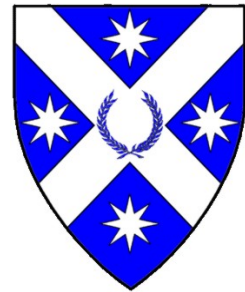


THE NORTHERN SENTINEL

Newsletter of the Principality of Tir Righ, in the Kingdom of An Tir



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The Royal Progress of Their Royal Highnesses, Prince Ulfgar and Princess Renée

- August 28-30 Tir Righ August Investiture, Danescombe
- September 4-7 An Tir September Crown, Terra Pomaria
- September 11-13 Odin's Playground, Lionsdale
- September 18-20 Border War, Wealdsmear
- September 25-27 Tir Righ September Coronet, Seagirt
- October 9-12 Tournament of the Golden Swan, Appledore
- October 17-18 Freeze-Off, Ramsgaard
- October 24 Tir Righ A&S, Branch TBA

ROYAL PROGRESS

A Message from Their Royal Highnesses, Prince Ulfgar and Princess Renée

Greetings unto the populace of Tir Righ from Tanist Ulfgar and ban-Tanist Renée

We were honored and excited to have the opportunity to ascend the thrones of Tir Righ at the end of August! It is a pleasure to serve Tir Righ in this capacity and We would like to thank all of those who are making it possible for Us to reign over the next six months.

Most of all, We thank you, the people of Tir Righ, for sharing in this adventure with Us. In this issue, please find the contact information for Our retinue, and Our progress of events we plan to attend over the next few months.

We'll see you there!



Behind the Scenes: The Retinue



HL Arianna Freemont, Head of Retinue
arianna_freemont@telus.net



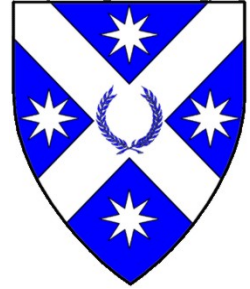
Maitresse Yolande Chastellain, Royal Liaison
damozel@shaw.ca



HL Aine inghean ui Chonchobhair, Royal Secretary
chassegalerie@yahoo.com

(Picture unavailable at time of publication)

HL Talia banu Kabeelah, Court Liaison
jendakotah@hotmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

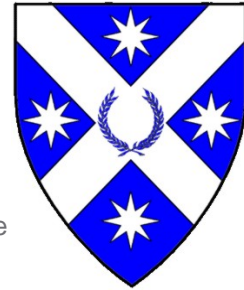
The Schedule...

- Sept 11 - 13Odin's Playground
Shire of Lionsdale, (Aldergrove, BC)
- Sept 18 - 20Holmgang Tournament,
Shire of Krakenfjord (Vernon, BC)
- Oct 9 - 12Tournament of the Golden Swan,
Shire of Appledore (Okanagan Valley south
of Penticton)

- **This event will be held in Cawston, BC
- Oct 17-28Freezeoff Tournaments &
Banquet, Shire of Ramsgaard
(Kamloops, BC)
- Nov 7.....Hunters Harvest Feast
Coill Mhor (100 Mile House, BC)

The details of these events are on the following pages...

Odin's Playground
September 11-13, 2009
Shire of Lionsdale Aldergrove, BC



Out of the morning mist, a solitary figure steps forth and raises her voice, invoking the All-Father. Her song rises to Valhalla, calling the gods of Asgard to hear her sing the word-fame of those who would be Odin's Chosen.

Join the Shire of Lionsdale for their third biennial Odin's Playground on September 11-13, AS 44 (2009). Enjoy armored combat, target and combat archery, A&S, Skaldic, family and children's activities, UTR classes, merchants, Enchanted Ground and a potluck feast!

Event Stewards: THL Elspeth Selwode and Hlaford Wulfstan Hrafnsson (Mellissa and Rick Kimberley)
odins.stewards@gmail.com;
 604-792-4335 (no calls after 9 PM, please);
 46675 Andrews Ave,
 Chilliwack, BC V2P 7A2

Site Information: Brondell Farm
 25133 - 0 Ave.
 Aldergrove, BC V4W 2H4

Site times:
 Opens: September 11, 2009 @ 4:00 PM
 Closes: September 13, 2009 @ 3:00 PM

The site is a working farm, please be respectful of the owners and property. There is no potable water or electricity on site. Please pack out your garbage. Amenities within 10 minutes.

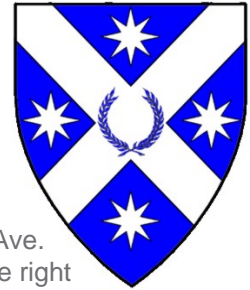
Site fees:
 (*\$3 NMS in effect for non-member adults) All fees in CDN funds. USD accepted at par.
 Adults (19+) - \$15
 Youth (13-18) - \$10
 Children (12 and under) - FREE
 Family cap (2 adults, modern family) - \$50

Make cheques payable to: Shire of Lionsdale

Feast Information:
 Please bring a dish to feed 8-10 adults.
 Breakdown by modern surname:
 A, B, Y, & Z: Cheese, Bread, Pickles, Butter, Buns
 C, W & X: Salads, Veggies
 D, M, T, U & V: Side Dishes
 E, F, N, R & S: Main Dishes
 G, H, O, P & Q: Cookies, Fruit, Nuts
 I, J, K & L: Other forms of Desserts

Merchants: Please email odins.stewards@gmail.com for more information.

Enchanted Ground: Those interested in period camping,
email odins.stewards@gmail.com for more info.



Directions:

From the east and west – From Hwy 1, take the 264th St. exit South. Turn right on 0 Ave. Drive approx. 4km, site is on the right. Follow driveway past buildings, parking is to the right before the bridge.

From the south – Take Hwy 539 (Guide Meridian Rd.) North to the Aldergrove border crossing. Once in Canada, turn left on 0 Ave. Drive approx. 2½ mi, site is on the right. Follow driveway past buildings, parking is to the right before the bridge.

Holmgang Tournament
September 18 – 20, 2009
Shire of Krakenfjord (Vernon, BC)

The Shire of Krakenfjord is pleased to announce that our Annual Holmgang Tournament is once again a camping event. Enjoy the infamous Holmgang Heavy Tournament (with all fights fought on a 6 ft x 6 ft cloak), a Rapier Tournament, Viking's Beard (axe throwing), Hunker Down tournament and evening Bardic.

Event Site: Cedar Falls Campground,
7063 Tillicum Rd.
Vernon BC

To reach the site, make your best way to Vernon, BC and follow the signs to Silver Star Mountain (the Ski Hill). You will be traveling East on 48th Ave. about 5 km up the hill turn right on Tillicum Road. The site is ahead about 1.5 km on the left. Site has hot showers and laundry facilities as well as a wonderful (short) hike to BX Falls.

Site Times: Opens: September 18, 2009 @ 5:00 pm
Closes: September 20, 2009 @ 1:00 pm

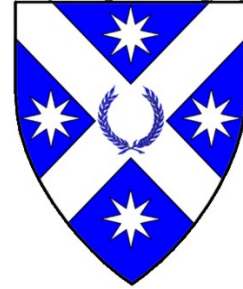
Site Fee: \$15 per person
Family Cap of \$50
Non-Members please as \$4 per person NMS.

Make cheques payable to "SCA Inc.– Shire of Krakenfjord"

Merchants: Merchants are welcome, there are no merchant fees (please contact the autocrat in advance).

Autocrat: HL Hengest, the Saxon (Mike Hamm)
3204 – 32nd Ave.
Vernon, BC V1T 2M5
(250) 503-7902
dirtsaxondog@yahoo.ca

The Twenty-Fifth Tournament of the Golden Swan
October 9 – 12, 2009
The Shire of Appledore, Okanagan Valley south of Penticton
 *(Event is in Cawston, BC)



The shire of Appledore invites all to join the estimable Ladies of the Golden Swan to celebrate scholarship and persona development. Golden Swan is a challenge for female personas. The purpose of which to foster knowledge of the lives of women in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Tournaments:

Armored - Saturday will be traditional Pas d'Arms, Sunday a Harvest Champion Tournament.

Rapier - Saturday prize Tournament, Sunday Second annual Cob's Championship Tournament.

There will be a fun RBG shoot Sunday so bring your weapons.

Two Feasts:

The first on Saturday is a formal catered Feast. The second on Sunday is a potluck featuring the Jawbone of the Ass competition.

Site Times: Opens: October 9, 2009 @ 4:00 PM
 Closes: October 12, 2009 @ 3:00 PM

Site Fees: Adult: Non-Member - \$20.00 - Member (discount) - \$17.00
 Youth (6-18) - \$10.00
 Under 6 - Free
 Family Cap - \$54.00 (+NMS if applicable)

Adult Day: Non-member - \$13.00 -- Member (discount) - \$10.00
 Youth Day: \$6.00
 Under 6 - Free
 Family Cap Day: \$32.00 (+NMS if applicable)
 (Discounted Member fees reflect NMS in effect for event)

Make cheques payable to SCA The Shire of Appledore

Feast Fees (Saturday evening) Pre-reg \$12 per person after October 1st \$15

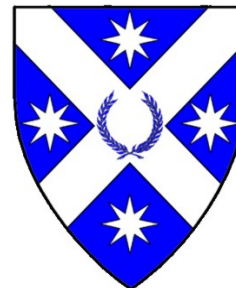
Please note our new location in Cawston, BC is camping friendly with a nice big hall to warm up in, some flush toilets/ running water. No showers but right next door to a small grocery /liquor store. Or if you want a shower the laundry mat in Keremeos is only 10 minutes drive away. **Site very discreetly damp.** Absolutely no pets allowed anywhere on site due to rental restrictions.

Autocrat: HL Glynne-Rose Wyndhaven (Glynne Wheeler)
 3018 Orchard Drive
 Keremeos, BC
 (250) 499-0008
glynne@telus.net

Co Autocrat: Mu'allima Habibi bit Macahara

Judging Coordinator: HL Olwen Pen Aur

Site: Cawston Community Hall
2119 Main Street,
Cawston



Directions: Make your best way to Cawston located on Hwy 3 between Keremeos and Osoyoos. At the Amber light (Coulthard Road) turn left from Osoyoos, right from Keremeos. Next left is Main Street. One block down on right side is a school located on the corner of VLA Road. Next building on right is hall.

<http://keremeos.net/cawston/map.html>

Freezeoff Tournaments & Banquet October 17-18, 2009 Shire of Ramsgaard (Kamloops, BC)

<http://gryphonhold.ramst.ca/freezeoff>

PRIZE TOURNEYS! VENETIAN BANQUET! UNIVERSITY OF TIR RIGH SESSION!

We are pleased to announce a new venue - Colombo Hall Italian Cultural Center, 814 Lorne Street, Kamloops, BC, styled to resemble an Italian Villa, plenty of room to host the event. Site opens 9:00 am each morning; closes midnight Saturday, 2:00 pm Sunday. University of Tir Righ Like to see specific classes at this session, or teach, please contact the Autocrat. See "Teacher's Discount".

Marshall Tournaments: Prize Tourneys for Heavy, Rapier and Archery. To host an additional tournament, contact the Autocrat. See website for details.

Arts & Sciences Tournaments:

Bardic Tournament - Two presentation pieces – (1) Period piece; (1) Written for Ramsgaard.

Arts – Representation of Shire in any format. (No overlap between Arts & Bardic competitions.)

Sciences – Engineering a Defense for the Shire; On-site competitions in the Gate hand-out. See website for details.

Day Food: Plowman's Lunch will be available on Saturday. Pauper's Breakfast on Sunday Morning for cleanup volunteers.

Banquet: Watch the website for the menu. Although the dining hall itself will hold a capacity of 400 persons, we will be selling only 200 tickets to the banquet so there's plenty of space to stretch out, host the Bardic tournament, games and dancing. We have a certified bartender during the banquet. (No outside alcohol - BC Liquor Laws)

Autocrat & Pre-Registration (deadline Sept 15th):

HL Giacinta Francesca Maria Cocchetti (Jennifer Baldes)

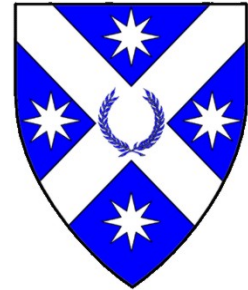
144 Anvil Cres.

Kamloops BC V2C 6E2

gryphonhold@ramst.ca

(250) 318-8273

Site Fees: Site w Banquet fee:
 Adults \$20.00 Day Fee \$ 5.00
 Ages 13-18 \$15.00 Family Cap \$60.00
 Ages 8-12 \$10.00
 7 and under Free
 NMS Fees \$ 3.00
 Merchant \$10.00 or prize donation
 Teacher Discount \$ 2.00



Make Cheques payable to "Shire of Ramsgaard"

**Hunters Harvest Feast
 November 7, 2009
 Shire of Coill Mhor (100 Mile House)**

The Shire of Coill Mhor invites the populace to a Hunters Harvest Feast. There will be merriment, singing, dancing, feasting, games, and many other medieval activities. Feast gear and table decorations provided (or bring your own).

Doors open at 5:00 pm. Feast starts at 6:00 pm. Event closes at 11:00 pm.

Shared crash space is available for \$5.00 per person and must be reserved by October 24, 2009. Contact the autocrats.

Site Fees: Feast tickets must be reserved by November 1, 2009
 Adult (age 17+): \$18 CDN, plus \$3.00 NMS if applicable
 Child (age 5 - 16): \$8.00
 Child (age 0 - 5): no charge
 Family Cap: \$58.00

Make Cheques to be made payable to "SCA Inc - Coill Mhor".

Autocrats:

Lady Elena of Coill Mhor (Shannon Miller)
 c/o Lord Guy Beaugrande de Champaign (Len Doucette),
 (250)791-6689
<mailto:gbeaugrande@gmail.com>

shanlee@bcinternet.net

(250)397-2835

Lady Rowyn of Lions Gate (Kate Adams)

kate_adams_2003@yahoo.ca

(250)397-2792

Site Info: 108 Community Hall
 4924 Telqua Drive
 108 Mile Ranch, BC
 See map at <http://www.108ranch.com/communityhall.html>

CHRONICLER'S CORNER

This issue (September AS XLIII) has been taken over by the incoming Chronicler, HL Giacinta Cocchetti of Ramsgaard.

I have very much enjoyed my time as Chronicler and wish HL Giacinta every success. Several months ago, Giacinta sent me a link to her blog, inviting me to publish any of her entries that might interest the Principality. I'm including an entry from March 10, as kind of an introduction. I will hope to see you all upon the Great North Road in months to come.

~Alienor Sanz-Argent

Will Wonders Never Cease?

THL Giacinta Cocchetti

Sometimes, when you least expect it, the smaller being in your house will show up and produce items or utter words that induce amazement in us, the older, more staid counterparts.

I was researching a portrait in preparation for making my husband a new outfit. The garment in question was a jacket in a portrait of Baldessare Castiglione

<http://www.elizabethan-portraits.com/BaldessareCastiglione.jpg>

I was having discussions with a group of Italian enthusiasts regarding the cut and construction of this particular garment. One of the ladies suggested that the jacket was in fact the top portion of a "Waffenrock" - an eastern European garment with skirting (almost like a jumper for men).

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raffael_089.jpg

One of the portraits she emailed the link to was of several young men taking a knee in reverence to a higher personage, possibly a king. The outfits, I have to admit, were quite nice. However, my husband decided that it just wasn't for him (he doesn't have the slender ankles necessary to pull it off anymore).

My son Liam, also known in the Society as Wilhelm de Glastonbury, came over to the computer to see what we were discussing.

Liam: "Why are they wearing swords?"

Me: "Because it's assumed this is a group of

young men who were guards or men-at-arms to this King."

Liam: "Why won't Stefan wear it?"

Me: "Because it has a skirt, honey."

Liam: "Hrm...if they can wear it and carry a sword, so could I...and it would look good in the velvet you just bought for me right?"

Now, I'm holding my breath - can it be?

Liam: "You could make that for me ya' know. I'd wear it. After all if it's ok for them, and they've got swords, then I'd wear it."

Jubilation!!! I have a son who likes to wear velvet and will wear a Waffenrock! (ok - wait, I'm excited about my son being willing to wear velvet and a skirt? I MUST be in the SCA!) So, my son is soon to be the proud owner of a Navy and Russet Waffenrock with yellow tights and Chocolate sleeves - he'll be wearing it at Daffodil this weekend.

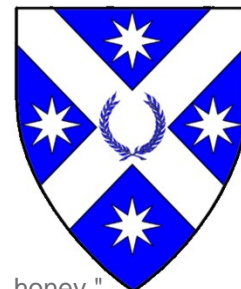
See? There's hope for every SCA seamstress out there!

SUBMISSIONS INFORMATION

This checklist is intended as an aid in the proper submission of event copy to "The Northern Sentinel". All copy for events at which official business is to take place must contain ALL of the information below for the enlightenment of the populace, legal, insurance, and tax purposes.

Required Items (must be included as a condition for publication)

- o Date of the event (day and month). If the event will not be held during the Common Era year noted on the front cover of the newsletter, the announcement must also include the Common Era year.



- The time of the event: when the site opens and closes
- The name of the sponsoring group
- The location (name, street address, and town) of the site. The postal code should also be included if available.
- The name (both society and modern) and address of the autocrat.
- If there is a fee being charged for the event, the statement "Makes cheques payable to "<Group Name>", (or "<SCA, Inc. – Group Name>" for US groups) must be included
- If there is a fee being charged for the event, the #3.00 Non-Member Surcharge must be included. (See Policy Below).

Other Items

- Official SCA Event Title (as your event will appear on the calendar)
- Modern Location (Use the town where the event site is located)

Non-Member Surcharge (NMS) Policy

- 1) The NMS will apply to events which meet the requirements defined in Corpora section II.C., "...Society events for which a full announcement including date, time, and place has been published in advance in the appropriate corporate publication;" and for which a fee or required donation to attend the event is charge.
- 2) The NMS will not be collected if there is no fee or required donation to attend the event is charged.
- 3) The NMS will not be collected for minors for whom there is a discounted event fee.

Submission Guidelines

All events must have an Event Information For (EIF) on file with the Kingdom (for Crown events) or Principality Calendar Deputy (<mailto:calendar@tirrigh.org>) for all other events.

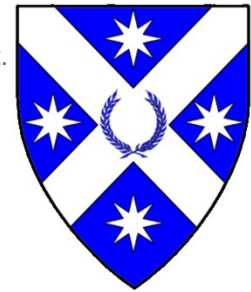
Copy Submissions

Send all electronic submissions to <mailto:chronicler@tirrigh.org> ONLY.

Deadline

Copy must be received (not postmarked) by the Sentinel Editor (see the back cover page for address information) by the 28th

day of the month, two months prior to your event. The event deadline does not change for Sundays and holidays, so please keep this in mind when planning.



Communications

Email is the preferred form of communication. The submissions address is <mailto:chronicler@tirrigh.org>. This address can also be used for communication directly with the Chronicler.

Artwork

Artwork is greatly appreciated and welcomed. It can be in color, sent in digital form or mailed in hard copy. Please note that hard copy artwork becomes the property of The Sentinel and will not be returned. The Editor reserves the right to adjust the dimensions, or present detailed portions of any artwork as deemed necessary to ensure it's fit into the format of the newsletter.

Listings

Listings may only be updated by the Principality Officers, with the exception of change of address/phone. All new local branch Seneschals, Chroniclers, and Chatelaines should send their Job Acceptance/Change of Officer form along with proof of membership to their Kingdom or Principality superior who will notify The Northern Sentinel Editor of the changes.

FUNDRAISING SURVEY

At the end of the newsletter is a copy of Sir Brand's Fundraising Survey. Please take a few minutes to fill this out and return it to him so that future plans can be influenced by your opinions!

Thanks!

HEED THE CALL

Postings for the Principality

The following Officer's positions are open within the Principality of Tir Righ. Please note the closing dates and the contact information for each posting if you are interested and contact them directly:

Governor, University of Tir Righ

I am looking for my successor to become the next Governor of the University of Tir Righ. If you are interested, please apply with a letter of application including your SCA resume to the current Head of the University and the Seneschal of Tir Righ.

The Governor of the University is a major office of the Principality of Tir Righ.

Regards,

Dame Magdalena Kress
Governor, University of Tir Righ

Rapier Marshal, Principality of Tir Righ

I am in search of a replacement Principality Rapier marshal as I must step down. Here is an opportunity to do some service for this great Principality! Applicants should be familiar with the new rule set and have been a senior marshal for at least 2 years, have good mediation skills, and good communication skills..

Responsibilities include quarterly reports, Marshalling Principality events, and mediating disputes. Warmongering can also be an asset. Applications should include why you would be a good choice and any information you think we should know. Full SCA resume is not required!

Please send any applications to <mailto:rapier@tirrigh.org>, <mailto:marshal@tirrigh.org>, <mailto:rapier@antir.org> and <mailto:prince@tirrigh.org>, <mailto:princess@tirrigh.org>.

I would like to make the deadline for applying the end of the month. If it is later it is not the end of the world.

Don Estaban Ferreiro

Chamberlain, Principality of Tir Righ

The Tir Righ Chamberlain is responsible for the physical (non-cash) assets of the Principality. This office has great accountability as many of the assets are quite valuable, and some are irreplaceable. The Chamberlain is a deputy, reporting to the Principality Exchequer.

Duties of the Chamberlain include:

- 1) Maintain and inventory Tir Righ's physical assets:
 - a. Royal Regalia, ensuring that a completed inventory form is completed when a new prince and princess are invested
 - b. Champions' Regalia, ensuring that a Champion's Regalia Acceptance Agreement is completed when a new Champion is Chosen
- 2) Maintain a secured storage facility for infrequently used or retired regalia, and for officers' files
- 3) In conjunction with the Tir Righ Financial Committee:
 - a. Order and maintain a sufficient supply of award tokens
 - b. Solicit bids for the repair or replacement of existing regalia items, or the creation of new ones

The Chamberlain is not a Royal Teamster, and is not expected to transport regalia or other Tir Righ property.

- o The successful candidate will have:
- o good administrative, communication (including email) and organization skills
- o a reasonably up-to-date computer with fast (not dial-up) Internet access
- o the ability to travel to the two Investiture Coronet Events, to ensure an orderly exchange of the Royal Regalia.

Interested parties should submit their SCA and modern resumes to Their Highnesses at <mailto:prince@tirrigh.org> and <mailto:princess@tirrigh.org>, to the Principality Seneschal at <mailto:seneschal@tirrigh.org>, and to the Principality Exchequer at <mailto:exchequer@tirrigh.org>.

Please also feel free to call me at 604-522-1255

or email me with questions about the office.

Deadline for applications is September Coronet - Sunday, September 27.

Dame Elena de Maisnilwarin, OP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Principality of Tir Righ
<mailto:exchequer@tirrigh.org>

Principality Exchequer

The Principality of Tir Righ is seeking candidates for the position of Chancellor of the Exchequer (Principality Exchequer). This office reports to the Kingdom of An Tir Chancellor of the Exchequer (Kingdom Exchequer), the Principality Seneschal(e) and the Prince and Princess. Tir Righ's Exchequer has three deputies: Contingency Deputy, NMS Deputy and Chamberlain.

The Principality Exchequer is a Greater Office of Tir Righ, and accordingly attendance at Tir Righ Coronet Events is required.

The Principality Exchequer is responsible for delivering and meeting deadlines for the following:

- 1) Prepare the quarterly and Domesday financial reports for the Principality of Tir Righ;
- 2) Receive and review quarterly and Domesday reports for Tir Righ branches;
- 3) Ensure that Tir Righ branches are up-to-date on submission of NMS by tracking and follow-up as needed (may be delegated);
- 4) Review Tir Righ branch Financial Policies and submit to the An Tir Kingdom Exchequer for approval;
- 5) Conduct reviews of Tir Righ branch books at least once every two years or when a branch office changes hands (may be delegated);
- 6) Notify Tir Righ branch exchequers of any changes in policy or procedure;
- 7) Serve as a subject matter expert for questions from the branch officers as well as the general populace;
- 8) Receive and forward to Kingdom Exchequer warrant requests for branch officers – exchequers and chamberlains;

This position requires good administrative and organization skills, good Excel, Word and email skills, dependable email, phone and voicemail access, and the ability to clearly communicate via email, phone, and in written reports. Prior experience as a branch exchequer is preferred but not required. Hours required will vary but expect to put in an average of 2 hours per week.

- The successful candidate also needs time
- o weekly and monthly to answer questions
 - o quarterly to receive and check branch reports and to prepare and submit Tir Righ's reports - a financial report, and a narrative on the branch statuses
 - o each February for Domesday reporting

As the Outgoing Officer, I would remain as a deputy to help you become familiar with all aspects of the office.

Interested parties should submit their SCA and modern resumes to Their Highnesses at <mailto:prince@tirrigh.org> and <mailto:princess@tirrigh.org>, to the Principality Seneschal at <mailto:seneschal@tirrigh.org>, and to the Principality Exchequer at <mailto:exchequer@tirrigh.org>

Please also feel free to call me at 604-522-1255 or email me with questions about the office.

Deadline for applications is September Coronet - Sunday, September 27.

Written this fourth day of September, AS XLIV

Dame Elena de Maisnilwarin, OP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Principality of Tir Righ
<mailto:exchequer@tirrigh.org>

LARGESSE: WHY WE DO IT

THL Elspeth Selwode
Tir Righ Chief Scribe
Lionsdale Scribe
Lionsdale Largesse Coordinator

Large What?

First off, you may be asking what exactly largesse is. It is not, as one friend put it, plus-size garb. Rather, it is a gift of the hand that is given to our sitting royals to be used as prizes, gifts to other royals or given to the populace at Their whim. It is often used to thank autocrats, retinue and others for their service. If you've ever been to court, you know the drill: the herald announces that (insert rank of nobility here) has a presentation to (insert rank of other nobility here). Then baskets are brought forth, fair teeming with handmade goodies that cause the recipients to ooh and ahh and hug each other. But have you ever gotten a good look at what's in those baskets? Handmade trim, glass beads, leatherwork, herbal sachets, pincushions, needle books, combs, lucets, painted boxes and needle cases – the list goes on.

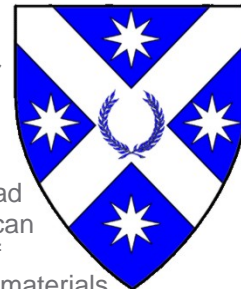
What Makes Good Largesse?

I'm so glad you asked me! I have discussed this with several royals and heads of retinue and every time it comes down to this: small, lightweight, unbreakable, easily transportable items are best. Anything with the populace badge of our principality or kingdom is usually good, too. Hey, even your branch badge! If your item utilizes colour, use your branch, principality or kingdom colours, or the stated favorite colours of the royals (that can be found on Their whims list on the appropriate websites).

Why Should I Make Largesse?

That's easy – because if you don't, the Royals have no gifts to give out and the dream that we try to re-create crumbles. I know that sounds dramatic, but think about it: would awards hold the same interest if there were no charters or necklaces to go with them, no outward symbol of the honors earned? Would medieval royals give

one another iPods and dollar store items? What would that do to your dream? We can't just go to Wal-Mart and pick up tablet-woven trim or lamp-worked beads of superior quality. We can't find mead at the grocery store (perhaps you can in Shittimwoode, but not the rest of Tir Righ). But we can find the raw materials to make something that looks like it walked out of a medieval tapestry or carving.



The best gifts are those you make yourself. I have been making gifts my whole life, ever since I could grasp the materials. And it has always given me a sense of satisfaction to be able to say, "Actually, I made it." The gifts I treasure most are ones that people made for me – my leather scissors case from my lord, my satchel from my best friend, the favor stitched for me to honor my parenting, sweaters, framed works. They are precious to me (okay, I can hear you impersonating Gollum – stop it).

My personal philosophy is this: I make things for people because it is a tangible expression of my esteem for the recipient. Every stitch, every brush stroke serves to honor the person for whom it's made. Do I always know who that is? No. But that's the point of largesse – to make something with care and love that the royals can then give to someone that They feel is worthy of such esteem.

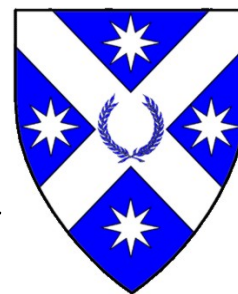
If that's not good enough for you, consider this: every royal peer I have spoken to about this subject has expressed how very much They appreciate what is given and how well it is received in other Kingdoms and Principalities. The quality of Tir Righ's craftsmanship is highly regarded throughout the Knowne World. These items go to Estrella, Gulf Wars, Pennsic and other large-scale inter-kingdom events.

So, What Can I Do?

Have you ever had some of your work in one of those baskets? I have and I can tell you, it gives me a sense of satisfaction to put a smile on someone's face.

You can have that same feeling, by following these three easy steps:

OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALITY



1. Contact Their Majesties' or Their Highnesses' Heads of Retinue and ask for suggestions. That's their job, after all. Sometimes, that Information will be on the Kingdom or Principality website, so a quick check there can save you some wait time. Emailing on or just after a major event weekend will increase that wait time, so be considerate of any delays in responding to your request.

2. Choose something you know how to do and make it. Make a few. Heck, make lots! A friend and I went a little nuts a few years ago and made 41 little pincushions, one for every year of the SCA's existence. Please, remember to label the item with what it is, materials used, what inspired it (ie. 14th century Turkish pottery urn drawing, etc.) and who made it. They want to know your name so that They can speak your word-fame.

3. Give said items to your branch largesse coordinator. If your branch doesn't have one, give it to the autocrat/event steward of the next event royals will be attending or give it to your seneschal. They'll make sure it goes to the right place.

Well, What Are You Waiting For?

Now that you've got the information, go make something! You don't have to wait for a looming deadline, either. Make something well in advance of your local events, put it in a box or basket and give it to your largesse coordinator or seneschal. In my branch, I wanted to be able to have a constantly replenishing supply of largesse, so I suggested it at council and was given the go-ahead to organize it. There's nothing stopping you from doing the same – help continue the tradition of well-made gifts for the royals to bestow on worthy gentles.

The Challenge

I don't know of any gentle of my acquaintance that doesn't have a creative streak. Anyone can make something. My challenge to you is to make something for your local branch to present as largesse at your next royal presence event. If you can't wait for that, have it as part of a presentation at a Coronet or Investiture, Crown Tourney or Coronation. Or send it directly to the royals now. By doing this one small thing, you make this game we all play a little bit better. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a date with my needle and thread...

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