

The Salamander

Newsletter of the Barony of Bhakail

July 2022 A.S. LVII



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

The following are events scheduled in the Southern Region of the East Kingdom and other selected events. For a complete list of upcoming East Kingdom events and further information, visit <https://www.eastkingdom.org/events/>

Friday July 29 - Sunday Aug 14, 2022	Pennsic War 49	Kingdom of Æthelmarc Slippery Rock, PA
Friday Sept 2 - Monday Sept 5, 2022	John Barleycorn Welcomes the New Ostgardr Heirs	Crown Province of Ostgardr Kent, NY
Saturday Sept 17, 2022	Brennan & Caoilfhionn's Ducal Challenges	Barony of Settmour Swamp Randolph, NJ
Sunday Sept 18, 2022	Bhakail Champions and Commons	Barony of Bhakail Newtown Square, PA
Friday Sept 23 - Sunday Sept 25, 2022	Olympic River Wars I	Barony of Iron Bog - Mullica Hill, NJ
Saturday October 8, 2022	Harts and Horns	Shire of Hartshorn-dale Douglassville, PA
Friday Oct 14 - Sunday Oct 16, 2022	Shire Wars X	Shire of Montevale Jonestown, PA
Saturday October 22, 2022	Barony of Buckland Cross Rattan and Rapier Champions	Barony of Buckland Cross Langhorne, PA

Current Schedule of Bhakail Practices, Socials, and Meetings

For further details, visit: <https://bhakail.eastkingdom.org/wordpress/index.php/calendar/>

Event	Time and Day	Location	Contact
Thrown Weapons Practice	Sundays, 11am-1pm	320 North Ave, Secane, PA 19018	Mikael melrakki
Target Archery Practice	Sundays, 1:30-3:30pm	320 North Ave, Secane, PA 19018	Maryna Borowska
Business Meeting	2nd Tuesdays of the month	https://meet.google.com/gpf-gerd-ikj	Mael Eoin mac Echuidh
Baronial Social	Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm	Morton, PA. For address, email 166054@members.eastkingdom.org	Mael Eoin mac Echuidh
Fencing Practice	Wednesdays, 7:30-10:00pm	3323 Tudor Street, Philadelphia, PA 19136	Melchior Kriebel
Armored Combat Practice (joint with Hartshorn-Dale)	Thursdays, 7:00-9:30pm	118 S Valley Rd, Paoli, PA 19301	235409@members. eastkingdom.org
Zoom A&S Social	Thursdays, 5:00-9:00pm	Zoom	Angela Mori

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Greetings from the New Seneschal - Mael Eoin mac Echuid



Greetings! I was asked, having newly stepped up as Seneschal, to write an article for The Salamander. I figured I could touch on what the office is and then go over some things I hope to accomplish in executing this role for the Barony.

The role of Seneschal is primarily focused on rule and law: in local groups, it's the office that ensures that non-SCA laws as well as Society, Kingdom and local laws, policies and customs are followed, so that we can all keep doing what we want to do together in the SCA. Facilitating business meetings, ensuring that officer reports, warrants and memberships are up to date, signing contracts for sites, being a signatory on the group's bank account and being part of the committee that reviews and approves expenses...it's all very much part of being a Chapter President in our modern educational 501(c)3 organization.

Looking at the role's responsibilities, there are a number of things that I think we should consider doing to help out one another and the group as a whole.

- Review and redo our Bylaws. We should consider changing or removing anything that's not working out for us, if how we operate now is at odds with what we've written down.
- Host or facilitate regular classes to help people understand what different offices are, what tasks are involved, plus go over event roles, too (event steward, head cook, etc.). Work to demystify some of the roles in the SCA where we don't always know what goes on until you do it.
- Have more discussion ahead of and publish an agenda for business meetings so that - as much as possible - we know what's being decided upon ahead of time. That way, discussion can happen ahead of the meeting, reserving the meeting more for making decisions. It also gives more folks more time to better consider any calls for volunteers for activities, consider proposing new business, ask clarifying questions, etc.
- Actively help realize a Western and/or Southern Region identity. Work with regional groups, supporting one another's events (including staffing, cross-promotion, etc.) and avoid calendaring conflicts by discussing intentions early and often.

As Seneschal, I am here to help the group hold events, have weekly activities and encourage one another to help share the load. Anything that can be done along these lines, let me know!

In Service,

Mael Eoin

So You're Interested in Being the Baronial Chancellor of the Exchequer - Philadelphia Brown

Duties of the Office. The Chancellor of the Exchequer manages the funds and other assets owned by Bhakail. The Baronial Chancellor of the Exchequer (often shortened to just “Exchequer”) is responsible for quarterly financial reporting on the state of the Barony’s finances, as well as a financial report after each event. (The Kingdom provides templates for each report and there are online training resources on policies and procedures.)

Bhakail’s Exchequer leads the Baronial Financial Committee (aka the “Council of the Exchequer”), which makes decisions on whether to recommend event budgets and any material expenses. The Exchequer is the “keeper of the checkbook”, though all checks must have two signatories.

Requirements for the Office. You must be a paid SCA member, and at least 18 years old. You should be comfortable using basic Excel spreadsheets and be able to check your SCA email weekly (ideally, every day or so). You will be expected to be a signatory on Bhakail’s bank account, and for your home address (or your PO Box) to be the official address on the bank account. It is highly recommended that the exchequer reside within Bhakail’s zip codes; an exception would need to be approved by Kingdom. (Please go to <https://www.eastkingdom.org/branches/> to check what group your zip code is part of.)

Why This Office Is Important. Not only is the Baronial Exchequer a required position for the Barony to exist, it’s vital for a trustworthy person to fill this role. Not only trustworthy to be honest with spending and recording Bhakail’s money appropriately, but also trustworthy to speak up and ask for help if you have a book-keeping question or a financial policy question, or if the modern world is taking up too much time and you will be late with your reports.

Why It’s Rewarding to Be the Baronial Chancellor of the Exchequer. I’ve enjoyed “seeing how the sausages are made” – of being part of the team who approves how the Barony’s resources are used. I feel that I am serving the Barony, Kingdom, and Society by making sure that the Barony’s money is always spent to further the SCA’s nonprofit mission of “the research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century skills, arts, combat, culture, and employing knowledge of history to enrich the lives of participants through events, demonstrations, and other educational presentations and activities.”

If you have any questions about this position, please feel free to contact me at exchequer@bhakail.eastkingdom.org

For more information about becoming a Chancellor of the Exchequer, please see:

Society: <https://www.sca.org/resources/finances-and-reports/>

Kingdom: <https://www.eastkingdom.org/offices/exchequer/>



Photos from 2022 Waking of the Salamander



Photos by Finnolfr Hrafnsson and Ellyn Grene, used by permission.

Arts & Sciences Opportunities - Scolastica Caparellia

Lady Angela Mori and Eleanora Tylemaker continue to host A&S zoom meetings on Thursday evenings from 6-9pm.

The baron requests Largess to be exchanged with the Barony of Carolingia. Please contact his excellency with questions. Largess items will be collected by the first week of Pennsic.

The kingdom is in need of medallions for orders including: Order of the Silver Tyger, Order of the Silver Mantle, Order of the Golden Mantle, Order of the Troubadour, Order of the Golden Lance and Order of the Terpsichore. If you have any questions, please let me know.

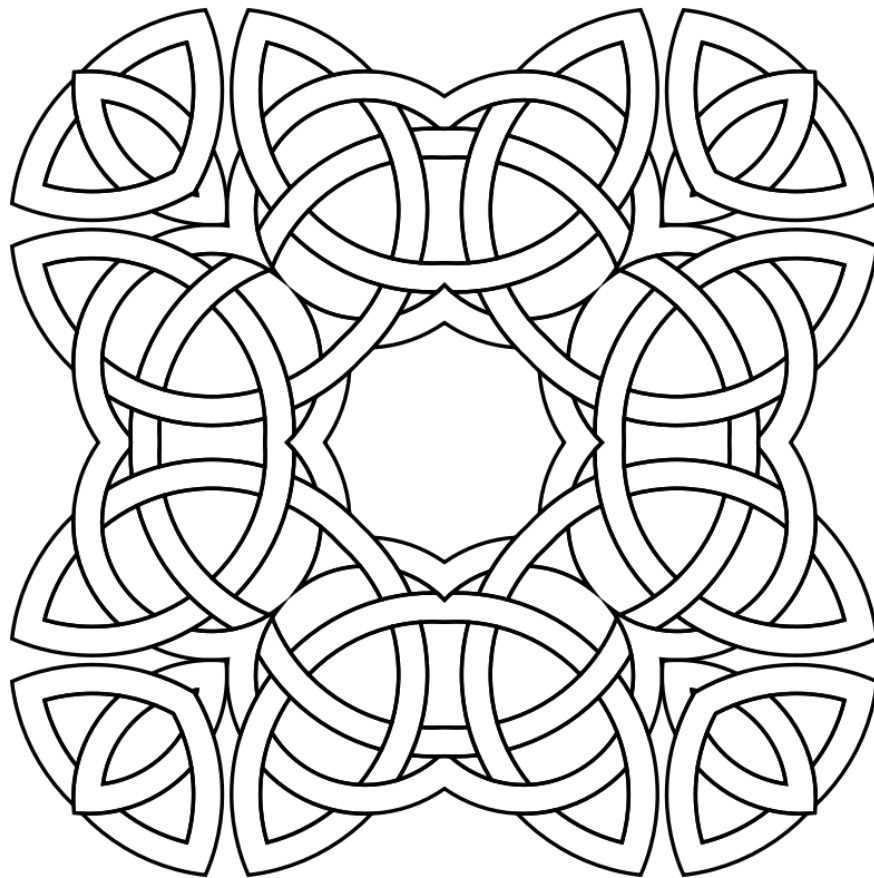
The queen is in need of favors! Information on how to make a favor is at <https://ri.eastkingdom.org/index.php/375-2/>

The Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium is July 22-24, hosted virtually by the Principality of Vindheim and the Kingdom of Ansteorra. More information can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/view/kwhss/home>

The East Kingdom MOAS has published the fourth online arts display! View the entries here:

<https://moas.eastkingdom.org/fourth-east-kingdom-online-as-display/>

In June the East Kingdom MOAS has put together *We've Always Been Here: Queer History through the Ages*. Stories can be read at: <https://moas.eastkingdom.org/weve-always-been-here-queer-history/>



Brewing Championship at Bhakail Yule - Siobhan the Harper

It may be July, but Winter is Coming! And with Winter comes Bhakail Yule (date tbd). And with Bhakail Yule comes the Baronial Brewing Championship! So, it's Time to Get Brewing! This year's Theme is Something to Keep Us Warm: Any category beverage (beer, wine, mead, cordial, other) that will keep us all warm and cozy. Points awarded for taste and historical inspiration. So bring your best spiced mead or hyppocras, mulled wine, good hearty beer to enjoy by the fire, Wassail (using the brewer's product), cordials, etc. As always, a full ingredient list is mandatory. Documentation is encouraged, but not required.

---Siobhan the Harper, Current Bhakail Baronial Brewing Champion (221176@members.eastkingdom.org)



A&S Spotlight - Ellyn Grene



I've been a stitcher for many years, and joining the Keepers of Athena's Thimble, the East Kingdom Embroiderers' Guild, has inspired me to learn and experiment with new types of needlework. This bookmark I made is in a style of "openwork embroidery" called Hardangersøm, named after the Hardangerfjord region of Norway. Hardangersøm, called Hardanger in the U.S., is believed to have been developed in the 1600's. It is most likely a method the local craftspeople developed to emulate needlelace, which was common in England and Italy at that time. It was a lot of fun to try this, although purposefully cutting into the fabric I'd already spent hours stitching on to finish the designs was rather panic inducing. (Photo by Ellyn Grene, used with permission.)

Rapier in the SCA - Melchior Kriebel

SCA Rapier is a martial activity open to any over the age of 18, with youth rapier available to those under 18. Rapier involves sword skills that rose late the SCA's covered era when armor was less prevalent and personal weapons became lighter and more nimble. Rapier combat also includes the use of secondary weapons & defenses such as daggers, buckler shields, cloaks, etc. Rapier also covers weapons such as two-handed longswords, fencing spears, and a sub-category of Cut & Thrust. For a long time, Rapier was something of a "red headed step-child" of SCA martial activities but has gained much greater acceptance in recent years.

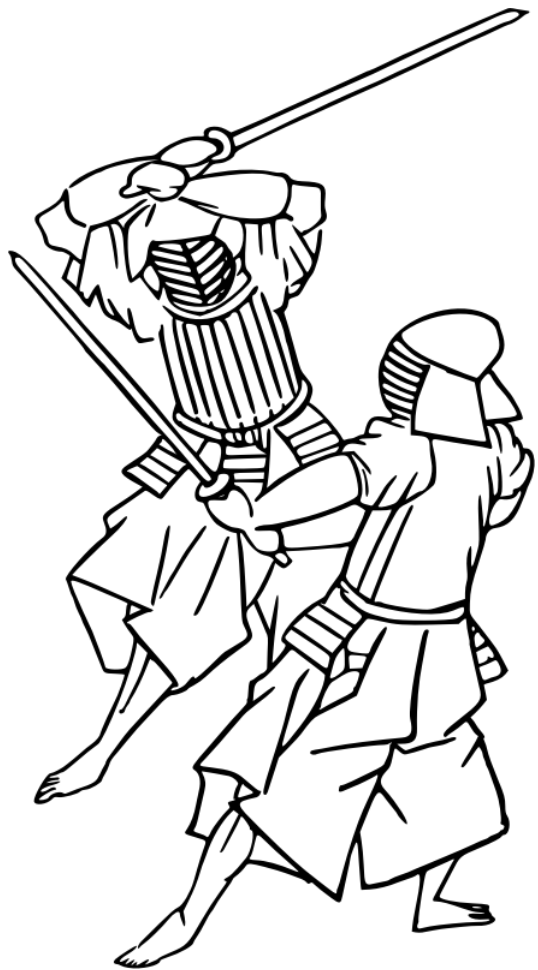
Rapier has a weapons and armor requirement that requires an approved weapon, as well as rigid defense pieces such as a fencing mask for the head, a gorget for the neck, and an athletic cup. All other parts of the body must be covered by cloth that is either puncture resistant or abrasion resistant, depending on what part of the body is being protected. There are multiple options to purchase non-rigid armor but many fencers elect to create their own armor.

All fencers must pass a qualification run by two rapier marshals to be considered safe with each weapons form. Knowledge of the rules as well and demonstrating safe practices are crucial for qualifying. Once a fencer is qualified they do not require a marshal to monitor them when fencing.

For costs, the Rapier itself is the most costly piece of equipment. A basic rapier can run from \$225 and rise quickly from there depending on design, length, etc. In the past epees and foils like those used in olympic fencing were used, but they are rarely used in any kingdom these days. Most rapier practices have loaner gear for new fencers to use, which usually includes a blade for practice.

Almost all SCA rapier practices are able to train people new to fencing. The basics are fairly easy to learn, with all fencers eventually developing their own "style", which are sometimes based on historical fencing manuals and sometimes on the fencer's own abilities.

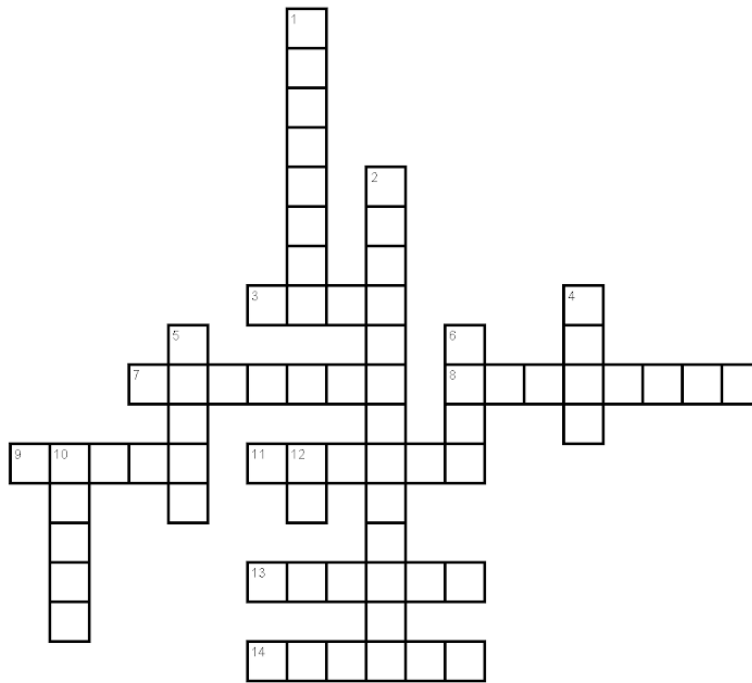
Bhakail's rapier practice is held weekly at 7:30 PM Wednesdays in NorthEast Philadelphia at the Mayfair Presbyterian Church. The address is 3323 Tudor St, Philadelphia, PA 19136. Loaner gear is available and the suggested donation is \$2.



HERALDIC TINCTURES

WORD BANK:

ARGENT
 AZURE
 COUNTERERMINE
 ERMINE
 ERMINOIS
 GULES
 OR
 PEAN
 POTENT
 PURPURESABLE
 TINCTURE
 VAIR
 VERT



ACROSS:

3. A "fur" composed of a black field with gold tail spots.

7. From the Latin "purpura" meaning purple, a "color" or dark tincture. It has never been as common as the other colors.

8. A "fur" with a gold field and black spots representing tails.

9. The tincture black, one of the dark tinctures called "colors". The name derives from the black fur of a type of martin from which it takes its name.

11. A variation on vair, a "fur" made of interlocking blue and white "T" shapes.

13. From the French word "hermine", this a "fur", depicted as a white field with black spots representing the tail of this animal.

14. From Latin word "argentum", the tincture of silver or white belonging to the light tinctures called "metals".

DOWN:

1. The palette used in heraldry, commonly made up of two metals, five colors, and several patterns called furs.

2. A reverse of the ermine fur, a black field with white tail-shaped spots.

4. A "fur" from the Latin "varius", originally representing squirrel fur, a pattern of blue and white bell shapes in horizontal rows.

5. Red, one of the five dark tinctures called "colors", the most widely used tincture. From the Old French word "goules" meaning "throats" or a neckpiece usually made of red fur.

6. A dark tincture called a "color", the French word for green. The first known English treatise, the Anglo-Norman "De Heraudie" (dated to sometime between 1230 and 1345), lists green among the other tinctures.

10. The tincture blue, one of the five dark tinctures called a "color". The word shares origin with the Spanish word "azul", which refers to the same color.

12. From the French word for "gold", the tincture of gold or yellow and belonging to the light tinctures called "metals". In SCA heraldry, the first letter is capitalized.

Officers of the Barony of Bhakail

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This is the July 2022 issue of the Salamander, a publication of the Barony of Bhakail of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Salamander is published six times per year, in January, March, May, July, September, and November and is distributed electronically through the official email list of the Barony of Bhakail. To subscribe email bhakail-list+subscribe@bhakail.eastkingdom.org. Print copies are available from the Bhakail Chronicler, Ellyn Grene (mka Nadine Gruhn), 6 Swarthmore Place, Swarthmore PA 19081. The Salamander is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2022 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. All clipart used is public domain from openclipart.org.