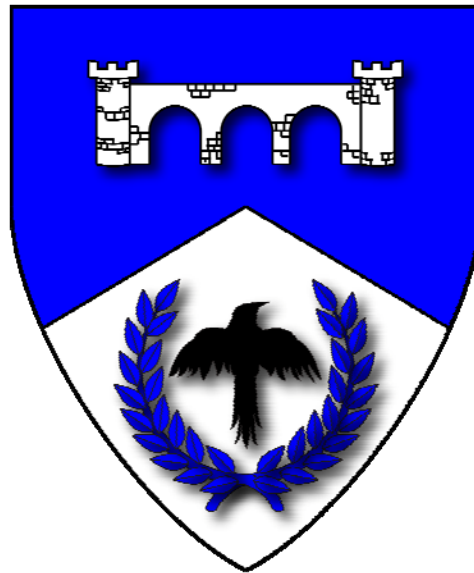


The Corvus



Winter 2015

Newsletter
of the
Incipient Riding
of Ravensbridge



Winter 2015 Newsletter of the Incipient Riding of Ravensbridge Contents:



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Submissions for the Spring issue of The Corvus are due March 1st. Please send your officer letters, educational or entertaining articles, original color artwork, photos, class handouts and "How To" guides for subjects pertaining to our SCA lives.

Cover Art, Riding Device, Officer Badges, and other graphics and artwork by Duchesse Sabine de Rouen unless otherwise noted. Contact artist for permission to use.

Thank you to Syr Kyppyn Kirkcaldy and Emma Fauconberg for their assistance in proof reading this issue of The Corvus.

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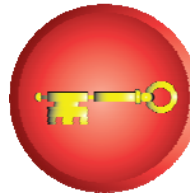
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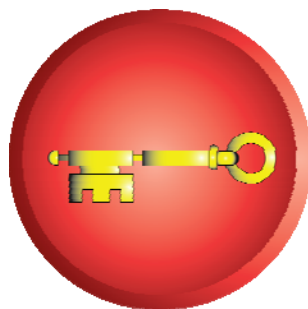
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From Our Seneschal

Greetings and Happy New Year!

We are six months into our incipency and I am very pleased with some of our accomplishments. Our Heraldry and name have been submitted to Kingdom. We have all of the required and most of the SCA offices filled and some with deputies. We have attracted new members since we began this new group discussion back in 8/2013 and continue to provide newcomer support across the group. Currently we are at one of the most critical stages in our new group evolution. Everything has fallen into place and we seemed to have achieved our goal. This is a dangerous notion to believe at this time, because we are still an incipient riding. We must earn the right to receive full status from our Kingdom. We must continue the monthly activities, hold an event, and establish ourselves as a thriving group in the eyes of the Kingdom. I know the excitement has faded away for some of you and I want to do what I can to continue to spur that passion that has supported us to this point in our experience. Volunteer to hold classes and demonstrations in our area. Prepare ideas for our first event and bring them to a business meeting, so they can be discussed. Make new garb and armor for the impending spring war season. We must push on and not let the winter deter our efforts. I want to thank Lord Christoff for the use of his armor workshop these past Sundays. Lady Rose, Lord Edward, and Lord Antony will be hosting bi-weekly activities this winter. These are the measures that all of us must strive to match. I will continue my newcomer classes each month. Believe in yourself and step up! Our Society provides us with some of the greatest opportunities to be leaders, teachers, learners, and more. I'm proud of our Ravensbridge group and look forward to the accomplishments we will achieve in 2015!

Vivat!

In service always,
Kyppyn



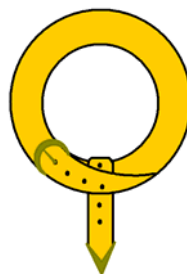
The Corvus Compendium

What are Associates?

Baron Kyppyn Kirkcaldy, KSCA, OP

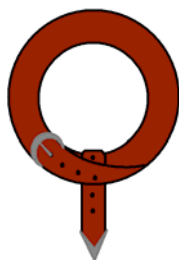
In the SCA, an associate is a member who has asked or been asked to align themselves with a peer in the Society. Members of the Order of the Chivalry take Squires.

Members of the Order of the Laurel take Apprentices. Members of the Order of the Pelican take Protégés. These mentor/student relationships can exist to guide the associate along a path to becoming a peer. A peer/associate relationship is always unique. It is a personal connection that will be different for each pairing.



Just like each peer is diverse; their view on what a peer/associate relationship should be is different, too. I see my responsibility as a Knight/Pelican to guide my associates on their journey to peerage. I will empower them, create opportunities, and even give a little push to assist them towards growth and knowledge in the SCA. I view my household like a family. I maintain a level of trust that is equal to my blood relations. I vow to protect them and keep them safe while under my care. My associations are two way learning relationships. I believe we both have something to learn from each other. We also have the right to end our relationship at any time, if one or both feel that the relationship is no longer working. I like to keep my active associates under five. More than that, I don't believe I can provide the right amount of time and energy. I have squires in other Kingdoms. I assisted those who were

interested in finding another Peer when I left. Some fostered to other peers, some did not. But I felt that my responsibility is to make sure they were cared for when I am not around. I require that the potential associates approach me. If a discussion ends in "maybe", I ask the person to serve as a man-at-arms or a student first. This gives both of us some time to get to know each other and see if a squire or protégé relationship would be beneficial. My viewpoint is not unique, but it differs from many.





How do other peers view an associate relationship? Some peers will only take on one associate at a time. They realize they only have enough SCA time to devote to that person. Some peers take many associates. I know a Peer who once had more than 100 associates. Is that realistic? How would the peer even have time to work with each one? I know a Knight who provides everything for his squires. He makes them clothes, he buys food at events, provides them a tent, makes them armor. But....when his associates are at the event, they will maintain camp, cook all the food, set up/breakdown, etc. They are living the life of a vassal. Some peers decide to share a household and associates. All the associates are given guidance by each peer. Again...each situation is unique.

How does a member decide to approach a peer or make a decision about becoming an associate? Some Peers expect to be approached about an association. Other peers will approach a potential candidate. I know of one Knight who throws a red belt at a potential squire, if he catches it he's made an offer, if he doesn't.... well let's say he won't be a squire to that Knight.

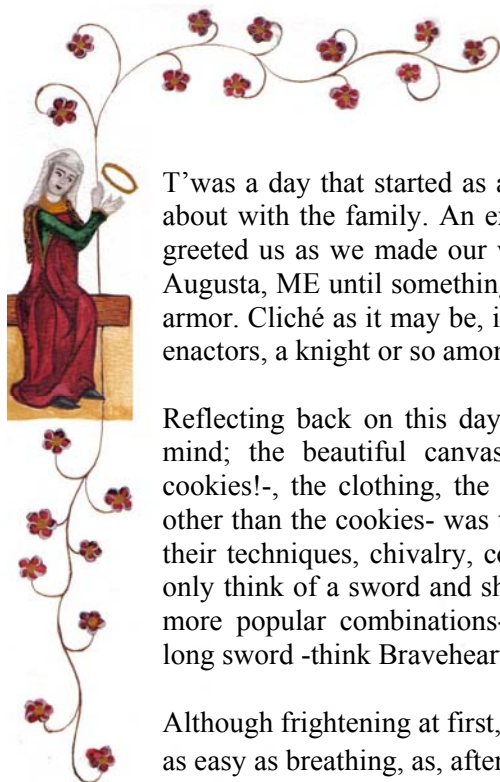


When someone is contemplating an association with a peer, what factors will they need to consider? Some questions to ponder are: Do they get along with other household members? Is the peer specializing in the subject they are interested in? Does the Peers expectation match the would-be associate? Do your other significant others get along? Would you be friends outside the SCA? Does the Peer have similar views or at least views you can respect on the SCA, life, etc.?

A mismatched association can ruin friendships and other associations for everyone involved. Every facet of the relationship should be examined and considered before an association is made.

I have covered many aspects of the peer/associate relationship and hopefully sparked some ideas. An associate relationship to a peer can be very special. I have been honored to have two squires Knighted and I look forward to the day when they start developing their own relationships with associates.

Enjoy the journey! ~



The Musings of a Young Maiden

Helaina McCollett

T'was a day that started as any other, going to and fro, lingering about with the family. An excruciatingly hot, sunny summer day greeted us as we made our way around the Whatever Festival in Augusta, ME until something caught our eye: A knight in shining armor. Cliché as it may be, it was true: we had spied medieval re-enactors, a knight or so among them.

Reflecting back on this day, more and more memories come to mind; the beautiful canvas pavilions, the games, the food - cookies!-, the clothing, the heraldry, and, one of my favorites - other than the cookies- was the fighting. Not just the fighters, but their techniques, chivalry, comradery, and weapons. Most would only think of a sword and shield, but, even though it's one of the more popular combinations- there's double sword, axes, spear, long sword -think Braveheart-, mace, and other pole arms.

Although frightening at first, talking to those at the demo became as easy as breathing, as, after getting to know them, we found that we all had a lot in common. Everyone was kind, fun, and I can

say that we all had an amazing time. We meandered about the rest of the Festival, but became bored, as it wasn't as fun for us, so we went back for more, so we walked back in time for more fighting -they're hitting each other with large sticks! What could be better than that?- And by the end of the day, I was even answering the questions of passers-by. We left with a feeling of glee and a pamphlet that not only told the SCA's FAQ's, but what we could do; Heavy list, Youth Boffer, Archery, Combat Archery, Sewing, Spirit Making, Metal working Jewelry Making, Wood and Leather Working, Calligraphy and Illustration, and more. I left -very reluctantly, mind you- feeling not only joy, but one that words cannot describe- the feeling of being a part of something much bigger than myself - of belonging to this amazing family of the SCA.

Two weeks and three trips to Goodwill and a Ravensbridge business meeting later, we went to our first SCA event, GNEW - but that's another story altogether. ~



The Raven's Song From Our Bards

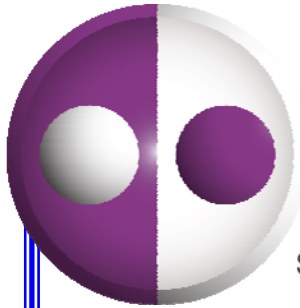
A Winter Haiku
Helaina McCollett

The wind is howling
Snow coming down the mountain
Through the barren trees

Haiku is a form of traditional Japanese poetry. Haiku is a 17-syllable verse form consisting of three metrical units of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.



By Helaina McCollett



The Raven's Nest From Youth Point

Seek n' Find Word Puzzle

AWARDS
BOW
COURT
CROWN
CURTSY
FEALTY
HERALD
REGALIA
SCROLLS
THRONES

I	E	M	A	S	E	H	T	E	K	I	Q
L	C	U	R	T	S	Y	G	A	R	L	W
O	R	I	L	O	S	V	E	K	Y	U	E
V	O	E	Y	H	C	O	U	R	T	O	R
E	W	N	G	I	R	S	M	K	H	Y	T
A	N	I	F	A	O	M	H	N	R	O	Y
G	D	N	A	U	L	O	E	I	O	D	U
O	B	O	W	N	L	U	R	G	N	K	I
O	L	N	A	F	S	R	A	H	E	E	O
D	A	I	R	S	N	I	L	T	S	E	P
G	C	H	D	K	N	Y	D	P	P	S	L
A	K	R	S	I	F	E	A	L	T	Y	K
M	E	O	F	H	I	D	E	A	N	D	J

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The Raven's Warriors

SCA Combat 101

Baron Kyppyn Kirkcaldy, KSCA, OP

There are three main components of SCA fighting: Range, Body Position, and Timing.

Range is the distance between two opponents. They are described as “A” range: very close, belly to belly. “B” range: both opponents within weapons reach. “C” range: Opponent is outside of weapons range.

Body Position is exactly how it sounds, but the complexity of the body position creates the right opportunities. Footing, torso, and arm position all must be adjusted for the correct combination to make an effective strike.

Timing is the decision of when to throw a shot. It's a two-fold process- tracking your opponent's movement and using your own movement to produce an effective shot.

Sounds easy right? Using these three concepts you can make any shot, any time, against anyone.

Unfortunately, you must have all three to make a shot work. What combination and level of complexity you employ to create that shot makes the difference. Let's consider some scenarios.

If you position your body correctly, line up the shot, wait for your opponent to open up and swing...what happens? Well, if you are in C range- you are swiping air. If you are in A Range - you may over shoot. So, this might be best in B range.

If you are in B range and you line up your shot with your opponents head, but you don't wait until he lowers his shield. You will be firing at a shield over and over. You must wait



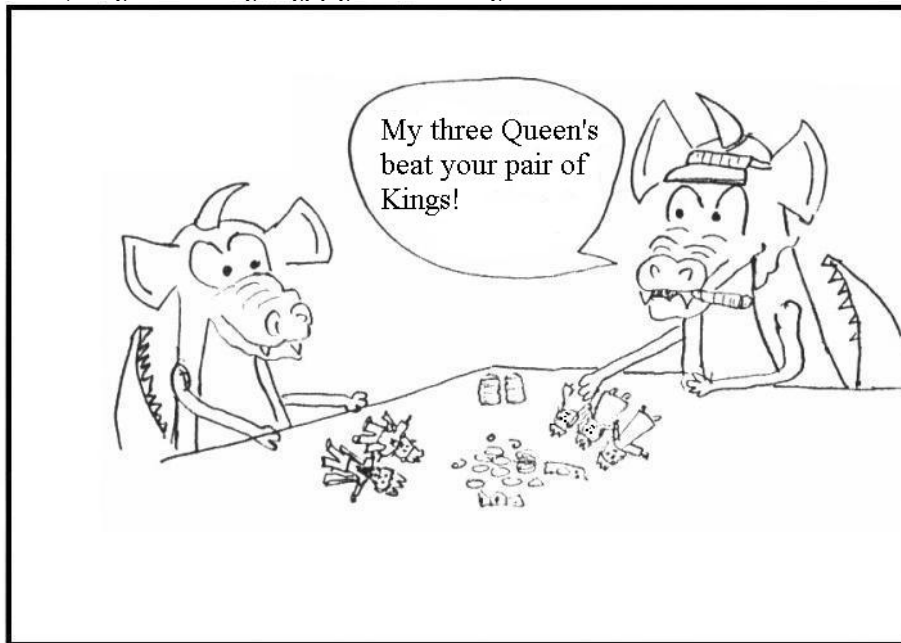
for the shield to lower. You have to *time* or *guess* the shield lowering and shoot when his head is open.

If you're in A range, belly to belly, and you see your opponents leg open, but your body is not positioned to throw at his leg. You are going to miss the shot.

All three components must be correct for the shot to work.

As you begin your combat career, experienced fighters will offer to show you their techniques. You may watch a tournament and see someone perform an attack that you would like to emulate. It could be simple or very complex. No matter what kind of shot or weapon you are using, all 3 concepts have to be engaged. If you are having trouble with mastering a particular technique, think about each component- Is it Range, Timing, or Body Position that is incorrect. It may be more than one component. But I guarantee it's at least one. Good hunting! ~

SCAleu Tales by Ruppun Rirkcaldy





The Raven's Brood From Our Historian

Profiles

Emma Fauconberg

Our Historian, Emma is meeting with each member of Incipient Riding of RavensBridge and creating a brief profile to introduce our brood to the Knowne World. Here is her second profile:



Duchesse Sabine de Rouen is the Chronicler of Ravensbridge, editing the Corvus and providing much of its content. She joined the SCA in 1985 and has been a very active member, serving as Queen of Meridies in 1998 and 2000, thus earning the title of Duchess, reserved for royalty that have served two or more terms as Queen. She has also earned memberships in the Order of the Rose, Pelican, Dragon's Heart, Evergreen, Velvet Owl, and Argent Lily. Finally, Her Grace holds the Awards of the Purple Fret and Willow as well as AOA, GOA, Royal Augmentation of Arms and

has served as both Landed Baroness and Court Baroness.

Duchesse Sabine is a 13th Century Norman, a noble woman from Rouen because of, you guessed it, the garb! She has had other personas and knows she is likely to change and evolve again. She dresses in garb of many cultures and time periods, most notably her own 13th Century Norman and Viking era (apparently she is quite friendly with Kylfur Vinterson). Her garb in any time period is beautiful, intricate, and self-made.



If you do research her many awards as I did, you will find that they all recognize her service to the SCA, unwavering kindness to others, and extraordinary dedication and skills. As an example of why she is so worthy of this recognition both in the Midrealm and now in the East, this is her favorite SCA experience: “I have many wonderful memories. I enjoyed seeing the joyful tears on the faces of those on which I was able to bestow awards while I was queen and I loved sharing the baronial throne with my husband Syr Kyppyn, but a moment that stands out in my mind took place about ten years after I was queen. I was approached by a gentle at Pennsic. He told me that I was his first queen. He remembered me to be lovely and very kind and that I would always be his favorite queen. It was one of the sweetest thing anyone in the SCA had ever said to me. It reminded me that everything we do will touch someone so we should always be kind and do everything with much thought.”

Now that she is a resident of the East Kingdom and Ravensbridge in particular, she has new tasks to take on. Her goals here are to see Ravensbridge grow and become a positive and contributing part of SCA society. As Chronicler, her hope is that The Corvus is a source of both entertaining and educational historical and SCA information not only for the people of Ravensbridge but for all that read it.

Emma Fauconberg would like to thank Hirsch von Henford, compiler of the Unofficial Glossary of SCA terms at <http://www.goldenstag.net/MiscSCA/glossary.htm#D> for vital research information, as this Historian has much to learn about the SCA. Also, I encourage all readers to investigate Her Grace and His Excellency Kyppyn Kirkaldy on the Middle Kingdom Order of Precedence list to learn the meaning of all the awards listed here: <http://www.midrealm.org/op/op.php> East Kingdom maintains its own Order of Precedence but does not include “foreigners” Sabine and Kyppyn yet: <http://op.eastkingdom.org/> ~



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The Corvus will be published quarterly. It is free and available online via the Ravensbridge Facebook page or by contacting the Chronicler to receive a copy via email. Printed copies available by request only.