



The Scarlet Letter

Shire of Loch Ruadh



January/February
(A.S. XLII) (C.E. 2008)



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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, photograph, poem, artwork, etc.

This is the Jan/Feb 2008 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.

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Loch Ruadh Web Page:

<http://www.lochruadh.org>

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.

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Seneschal

Greetings!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. It is my pleasure to announce that Rolf Sewardson will be our new Knight Marshall beginning in mid January, and that Floria Blackdragon will continue as Chronicler for the next two years. Please join me in thanking Floria and Kaz for their service in these offices and in welcoming Rolf and Floria (she just can't stay away!).

There is a Gulf War Gate trip fast approaching on the weekend of January 18-20. This will be the last trip before Gulf War and we need a good push to get the Gate completed. If you can volunteer your time to help out your Shire please let me know. We need as many able bodied folks as possible to help. Many hands make light work, and an awesome Gate!

And speaking of Gulf War please remember that the deadline for pre-registration if you are planning to camp with Loch Ruadh is January 16th. When you are done registering, give a copy of your registration along with your tent size(s) to the Camp Coordinator Rolf to aid him in planning.

Happy 2008!

In Service,
Brigid Nic Seward
Seneschal

Archery

We are holding strong with the usual Seven. Only one practice in December with a mad dash to Cabella's afterward. See what you missed.

Our next practice will be on January 6th at 1:30 P.M. CST.

I am pleased to announce that the Loch Ruadh archers won the marshmallow archery championship at Yule Revel. The fact that we were the only ones who had marshmallow bows is beside the point. It was a total massacre. Even the King got shot.

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri, Archery Marshall

Exchequer

Happy New Year Loch Ruadh!

The new year is upon us and the old year holds many memories. The new itemized budget is in effect for the new year. As always I appreciate how everyone spends their budget wisely.

I wish everyone luck in their New Years Resolutions and a prosperous New Year.

Your Exchequer,
Antonia Visconti

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Hope everyone had a nice holiday season! I'd like to start off by recognizing our award recipients from Dragonsfire Tor Yule Revel, former Minister of Arts and Science Honorable Lady Bice' de Pietro who received the Iris of Merit, and our friend Honorable Lord Polydore Pike who received the Star of Merit. I am hoping I have that correct as I'm having problems with my computer locking up when I go to see the "official" information.

Upcoming events for A&S are still in the planning stages as of this writing. I am hoping for the visit to Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth to see the Early Christian Art exhibit that runs until March. I am hoping to schedule this for January or February. I am also looking to find a teacher and schedule a nallbinding class for an A&S activity.

I would also like to remind everyone to be on the look-out, or if you prefer, begin making prizes for Lughnasad! I will accept prize donations anytime from now on, so if you see something that is appropriate, please donate! I am especially anxious for children's prizes as these are often a problem.

Thanks once again for all that you do and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, problems, or requests!

Terrence ad te Syke
MoAS Loch Ruadh

Chamberlain

Greetings from the Chamberlain,

Happy New Year!! I want to thank everyone for their help in updating and correcting the Shire inventory this past year. Getting Shire equipment inventoried was a big accomplishment and I could not have completed the task without your help.

Loch Ruadh Library news:

The library is in the final inventory stage. A "complete" list should be available on the Shire website in the near future.

The books and the Compleat Anachronist inventory have been completed. I will be tackling the Tournaments Illuminated soon.

I would like to thank Laird Caerell for his generous donation of 9 copies of the Compleat Anachronist. His donation includes issue numbers 108 through 116. Speaking of donations...check your personal library, maybe you have tired of or are no longer interested an A&S subject, have changed your persona, have read all you want to read on a particular time period or you received a duplicate for Christmas...the Loch Ruadh library will gladly take those books off your hands. You can bring them to a meeting or call me and arrangements to get them into our library will be accomplished.

Now we need bookshelves to contain and display the library. The Officers will be looking into purchasing or making bookshelves in the near future. If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions about bookshelves contact the Seneschal or attend the January Officer's meeting.

Yours in service,
Dana, keeper of the stuff

Hospitaler

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

We have several people contacting us about the group. We have had a few of them join us at activities, please make them feel welcome. There is not a lot going on currently because of the holidays and the busy event schedule for January. If you know a newcomer please let them know that we have items to loan them. I look forward to the New Year.

In Service,
Lady Aingéal

Herald

Greetings all!

As year's end approaches, I'd like everyone take a minute to go outside, anywhere outside where you can just stand for a minute without answering any questions or making a decision or intervening in some squabble, a minute for you.

Look up and whether its a star or a tree or a cloud, look at the first thing your eyes land on. Take a deep breath and let your mind wander, contemplating this simple moment in which you are doing essentially NOTHING. Savor this minute and remember it well, for it will probably be your last until after Gulf Wars.

When you are finished wasting precious time, get back inside and consult with the Unocular Oracle and take a look at <http://heraldry.ansteorra.org/gazette/>.

The Ansteorran Gazette is a monthly newsletter for the heralds and scribes of Ansteorra, available at this site in PDF format, which can be viewed with Adobe Acrobat reader, among others. It can also be subscribed to as a paper newsletter at a nominal charge.

A bit of the internal workings of SCA heraldry is in order. Those who wish to register names or devices/arms send their submissions to the Asterisk Herald, generally through their local herald, who has hopefully done conflict checking and some basic verification that the research presented by the member is in good order. Please note that this does not necessarily be that the research is factually correct, only that the forms are filled out correctly and glaring problems are filtered out.

Asterisk, Ansteorra's Head Honcho Herald creates an Internal Letter of Intent (ILoI) to register those items. The ILoI is published in the Gazette to generate commentary by the heraldic community, which is basically people who enjoy such things cross checking all entries from their various and occasionally divergent points of view. It is in this commentary process that most heraldic problems are discovered and often suggestions are made to correct them. This commentary is published in a later Gazette, as is a list of those items which passed this Kingdom-level check and were passed on to the SCA-wide Laurel level in a external Letter of Intent (LoI), where it may still be subject to further analysis before being passed or returned. These final results are also published, as an excerpt of the Ansteorran

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items of the Laurel Letter of Acceptances and Returns (LoAR).

So basically, if you only want to check one place to follow the registration process of your name or device, this is it. Each issue has new submissions which may or may not have comments attached, recent submissions which have generated comment, a copy of the submissions which were passed on to Laurel (the SCA Head Honcho Herald) and the items passed or returned by Laurel.

The entire submission process typically takes 9 to 12 months, and the Gazette is published monthly and so is a great way to track the process.

So, very shortly, we should see comment there about the resubmission of Kaz's arms, which is really all the new Heraldic News I have for this month.

Until we meet again,

Robartach O'Sluaghain

Knight Marshal

Greetings Good Gentles,

This is my last Scarlet Letter Submission to you. As of Coronation in January, my Warrant will expire and I am not renewing it. I have decided to use my final posting as a sort of "State of the Office" update.

I have enjoyed my tenure in the office, with a few exceptions. I was, and continue to be, disappointed with the lack of participation at practice. I know that we all have busy lives, but I moved up to two practices a month to allow more chances to attend. I believe (without checking my records) that over the last year, our greatest turnout was six fighters at one practice, with the average being two or three. It is not possible to improve by fighting the same person(s) constantly. We need more participation on a regular basis. I hope that when a new Knight Marshal is Warranted, support for them will be greater.

The condition of the Shire loaner armor is "unusable". I have tried to make repairs on a few items, but we still were unable to outfit a newcomer in October. Whenever possible, we will need to get together and make repairs or replace the majority of the equipment before we can safely allow a newcomer to use it. I believe that we possess enough armor for two complete sets and a portion of a third. It will probably take a long work day of sev-

eral people to complete on safe set. We could also use a rattan sword or two. We have mostly pole and mass weapons. As we all know, all potential fighters start with sword and board to get authorized and move on to other weapons later.

In closing, I just want to remind everyone that where ever your interest lie in the SCA, heavy fighting is what attracts most newcomers. It is arguably the most visible and exciting activity that a newcomer will see that will spark interest and questions. I think that as our numbers at practice have declined, so too have our numbers of new members. Whether we want to admit it or not, we, as a Shire, are aging faster than we want to admit. It takes me longer to set up camp every time I attend an event. Helping load and unload the Shire's tables and equipment takes longer than it used to. If we are to survive and grow as a Shire and enjoy the SCA as much as we would like to, we must attract new, young members. The easiest way to attract these youngsters is by having an active and vibrant fighting community. I hope we can get back to supporting and participating in the Martial Activities; chivalric, rapier and archery.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past year,
Lordy Lord Kazimierz of Loch Ruadh
Outgoing Knight Marshal of Loch Ruadh

Chronicler

Greetings Loch Ruadh!

I have enjoyed being the Chronicler for the Shire for the past year. Thank you for all the support you have given the Chronicler's Office. I hope your next Chronicler does a better job than I did.

In Service,
Floria Blackdragon

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Greetings Loch Ruadh!

It is with great anticipation that I begin a new term as Chronicler for the Shire. I am looking forward to it. If you have any suggestions for improving the newsletter, please feel free to let me know. I am going to try and do a better job than the previous Chronicler.

In Service then and now,
Floria Blackdragon

The SCA According to Padraig
Speaking Forsoothly
Part Eight

Thee and Thine versus You and Yours

Pádraig Ruad Ó Maolagáin

Art thou confounded still over the proper usage of thee, thy, thine and thou? Thou art not alone in this broil, dear friends, and I shall attempt to make the matter less murky for thee in this installment of Speaking Forsoothly.

As we have discussed before, the exposure that most people have to “speaking forsoothly” comes from the King James Bible and the works of the Bard of Stratford-Upon-Avon, William Shakespeare. Familiarity with these works, as it may be somewhat limited, has caused a common confusion, in that “thee and thou” are thought to be the formal methods of address, whereas “you” is the intimate or informal method. The fact that God and Jesus Christ are addressed as “thee” seems to support this idea.

This is not the case, however; rather, “you” is the formal address, and “thee” the informal. In the King James Bible, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are addressed in the informal, familiar mode, indicating the personal relationship between the believer and the Godhead. But while one would address God with the personal “thee”, one had better address the earthly king or queen with the formal “you”, lest the sovereign take offence at such a display of over familiarity.

Now that we have established the formal and informal modes of address, let’s re-confuse the issue by bringing in the use of “ye”, and of “you” when addressing more than one person. Here is a review of the examples of ye, thee, thy, thine, thou, you and yours from lesson 10:

Thou wast in the pavilion. (one person, subject)
Ye were in the pavilion. (several people, subject)
I saw thee in the pavilion. (one person, object)
I saw you in the pavilion. (several people, object)
That is thy tent. (one person, possessive)
That is your tent. (several people, possessive)
That tent is thine. (one person, predicate possessive)
That tent is yours. (several people, predicate possessive)

Note that “ye” is used in place of “you” when there is more than one person and it is the subject of the verb (“Ye were”) – think “y’all” or maybe “all y’all”. When

multiple people are the object of the sentence, “you” is the proper form (“I saw you”). If the group of people is in possession of an object, use “your” (“That is your tent”). When stating that something belongs to more than one person, “yours” is the proper term (“That tent is yours”).

Clear as mud so far? Good. Let us cite more examples.

When speaking with a friend, family member, person of equivalent or lower station, one might inquire, “How dost thou this day?” When speaking with a noble, or anyone of a higher station, the question would take the form “How fare you this day, milord?”

Giving directions to a passing knight, one would say, “You must ride past the mill yonder to come to the ford in the river, Sir Knight.” Guiding one’s cow to the river to drink, however, the beast might be encouraged to keep moving with “Get thee down past the mill, now, Bessie.”

And although one addressed the Savior in the intimate mode (“Thine is the power and glory, Lord Jesus”), in Medieval times, the Church was just slightly lower in the social hierarchy than the nobility, and therefore God’s representatives on Earth were addressed formally (“I have brought your goblet, milord Bishop”).

The use of “thou” also modifies verbs, using the endings “st” or “th” (although this is not the only case for using these endings). “You were there” becomes “Thou wast there”, “Your brother throws stones” becomes “Thy brother throweth stones”, “She gives you a book” becomes “She giveth thee a book”. Again, much of this depends upon the formality of the situation: “The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away”, but “The Baron gives his people coins”.

One scholar notes that by King James’ time, it is believed that the “th” ending on verbs was actually pronounced “ess” rather than “eth”, and that the spelling eventually followed the sound. I feel that adhering this would remove much of the charm of trying to speak forsoothly, so I recommend that you use the “eth” instead of the “ess” sound.

Pop quiz: Try to decide where and whether to use “thee, thy, thou, thine and ye” in the short paragraph below. Or you can do it the easy way and look at the

answer.

Did I see you and your friend Bjorn at the tournament last weekend? It looked like you were walking toward the list field. Were you carrying armor? I thought I saw you holding a helm, and that you were going to enter the tourney. Was the armor his or yours? I didn't know that you had your own armor.

Now, at least try to make the substitutions before you look at the answer. Don't worry if you don't get the verb forms exact; this is an exercise in using the different forms of "thee".

Answer to quiz:

Did I see thee and thy friend Bjorn at the tournament

last weekend? It looked like ye were walking toward the list field. Wast thou carrying armor? I thought I saw thee holding a helm, and that thou wert going to enter the tourney. Was the armor his or thine? I didn't know that thou hadst thine own armor.

Like any other art, there are several places in the pop quiz paragraph where the form could be rendered differently, but this is one good example. Also like any other art, you can only improve if you put it into practice and work on it. Try speaking forsoothly for a short time each day, and attempt to translate something you are reading into a forsooth mode. Thou shalt be amazed at how quickly it becomes as second nature to thee, and soon forsooth speech shall runneth drippingly off thine tongue as though thou wast a companion of the Bard himself.

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Loch Ruadh's Meeting Places

Populace Meeting

IHOP

5920 Quebec Street
Fort Worth, TX 76135

Officer's Meeting

IHOP

3700 Alta Mesa
Fort Worth, TX 76133

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

Lord Padraig Ruadh

O'Maolagain

3808 Arroyo Dr
Weatherford, TX 76087
817-559-4192

Lady Vivian's

9312 Rhea Cort
White Settlement, TX 76108
817-367-6709

Events in Loch Ruadh

January

- Wed 2 - Populace Meeting 7:30 pm
- Wed 16 - Officer's Meeting 7:30 pm
- Sun 20 - Archery Practice 1:30 pm
- Fri 18- Sun 20 - Gulf War Gate Trip
- Mon 21 - Scribes and Illuminators - Alric and Fiona's 7:30 pm
- Sat 26 - Bardic - Lady Vivian's 7:30 pm

February

- Sat 2 - I Survived the Holidays Party - Lord Padraig's 7:30 pm
- Sun 3 - Archery & Fighter Practice 1:30 pm
- Wed 6 - Populace Meeting 7:30 pm
- Sun 17 - Archery & Fighter Practice 1:30 pm
- Wed 20 - Officer's Meeting 7:30 pm

An Archers Psalm

Oh, Lord I am an archer and a really bad shot
You have me search green pastures to find lost shafts
I am led right past them and still do not see
You guide me long away from the target, though
I know they could not be that far!!
Yea, though I walk through the valley of shadowy
grass, I will find no arrow, cause I am a bad shot

Vivian McKinnon

Kingdom Calendar

January

- 4-6 Elfsea and Steppes 12th Night - Steppes (Dallas, TX)
Bonwicke's 12th Night - Bonwicke (Lubbock, TX)
- 11-13 Coronation - Rosenfeld (Tyler, TX)
- 18-20 King's Round Table - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)
- 25-27 Queen's Champion - Namron (Norman, OK)

February

- 1-3 Candlemas - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)
- 8-10 Kingdom A&S - Northkeep (Tulsa, OK)
- 12-18 Out of Kingdom - Estrella XXIV - Atenveldt
(Florence, AZ)
- 15-17 A Day at the Grand Melees - Raven's Fort
(Huntsville, TX)
- 22-24 King's Lancer/Coastal Invasion - Seawinds
(Corpus Christi, TX)
- Winter War Maneuvers and Northern Regional
Tribute - Northern Region (Stillwater, OK)

March

- 29-2 Academy of Defense 3 - Bjornsborg
(San Antonio, TX)
- 7-9 Out of Kingdom - Gulf War XVII (9-16) -
Gleann Abhann
- 14-16
- 21-23 Out of Kingdom - Calontir Coronation - TBD
- 28-30 Emerald Tourney - Emerald Keep (Waco, TX)

April

- 4-6 Crown Tournament - Elfsea (Ft. Worth, TX)
- 11-13 Defender of the Flame - Glaslyn (Denton, TX)
Shadowlands Spring Thing - Shadowlands
(Bryan/ College Station, TX)
- 18-20 Stargate Baronial - Stargate (Houston, TX)
Wiesenfeuer Baronial Championship -
Wiesenfeuer (Oklahoma City, OK)
- 25-27 Champions of Bonwicke - Bonwicke (Lubbock, TX)
Bordermarch Baronial Champions XXXI -
Bordermarch (Beaumont, TX)
Guardian of the Tor XVII - Dragonsfire Tor
(Stephenville, TX)



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