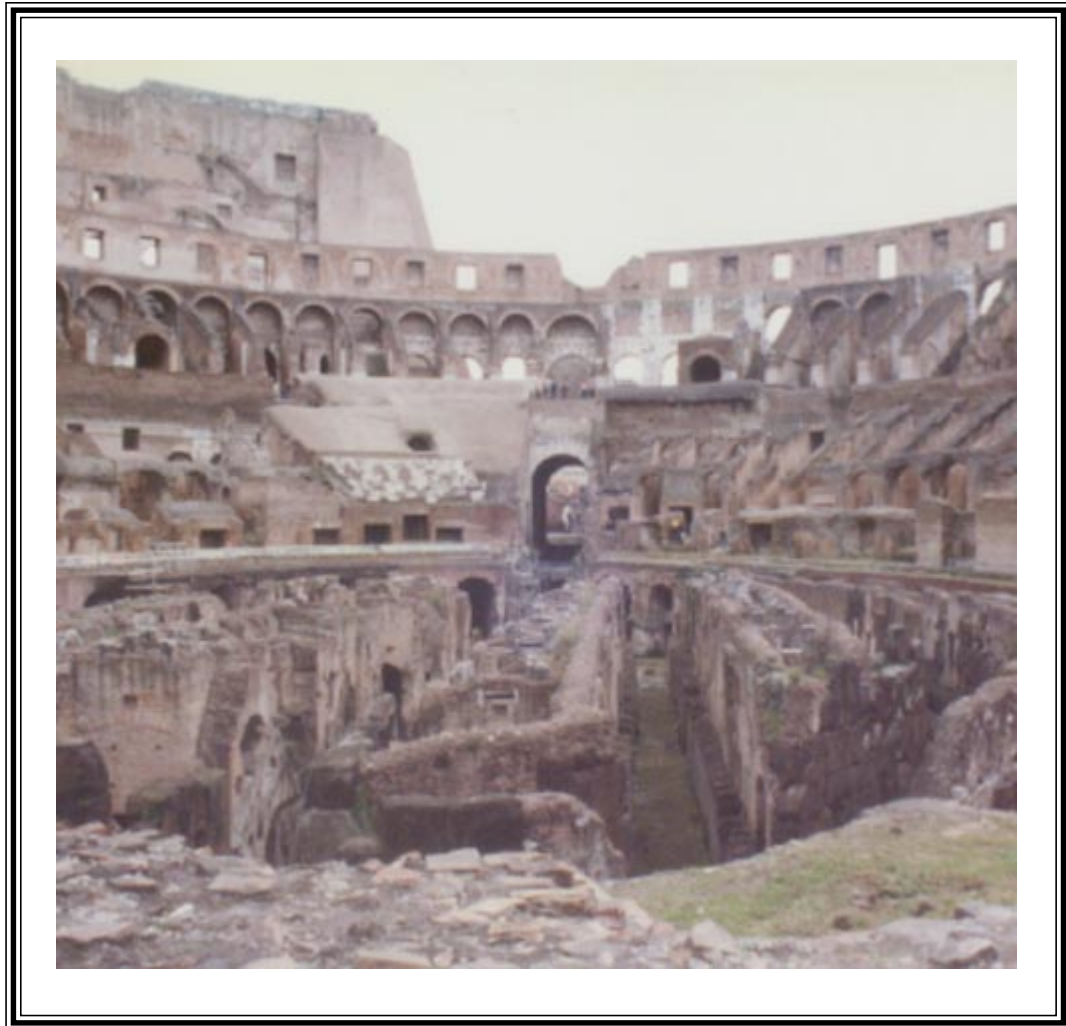


The Scarlet Letter

Shire of Loch Ruadh



July - August (A.S. XLII)
(CE 2007)

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This is the July/Aug issue of *The Scarlet Letter*, a publication of the Shire of Loch Ruadh of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *The Scarlet Letter* is available from Crystal Dozier, 5832 Lyle St, Ft. Worth, TX 76114. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright ©2007 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.

Cover photo by Lynda-Jo Staton.

Note: All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at www.lochruadh.org, and reminders are sent out on the the Loch Ruadh email list. The email list is maintained on the Kingdom of Ansteorra web server and can be accessed at www.ansteorra.org. Both of these contain address information with online map links for directions. If you don't have computer or email access, please contact the Seneschal or any other Officer for directions.

Subscription and Submission Information

The Scarlet Letter is a bi-monthly publication available free online at www.lochruadh.org. Printed copies will be available free of charge at populace meetings. Please let the Chronicler know if you want a printed copy so there will be enough available. If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, you must pay for postage. Postage is 0.41 x number of issues left in the year.

Submissions must include a written statement (email is fine) stating that permission is granted to publish in electronic and print format the article, poem, artwork, etc. Photographs must have permission from all the people in them.

Loch Ruadh's Meeting Places

Archery & Fighter Practice
Park Road
Dutch Branch Park
Benbrook, TX 76126

Lord Alric & Lady Fiona's
108 NE Rosamond Street
Burleson, TX 76028
817-426-4631

Lady Vivian & Lord Jock's
9312 Rhea Court
White Settlement, TX 76108
817-367-6709

Populace Meeting
IHOP
5920 Quebec Street
Fort Worth, TX 76135

July

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Archery & Fighter Practice Dutch Branch Park 1:30 pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Populace Meeting Quebec St. IHOP 7:30 pm	12	13	14
15 Archery Practice Dutch Branch Park 1:30 pm	16	17	18 Officer's Meeting TBA 7:30 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Bardic Fiona & Alric's
29	30	31				

August

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Populace Meeting Quebec St. IHOP 7:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Archery & Fighter Practice Dutch Branch Park 1:30 pm	6	7	8	9	10 Lughnasad	11 Lughnasad
12 Lughnasad	13	14	15 Officer's Meeting TBA 7:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Archery & Fighter Practice Dutch Branch Park 1:30 pm	20	21	22	23	24	25 Bardic Vivian & Jock's 7:30 pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Seneschal

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

This will be my last missive to you as the Shire's Seneschal and I wanted to thank you for your support during the past 2 years. It has been an honor to serve you.

Please take some time to thank all of your out-going officers. They put in a lot of time and effort trying to make sure that you have what you need to function as a viable group.

As I look toward stepping down there is one thing that I would ask of each of you. Make the commitment to be responsible for this group. Attend meetings, classes, practices, bardics, and gatherings. Camp with the group at events. Participate in on-line discussions and planning. Volunteer your time and expertise to the running of Lughnasad. Speak your mind and ask questions, if you see something occurring that you do not understand or support speak out. The Shire cannot thrive as a whole if her individual members are not active and motivated. Officers are the organizational arm of our group, they do the paperwork and schedule activities so that you as Populace members can enjoy what we do. Officers do not run this group You do, or you should.

Take pride in who and what we are, be active, be vocal, and be instrumental in our success.

With Lughnasad coming we need volunteers on site and to assist with workshops for site-tokens, prize construction, and general preparedness. We need Award Recommendations to submit to Crown. We need every person in the Shire to support and help make this a wonderful celebration.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Seneschal, and please give Brigid the support she deserves as she steps in to continue in service to Loch Ruadh and Ansteorra.

Catrin

Hospitaler

As most of you know I will no longer be the Hospitaler of Loch Ruadh as of Red Tape in July. That means that you should be giving your support, and newcomer ideas to Aingal, as the new Hospitaler. I will be handing over the loaner garb and misc. to her, so if, you have newcomers who are in need point them to her. Also If you have any good serviceable garb that you no longer need she has a whole empty box to fill. I think it would be really great if we kept her very busy for the next 18 months or so.

I would say thanks from your exhospitaler here, but I don't believe anyone is ever an exhospitaler in the SCA.

Lord Tegwared MacAuley

Herald

As my tour of duty as Loch Ruadh comes to a close, we had the busiest months since I began 28 months ago.

Names Submitted:

Connor Na Mara (Barron Rozen)

Ruadnat inghean Arragein (Penny Boyd)

Devices Submitted:

Vivian McKinnon (Pam Bedwell)

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri (Don McKinnon)

Connor Na Mara (Barron Rozen)

Ruadnat ignhean Arragein (Penny Boyd)

As always, we will be offering our 4th of July special on submittals.

Names – only \$9.00

Devices- only \$9.00

Both Name and Device for the incredibly low price of \$18.00.

But, that's not all. We will throw in any badges for \$9.00 each You pay only \$27.00 for all three.

You can't beat that deal with a flail.

Tanks, for the memories,

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri,

Herald, Shire of Loch Ruadh

Exchequer

Greetings to all!

Lughnasad is just around the corner and preparations are under way. As in the dream, we work hard to prepare for our festivals. I appreciate everyone that is contributing, and I have always been impressed on how the whole shire finds a way to make our event special. If you wish to volunteer for a Gate shift feel free to contact me.

Caerol is our emergency exchequer and is apprised of everything that goes on in this office. I appreciate his insight and willingness to take over should something happen me.

Your Exchequer,

Lady Antonia Visconti

Knight Marshal

Greetings Good Gentles,

Who placed the curse on our local weather? While I'm sure the Shire's farmers appreciate the rain, the fighter's do not. Hopefully the Sunday "April Showers" are finally ending and our fields will once again support the weight of our warriors and their armor. We will begin attempting to schedule make-up (not make-out Pdraig - so leave Sluggy alone) practices to replace those we have to cancel. Remember, just because official practice is cancelled, that's no reason to sit on the couch. Get out and hit a pell, or a reasonably well armored friend, when we cannot meet. Just because we can't practice does not mean our foes can't. I'm sure they are staying in shape and practicing their snap shots.

Unto the non-fighting populace, please come out and support the fighters at practice. It makes it harder to walk off the field early when we know you will give us "disapproving" looks for quitting too soon. When we are actually in need of a break, we appreciate your company as we rest. Bring out your latest project and enjoy the day.

Lord Kazimierz of Loch Ruadh
(Kaz, Lord Sinister to my "friends")
Knight Marshal of Loch Ruadh

Archery Marshal

Summer is upon us. Which hopefully means more opportunity for practices, but also means higher temperatures. DRINK MORE WATER.

Lughnasad is also around the corner, now is the time to make sure all of your archery equipment is in good repair and if not take care of any necessary repairs. I would hate to see anyone be turned away from the tournament for failed equipment. We also need a list mistress for the archery field, if anyone wants to volunteer, contact Me or Dad.

As my tenure of Archery Marshal comes to an end, I bid you be kind to the incoming marshal. He is old and fragile.(hee hee hee)

We had a bowyers at the end of June, and if anyone needs any additional help with repairs or such, let me know and we can arrange something to help.

In Service to the Dream

Lady Vivian

A&S Minister

Greetings unto the Populace,

It is that time of the year again. I hope everyone is planning to enter the A& S competition at Lughnasad. We are having the usual subjects of competition, and documentation is not required but entries will be given extra consideration if it is included. This includes the children's competition as well. In addition we are having the "Not Quite Period" again this year. Remember this is for the items that look great but just don't make the cut on period timing. It was very popular last year and we had a lot of fun with it.

The prizes will be one for Judges Choice and one for Populace vote in both the regular competitions and one for the Populace vote for the "Not Quite Period" competition.

As this is my last missive as your A & S Minister, I would like to thank everyone for your participation and support in the last two years. I really appreciate all the class suggestions and am sorry that I could not manage to arrange all of them. Also, I would like to thank my deputy, Lord Terrence, who has been my right hand man (literally). Last year he stepped in at Lughnasad and was my legs and made all the court presentations for me. In addition I would like to thank those of you who opened your homes for meetings and classes, whether you were there or not, in some cases. It was greatly appreciated.

At this time I cannot introduce my replacement since I have not been informed as yet, who it will be. But I would ask you to give him/her all the support I have received and more, if possible.

Yours in service,
Lady Bicé di Pietro

Chronicler

Greetings, Loch Ruadh.

I hope all of you enjoy having the Scarlet Letter available online.

Submissions for the next issue will be due by August 20.

In Service,

Floria Blackdragon

The SCA According to Padraig
Speaking Forsoothly
Part Five

Pádraig Ruad Ó Maolagáin

Hail, and well met!

This set of lessons is a compilation of online lessons 20 through 25, dealing with numbers and measures. Many numerical references are the same or similar to our modern way of expression, while others are slightly different, and some very odd to the modern ear, but which give a particularly Period flavor to an expression.

Lesson 20

Numbers and Measures - 1

Age: Up to age 20, ages were expressed as we are familiar with them; five years old, ten years old, fifteen years old. After age 20, however, it was customary to use the “long” form; that is, you are five-and-twenty (25) or eight-and-thirty (38), but you would never use the form “thirty-and-five”. This applies not only to people, but also to the age of objects and to spans of years:

The days of our years are threescore-and-ten.
She hath reached the venerable age of nine-and-fifty.
For three-and-twenty years have we dwelt in this land.

Never express number from 11 to 19 in the form “ten-and-number”, as this is a form used when enumerating money. “Ten-and-six” means 10 shillings 6 pence. “Six-and-ten” means 6 shillings 10 pence. (More on money in a future lesson.)

Clock time may be expressed as:

Two o'clock
Two of the clock
Quarter past/half past two
A quarter to three
The second hour past midday

As the day was divided up into “watches” (generally three eight-hour watches to a day), time was sometimes referred to by the hour of the watch (although for this to make sense, it must first be agreed upon when each watch begins - example: morning or day watch – 8:00am, evening watch – 4:00pm, and night watch – midnight):

The first hour of the morning watch (8:00am)
The third hour of the evening watch (7:00pm)

The last hour of the night watch (7:00am)

Numbers were often written in lower case Roman numerals, with the last “i” in a number written as a “j”, such as *vij* for 7.

Lesson 21

Number and Measures – 2

Weights

16 drams/drachms = 1 ounce (oz.)
16 ounces = 1 pound (lb.)
14 pounds = 1 stone (st.)
2 stone = 1 quarter (qtr.)
4 quarter = 1 hundredweight (cwt.)
20 hundredweight = 1 ton (t.)

Lesson 22

Number and Measures – 3

Length/Width

Poppyseed - $\frac{1}{4}$ of a barleycorn
Barleycorn - Basic Anglo-Saxon unit, the length of a corn of barley, about $\frac{1}{3}$ inch
Digit – $\frac{3}{4}$ inch
Finger - $\frac{7}{8}$ inch
Ynch, Inch - Anglo Saxon inch, 3 barleycorns
Nail - 3 digits = $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches = $\frac{1}{16}$ yard
Palm - 3 inches
Hand - 4 inches
Shaftment - Width of the hand and outstretched thumb, $6\frac{1}{2}$ ynches before 1066, 6 inches thereafter.
Span - Width of the outstretched hand, from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger, 3 palms = 9 inches.
Foot - Usually 13 ynches. Shortened to 12 Roman inches after 1066.
Cubit - Forearm, 18 inches
Yard - Introduced after 1066, 3 feet = 36 inches.
Ell - Elbow, 20 nails = $1\frac{1}{4}$ yard or 45 inches. (Mostly for measuring coth and clothing)
Fathom - From one fingertip to the other, 6 feet.
Rod - Saxon gyrd measuring stick, 20 “natural feet”. Re-defined as $16\frac{1}{2}$ Roman feet after 1066, but was the same

length.

Chain - four linear *rods*. So called for the length of surveyor's chain used to measure distances.

Furlong - "One plough's furrow long" (Saxon furrow is furh), the distance a plough team could be driven without rest. Standardized to 660 feet, 40 rods or ten chains.

Mile - Originally the Roman mile of 5000 feet. In 1592 it was extended to 5280 feet to make it an even number of furlongs (8).

League - Usually three miles. Represented an hour's walk.

Lesson 23

Number and Measures – 4

Area

* Perch - one *rod*, when referring to length; one square *rod* when referring to area; one *rod* by one foot by a foot and a half when referring to volume (usually for masonry stone-work)

* Acre - area of land one *chain* (four *rods*) in width by one *furlong* in length. The *furlong* could vary in length from country to country, and so did the *acre*. In England an *acre* was 4,840 square yards, in Scotland 6,150 square yards and in Ireland 7,840 square yards. It is a Saxon unit, meaning *field*. Probably meant to be "as much area as could be plowed in one day".

* Rood - one quarter of an *acre*, confusingly sometimes called an acre itself. One *furlong* in length by one *rod* in width, or 40 square *rods*.

* Carucate - an area equal to that which can be ploughed by one eight-oxen team in a single year (sometimes called a *plough* or *carve*). Approximately 120 *roods*.

* Bovate - the amount of land one ox can plough in a single year (sometimes called an oxgate). Approximately 15 *roods* or one eighth of a *carucate*.

* Virgate - the amount of land a pair of oxen can plough in a single year. Approximately 30 *roods* (sometimes called *yard land*).

Lesson 24

Number and Measures – 5

Volume

* Mouthfull - about 1/2 ounce

(NOTE: This is obviously NOT an Irish Bard mouthfull)

* Jigger - 2 mouthfulls, or about 1 ounce

* Jack or Jackpot - 2 jiggers

* Gill or Jill - 2 jacks

* Cup - 2 gills

* Pint - 2 cups

* Quart - 2 pints

* Pottle or Half Gallon - 2 quarts

* Gallon - 2 pottles

* Peck - 2 gallons

* Half Bushel - 2 pecks

* Bushel - 2 half bushels

* Cask, Strike, or Coomb - 2 bushels

* Barrel - 2 casks

* Hogshead - 2 barrels

* Butt or Pipe - 2 hogsheads (and now you know how big a buttload is)

* Tun - 2 butts (A tun is a ton) A Tun is approximately 2,048 lbs, but is a fair estimate given that the weight and volume can be derived all from mouthfulls of water.

Lesson 25

Number and Measures – 6

Administrative units

* Hide - four to eight *bovates*. A unit of yield instead than area, measuring the amount of land needed to support a single household for growing and tax purposes.

* Knight's Fee - five hides. A *knight's fee* was expected to equip one soldier for a knight's retinue for war.

* Hundred or Wapentake - 100 *hides* grouped for enumeration and record keeping.

Shakespearian words/phrases to use:

Plight – To pledge, as in giving an assurance.

“Plight me your word, that this matter shall remain between but the two of us.”

Shoon – Shoes

“Shoulds't thou go about with no shoon, here amongst the briars?”

Barm – the head, or froth, on beer and ale.

“Mind that there be not an overabundance of barm upon my mug.” (Note: The barm off a brewing of beer or ale was often used to leaven bread.)

Catch – a song

“The minstrel doth decry his catch, and many are enthralled.”

Hale – Haul or drag

“Hale him forth, that I may confront him face to face!”

Obscured course – A secret, or disguised way of life.

“To keep safe his guilt, he doth proceed upon an obscured course.”

Kingdom Calendar

July 2007 (A.S. XLII)

- 6-8 Coronation - TBA
- 13-15 King's Round Table - TBA
- 20-22 Queen's Champion - TBA
- 27-29 Steppes Artisan - Steppes (Dallas, TX)
Out of Kingdom: Pennsic 36

August 2007 (A.S. XLII)

- 3-5 Westgate Winter Collegium - Westgate (South west Houston, TX)
Out of Kingdom: Pennsic 36
- 10-12 Lughnasad - Loch Ruadh (Benbrook/ Weatherford, TX)
Out of Kingdom: Pennsic 36
- 17-19 Ansteorran Heraldic and Scribal Symposium - Moonschadowe (Stillwater, OK)
Lady of the Lake III - Am Loch (Borger, TX)
- 24-26 Fall Event - Gate's Edge (North Houston, TX)

September 2007 (A.S. XLII)

- 31-2 Battle of the Pines XXIII - Graywood (Lufkin/ Nacogdoches, TX)
Gothic Wars XV (31st -3rd) Bonwicke (Lubbock, TX)
- 7-9 Laurel's Prize Tourney - TBA
- 14-16 Defender of the Fort - Raven's Fort (Huntsville, TX)
Moonschadowe Guardian XXVII - Moonschadowe (Stillwater, OK)
- 21-23 Elfsea Defender XXVI - Elfsea (Fort Worth, TX)
Shadowlands Remembers - Shadowlands (Bryan/College Station, TX)
- 28-30 Bryn Gwlad Baronial Event - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)

October 2007 (A.S. XLII)

- 5-7 Crown Tournament - TBA (Coastal Region)
- 12-14 Namron Protectorate - Namron (Norman, OK)
Tourney by the Loch - Loch Solleir (Clear Lake, TX)
Quest for the Round Table - Tir Medoin (Rockdale/Temple, TX)
- 19-21 Deeds of Heroes - Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)
- 26-28 Samhain Celebration - Eldern Hills (Lawton/Ft. Sills, OK)
Seawinds Defender - Seawinds (Corpus Christi, TX)

For more information: www.ansteorra.org or www.sca.org



Floria Blackdragon
(Crystal Dozier)
5832 Lyle St.
Fort Worth, TX 76114



The Shire of Loch Ruadh invites one and all to

Lughnasad

*Celtic Celebration of the Harvest
August 10-12, 2007*

*Canton First Monday Trade Days
Canton, TX*

Activities will include competitions in A&S, Chivalric, Rapier, Archery,
Knife, Axe & Spear Throw, and Loch Ruadh Titled Bard.

Youth activities will include A&S, Bardic, Archery, Rapier, Boffer,
and the Donnybrook (waterball meleé).

Warm Weather Feast Menu

cold sliced meats
vegetable salad
pea salad
carrot sticks
cheeses
bread and butter
frozen fruits

Site Fee:

\$11.00 per adult
plus \$3.00 non member surcharge if applicable

\$9.00 per child 13-17

\$5.00 per child 6-12

5 and under free

Feast included in site fee.

\$33.00 family maximum.

Non member surcharge not included in family maximum.

Autocrats:

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Lord Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain
(Sam Milligan)
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Feastocrats:

Lady Katheryn Margarete
de Reyes & Lady Fiona
inghean ui Mheadhra
(Cat Gallon and Pamela Boles)
feastocrat@lochruadh.org

Merchantcrat:

Lady Sybil O'Dowd
(Donna Floyd)
merchantcoordinator@lochruadh.org

Make checks payable to:

SCA, Inc./Shire of Loch Ruadh.

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may attend with a 21 year or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver Form from the parents.

Site opens at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and closes at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Site is wet in period containers.

Pets must be on a leash and attended at all times.

Directions:

Make your best way to I-20 about an hour east of Dallas.
From I-20 take exit 526. Go south on FM 859 approx 1.2 miles
to the west gate entrance.

Site has shaded camping with water, electric outlets, showers,
and flush toilets.

