appetite that is non-discerning, by all means get the feast and scrape the bowls clean (when everyone else has taken their servings of course!) and ask after leftovers at the kitchen, and you will have saved yourself the trouble of lugging a crate of apples and side of beef to the feasthall.

Armor

Fighting can be an expensive proposition. Inquire with the local Knight Marshal about Iron Key items (loaner fighting gear), used equipment, armoring workshops, etc. People have made armor from very hard plastic and from carpet remnants. Ask around. If you can't find it, ask me, I'll point you in the right direction. Helms are expensive, but they are the one place you won't want to skimp! You can get them from as cheap as \$50-75, but they usually run about \$100. Plastic armor is currently running about \$150 for a full suit, helm not included. Thus about \$200+ gets you fully suited and ready to go (not including shields and swords, which you can usually borrow).

Transportation to events

Carpooling is probably your best option for getting to events cheaply. If you own the car, ask others for money for gas and tolls. Second would be public transportation, if available. Select routes which have the lowest tolls (i.e. take the ferry back from Manhattan to Staten Island to save \$4-5), unless saving time is your priority.

Other Ideas

Try finding a sponsoring member for 1-2 events. When you're doing better, sponsor someone else. Pay half their entrance fees for a couple of events. Areas may want to come up with a donation to a membership scholarship fund, where members-in-need can dip to help pay membership fees or site fees. Bring it up at a local meeting and see how the idea is received. Events can also have scholarship applications for reduced site fees for people in need. Say, 10 reduced fee slots that people can apply for, or a reduced fee for people with large families.

Attend free workshops and classes, and take advantage of Universities. They are time-saving (ie: in transportation time), and generally low-fee (compared to tolls, gas and transit costs of attending multiple workshops or classes at other people's homes). Other people may be able to save you a tremendous amount of time in dead-end research, point out the most helpful research materials, loan out books, and save you lots of money in wasted materials by steering you clear of common errors. One of the workshops that everyone can make use of is garb-making workshops, just grab an old bedsheet and go! Call and find out if there's anything else you might need, and let them know you're coming. It's good practice, and you won't regret that extra underpiece or lightweight summer garb!

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The following is a sample letter of introduction for site negotiation.
Please feel free to use it as a spring board for whatever type of letter you need in the Society.

Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

Brooklyn Chapter

Christina Ittermann, Chatelaine and Chronicler

190 Ocean Parkway

Brooklyn, NY 11218

(718) 436-6278

Castle of Oz
115 Yellow Brick Road
Emerald City, OZ 12345
Attn: Wizard of Oz

October 1, 1998

Dear Mr. Oz:

The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (the S.C.A.) is an international non-profit educational organization dedicated to the preservation and re-creation of Medieval arts and culture. The S.C.A. requires inexpensive spaces in which to perform its social and educational functions. (If you want to know more about the S.C.A., please read the enclosed brochure.)

Our members are people in your community who have expressed an interest in holding events with your aid. We wish to negotiate the use of space you might make available for the furthering of our organization's goals.

Our most useful sites include:

- space for 35 to 200 people to sit at tables and eat
- a kitchen
- separate rooms from the main hall for classes and changing areas
- a separate large hallway or area for displays of arts and crafts
- an assembly room
- tables, chairs, and other furnishings
- an outdoor space (preferably dirt or grass) for Medieval and traditional fencing
- availability on weekends, from mid-morning until late in the evening

Please let us know which of these items you can make available. We can not pay large fees for our space however, we are willing to hold classes or demonstrations, or to make other accommodations in exchange for space, or to enable us to receive a discount.

We are willing to provide you with more information, if requested. We can provide a new-member packet, the local newsletter, or more information. You are also welcome to attend a local meeting, to meet some of our members and get a better idea of what we do. Our chapter meets on Monday evenings, and we also hold special events throughout the month on other days of the week. Please contact me for any further information you require.

Thank you,

Christina Ittermann
Chatelaine (public relations) and Chronicler (editor)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BARDIC CIRCLE & SLEEPOVER



Drum, Sing, Play! Sleep!?

October 23, 6pm-?

190 Ocean Parkway (directions on p. 12)

Please bring a dish for our potluck buffet (please don't forget beverages!), a sleeping bag and pillow, and your favorite teddy!



HARVEST FEAST



Friday, November 13, 6:30pm

at the home of Lord Ben, Alyessa, Reuben the Curious, & Grub Leafearer.

Menu t.b.a.

Please join us in a dinner celebration of the fall harvest at our home. We will gather after 6:30pm, but dinner will be served at 8pm. This would be an excellent "first" for new members. The meal is likely to be Far(!) East (Mongolian, Japanese), in preparation for our Spring event. Please wear garb & bring feast gear if possible!

Seating is limited to 22! **RSVP!** by November 6th

to Alyessa (Criss) at (718)436-6278 or alyessaOak@aol.com

(If you would like to contribute a dish for the festivities, please let us know, so we may tell you how many people are reserved.)



OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST



We can hold a period fletching (arrow-making) class if enough people are interested. Material fee \$20. Please contact Criss (718)436-6278 or Pacita (718)857-4732 if interested.

Northpass is looking for a new seneschal. Interested members of Northpass please contact Rick or Dee Wolff at (914)526-3614 before 10pm for more information.

Provincial Arts & Sciences Officers have requested that questionnaires be distributed amongst our members to develop a schedule for A&S Classes. Please see p. 17 for details. Chroniclers in Ostgardr (and maybe surrounding areas!) please reprint it!

We are forming a Pennsic Planning Committee, please contact Ian (Mitch Krevor) at (718)767-0757 or Dee Wolff (914)526-3614 for more details.

If you are planning an event, please contact Dee Wolff (914)526-3614 to confirm that your date does not conflict with other events.

The following is Östgärdr's survey in preparation for a possible University in our area, and for scheduling Arts & Sciences classes to best fit our members. Please encourage both by answering the following questions and mailing or emailing your response:

Class Survey

What sort of classes do you wish to see taught? (include Type (cooking, heraldry), and Level (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced).

What are the best times and/or days for classes?

Would you commit to a series of classes? (ie: every Monday for six weeks, etc.)

Do you prefer lectures or workshops?

Would you be willing to contribute towards an honorarium for a guest lecturer? (ie: a donation)

Teacher Questionnaire

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

email: _____

Area(s) of experience: _____

Type and level of classes (Ex: Cooking - Beg., Sewing - Int. or Heraldry - Adv.):

Times available for teaching (Day, Evening, Weekend, Weekday, etc.):

Are any special supplies or equipment needed for the class(es)?

Is the class a portable one (and if not why)?

Mail responses to:
John Cnapich
51-08 Parsons Blvd
Flushing, NY, 11355
(718) 762-4645

Carol Smith
(Brekke Franksdottir)
(516) 249-5113 before 10pm

E-Mail responses:
Ateno@panix.com

ABBREVIATED MINUTES

September 14, 1998

In attendance: Ben Rivera (Seneschal), Pacita Prasarn (A&S), Criss Ittermann (Chatelaine & Chronicler) & Reuben Williams (Deputy Chat & Chron).

Ben calls the meeting to order.

Officer Reports:

Seneschal: Ben announces that Jessica (Seneschal of Lion's End(LE)) has rescheduled the joint Broken Bridge (BB) & LE event to around June 1st 1999. They will be reviewing a church site.

The Provincial Seneschal will be attending canton commons meetings in the near future.

BB needs to pick up the number of canton members in attendance at commons meetings.

There is a new archery marshal in Staten Island. Note to request aid for BB archery practices.

The Province wants Dan Myers to be their Provincial Fencing Marshall. Discussion of getting him qualified. Pacita reports that Dan did well in fencing tournaments at Pennsic & qualified in all forms.

A&S: Pacita visited the Met's "Fencing and the Academy" exhibit - mostly late period with interesting swords and books, etc.

Wants more research-based classes (as opposed to crafts-based classes), and a Bardic Practice. Criss schedules a Bardic practice, but informs Pacita that attendance has been equally poor for research-based classes as for workshops.

Ben reports to the A&S officer that 190 OP has drums and may start a drum practice on a regular basis. Asks if members would rather have a drum practice in BB or join with Kamilah in Whyt Whey (WW). Pacita urges us to join with Kamilah (WW), because she is skilled and has much to offer. The format of their Friday Dance Classes is a 1 hr stretch & drum/zil practice followed by dancing.

Criss is making garb as usual.

The province has requested that we attend other canton gatherings. Make a note if you attend other A&S meetings like dancing, etc. in provincial and officer reports.

Knight Marshal: (officer not present) Ben wishes to note how many Brooklyn-resident fighters attend WW fighter practice. Pacita requests that BB members attend WW fighter practice. Ben notes that substantial energy is given to the WW fighter practice by BB members when BB needs to have a working fighter practice of it's own to get out of incipency.

Chatelaine: Criss requests donations of photos for gold key/demo portfolio.

Ben opens floor for **new business:**

Criss suggests a project for BB: half-height sheet-wall &/or archways for next Pennsic encampment. Pacita wants to put all the Province's cantons' heraldry on them. Criss suggests alternating canton heraldry with provincial heraldry. Ben mentions that we will need Östgardr's approval before going on with the project.

Events: Criss requests a discussion of BB event planning. It is decided that a site must be found before deciding on an event theme. Given the peculiars of our area, it would be easier to mold the event to fit the site than vice versa. Ben - contact Unitarian churches first, then all others. We can get a reference from the Unitarian church in Huntington. Delineate needs, number of people (35-200), kitchen, classrooms, etc. Pacita wants a "day at the marketplace" event with a street market atmosphere, entertainers and beggars, jugglers, etc. Criss asks who would autocrat the event, etc. No decision is made.

Ben opens a discourse on merchants, and site rules regarding sales tax. Criss suggests it is likely a matter between the merchant and the city/state. Ben says that the merchants may need permits for certain sites.

Ben wants a small dinner party/feast in garb. Criss schedules one.

No further business. Ben closes the meeting.

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
alyessaok@aol.com

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 Östgardr 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 storage space, and 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.

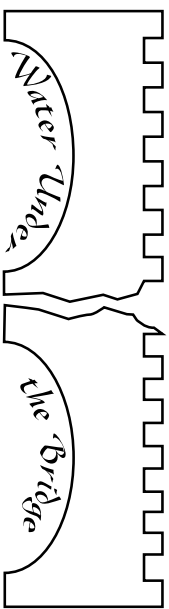
Would you be interested in an Adobe Acrobat version of our newsletter (email rather than paper & postage) when available?

Do you wish to be included in future member address listings?



Christina Itermann
190 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11218

**Broken
Bridge**



This is the Water Under the Bridge (WUTB), published by and for the members of Broken Bridge (the downtown Brooklyn area) of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is available at the above address. It is not a publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.

**Please Forward.
Address correction requested.**