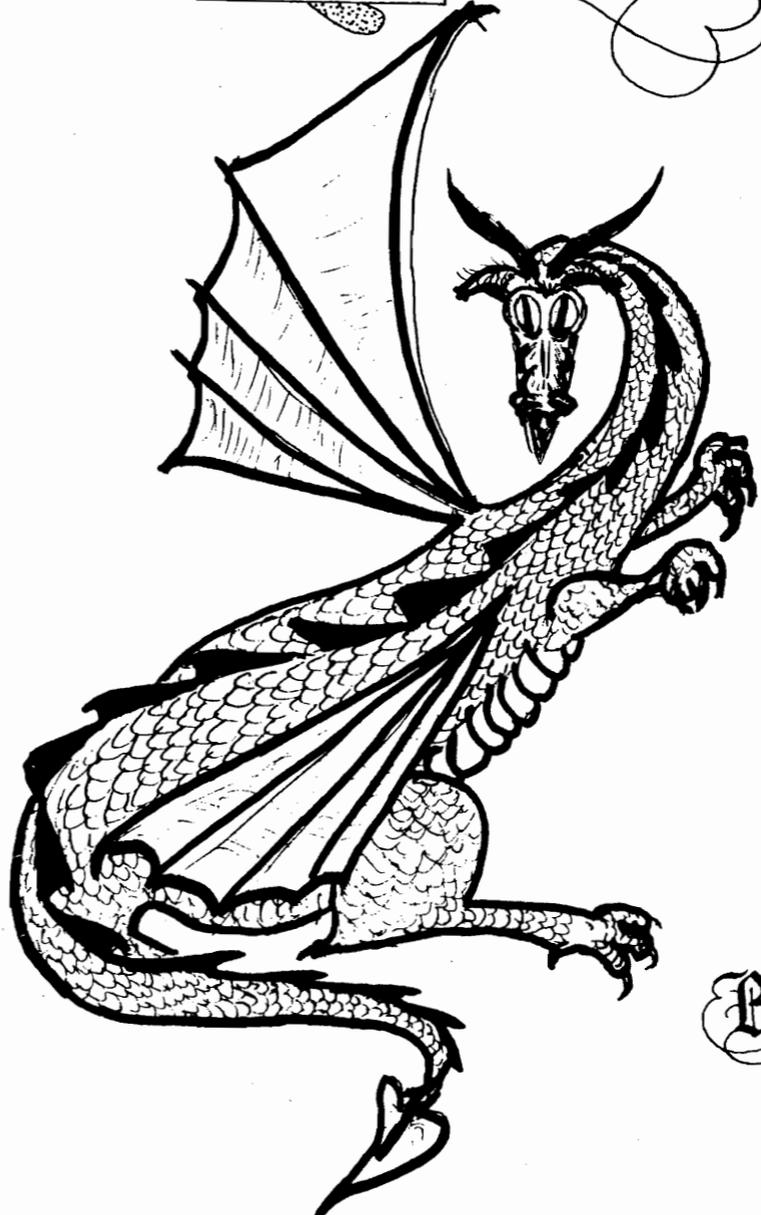


FEB 1989

# The Phoenix



FEBRUARY

1989

Barony of Nordwache

This is the Phoenix, a publication of the Barony of Nordwache of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Phoenix is available from Lisa Sagaser, 6197 N. Millbrook Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93710. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.

The Phoenix

Lady Siqrlin Ravnsdottir

## Dancing in the Middle Ages

As church became more of a controlling influence in people's day to day lives, it condemned dance as a form of entertainment but approved of its use in religious ceremonies and as worship. At some points, the Church tried to prohibit even this use of dance. However, the dancing must have continued because proclamations forbidding dancing continued to be made.

The Church was successful in wiping out most forms of organized theatrical presentations, but there continued to be wandering entertainers throughout the Dark and Middle Ages. During the later Middle Ages as the restrictions of the Catholic Church became less strongly enforced, these entertainers became more popular and were welcomed into the castles and homes of feudal lords.

As it became more acceptable, the common people started dancing for entertainment and social purposes. These peasants had two basic types of medieval dancing: the round dance and the couple dance. The round dance has a long chain of dancers holding hands and moving about in a circle or a line. Couple dances were less common partly because they seemed scandalous due to their suggestive nature. The couple dance tends to be pantomimic as a poem written about the year 1000 in southern Germany shows. It describes a dance between a young man and young lady to the music of a harp player:

Now the young man gets up,  
and then the maiden, and then  
the chasing and hunting begins,  
sometimes with loud, then with  
soft music. They fly hither  
and thither, as when the fal-  
con hunts the dove in the air.  
He has reached her, the hunt is  
finished, -but no- she escapes  
again, and the game begins anew.  
Truly their art would fascinate  
the critics, so skillfully do  
the dancers master the dance,  
the leaping, the gesture of the  
hands. 1

1Paul Nettl, *The Story of Dance Music* (New York: Philosophical Library, 1947), p. 51.

2Richard Draus, *History of the Dance in Art and Education* (Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 1969), P. 60-61.

As an aspiring dance mistress I am taking steps to learn dances and acquire music so that we can enjoy dancing at our events and we can have dance practices where we can learn to dance in a fun, non-stressful atmosphere. If you have or know anything that will promote dancing I want to hear about it.

In service to our Society,  
Marianna of Northumbria

Some of the names and brief descriptions of the dances performed by the peasants suggest their boisterous nature and their frankness in sexuality and earthiness.

Hoppaldei: peasants rushing around like wild boars, moving in couples as though they wanted to fly, arms waving, shoulders heaving and rolling.

Ahselrotten: a houlder-rolling dance, lively, flirtatious, erotic.

Springeltanz: a wild dance in which the performers hopped and leaped about.

Houbetschotten: a shrugging of shoulders while sliding along the floor, shaking the head.

Gimpel-Gampel: described both as a boisterous leaping dance, and as a skipping dance. 2

The court also indulged in their share of dancing but theirs was in a much more refined and courtly form. Court dances played a large part in the chivalric way of life. The clothes of the nobility tended to restrict their movement so their dances were little more than gliding, curtseying and posing.

As dancing became more accepted and more popular a new profession developed, that of dancing master.

He accompanied the prince or the count to whose court he was attached on all journeys, and in fact, he occupied a position of trust and confidence in his patron's household. He was at the same time an arbiter of etiquette, where the instruction given the young men and women of noble family was considered an essential part of their education. 3

The dance master became part of the court and helped create an atmosphere where the arts could flourish and music, drama, and dance could reach new heights of development and popularity.

3Nettl, op. cit., p. 71.

## Acknowledgements:

*Luc le Noir* : EVER WILLING & ABLE DEPUTY

*Stephen Draherny* : FOR HIS COVER ART

*Artists* : INCLUDING :

MARIANNA OF NORTHUMBRIA  
AUDRIANA ARENA  
SHATTEN THE DARK

~ AND ALL THOSE WHO SUBMITTED ~

# Notes from the Exchequer

HI! My name is Katriona of Glenkirk (Denise Whitaker, mundanely) and I am the new Exchequer for the Barony. First, a little about myself. My lord, Lord Lewis Whitaker (Seneschal of Reisling) and I moved to CAID from the Kingdom of the West in 1985. Although I am not a "newby" to the Society, this is my first MAJOR office. I am a stickler for details and organization (that's what the military will do to you!). I know the terms "organization" and "SCA" are generally mutually exclusive, but I can at least try, can't I? The key function of my job as Exchequer is maintaining meticulous records for the dreaded Income Tax time. And this is something I cannot do all alone. I will need your help. If you are Autocrating any event that uses Baronial funds, I need an Event Report filled out and submitted as soon after the event as possible. If I don't give you a report form before the event, please let me know and I'll give/mail you one. My address and phone number is listed in the front of each month's "PHOENIX". Please feel free to make copies of the form for yourself, your records, etc. All I ask is that you fill one out and submit it to the Seneschal and myself.

I plan to publish in the "PHOENIX" on a regular basis a status of the Baronial funds. I feel it is very important that we all, as members, are aware of where we stand financially. I will start publishing on a quarterly basis and go from there. The first quarter's report will be in the April 1989 issue of the "PHOENIX". I look forward to serving the Barony of Nordwache and the Society to the best of my ability.

In Service to the Barony of Nordwache,

*Katriona*  
Katriona of Glenkirk

## SPEAKING OUT!

Has Chilvary died? Has the honor of "WE" been replaced by the worrying greed of "ME?" Has courtesy and niceness to one another been lost? Have we become afraid to tell another what a great job or service they have done for fear of it costing us that hard to come by award each of us is striving for? And lastly, (guiltily go in the closet for this one) ask yourselves when was the last time you put pen to paper and wrote a letter on someone else's behalf? Six months, a year ago?

I for one would like to see these things achieve more greatness than what half-hearted attention we have given them in the past. We are a great Barony, but we sorely lack in the social and chivalrous graces that impress others that would make us an unforgettable Barony. And this shall become even more apparent during the next few months when more people travel up here discovering that there is life beyond Los Angeles after all.

We're barbaric! We're too laid back! We're renegades! You're from where? These are but a few of the comments I hear from my travels south. Surely, now is the time for us to shed these false impressions with just a little effort on our part.

So, I give three cheers to Lord Ivon of Darkforest for going out of us way to procure crash space for 2 ladies at Crowning. To Lord Liam of Reisling for helping a lady take down her tent in the rain at Anniversary and to Lord Stephen Pembroke Trahern for re-affirming my faith at the NewComers Guild that there are still gentle men who delight in kissing a lady's hand. And lastly, to Luc Le Noir for volunteering to take home hay bales from Anniversary. Though sadly to say 2 were left along with the King's Bar-be-que to which the King had to drive back and retrieve.

We(Nordwache) were severely chastised for that disgraceful deed, and rightfully so to let such a thing happen. For if our chivalrous graces lack towards our King it is little wonder we can not remember them to one another.

Has our laid-back style let chilvarous deeds, actions and words die out? I think not, my Lords and Lady's, it may be we have just misplaced it from non-use is all.

Baronial Chatelaine,  
Dallan Righ De'Dannan  
DragonRune Household



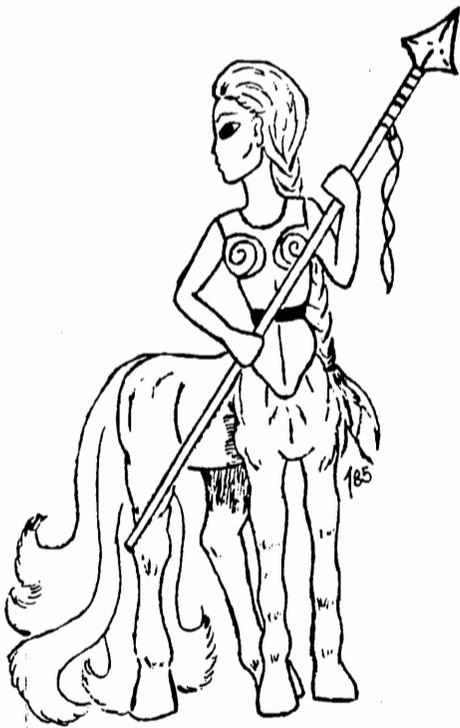
# Medieval Fact, Fantasy, and Fiction

**FACT;** Archery. In England self bows were the principal weapon and used almost exclusively but on the continent the slower working, more powerful cross bow was being preferred for war. The old English long bow was made of preferably yew but many other kinds of wood were also used. In 456 GROSE writes, "That to prevent it's immoderate consumption, bowyers were directed to make four bows of witch-hazel, ash or elm to one of yew; and no one under seventeen, unless possessed of movables worth fourty marks, or the son of parents having an estate of ten pounds per annum, may shoot a yew bow. There were laws regulating the prices and use of bows. The law provided that the highest price a bowyer might charge for a yew bow was 3 shillings and 4 pence or a sheaf (24) arrows with steel heads and 1 shilling and 2 pence.

**FANTASY;** "Dark Castle" by Accolade \$34.95 You must survive your way through 14 danger zones to reach and topple the Black Knight. Fairly good graphics. Easy but not too.

**FICTION(non);** "A GLOSSARY of the CONSTRUCTION, DECORATION AND USE of ARMS AND ARMOR in all countries and in all times" by George Cameron Stone. 700 pages describing over 10,000 different kinds of arms and armor, over 3500 different kinds of weapons plus illustrations of each. Everything from ABBASI (which is a Rajput sword around 400) to ZU'L-FIKAR, "Lord of cleaving" The sword given by the archangel Gariel to Mahomed and by him to his son-in-law Ali bin Ali Talib (Burton sword 141) Magnificent book on arms. Absoutely nothing omitted by the author.

Dallan Righ De'Dannan



Greetings unto the Gentle Populace of Nordwache,

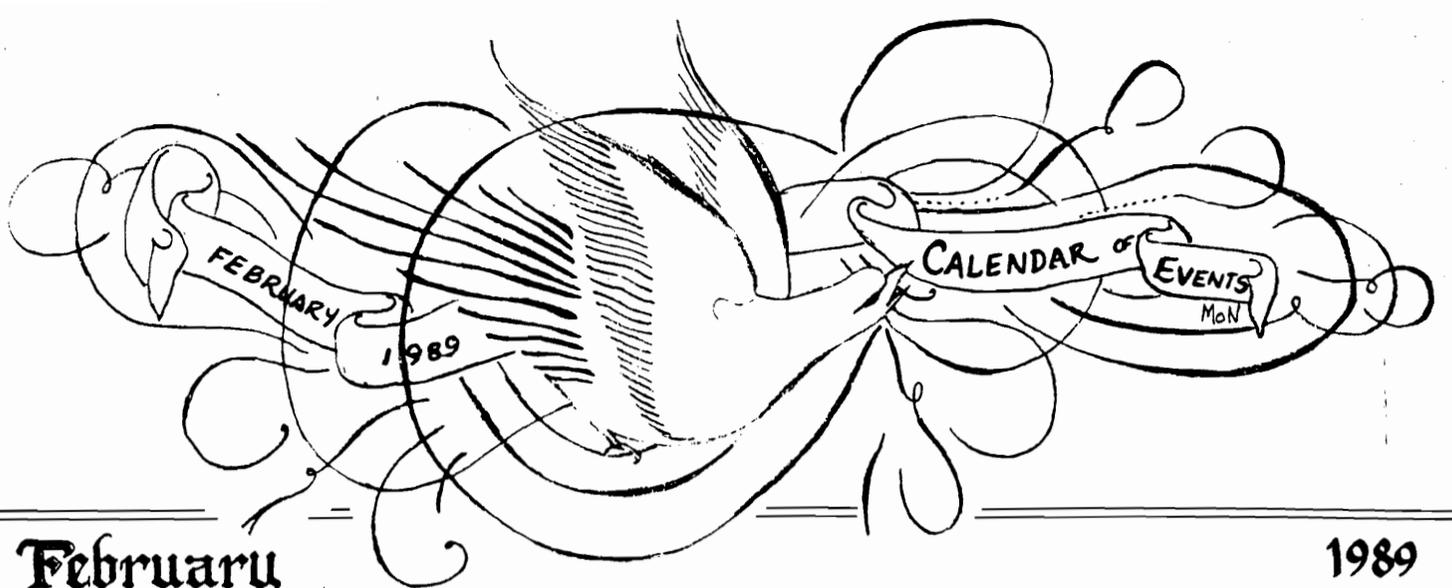
January 10th was the latest meeting for the Newcomer's Guild meeting at my house and I think a good time was had by all along with much needed information gained by everyone. For those of you who are not so "new" to the society, please come and enjoy the company and perhaps gain some information you were wondering about.

Also, another reminder, please call me with the n mes and numbers of people who are interested in our society. Our gossip and grapevine is good but I'd rather not hear of new people that way. It leaves them to chance. I, as well as my deputies are here to be of service to them and you, but I can't do my job as it was intended if you don't call me and speak to my lonely recorder who's dying to tell you how nice it was you called it.

Chatelaine,  
Dallan Righ De'Danann  
of  
DragonRune

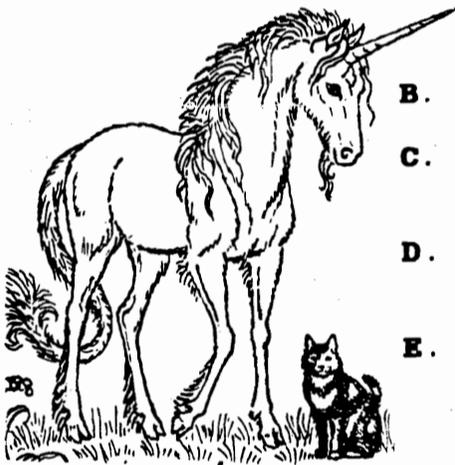
NEW PEOPLE

Dusty & Dennis Wiebe  
291-6100 Fresno



February						1989	
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	
			A 1	2	3	4	
D 5	6 ● NEW MOON	7	8	9	10	11	
D 12 ● FIRST QUARTER	13	14	B 15	16	17	18	
D 19	20 ○ FULL MOON	C 21	22	23	24	25	
D 26	27	28 ● LAST QUARTER					

- A. 2/1/89 **Baronial Council Meeting.** Begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Seneschal's home. Call (209)227-4962 for more information.
- B. 2/15/89 **Deadline for the Phoenix.**
- C. 2/22/89 **Reislingshire Meeting.** Contact Lord Lewis at (209) 674-3060 for location.
- D. Sundays **Archery Practice.** CSUF at 12:00 p.m. Call Pete Bentarrow at (209) 222-8036 for details.
- E. 2/4/89 **Post Wedding Revel.** To celebrate the marriage of Siguird Stormrider and Genevieve of Osborn's Glade. At 2:00 p.m. see map to BCM below.



### Baronial Council Meeting

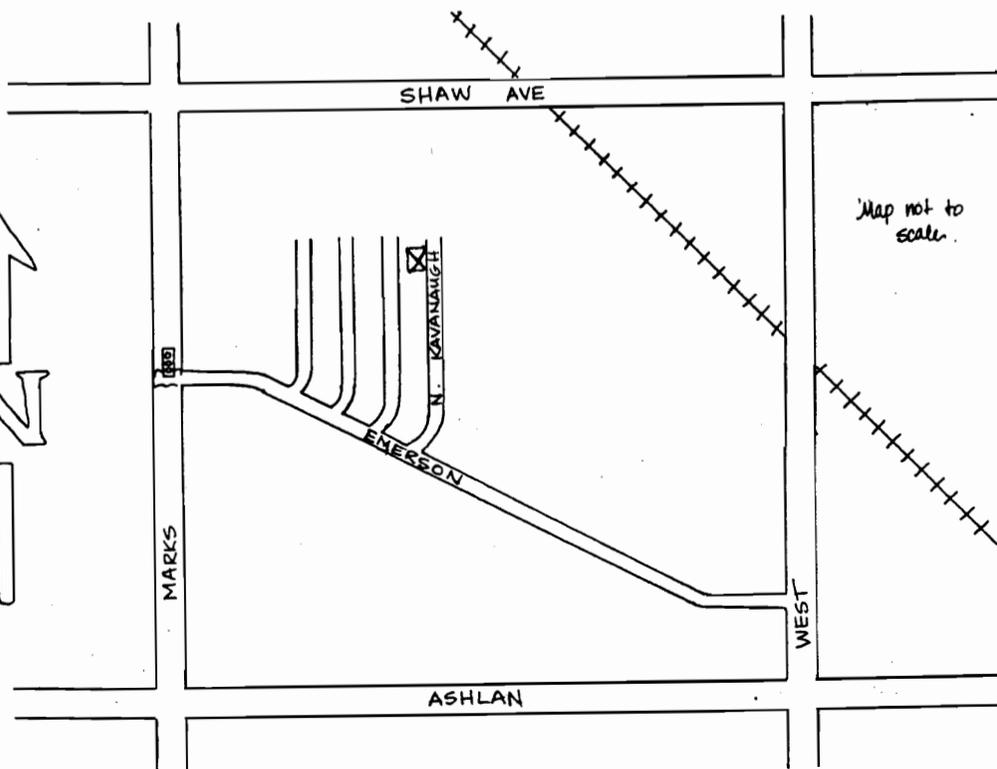


**FEBRUARY'S BCM:**

Begins at 7:30 p.m. at the seneschal's home:

4589 Kavanaugh  
Fresno, CA 93705

(209) 252-8257



# Nordwach's Baronial Officers

His Excellency  
Baron Joseph of Nordwache  
Joseph Perotta  
1124 Pierce Drive #8  
Clovis, Ca 93612  
(209) 323-9439

Deputy Seneschal  
Alree Niamh of the Bells  
Valerie Fox-Armes  
(209) 268-7859

Mistress of Arts & Science  
Lady Krystara of Shandara  
Keep  
1414 E. Griffith Way #210  
Fresno, Ca 93726  
(209) 226-6028

Captain of Archers  
Peter Bentarrow  
Peter Themins  
4610 N. Delmar  
Fresno, Ca 93704  
(209) 222-8036

Chirurgion  
Mandrake  
Gerald Smith  
4589 Kavanaugh  
Fresno, Ca 93705  
(209) 227-4962

Seneschal  
Lord Siguid Stormrider  
Warren Raddatz  
4589 Kavanaugh  
Fresno, Ca 93705  
(209) 227-4962

Herald  
Lord Stephen Trahern  
Steve Morgan  
4969 E. Leisure  
Fresno, Ca 93727  
(209) 252-8257

Avant Courier  
Genevieve of Osborn's Glade  
Jenny Reed  
4589 Kavanaugh  
Fresno, Ca 93705  
(209) 227-4962

Chatelaine  
Dallan Righ De' Dannan  
Marcia Finnegan  
46 Douglas Ave.  
Clovis, Ca 93612  
(209) 297-4210

Chronicler  
Lady Sigrlin Ravsdottir  
Lisa Sagaser  
6197 N Millbrook Ave  
Fresno, Ca 93710  
(209) 431-1678

Constable  
Lord Markus Aradinius  
Tim Perotta  
1124 Pierce Dr #8  
Clovis, Ca 93612  
(209) 323-9439

Exchequer  
Lady Katriona of Glenkirk  
Denise Whitaker  
27392 San Carlos  
Madera, Ca 93637  
(209) 674-3060

Marshal (Vacant)

Historian  
Liam of Reisling  
Billy Mercer  
536 University Drive  
Fresno, Ca 93705  
(209) 264-3346



## Canton Seneschals

Eichenvol  
Trevin of Harpingvale  
Carl Mason  
(209) 798-1267

Mylrune  
Gregory the True  
Greg True  
(209) 998-3451  
ext 3113

Reislingshire  
Lord Lewis of  
Torhelia  
Henry Whitaker  
(209) 674-3060



"Well, I thought it was funny!"

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHRONICLER:

Hello. I just want to say a few things. First, Our printing is not donated to us anymore. As a result, the prices for subscriptions have to be raised to meet the costs. So, the price to subscribe is \$12.50 for 12 monthly issues of "The Phoenix".

Secondly, I only print what I receive or what I can dig up. I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with others in the barony. I understand time is precious, but I'm interested in what you have to say.

Lastly, our barony is not perfect, though I always tell people down south it is. Though I like to stress the good, I have been and do print greivances. If you find anything I print that you think is unfair please tell me or write me and we can discuss it.

Thank you,  
Seryana