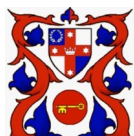


CROSSING GRAPEVINE

Summer/Autumn ASLIV

Seasonal unofficial newsletter of the Shire of Bordescros within the Kingdom of Lochac in the Society for Creative Anachronism (Australia) Inc.



Seneschal of the Kingdom of Lochac

Unto the populace of Lochac does Countess Beatrice Maria Malatesta send warm tidings.

One of Lochac's greatest strengths is that of our community. We know that we can rely on each other when faced with challenges.

At this time our Kingdom is under siege from an unprecedented scourge.

The Novel-coronavirus (COVID-19) is impacting significantly on our lives, and this is being felt across our Kingdom and indeed the Known World.

We have seen the action being taken by both the Australian and New Zealand governments. It is our turn to make decisions with the concern of the health and safety of our populace, with many people working behind the scenes to assess the current advice and determine practical ways to protect our people.

To this end, I am advising our Seneschals across the Kingdom to suspend all in-person events and activities for the months of March and April. This decision has been made in consultation with SCA NZ, SCA Ltd, the Crown, and the Seneschallate.

Essential activities should be moved to a digital medium such as our Discord servers. Further administrative advice will be developed regarding the handling of events that are already at a late stage in their planning. Further information will be disseminated through branch Seneschals.

We urge all branches and event stewards to consider how this may impact other events in coming months. We encourage the populace to think creatively, including about what digital community activities might be possible during this time.

We would ask for patience as we work through all the ramifications of this decision, both financial and non-financial.

Please work with your seneschals, who are my hands, in helping to protect each other.

It is in our community's best interests that I make this difficult decision, and ask for your trust, courtesy, good faith and judgement in this situation.

I am committed to open communication with the Kingdom and will provide updates.

With your support, this challenge will pass, our Kingdom will endure, and grow even stronger, ensuring a healthy future for the SCA and all its members.

In service to the Crown and dream,

Countess Beatrice Maria Malatesta
Lochac Seneschal

The Grapevine is the quarterly newsletter provided to the members and friends of the Shire of Bordescros within the Kingdom of Lochac, and the Society for Creative Anachronism. It is not an official publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism. The Chronicler (Mistress Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill/Joy Walker) can be contacted at chronicler@bordescros.lochac.sca.org



As you know by now, the bad news is that Border War 2020 has had to be cancelled due to Covid 19 Lockdown precautions BUT there is great news

BORDESCROS TO HOST MARCH CROWN 2021

Some good news amongst all the gloom, our bid to host the first March Crown Kingdom event was successful. It will feature the Crown Tournament and Victory Feast, as well as usual Border War activities.

Hopefully by then things will all be back to normal. It will be held at High Country Farm at Tallangatta Valley, our usual Border War venue, on 5-7 March 2021 (being the Victorian and ACT long weekend).

The steward will be Mistress Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill, ably assisted by Baron Sorle Maknicoll (Crown) and THL Gunter Boese (Border War). There is a really great crew of officers who are also involved with the event.

There are plenty of things that will need to be done beforehand, so stay tuned for more details.

What is 'Wayfaring'?

You don't need to be around the SCA long to hear the term 'wayfaring', so what is it?

To put it simply, it is travelling to attend an SCA activity away from your home group. It can be a combat event, learning about Arts & Sciences, it can be travelling to a nearby group to attend their Gathering, or it can be attending a major event such as a Crown Tournament, Coronation or even Rowany Festival.

On a different level, it is a wonderful opportunity to travel and meet more likeminded people in Lochac or the Knowne World. Some of our members who have taken these opportunities have written about what they have been doing.

BORDESCROS at the Market of Curious Things

Sunday 8 March Noriel Park, Albury 10 am-3 pm

Bordescros did a demonstration during **Upstream Festival**, at the Market of Curious Things! We were located near River Deck Cafe. Tables for A&S display were provided in a large marquis (a table or two for kids' crafts as well--paper crowns and bookmarks).

There were A&S displays including weaving, leatherwork, embroidery, calligraphy, and period games.

We had a separate fighting area backing on to the river, and this was well received. Thank you to all those who participated.

FROM OUR Seneschal

Greetings Shirelings,

I hope you are keeping well and safe in these times when blight has descended upon the land.

It is with deepest sorrow I must announce that all in person activities of the SCA have been suspended pending further notice.

We are however keeping in touch via our social media channels on Facebook, as well as Discord. Please reach out if you need help setting up access. There are many resources on crafting and virtual collegiate as well, many are linked on our Facebook page, and I hope to have more on our Discord as it grows in activity.

Please keep well in these uncertain times.

Yours in Service,
Kolgríma Hrafnisdóttir
Bordescros Seneschal

While we are all having to avoid getting together face-to-face, there are many ways that we can all stay in touch, and hopefully inspired.

It is more important than ever to join and/or check in regularly with our Facebook page *Bordescros SCA*

There are many exciting things planned to keep us all going during this time, such as a virtual Politarchopolis University, and there will be more on this in coming weeks.

There are many pages that are already in existence, and you will find links to these on our Facebook page.

There is also the Lochac Discord, on which there is now a Bordescros area that has been set up, as another way to keep in touch not only with Bordescros but also across Lochac.

The decision has also been taken to cancel May Crown Tournament which was to be held in the Shire of Dismal Fogs, outside Lithgow NSW. It is now proposed that the Crown Tournament will be held at Midwinter Coronation in Melbourne, with the successful combatant and consort stepping up that weekend.

FROM THE Marshal

Could all authorized people in heavy, rapier, archery, equestrian and marshals please scan or photograph you both sides of the cards/ paper.

Please PM them to me, or send to Marshal@bordescros.lochac.sca.org for the groups files.

JOIN US

If you are thinking of becoming a member, please consider financial membership. At \$45 per adult per year or \$90 for a family, you will quickly save that amount by attending 4 events a year, or even less if you have a family. The non-member day membership rate to attend any activity is \$10 per adult, and \$5.00 per minor. It also means that you can consider taking on an officer role to help run the Shire, but this is not an 'incentive' for everyone. Go to <https://registry.sca.org.au/>

From the Chronicler

Greetings once more to members and friends of the Shire of Bordescros, wherever you may reside.

Where did Summer go? Autumn is now (in theory at least) upon us, and another busy calendar year of Medieval and Renaissance fun has begun.

After so many years of Border War being held on the last full weekend in February, it seemed a little odd for it not to be on. The hot weather and fires of this summer that has been causing so much havoc across the region made for a difficult decision to postpone it for 6 months, till August. It will be unusual to prepare for a cool event, rather than a hot one.

The theme this year is "The Rus vs The Horde" a great combination of late period Norse and Mongolian endeavours. Bookings are definitely required and can be made online at borderwar.lochac.sca.org.

There are so many wonderful things that you can learn in the SCA no matter what you are interested in, so look around, find something you like and dive in.

I hope you have a wonderful and active Autumn, and look forward to seeing you at a local activity soon.

Yours in Service

Mistress Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill
Bordescros Chronicler



LOCHAC REGNUM (Who's Who in the Kingdom of Lochac)

Kingdom of Lochac (Australia & New Zealand)

Web: lochac.sca.org

King and Queen: King Theuderic II and Queen Engelin Teufel II

Chamberlain: [Sir Liadan ingen Fheradaig](mailto:SirLiadan.ingen.Fheradaig@gmail.com) lochacchamberlain36@gmail.com.

KINGDOM OFFICERS: Seneschal: Countess Beatrice Maria Malatesta web: lochac.sca.org/seneschal. Email: seneschal@lochac.sca.org.

Youth Officer: Ringwar Northwood children@lochac.sca.org W: lochac.sca.org/children

Chancellor of the Exchequer: Lord Porvaldr inn Suðreyski Tel: +64 211 223 432 exchequer@lochac.sca.org W: lochac.sca.org/exchequer Deputy for Australian Finances: THL

Gunther Boese

Crux Australis Principal Herald: Lady Amanda Martel herald@lochac.sca.org W: herald.lochac.sca.org

Earl Marshal: Baroness Angele Marie de Savigny marshal@lochac.sca.org W: lochac.sca.org/marshal

Arts & Sciences: Mistress Victoria Thrakesina Email: artsandsciences@lochac.sca.org

Constable: [Mistress Tatianitska Iaroslavna](mailto:MistressTatianitskaIaroslavna) Web: <https://constable.lochac.sca.org/>

Chronicler : Baroness Helouys le Poer pegasus@lochac.sca.org T: 0409 154 615 W: lochac.sca.org/lochac/info/chronicler

Keeper of the Lists: [Lady Anna von der Ron](mailto:LadyAnna.von.der.Ron) Web: <https://lists.lochac.sca.org/>

Chirurgion: Lord Sigvaldr Svidandi Web: <https://chirurgion.lochac.sca.org/>

Historian: Rhodri ap Tewdr historian@lochac.sca.org W: history.lochac.sca.org

Deputy Marshal Authorisations-AU: Elizabeth de Foxle

Lists-Record Keeper and Authorisations-AU: Gabriella Borromei W:lochac.sca.org/lists

These are just some of the volunteers who make it possible for us all to play this great game.

Arts & Sciences

To many the SCA is all about the fighting, but in reality it is so much more! While the only requirement is to make an attempt at pre-17th Century clothing, and this is often where some people start, for others it is an opportunity to delve so much deeper into what life was like before 1600 in most areas of the world.

Every Gathering in Albury we have 3 competitions to encourage people to look more deeply into what we are interested in. We will be having articles based on some members' competition entries, particularly the documentation side of things.

This edition features an entry from Billie Wells, so enjoy and hopefully be inspired.

14th Century Cuir Bouilli Case (part 1)

The term 'Cuir Bouilli' can be roughly translated as 'boiled leather', although the exact techniques or methodologies the term refers to appear to be the subject of some confusion and speculation. This could be the result of information lost over time, the changing definition of the words, or that the phrase cuir bouilli could be applied to many differing techniques. What seems to be agreed upon is that the result is a leather object that is shaped and hardened through the application of heat.



15th century French case for a book. *The Metropolitan Arts Museum*

Hardened leather was utilised for a diverse range of purposes including armour, protective cases and liquid containers to works of art. Many of the most decorative examples were made in the 14th-16th century and originate from a wide variety of locations throughout Europe.

Of the various methodologies proposed for how the hardening of leather was achieved, the most common theories include;

- ◆ Placing the leather to be worked into boiling water;
- ◆ Submerging the leather into a solution of heated wax or oil, removed, and left to harden;
- ◆ Soaking leather in cool water and allowing to air-dry or placing into a warm to hot oven;
- ◆ Using a different type of liquid, such as animal hide glue or pitch to achieve the desired effect,
- ◆ Possibly any combination of these depending on the desired result.

As this project was a first attempt at any hardened or tooled leather, a YouTube video series created by Barry Hicks on the construction of a cuir bouilli case was followed. My case is modelled on a small 14th century British case that was found in *The Metropolitan Arts Museum* digital archive. Many cases of this style consist of the main case body and a fitted lid. They are usually constructed of several layers of very thin leather. The internal-most of these layers is stitched together and each additional layer is built up to provide structure. There is no visible stitching on the outer layer, which is often highly decorated with small stretched handles of leather to allow a cord to be threaded through, keeping both case and lid together.

Construction

Material

Timber block the size and shape of the desired case-sanded and oiled

2-3oz veg-tanned leather-enough for 4 layers to cover the block

4 small pieces of thicker leather, per-

Animal hide glue

Cord

Needle and waxed linen thread

Swivel knife

Leather modelling tool

haps 5-6oz



15th century French case displaying internal stitching and layers. *The Metropolitan Arts Museum*.

Tools

To be continued next edition

A History of Bordescros in Instalments — 3

Since that 1999 event we have received continued assistance from a variety of players, in particular the crew members of the Flying Ypotryll who visited frequently and assisted greatly with the early interest in Rapier as well as heavy fighting and arts and sciences.

Throughout the time between that first meeting and today we have greeted and farewelled a number of people who remain friends and well thought of, even if no longer active in the SCA or living in our region.

Our first 'home' for our monthly Pot Luck Feasts and Tournaments, which had been traditionally held on the second Saturday of each month, was the Albury Guide Hall. However for many months we met at the homes of our members until such time as we could find a venue.

In November 2000 we undertook our first Principality event, November Coronet, which was held at All Saints Winery. It was a most enjoyable event, with some 20 fighters taking the field and Gui von Oberhausen emerging as the Victor on the day. The Shire was proud to play host to wayfarers from throughout the Principality.

March 2002 saw the long awaited acceptance of Bordescros as a Shire, following lengthy discussions on a suitable name which was acceptable to the Society Heralds. However it was not formally announced until the Coronation of Lochac's first King and Queen.

In July 2002 a small delegation consisting of Cairistiona inghen Raonuill and Lowry verch Gwenwynwyn attended the Coronation of Lochac's first King and Queen, Alfar and Elspeth at which time it was announced that Bordescros was to be the first Shire created in the Kingdom of Lochac.

In January 2003 the Shire hosted its second Lochac event, being Twelfth Night for the investiture of Cornelius and Morwenna as Lochac's second King and Queen. It was hot and smokey due to bushfires, but good humour prevailed and all were comforted by the fine food provided by Bowen and Thomasina who excelled in the kitchen (yet again).

Shire of Bordescros Regnum

Seneschal: Kohlgrima Hraffnsdottir (Kim Palmer)
Deputy Seneschal: Sorle Maknicoll (Jeff Nicholson)
Reeve: Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill (Joy Walker)
Herald: Undewyn Maccuswell (Andrew Walker)
Marshal: Thomasina Coke (Tamsin Walle-Semmler)
A&S: Gunther Boese (Scott Bulters)
Lists: Emelyn Ffayrhome (Amanda Nicholson)
Constable: Lowry ferch Gwynwynwyn ap Llewelyn
Chirurgion: Vacant/Seneschal
Chronicler: Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill
Web: Vacant/Seneschal
Youth Officer: Bjorn Lodbrok (Rob Miller)
Hospitaller: Vacant
Contact details for these officers are available on the Bordescros website at <http://bordescros.lochac.sca.org/officers/>
Becoming an officer is a great way to learn more about the SCA

The incipient Shire of Strathcorbie

Currently the northern end of the Shire of Bordescros but awaiting their approval as an independent Shire.

Regnum

Seneschal: Helga (Helen South)
Reeve: Mathild de Lilburne (Julie Willis)
Herald: Vacant
Marshal: Alfgear of the South (Daryl South)
A&S: Mathild de Lilburne (Julie Willis)
Lists: Vacant
Constable: Dylan
Chirurgion: Kate Dilbert
Chronicler: Vacant
Web: Isabel le Breton (Kimberley Beattie)
Hospitaller: Vacant