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## Shire of Al-Sahid Newsletter

# Scorpion Tales



## Around the Shire

### May Shire Meeting

This month's Shire meeting will be Sunday May 20 at 3:00 pm at the home of Lord Ryan and Lady Blase at \_\_\_\_.

### Craft Day

Craft Day will be the same date and same place starting at 12:00 pm. The lady Donna (Coapstick) will teach Rosary making.

### Fighter Practice

Fighter Practice is at 6:30 pm Monday nights at Sir Killian's. For information

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## April Officer Reports



**Seneschal:** Needs First Quarter Reports and Anniversary Reports, plus service agreements and copy of blue card from Officers.

Discussed the SCA's dealings with the press.

Please direct any nosy reporter types directly to Blaise and resist the urge to practice your swordwork on them. (*Sorry, your Chronicler couldn't resist — she was a*

*journalist for years.*)

Announced the following: Known World Heraldic & Scribal Symposium,

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please email  
[kiltek@earthlink.net](mailto:kiltek@earthlink.net)

### Costuming Guild

For information on Garb Gathers, contact Lady Jane.

### Projects and Plans

The Banner project is continuing, and will usually be an activity at the Shire Craft meetings.

The Shire must also establish its own boundaries via zip codes for a kingdom project.

### Anniversary

We had about 70 people attend this year. Among them, 26 heavies fighters of whom Sir Edward the Sinister prevailed on the field of battle.

The Royal Luncheon was beautifully done and much appreciated by the guests (and the rest of the

tourney who swarmed over the luscious leftovers). The budget was revised and passed as a new motion.

### Highland War

The Autocrats are Lady Marina, Lord Fritz and Lord Ryan, with Lady Jane available as needed. The Shire thanks them all!

Lady Valdis is looking for someone to take on the popular Iron Chef contest. Please consider stepping

"All the world's a stage,  
 And all the men  
 and women merely  
 players.  
 They have their  
 exits and their  
 entrances,  
 And one man in his  
 time plays many  
 parts,  
 His acts being  
 seven ages."  
 —Shakespeare

## Seneschal's Corner



Lady Jane de Sealynn

### Unto the populace

It has been along first month as your seneschal. Lots of things have popped up and have been handled or are in the process of being handled. Questions about archery, and getting kingdom signature on the bank card, also fun moments at craft night discussing the new Shire banner with the Herald. Contacting Dun Or with our offer to use our sites for Darkwell.

Please, everyone who has their arms come to the

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Estrella War volunteer positions, and Potrero War Bardic Concert.

Also discussed background checks for adults working with children; will wait for more information.

**Arts & Sciences:** Rosaries by Donna (Coapstick) May 20 at Lord Ryan and Lady Blase's.

**Castellan:** Not present, report read by Lady Jane. Castellan talked to 3 couples at Anniversary.

**Chronicler:** Not present, but always needs submissions!

**Constable:** Not present, reported by Lord Davi. Gauntlet found at Anniversary but does not know if owner was found.

(Constable, not the gauntlet. We don't know what the gauntlet knows.)

**Exchequer:** Balance pending outcome of outstanding check. Received check from Calafia for volunteering at Potrero War. Will put Lady Jane on Signature Card, she will than go and meet Kingdom exchequer to put her on signature card at the bank.

**Herald:** Not present.

**List:** Not present, report read by Seneschal.

**Marshal:** Nothing to report.

**Children's:** Received supplies from Lady Jane.

**Presentations:** Lady Jane would like to have a presentation for Altavia Anniversary. If Royalty are pre-

sent give them gas funds as usual.

**Chirurgion:** Not present.

**Webwright:** Kingdom has moved to new server and the officer page has been updated – please check. Lady Valdis has been asked to webwright for other SCA groups (*which is understandable because she is amazing.*)

Please send any updates to [Valdis\\_sca@hotmail.com](mailto:Valdis_sca@hotmail.com) including new awards, recognitions and any else you'd like to see on the website.

***We encourage all Shire members to attend Shire meetings whenever possible. Please come in garb.***

"We are such stuff  
As dreams are  
made on and our  
little life  
Is rounded with a  
sleep..."

—Shakespeare

## Shire Birthdays



*From the Chronicler: quick note on birthdays.*

*If I've got your birthday wrong or not at all — which is not surprising given my level of organizational skills — PLEASE let me know! You can reach me at [chrishynet@gmail.com](mailto:chrishynet@gmail.com).*

Lady Kiena	5/10
Lord Gary	5/14
Lady Amara	5/24

Happy birthday!!



## Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium: Hotel



*By request from THL  
Eilidh*

Caid's College of Heralds (and all of Caid!) is honored to host the 2007 Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium from June 14th through the 17th, at the luxury Crown Plaza Hotel, located conveniently at the Los Angeles Airport, 5985 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045-5463.

We have negotiated on your behalf an excellent room rate of only \$94/night (up to 4 people allowed per room, rate does not include local occupancy taxes). You read that correctly; \$94 per night. For Los Angeles in the middle of tourist season, \$94 per night is ridiculously cheap. This rate is available from Thursday through Tuesday for those wishing to extend their stay. Register directly with



the hotel for your lodgings. The hotel only guarantees our block of rooms (and the discount) through May 15, so act quickly!

Just what are the benefits of staying at the hotel, you may ask?

- If you fly in, the hotel will pick you up at the airport, eliminating the need to rent a car (trust us, you don't want to drive in L.A. traffic).
- Attendees staying at the hotel will receive a \$5 discount on KWHSS merchandise!
- Staying at the hotel makes events like this possible.
- Enjoy all the community benefits of a major camping event without sleeping on the floor and worrying about your tent falling down.

All the reserved rooms are close to each other, so the closest party is literally right next door, and with air conditioning, proper lighting and furniture, and a vast supply of alcohol at the hotel bar, you can take socializing and partying with your fellow heralds and scribes to a whole new level!

Please contact the hotel early for the best opportunity to reserve a room - (310) 642-7500, (310) 342-7010 (fax), <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hd/laxap>. Tell them you are with the KWHS Symposium for the special discount price (reservation code SCA). Parking at the site is \$6 per day for self-park and \$8 per day for valet parking. For more information on KWHSS, visit <http://www.kwhss.org/2007>. Hope to see you there!

Eilidh

## Useful Latin Mottoes



The following mottoes were thoughtfully shared by Lady Gunnora Hallakarva in *Stefan's Florilegium*.

I challenge all Shire members to come up with their own motto. Mine is "*Ad angusta per angusta* (to high places by narrow

roads). Your motto may be Latin, French, English, Arabic; as you like. Let it express your highest and best sentiments. What will yours be?

*Mens regnum bona possidet.*  
(A noble mind possesses a kingdom).

*Fortes Fortuna adjuvat.*

(Fortune favors the brave).

*Vox audita perit, litteras scripta manet.* (The spoken word vanishes, the written word remains).

*Qui pro innocente dicit satis est eloquens.* (Who speaks

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up.

Lady Jane will learn first-hand from Lord Ryan the care and feeding of contracts between the Shire and the city of Victorville.

### Darkwell War – or Not

The Barony of Dun Or has canceled this year's Darkwell War, although there is a small chance it may become a day event.

In that case, the Shire passed a motion to letting Dun Or use a site in Shire territory for this event **excluding** any site in the

City of Victorville.

### Great Western War

Great Western War will be held in Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area, southwest of Bakersfield.

There will not be land allocation so the first person there needs to mark Shire area.

Lady Jane de Sealynn made a suggestion for an award for those who help with clean up duties or other undesirable duties at events. It was well received by members present, who decided to create it as an award for the children to be given at closing court or as soon as possible after

the event. If a child received more than one, they may be eligible for a TNT award. Further discussion at next council meeting.

### Potrero War

We hope to see many of you there!

### Shire News

- Congratulations to a newlywed Holly and Nathan!

"I am constant as  
the northern star,  
Of whose true-  
fix'd and resting  
quality  
There is no fellow  
in the firmament."

—from *Julius  
Caesar*

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craft meetings and make banners. It would be great to see them all at Highland War.

May craft is rosaries. Most of our personas would have had one if you lived in Europe whether you were Catholic or not. Remember the religion back then could change at the whim of the King (I have to think of which wife King Henry is married to). Come and make one it will be fun if you

need one or not.

At the May Shire meeting we will be starting to work on Highland War, come with your ideas. Bring your drawings for the t-shirts or even your ideas to be drawn out. This is your war and your ideas are important, but expect to help make it a fun war for all. We all put in hours helping each other and it will be a better war. If you need to, get a deputy for the war to help with your office so you don't get stuck doing it all.

We will also be talking about business cards (today we were asked about a business card), Hesperia Days, camp walls, and the added shelter (EZ-up's or Dragon Wing).

June Craft will be Personas by THL Caitlin.

I can hardly wait for more work from all of you for me to do.

Lady Jane de Sealynn

Seneschal of the great  
Al Sahid

"When beggars  
die there are no  
comets seen;  
The heavens  
themselves blaze  
forth the death of  
princes."

— from Julius  
Caesar

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for the innocent is  
eloquent enough).

*Malitia ipsa maximam  
partem veneni sui bibit.*  
(Malice itself drinks the  
largest part of its own  
poison).

*Artes serviunt vitae,  
sapientia imperat.* (Education  
serves our life, wisdom  
commands it).

*Deo, Regi, Patriae.* (God,  
King, Country)



## Useful Latin Mottoes

*Gloria unmbra virtutis est.*  
(Glory is the shadow of  
virtue).

*Certa stant omnia lege.* (All  
things stand under a fixed  
law).

*Oculi sunt in amore duces.*  
(The eyes are leaders in  
love).

*Justus, fortis, patiens.* (Just,  
brave, and patient).

*Ars longa, vita  
brevis.* (Life is brief, but  
Art endures).

*Effugere non potes*

*necessitates; vincere potes.* (You  
can't escape necessity, but  
you can conquer it).

*Aut inveniam viam aut  
faciam.* (I will either find a  
way or make one).

*Bonum certamen certavi,  
cursum consummavi, fidem  
servavi.* (I have fought the  
good fight, I have finished  
the race, I have kept the  
faith).

*Veritas vos liberabit.* (The  
truth shall set you free).



## Heraldic Embroidery

by Lady Christian de

Holacombe

*(Note from the Chronicler: I am reprinting with permission an article from the kingdom of the West, discovered in THL Stefan's amazing resource Stefan's Florilegium.)*

In the SCA, virtually everyone has a device or coat of arms, and one of the most enjoyable parts of having one is being able to display it. Medieval folk clearly got just as much enjoyment out of the display of gorgeous heraldry as we do, and it adds a lot to the color and pageantry of the medieval tournament.

For a great tournament or festival, banners were (often hastily) appliquéd or painted, wall coverings and pavilions were painted and stenciled, and heraldic surcoats were worn by fighters and possibly by their consorts.

In everyday life, heraldic display seems to have been done in techniques that took a bit longer to do, but were more durable. Arms were carved in wood, engraved in metal and on

gems, and - to get to our topic of today - embroidered. There are not a lot of examples of surviving medieval embroidery, but of those that we have, a fairly high proportion are clearly heraldic, and we have documentary evidence of many more, in a variety of stitches, materials and techniques.

There are a number of surviving heraldic embroideries in appliquéd, for instance, and others in split stitch and stem stitch, in tent stitch ("needlepoint"), in couched outlines and fillings, or in counted thread "brick stitch." Embroiderers seem to have used whichever stitches or techniques were most popular at the time. Heraldic embroidery, being an art of the nobility, was also often done in gold thread, bullion, pearls and other expensive materials which have not survived.

Entire coats of arms seem to have been used as decoration mostly in a way that we can interpret as "this is me" - as a sort of symbolic "stand-in" for the personal presence of the bearer. So you see coats of arms on, for instance, an

embroidered altar frontal commissioned by a noble family, where the donor's "presence" in the church is symbolized by their embroidered arms. You see a character in a "story" tapestry bearing a shield with coat of arms to indicate that "this is Tristram" (or whoever the character is). In the SCA context, we see this most clearly in combat favors, where the arms of the consort are her or his symbolic "presence" on the field with the fighter.

Woodcock and Robinson's *Oxford Guide to Heraldry* dryly observes that heraldic elements were also "used as a symbol of a man's authority on all he owned and directed: on his seals, his plate, his horse trappings, his servants, his gaming counters, his dogs, and so forth." For possessions and clothing, it seems to be more common to use a personal or family badge, crest, or single charge from the arms, rather than the full coat of arms. Servants' livery might bear the employer's crest or badge embroidered on the left

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sleeve or on the chest. Probably the best-known example is the crowned Tudor rose worn by the Yeomen of the Guard ("Beefeaters"). A precious book owned by a noble might have a badge or arms embroidered on its cover. Even the dogs might have his badge on their collars!

A noble might also wear his or her own badges as decoration. The funeral effigies of Richard II of England and his queen Anne of Bohemia in Westminster Abbey depict fabrics decorated with personal and family badges; a crowned A and R; knots and ostriches for Anne; and the Plantagenet broom-pod and chained white hart for Richard. Such embroidered fabrics are certainly possible and may have been used for clothing and other items.

Wearing a heraldic badge could also be a way to show personal or political loyalty - think of the red rose of Lancaster, or the sunburst of York, in the Wars of the Roses. Noble families would also proudly display the badges or arms of their forebears

(real or imagined) or eminent relatives. Several families in England, including the Bohuns, the Staffords, and the Careys, have a badge of a white swan, referring to their supposed descent from the legendary Knight of the Swan.

Heraldic motifs were also popular on their own - lions, suns, centaurs, eagles, roses, crescents and the like are found on many embroidered garments and other items. For example, Philippa of Hainault, queen of Edward III of England, had a purple robe embroidered all over with golden squirrels, which was later cut up into church vestments. Since we don't always know all of a person's relatives, ancestors, political opinions and other factors, it's not always possible to say whether a heraldic motif is worn for a heraldic reason or just because the wearer happened to like it.

Based on what we know about how such embroidery was used in the middle ages, heraldic embroidery can find a plausible and enjoyable place on our clothing, gloves, banners, favors, and other accessories. As with many arts, the

use and application of medieval-style heraldic embroidery in these current middle ages is up to the creativity of each of us. - Christian de Holacombe

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Thomas Woodcock and J. M. Robinson, *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry*, 1988, Oxford University Press, ISBN #0-19-285224-8 (especially Chapter X, "The Use of Heraldry as Decoration").