



The North Wind

Newsletter of the
Barony of Lions Gate

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The Baron's Column

Greetings Lions Gate!

Yes, you may have heard it from Her Excellency; the Order of the Silver Lance is now registered with the College of Heraldry!

Years back, Baron Devin and Baroness Aurora created the "Order of the Lions Mark", to recognize long-standing arts & sciences contributions to the Barony of Lions Gate. It was meant to be an order equal to the Order of the Lions Claw, given for service. Several people were made members of this Order, but the last was handed out in October AS 40 / 2005. You may have heard the story, but the issue was the name "Lions Mark" couldn't be registered, nor could "Lions Pinion", the second name they'd tried.

To fill an award void, Baron James & Baroness Margaret began awarding Baronial Warrants to deserving individuals, often based on a specific Artistic Thing. We've continued this, and will likely do so for some time.

But now, we've got this re-named A&S order! So if you know someone who fits the "long-time A&S" mould, please recommend them to us!

It should also be noted here that anyone who was previously made a member of the Order of the Lions Mark / Lions Pinion, is a member of the Silver Lance; we didn't create a *new* order or award, we just renamed the existing one. Therefore, the following gentles are current members of the Order of the Silver Lance.

Sunjan Temujin

Curtis of Rumm

Gerhard Kendal of Westmoreland

Isobel fitz Gilbert

Amanda Kendal of Westmoreland

Aelena Cordovera

John MacAndrew

Seiglynda Thyrisdotter of Elpinstone

Bhraonain ap Seathan ap Bhragaidh



In Service,

Baron William

About the North Wind

This is the May 2015 issue of The North Wind, a publication of the **Barony of Lions Gate**, of the **Society for Creative Anachronism**, Inc. (SCA, Inc.) The North Wind is available from the Chronicler, James Welch (HL James Wolfden), jameswolfden@yahoo.ca and is also available from the Barony's website <http://lionsgate.antir.sca.org/public/>. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA, Inc. Policies. Copyright © 2015 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. Cover photo collage by James Wolfden

***Be it known to all who may be lovers of
Chivalry that there will be held on the
first of May an International
Tournament.***

(from a flyer advertising the first SCA event)

And so the SCA began.

Two adult males who should have known better decided they wanted to learn the arts of chivalry so they made some swords out of wood and shields out of plywood and started practicing in their backyard. Another friend watched them and thought, "Hey, let's have a medieval party".

On May 1st, 1966, the first SCA event was held. It was just a party in the backyard of Diana Paxson, a history major and science fiction fan. Flyers were printed up which encouraged guests to dress up in the garb of some age of Christendom, Outre-Mer, or Faerie when swords were used.

It was supposed to start at noon but didn't really get started until about 2:30 which established a SCA tradition which continues to this day. "What do you mean the tournament has already started?" said the seasoned knight. "The event copy said the tournament was going to start at 10:30. I arrived at 11. If you actually meant for the tourney to start at 10:30, you should have said so in the event copy."

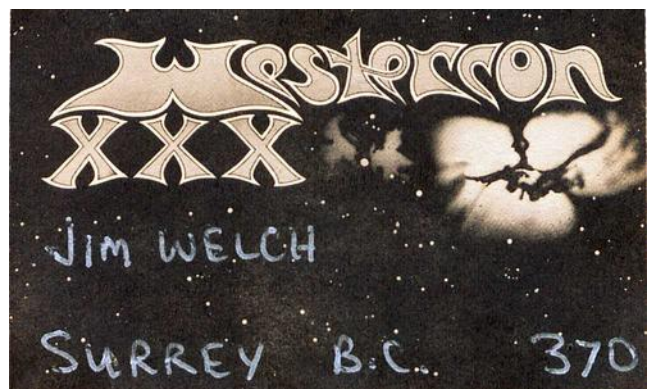
Many of the people that attended that first event were part of the Los Angeles and Berkeley Science Fiction fandom community. Writers Marion Zimmer Bradley and Poul Anderson were there. Well, Poul may have just arrived to pick up his daughter, Astrid, at the end of the evening but he was there. Poul was knighted as Sir Bela of East March in A.S. II.

The SCA calendar is based on that first tournament and on May 1, 2016, we have entered into A.S. L aka the 50th year of the SCA. I hope over the next year that we can share some of earliest and/or fondest memories of the SCA and our Barony. As chronicler, I get to go first.

My first experience with the SCA was through the Vancouver Science Fiction Community. Vancouver had successfully won the bid for Westercon 30 to be held at UBC July 1-4, 1977.

Now, science fiction fandom was a little different in 1977 than it is today. First, it really wasn't that cool yet to be a nerd or geek. The terms were still derogatory back then. Second, there were not a lot of conventions back then. Nowadays, it seems like there is always a Fan Expo or an Anime Evolution or something happening but back then it was once a year thing. And Westercon was a big thing. Not just a little V-Con.

I had been to V-Con 5 the year before but this was a Westercon. That made it a whole lot bigger to a 17 year old geek that had just graduated high school. I went with some of my high school friends and the four day weekend was a blast. Whether the sleep deprivation helped or not, I can't really say but since we hadn't rented any rooms and some of the parties went all night, we didn't exactly stay awake throughout the entire convention but we came pretty damn close. My metabolism, at the time, was such



that I really didn't need a lot of sleep but I can't say the same for my companions.

Some great memories – drinking hot cream soda (remember to roll down your windows if you are leaving carbonated beverages in your car), badge-trolling with my Star Trek Wars badge, getting my story ripped to pieces in the writers workshop by real writers, my first ever visit to Wreck Beach (okay, last day, it was overcast and threatening to rain so there were only three people bathing nude but I was 17 and there was nude beach nearby), neat stuff in the hucksters room, buying my first artwork, the costume bacchanal (Sunday night, so even I was pretty punch drunk from being sleep deprived), The Flying Karmazov Brothers, my first actual exposure to Dungeons and Dragons, and watching an SCA demo.

The demo happened outside on a nice grassy area. There were some covered walkways that we were not supposed to be on but they provided a great aerial view of the fighting. At this point, I was not any connoisseur of the fighting arts. It didn't matter. People were dressed up in armour and bashing the hell out of each other. The herald was describing the fighting and did refer to the aspect of losing an arm or losing a leg but continuing to fight as “Black Knight Rules” referring to the Black Knight scene from Monty Python and The Holy Grail.

It was cool. It looked fun.

With a strong crossover of members, SCA demos were common at SF conventions. I did get out to an actual Lions Gate event two years later where at one point I was captured, tied up, and presented at court as gift to Baroness Amanda.

Unfortunately, my involvement with the B.C. Science Fiction Association was taking up more of my time and I didn't get back out to another event until two decades later.

Sadly, I don't have any photos of that Westercon demo but I did get some pictures a few years later at an SCA demo a few years later at Norwescon where a certain lady fighter of small stature was facing off against her much larger opponent. After she took his legs, they stopped and did a little measurement to see who was taller now. You might recognize the fighter.

Have Fun. Play Fair.

Baron James the Just

Do you have a favourite memory of the SCA?

Your first time? Your first war? Your first garb? Your first time in armour?

Special memories? That special someone? That special award? That special road trip?

It's way back Thursday all year long so send in your photos and memories?

I will be glad to print them.

Lions Gate Calendar

May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5 Cloverdale Fight Practice	6	7 Rapier	8	9	10
A&S Dance	11 12 Cloverdale Fight Practice	13	14 Rapier	15 Newcomers Social	16	17
18	19 Cloverdale Fight Practice	20	21 Rapier	22	23 May Champions	24 Demo May Days
Dance	25 26 Cloverdale Fight Practice	27	28 Rapier Council	29	30 31 Sealion War	

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2 Cloverdale Fight Practice	3	4 Rapier Archery	5	6 AllThings	7
Dance	8 9 Cloverdale Fight Practice	10	11 Rapier Archery	12	13	14
15	16 Cloverdale Fight Practice	17	18 Rapier Archery	19 Newcomers Social	20	21
Dance	22 23 Cloverdale Fight Practice	24	25 Rapier Archery Council	26	27 AllThings	28
29	30 Cloverdale Fight Practice					

Lions Gate Practices

Archery – Outdoor practices are every Thursday starting at 5:30 PM at the Burnaby Archery Range. You must be a member of the Burnaby Archers authorized to use the range. Additional archery practices are happening at the AllThings Practice.

Cloverdale Fight Practice – Armoured and Rapier combat practice occurs every Tuesday Night at the home of Cyneric and Arianne just up from the Cloverdale Fairgrounds.

Rapier – Rapier Practice occurs every Thursday Night at the Justice Institute in New Westminster. Heavy fighters welcome but please use something to prevent your knee armour from damaging the wooden floor.

Arts and Science – A&S practice happens once a month at a member's home. Check the Baronial Facebook page for details.

Bransle – A social meeting in garb held in North Surrey every other month. Next one will be in June.

Dance – Dance practice happens every other Monday in Surrey.

Newcomer/Baronial Social – A general social meeting held in Vancouver for both newcomers and long term members to get together and socialize. April meeting changed to April 24.

Upcoming Events

Lions Gate Champions Tournaments

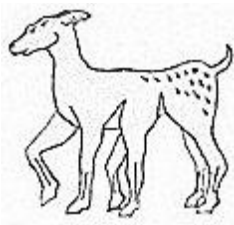
When: May 23, 9AM - 5PM

Where: Warner Loat Park, Burnaby, BC

Site Fee: \$10

Who will stand and defend the honour of Lions Gate and its undoubted Baron and Baroness?

On the Hallowed Grounds of the Warner Loat Park, on the twenty-third day of the month of May, three martial champions will be decided. Those thick of neck and strong of arm may choose to fight in the Heavy Armoured Combat Tournament. For those that are more fleet of foot with a cavalier attitude may prefer the Rapier Combat Tournament. If you laugh at such fighters knowing that with your hawk-like vision and a steady arm, you can kill them from a 100 yards away, perhaps the Archery Tournament will be your choice.



Choose your weapons. Choose your tournament. Win and you will be a Champion of Lions Gate.

For those of a more gentler nature, please come and join us as well. There will be Boules and Croquet. For those with an artistic nature, I invite you to participate in a competition to produce a Loat in any medium. I would also invite all our artisans to come and sell your wares.

Ladner May Days Demo

When: May 24, 10 AM-6PM

Where: Memorial Park, Ladner

We will be demonstrating:

A&S all day!

Bardic throughout the day!

Combat demos (heavy and rapier) from 3-5!

The May Days fair in Ladner is celebrating 119!!!! years of family fun in the village of Ladner, BC. The festivities include a parade through historic Ladner village, open air market, crowning of the May Queen and her court, and music and entertainment for the whole family. Carnival rides and games on site by West Coast Amusements (ride tickets and passes available) and the Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 61) hosts a beer garden for those in need of refreshing imbibement.

We are moving All Things from The Green Wode to this demo in Ladner (with the exception of archery and equestrian due to lack of a safe area for these activities) and since you were already planning on being in garb and doing your "thing", just come hang with us and share the fun! While the festival itself runs for three days, we will only be there on the Sunday. Please join us and bring The Current Middle Ages to Ladner!

Find our Facebook event page: [SCA at Ladner May Days](#)

Find the festival Facebook page: [Ladner May Days](#)

Check out the festival website: www.ladnermaydays.com

In service, Éua inghean Bhriain

(PS: Just think! After Lions Gate Champions on the 23rd, you can just leave your gear in your vehicle and not have to load/unload twice!)

Sealion War

When: May 29 – May 31

Where: Saanich Historical Artifacts Society, 7321 Lochside Dr. Saanichton, BC V8M 1W4

Site Fee: \$20

Sealion War approaches....War is coming to Insula Magna!

Lions Gate is bringing it.

At Canterbury Fayre, Hlíf Áskelsdóttir, Shield Maiden to Seagirt's Baroness Leticia, abducted our Baroness, and was holding her in a room accompanied by Ferocious Beast! Our Sergeantry, upon discovering this, captured the infamous Honey Badger. Alas, Hlíf was able to escape and flee back to Segirt.

Baron Uilliam and Baroness Caitrina call out to their populace, their allies and their champions to avenge this atrocity by invading Seagirt and demanding the return of the Honey Badger to face justice in Lions Gate.

Sealion War Points



Armoured war point

- landing battle
- bridge battle
- field battle



Fencing war point

- tavern brawl
- street battle
- field battle



Archery Point

- target shoot TBA
- Combat Archery Run the Gauntlet (no armour needed, equipment can be borrowed)



Combat Champion Point

- Armoured Single Combat
- Rapier Single Combat
- Archer single combat / shoot off



Arts & Sciences Point

- largesse. biggest and best pile of Largesse donated to the Barony



Bardic Point

Details TBA



Service point

- log your service hours at the event for Seagirt or Lions Gate. Most volunteer hours wins the point.



Games Point

- play period games, log your wins for your branch



Children's Point

- archery
- youth combat
- scavenger hunt.

Men's Bliaut, 1190s France

James Irvein of Lions Gate

Introduction

For this project, I wanted to make a period appropriate bliaut for my friend Gareth, who's period centres around Norman France in 1190, and who is squire to Sir William of the Battered Helm and a Sergeant of Lions Gate. The bliaut of the period is similar to a tunic in cut, but of lightweight fabric judging by the drape in the illustrations, and worn at least slightly hitched up and bloused out over the belt. To find the proper cut and style of the bliaut for Gareth, I turned mostly to illuminations of the period, searching especially for images of men in martial situations but not wearing much if any armour.

After looking through a number of period images, I decided to make Gareth a short-sleeved bliaut that he could wear to court.

Research

From illuminations from that period, I found several images of men not wearing armour, but who were probably modelled on soldiers or knights. The men were typically wearing a bliaut, with mostly narrow sleeves, a variety of necklines, and primarily knee-length or a bit longer - ankle length bliaut seemed to be reserved to kings, saints, and priests (and of course women). One depiction of a king showed his bliaut only falling to his knees, but there appeared to be extra fabric blousing at the waist, and the amount of fabric hanging over the belt was highly variable in other illustrations as well, suggesting that those with longer bliauts would hitch them up farther when practicality was called for.

Wealthier people likely used silk; several illustrations of kings show the sharper pleats typical of silk drape, while illustrations of common soldiers are more likely to show fewer pleats and softer drape, as of wool or linen. Some illustrations also show a wider, shorter sleeve, revealing another sleeve beneath. The under-garment had narrow sleeves and as much drape at the hem as the overgarment. This style seems to be seen only in non-combat situations (kings on their thrones, and scenes without weapons in evidence).

Decorative trim was rare in the illuminations I found, and, while patterned fabric can be seen occasionally in hosen and cloaks, I have not found an instance of it on any bliauts in the illuminations from the limited period I have focused on for this project. A pattern of white dots can be seen on a number of the bliauts, but they are also frequently in evidence in borders, drinking horns, and elsewhere in the illustrations, and in the Dijon BM MS.02 Bible they are always present on the garments of saints and of the Christ and apostles, so I believe they are simply intended to show brightness or reflected light - the shine of silk, perhaps, as well as an alternative/addition to the halo on various religious figures - rather than an actual pattern on the fabric. As well, I believe that the white edging on the fabric was simply the outlining technique of choice, rather than representative of a narrow white trim, as many other items are also edged in white, from angel's wings to drinking horns.

In terms of colours, bright colours, especially red and blue, are very much in evidence, but darker colours make it much more difficult to show detail in small scale art, so I do not take their lack in the period illuminations to mean there were never black or brown garments in period.



On to the cut of the garment. It is clear from the images of people in profile that the artists are not drawing seam lines, as there is no lines for the side seams of the garment. Therefore, we cannot assume that there is no shoulder seam (as I have heard suggested) just because they are not drawn in either.

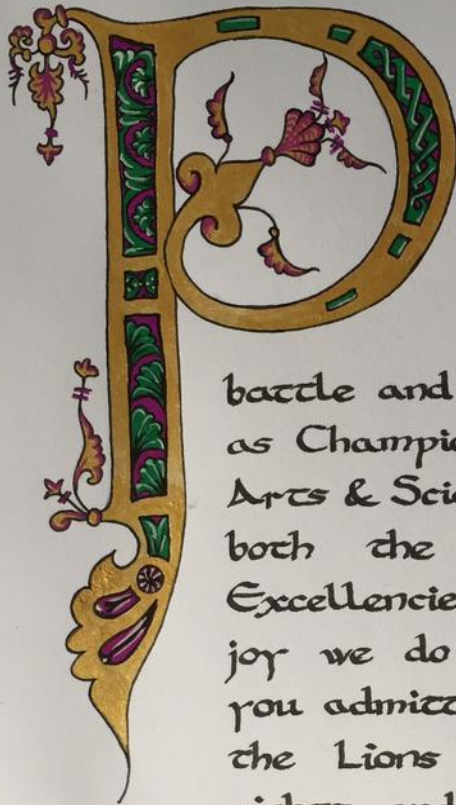
The "short-sleeved" version of the bliaut, I noticed, seems to have a very soft edge (see the first image below). It reminded me of fabric which has fallen past a narrow cuff on a later period shirt, except that it wouldn't make much sense to have a cuff on a sleeve above the elbow - it would be uncomfortable, and it still wouldn't match the exact shape I saw in the illustrations. I decided to try self-lining the sleeve, without pressing the hem, and see if that resulted in a garment that matched the images. (It did not.) After searching for more images, I next reasoned that that these may not actually be short sleeves, but a longer sleeve which has been hitched or folded up to get it out of the way (2nd image). By 1210, we start to see unambiguously short sleeves, with straight edges, so it is plausible that the fashion of tucking one's long sleeves up led to cutting them short a few decades later. Another thing I noticed was that while most of the sleeves appeared to be wide, but straight, a few seemed to be trumpet or cone shaped, widening towards the cuff. One even showed a sleeve which seemed to have the edge tucked or tied into the belt to keep it from dragging (3rd image). However, that was probably not appropriate for a mere squire or man-at-arms.



Final Conclusions

After going through a significant amount of muslin, I settled on a pattern which fell to just short of the ankles when unbelted, with wide, square sleeves, plenty of ease, and a triangular neckline.

Scroll of the Month



rotection of the state is a heavy and honorable duty. Be it known that Elena de Maisnilwarin has proved their prowess in fair battle and has arisen victorious as Champion of Lions Gate for Arts & Sciences. You have served both the Barony and their Excellencies well. With great joy we do hereby bestow upon you admittance to the order of the Lions Fang with all its rights and privileges. Given by our hands this 21st day of March Anno Societatis XLIS.



William
Baron Lions Gate
Caitrina
Baroness Lions Gate

Compendium



Their Royal Majesties of An Tir – King Savaric and Queen Dalla (king@antir.sca.org, queen@antir.sca.org).



Their Highnesses of Tir Righ – Prince Olen and Princess Chiarra (prince@tirrigh.org, princess@tirrigh.org).



Baron & Baroness of Lions Gate – Baron Uilliam mac Fearchair mhic Gille Andrias & Baroness Caitrina inghean Andriasia (baron@lionsgate.tirrigh.org, baroness@lionsgate.tirrigh.org)

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Family Activities Coordinator – VACANT

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Thrown Weapons – Lady Elora of Spain
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