

CRANE TRACKS

Hello all Cranes! As your new Chronicler, I, Domnall Scriptor, welcome you to my first edition of the Crane Tracks. I'm sure this will be an adventure for us all. Time and history will be the judges of how this endeavor goes. Conrad Hartmut and those before him all did so well that the bar has been set high.

Wow! What a year 2018 was.

2018 (AS 52-53) was quite a year. Most branches are only required to hold one or two events a year. Cranehaven tackled five (5)! Not happy to just do local events, we took on, and by all accounts, did a fantastic job of hosting the 3rd An Tir Collegium. That's right, the Crown came to Cranehaven! We should all be proud of a job well done.

The year kicked off with a wonderful Jaegerfest in January followed by co-hosting Oasis War with the Shire of Dregate in March. Then there was our very own Missile Madness in June. We took a well-deserved break till our annual Fall Equinox in October, finishing off with Collegium in November.

From the Seneschal's Tablinium

Salve! Julia Sempronia, OL OP, retired Kingdom Seneschal and Cranehaven Seneschal for the second time 'round, sends the populace many greetings. What's a tablinium, I hear somebody in the back muttering?? It's the office space in Roman houses! I am relentlessly Roman, so now and then I may tell you a bit about my culture.

It's exciting to have the keys to Cranehaven once again, and to give the estimable HL Domnall a well-deserved break, though he's not really taking one, as he's now got TWO offices! I am planning to use this year to help us all set our priorities for the coming two years, and I want to work closely with those who would be seneschal after me. All things being balanced, serving as seneschal can be a wonderful experience: I like to think of myself as the "tribal elder," coach, and guide. We each come to the SCA with different skills, different interests, different time periods – even different notions of fun, though I think we ALL want to have fun in this creative hobby!

Officer Goals

In the short term, I'd like to ensure that we have an active officer for each area that we are interested in pursuing. We're all volunteers, and each group needs to have officers who are planning activities and working to implement them between meetings.

I'd like to ask each officer to do the following:

1. As far as you can, attend the business meetings so you can participate in discussions and help promote activities in your area
2. Commit to spend an hour outside of the business meeting each month researching and planning activities you oversee
3. Submit a brief online report (via the handy form) to help us speed through the business meeting
4. Report to your Kingdom superior each quarter



Right now we have some important vacancies that need to be filled. Officer terms are generally for two years.

1. Chatelaine: this officer is our “welcome wagon.” The officer is often the first point of contact (along with the seneschal) for newcomers. Organised recruiting of new members and educational demos also fall under the Chatelaine’s office.
2. Herald: HL Gerhard did wonderful things for Cranehaven heraldry, adding devices and badges for many of the populace. We look good on the roll of arms partly due to his work while he was Herald. The branch herald helps those of us who don’t have a registered device or badge design something that’s unique, yet follows the rules of heraldry.
3. Arts & Sciences Minister: this officer helps inventory the things that people would like to learn – be it shoemaking, persona development, garb construction, weaving, etc. Lady Eithne has served as A&S Minister for two years as of March.

Tools of the Officer Trade

All officers now have Office 365, with a dedicated @antir.org email address, a Terabyte of online cloud storage, and online versions of Microsoft Office, just to name a few super useful tools. Some officers are still getting used to these, and my goal is to help all become familiar with Office 365, because we all can share the work and collaborate!

Populace Goals

Our populace census currently stands at just above 25 paid members, and attendance at meetings varies between 10-15 members. One of the big challenges we have is our size. We expanded our territory last year to include Quincy and Ephrata in northern Grant county, and we were already pretty big with our original territory.

Some of our populace have to spend between 3 ½ to four hours just to attend business meetings, and I’d like to explore using technology, such as Skype for Business (also part of Office 365) to allow some members to telecommute to business meetings. While it’s not as good as being there, using the technology would ease the load on our far-flung membership.

I ask each of you to commit to – as much as your real-world jobs and families permit – to devote an hour a month to researching and crafting your Medieval kit and, as your budget allows, attend events hosted by other SCA groups. You’ll find the “fun factor” in full swing, and meet new friends. Sharing the drive to and from events with fellow Cranes or friends from other branches is a great way to fellowship as well as save expenses.

Business Meetings

Meetings will take a slightly different form: I have set up online forms to help record officer reports and sign-ins, and you have probably seen the opinion surveys I developed late last year. With the online reports, I plan to change the meeting a bit: I’d like to get through our business fairly quickly in the first hour, take a short comfort break, then reconvene for round-table discussions and, perhaps, some hands-on show and tell.

Events



Events are really the heart and soul of what we do. Business meetings are important, it's how we decide on the events we do, from monthly socials to bigger events we put on for SCA members around our Kingdom. Last year we took our first steps into hosting a Kingdom event and, thanks to Herr Wilhelm, it was a success!

We've hosted some small events over the past several years, but we've struggled to grow them, both in attendance and financially. While we don't necessarily need to make a huge profit with each event, we cannot afford to lose money.

In the next several months, I'd like to have open and honest discussions about re-tooling our events, and I want to tell you that there cannot be any sacred cattle left unslain. We need to have 1-2 events that we all can take ownership in and roll up our sleeves to make them successful.

Fortunately, we've taken care of our official event for this year (each group our size must host at least one) and that leaves us room to do some blue-sky planning.

In the sixteen years I've been a member of the College of Cranehaven, I've never been more proud of our group – or had more fun – than the last four years. I owe Domnall thanks for

making it fun, but each of you as well. I hope you'll join me and my fellow officers to have a fun and productive year.

Summary/Highlights of the quarters Meetings/Minutes

So far, 2019 has been quietly busy under the guidance of our new Seneschal, the illustrious and accomplished Magistra Julia Sempronia.

In February we ratified updates to our Customary and Financial Policies. By Kingdom law, all branches are required to have written Financial Policies. The Customary is the SCA term for the by-laws of local branches. Per our Customary, these documents are to be reviewed and updated every two years, with the final ratification happening in February. Some important updates were made with invaluable input of Mark Urdahl and Mastarista Ranveig skrifari. Their vast experience in diverse areas brings fresh and important perspectives for us.

One of the things that's been a consistent theme so far has been event planning and event proposals. Planning and running events can be a huge learning experience. In the last few years the Society and Kingdom have been getting stricter about proper event planning and documentation. An Tir is also a large and wide spread kingdom with a lot of branches. When each branch puts on events, they add up fast and the events calendar become congested.

Per our customary, any event that loses money two years in a row is subject to scrutiny and possible cancelation.

Any member of the branch may propose an event. Event proposals must be accompanied by an outlined plan and a proposed rough budget. The Event Proposal Form for local branches provided by the Kingdom at

http://antir.sca.org/Pubs/forms/Event_Proposal_SAVE.pdf is a great place to start and

can be expanded as needed. Once a proposal is ready for presentation, contact Magistra Julia to be put on the agenda for the next business meeting to pitch your idea.



To be official with the Kingdom, events must be posted in the Crier. The deadline for the Crier is two months before the date of publication. The Crier comes out around the first of each month. For example; for an event in July, the deadline for submission would be May 15. If you have an idea for an event and you think that June would be the perfect date, its too late for this year. The good news is you now have a whole year to polish your plan if the branch decides to go for it.

The sooner an event proposal is presented and accepted, sooner the Seneschal can get the Date Reservation and the Event Information Form registered with the Kingdom. The more time you have to plan and promote an event, the better.

A Bit of Medieval Humour

What did medieval postmen wear?
Chain mail

Two medieval instruments are having a conversation

"I'm a harpsichord." Says the first.

"I'm a lute." Says the second.

"No you're not!" Says the harpsichord.

"You're that other string instrument!"

The second looks at him, shocked, and says,
"Sir, are you calling me a lyre?!"

Highlights of the Quarters Events

We started off with Jaegerfest in January. This was a bittersweet event. While it went well and the food was magnificent, it will most likely be the last time the event is held in the beautiful gothic setting of the Wenatchee Community Center.

Management of the Center is changing and its simply been too expensive for our coffers. The date has always been problematic too, being wedged in between Kingdom's 12th Night and the Barony of Aquetera's traditional Ursulmas. Ideas are being considered for new dates and locations. With the Inlands baronies teaming up for the Tri-Baronial Yule, a lot of dates open up in November and December that could be used for a Jaegerfest date.

After a somewhat rocky start, the College of Cranehaven and the Barony of Wastekeep teamed up successfully to put on Oasis War. Oasis War has a long tradition of being the first war of the season and is generally attended by gentles from all over the Kingdom. The traditional location is Oasis Park in Ephrata in the former lands of the Shire of Ambergard. Since the Shire of Ambergard closed their doors, the Inlands branches have worked to ensure the War goes on. It has been proposed that the College of Cranehaven go solo to host Oasis War 2020. Domnall has volunteered to be Event Steward.

Member Profile/Interview

There were three responses to our on-line persona interview. For a variety of reasons the editor has chosen one whom, sadly, we have never been able to get to know as well as we would have liked and who's mundane life will soon be removing from the haven of the Cranes. I had the good fortune to meet and talk with Ursula on a number of occasions and found her to be a delightful person.

Name: Ursula de la Mare

Nationality: English



Year of Birth: 1349

What was your family life like growing up?
We worked hard and survived by the grace of God.

What is your craft or profession(s)? Midwife
What are your aspirations for the future? I hope to pass on my knowledge, serve God and the miracle of new life.

Any fun facts of your Medieval life you'd like to share with us? I live in the lake country where life is bountiful and sometimes perilous.

Something Interesting about the Society/Kingdom

In the SCA, we are all considered to be gentles of the nobility and we politely address each other as such. Our basic form of address is "Milord" or "Milady". As some of our members distinguish themselves in various ways, we earn the rights to other forms of address

(<http://www.antir.sca.org/Pubs/ATH/7formaddress.php>). This one of the wonderful things about our Society and the way it encourages us all to work together and observe basic civilities.

That being said, it's also possible, and acceptable, to tweak these forms of address to match our personas. This has become more apparent and visible with the growing use of digital communications where we can design our own custom signature lines.

Many gentles of our Society are researching the customs and languages of their period and adopting corresponding forms of address. Prime examples of this are our own beloved Majistra Julia Sempronia and Mastarista Ranveig skrifari.

Just for fun I looked up the old Irish form of "His Lordship", which translates to "Tiarna".

Part of the Society is researching and bringing medieval ways back to life, if only for a while. Little details like these help to deepen our knowledge and add some zest to our personas.

Upcoming Events

All officially registered events in the Kingdom of An Tir are listed on the Kingdom Events web page:

<https://www.antir.org/events/>. Events for the upcoming month are also published in the Kingdom's monthly newsletter, the Crier.

Big News! Beginning on the afternoon of Sunday, May 12, 2019, the College of Cranehaven will begin holding our monthly Practices. These practices will begin at the home of Gey Sha and Dragomir of Dragonhaven in East Wenatchee. These practices will then migrate around the our branches vast area including the homes of Rannveig and Elgar in Ephrata and Baccus and Triona in Moses Lake.

While these practices will highlight martial activities including heavy combat, rapier combat, target and heavy archery and thrown weapons, there will ALWAYS be spaces made available for any and all A&S activities as well.

Cranehaven Classifieds

Are you a merchant? Do provide any SCA related services? This space is for you! While space is limited, it is FREE!

*An Tir Regnum
Crown*

King Kjartan Dreki
Queen Shay'a Kjartansona

Kingdom Seneschal

Mistress Alianora Greymoor

Branch Officers

Magistra Julia Sempronia, Seneschal
Mastaritsa Rannveig ~skrifari, Exchequer
Lady Eithne ingean Ferchart, A&S Minister
Chatelaine (vacant)
HL Domnall Scriptor, Chronicler & Scribe
HL Elgar of Stonehaven, Chamberlain
Geysha of Dragon Haven, Equestrian
Marshal
Herald, Vacant
Nolwenn of Cranehaven, Marshal
Herr Wilhelm Heinrich Meyer, Webminister

Crane Tracks

This is the January, 2019, issue of Crane Tracks, the official newsletter of the College of Cranehaven. Cranehaven is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and Crane Tracks is published as a service to the membership.

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