

CRANE TRACKS

Hail Cranes! Our Second Quarter of 2019 has been filled with adventure.

Summary/Highlights of the quarters Meetings/Minutes

Meetings are meetings, right? Fortunately, Magistra Julia has chosen a format intended to get right to business and get things done. Much of the business of this quarter has focused on arranging local activities and looking into next year's possible events. There has also been on-going discussion on the eventual integration of former Ambergard lands and properties, and the introduction of officers into new positions.

Among the most successful things to come out of the meetings for the past quarter have been plans for regular gatherings for martial practices and A&S activities. Additionally, our finances have stabilized nicely, and we are making progress on gathering and cataloging the branch chattels.

A Bit of Medieval Humour

Q: Why were the early days of history called the dark ages?

A: Because there were so many knights!

Q: Why is England the wettest country?

A: Because the queen has reigned there for years!

Q: How did the Vikings send secret messages?

A: By norse code!

Highlights of the Quarter's Events

While Cranehaven hasn't hosted any events in the 2nd Quarter of 2019, we haven't been idle either. Many Cranes attended events around the Kingdom and we've had a little fun at home too.

Among the most successful things to happen this quarter have been the monthly gatherings to hold martial practices and A&S activities. The first was held at Manor Dragonhaven and even included welcomed guests from Wealdsmere for rapier practice! The next one was hosted by Rannveig and Elgar which was attended by old friends from the Ephrata area and Vulkanfeldt.

Overall, it looks like a very successful Quarter.

Member Profile/Interview

In this edition of the Crane Tracks, the editor would like to bid a very fond farewell to a wonderful young lady who has been participating with the College of Cranehaven for as long as I've been with the Branch. Grace and her family have been dedicated members for many years. At pretty much every meeting and every event, when I look around, there she is with her sunny smile, joining in the fun, helping out, or kicking back and relaxing.

Grace has been playing in the Society for a large portion of her life with her interests leaning toward the mid- to late-period Scotts and Irish. One of these days maybe she'll take a break from doing all the things and have some time to finally decide on and register a name, and device.



Grace is leaving the lands of Cranehaven to begin a new chapter in her life. We wish her all the best and know that she will always be welcome and loved among us. We will miss you and hope you'll be back to visit us as often as life allows!

A Newcomer's Perspective: by Rúnfríðr

Greetings and may you be well! As time approaches the six-month mark from our first encounter with the College of Cranehaven, it seems wise to pause and reflect back on our short but eventful journey into the wonderful, creative world of the SCA. As time rolls forward quickly, I won't be able to look back with newcomer's eyes much longer, I fear. Best to document while it's fresh.

One-part history and two-parts fun appears to be the recipe for the modern re-creation of the middle ages. From our very first business meeting, being greeted by a room of cheerful and welcoming faces, to the four society events we've been fortunate to attend, my husband and I have enjoyed the break from our everyday mundane lives. We've been enticed into picking up not one, but many new hobbies, and been enthralled by the magic of not just campfires and canvas tents, but truly pleasant people to spend our time with.

As a brand-new player, one of my most pressing interests is understanding the history of our haven of Cranes, the Inlands region of An Tir, and the SCA as a whole. Surely the game has changed some over the years, but overall it seems richly entrenched in tradition and theatre. Well-worded speeches and fine-tailored garb at court during July Coronation bring the modern

middle ages to life. The applause, huzzahs, and cheers from the crowd surrounding me remind me that it's not a movie, but rather a stage, and that I'm a player too. In contrast to the carefully planned show of noble society comes war scenarios fought earnestly at Oasis War. These moments are not scripted, but rather a sport of skill and chance, fast-paced and jarring. Contrast this again with the patience of the devoted archer, taking time to learn not just how to loose arrows with accuracy, but how to craft them, for surely they will be lost or broken and needing replaced frequently!

There is no shortage of tasks for a newcomer to do. We have researched time periods, chosen names, collected armor, pieced together garb, and designed heraldry. We've taken classes at Newcomer's Encampment in Akornebir and again at Celtic Revolt in Wealdsmere. We feel so fortunate to have joined right at a time when Cranehaven is beginning monthly fighting practices and A&S get-togethers. Socializing with folks who are polite and share similar interests is perhaps the most understated "hobby" within the SCA. Without the people, the stage would be empty; a lonely little crafting and research table. Instead it is a rich and vibrant world, literally crafted by its players.

Seamstress to blacksmith, cook to scribe, everyone's interests and passions are allowed to flourish in a group of diverse people that seem to all have one thing in common: service. Everyone we've met has been willing to teach us something and never with a scowl or impatience. Such giving of time and talents only encourages us (and others I'm sure) to look for ways to give back and enrich the game for other players as well. To call historical re-

enactment a game seemed odd at first, but after witnessing the heavy doses of creativity and fun, it makes absolute sense. Though we still have much to learn, I for one am very much looking forward to playing my part in The Dream.

Yours in Service, Rúnfríðr

Something Interesting about the Society/Kingdom

It has been suggested that we begin adding segments of a "Complete Guide to the SCA". In this edition lets have a look at coronets/circlets and forms of address. This information is drawn and paraphrased from the An Tir Handbook, 3rd Edition, 1998.

Circlets and Crowns and Coronets, oh my.....see also "pointy hat panic"
So, there you are, musing over the table of nibbles at your first Vigil party, you look up only to be confronted by a smiling visage topped with some sort of fancy metallic head gear. The mind reels, who is it and what do I do now?

First: Don't Panic. Remember, we're all polite gentles and we're all here to have fun!

Fancy head gear identification 101

Editor's Note: some gentles choose to combine their fancy head gear as part of other hats or head coverings. I sometimes use mine as a hat band.

Circlets

All members of the Society are presumed to be untitled nobility and may wear a simple circlet of any metal. This circlet should be plain and less than one inch wide. When a member receives an Award of Arms, they

may add a single stone and simple decorations, usually engravings. In the Kingdom of An Tir, a plain, unadorned brass circlet is often presented during the presentation ceremony by the King.

Members who receive a Grant of Arms may add additional stones and more elaborate decorations, but it should still be a band with even edges one inch or less. Members admitted to the various orders such as the Laurel and the Pelican and others may add the pertinent badges to their circlets in pretty much any manner they wish.

Special Circlets

Baronies: each barony commissions special circlets to be worn by the landed baron and baroness during their term of service. Many of these are very elaborate works of the metal arts, often, but not necessarily, made by artisans from the barony itself.

Court Baron/Baroness: these worthy nobles may decorate their circlets with pearls.

Counts, Countesses, Viscounts and Viscountesses: these worthies, having served the Kingdom in higher offices and having stepped down for a much-deserved rest, may wear a circlet decorated with crenellations.

Dukes and Duchesses: these noble personages, having served as King and Queen of An Tir for two or more terms are entitled to wear circlets decorated with strawberry leaves.

Crowns and Coronets

The King and Queen of An Tir wear the Crowns of An Tir. These works of the metal arts are the property of the Kingdom of An Tir and are held in trust and worn by the



King and Queen of An Tir during their term of office and are passed on to their heirs during the bi-annual coronation events.

The Heirs of An Tir wear the Kingdom coronets which are similar to the Crowns.

Each of the Principalities also possesses coronets owned by the Principalities and worn by the Prince/Princess and consort during their terms. The designs of these coronets are unique to the principality.

So, now, we've identified the fancy head decor and recovered the nibble-on-a-stick that we dropped during our initial "pointy hat panic". This exercise assumes that we don't know the well dressed and well-spoken gentle on the other side of the table. So, what do we call them?

As previously noted, all members of the SCA are counted as untitled nobility until proven otherwise. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the default form of address is "Milord" or "Milady". You can't go wrong with these. If you're new friend across the banquet table is wearing a simple metal circlet, you may presume they have received an Award of Arms and earned another degree of distinction. Those with an Award of Arms we address more formally as "My Lord" or "My Lady". On a business card or signature, they may use "Lord" or "Lady".

There are several ways one may earn a Grant of Arms, the most common are the Gout de Sang for service and the Jamb de Leon for artistry. Those who have earned these distinctions are "Your Lordship" and "Your Ladyship". On a card or signature, you may see "HL" or "the Honorable". If these individuals are not wearing a circlet

with multiple stones, they may often be identified when wearing one of the associated badges of these orders; typically a medallion with a red gem or drop of blood for the Gout de Sang, and a lions leg and paw for the Jamb de Leon.

Both Landed and court barons and baronesses are addressed as "Baron" or "Baroness" or "your Excellency". Unless you know them by sight, if a baron or baroness isn't wearing their regalia, you may not easily recognize their status. Editor's Note: I have yet to meet a casually dressed baron or baroness that didn't graciously accept a simple "milord" or "milady" with a smile and a handshake. I hope that the barons and baronesses I've met in An Tir aren't just that cool and welcoming and that this might be a common trait throughout the SCA as a whole.

Things get a bit trickier as we move into the peerages. The easiest to recognize by their heavy chain and white belt are the knights. All knights may be addressed as "Sir". If you don't happen to know their name, "Sir Knight" is quite acceptable. The other three peerages, the Masters of Defense, the Order of the Pelican (Service to the Kingdom) and the Order of the Laurel (Mastery of Arts & Sciences), are all "Master" or "Mistress". Masters of Defense are known by the white scarf tied on their arm. Pelicans wear the badge of the pelican on her nest with young, and the Laurels can be identified by laurel branches.

Then we have the royal peerages. These fine people have served at Kingdom or Principality level. Those who have served as Prince/Princess of one of our principalities are Viscounts and Viscountesses and are



addressed as “Excellency”. Those who have served a single term as King or Queen are Counts and Countesses and are also addressed as “Excellency”. Those who have served two or more terms as King and Queen are Dukes and Duchesses, addressed as “your Grace”.

The current heirs and rulers of An Tir are addressed as follows: The heirs to the principalities are the Tanist and Tanista and are generally addressed as such (Lord/Lady Tanist/Tanista of _____). The current sitting Prince and Princess are their Highness. The heirs to the thrones of An Tir are their Royal Highnesses. And, finally, we have their Royal Majesties, or a bit more informally, Your Majesty.

With the possible exception of the current heirs and rulers of An Tir, potential alternatives to many of these titles abound. Many individuals adopt a form of title more appropriate to their chosen periods and cultures. A Count with a Norse persona may choose instead to be a Jarl. Here in Cranehaven, our very own Mistress Julia holding honors in the orders of the Pelican and the Laurel prefers the term Majistra per her Roman persona.

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.

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 Tír Regnum

Crown

*King: His Majesty King Morgan
of the Oaks*

*Queen: Her Majesty Queen Livia
Alexandra Severa*

*Kingdom Seneschal: Mistress
Alianora Greymoor*

Branch Officers:

*Magistra Julia Sempronia,
Seneschal
Mastaritsa Rannveig~skrifari,
Exchaquer
Gay Sha of Dragon Haven, A&S
Minister
Skogvaldr, Chatelaine
HL Domnall Scriptor, Chronicler
& Scribe
HL Elgar of Stonehaven,
Chamberlain
Herald, Vacant
Nolwenn of Cranehaven,
Marshal
Herr Wilhelm Heinrich Meyer,
Webminister*

Crane Tracks

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