

Official newsletter for the Barony of Axemoor



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# Chronicler's Corner...

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Submissions may be e-mailed to the Chronicler at f\_paul@hotmail.com Subject: BT

### Greetings,

I want to take this time and comment on the great job a fellow Baronial member did for the Tapestry this month. Sebastianus was the one who put together the photocopy of the cover while I was getting plastered at Diamond Wars. I would also like to thank Patrick who has been sending in articles for the news letter each month. Both have gone above and beyond for the newsletter and should be thanked by all. Thank you both.

Sincerely,  
Paul

This month's front cover art is: Our new Baronial Crown!!!!

The pilgrim's badges were made of paper, leather, clay and metal. Due to obvious reasons, most of the existing examples of these badges are those produced in metal, mainly lead and pewter. The metal pilgrim badges are one of the first examples of mass production. Literally millions of metal pilgrims badges were produced through out Christendom in the High and Later Middle Ages. Most of these badges were cast from stone molds using lead, pewter or a mixture of the two. Demand for the badges was huge. For example, in Rogensburg, a minor shrine in Germany, 50,000 badges were sold between 1519 and 1522, and in 1466 130,000 badges were sold in a fourteen-day period at the Santa Maria shrine at Einsiedeln. In the city of Aachen 142,000 pilgrims passed through the city gates in one day, and it is presumed that almost all of this number would have purchased at least one pilgrim's badge.

The similarities to our SCA site tokens and pilgrim's badges abound. No matter the reason why someone attends an event, all receive a site token. It is proof of attendance, safe passage on and off site, and produced in large quantities sufficient to meet the demands of those attending. Many Scadians keep their site tokens as a souvenir of the event and as a way to bring the dream home with them. And, some will even say, "My lady went to Pennsic, and all I got was this lousy site token."

Disclaimer: *The views expressed in this article are not to be associated directly or indirectly with the SCA, Inc., or any of its subdivisions, including, but not exclusive to the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann and the Barony of Axemoor. The author of this article, Patrick Branan, is solely responsible for its content and these views are based in academic research. This essay should not be regarded as to promote or disparage any religion, religious view or practices; rather it should be taken as an attempt to understand actions and practices in the middle ages and how it compares to the game we play.*

### Sources:

Brian Spencer, *King Henry of Windsor and the London Pilgrim*, Collectanea Loniniesia Studies in London archaeology and history presented to Ralph Merrifield, Special Paper No. 2, 1978. P235 – 264.

Brian Spencer, *Pilgrim Souvenirs and Secular Badges (Medieval Finds from Excavations in London)*, 1992.

Ester Cohen, *In the Name of God and Profit: The Pilgrim Industry in Southern France in the Late Middle Ages*, unpublished Doctorial Thesis, Brown University 1976. Portions published as "In haec signa: Pilgrim-Badge Trade in Southern France", *Journal of Medieval History* 2 (1976): p 193 – 214.

# Connecting the Past to the Present: Site Tokens and Pilgrim's Badges

Gilla Patriac hUa Branian

Site tokens are a staple at almost every SCA event. While “trolling-in”, attendants at the event are given a token as proof of their paid admittance. These site tokens can be anything from beads on a string, to pewter cast medallions, to elaborate professionally produced etched metal badges, or even hand forged reproductions of medieval arrow-heads (Those were really cool!). This physical proof of attendance can be traced back to the medieval pilgrim’s badge.

In the middle ages, pilgrimages were made to sacred shrines for a variety of reasons: some went on pilgrimage for personal salvation; others went to seek relief from ailments or maladies; a few traveled in performance of a sentence from an ecclesiastic court; a rare few went for adventure and freedom not found at home; and excluding the court sentence, most went for some combination of these reasons. One thing in common with most pilgrimages of the high and late middle ages was the pilgrim’s badge. It was more than a physical sign of completion of the journey to the shrine, as required by ecclesiastic courts or desired by the faithful, and it was more than just a token to say, “Grandma went to Canterbury and all I got was this lousy pin”. To the medieval pilgrim, a token that came in close contact with the relics of the saint or shrine to the saint, had the ability to carry the power of that saint or shrine with it. It was a way for the pilgrim to bring the shrine home. There are some accounts where miracles occur when a pilgrim’s badge is brought back to an ailing loved one who could not make the journey.

The pilgrim’s badge also served as a declaration of safe passage. Pilgrims were allowed to cross lines of battle in the Hundred Years War, and bandits who preyed on pilgrims would face excommunication. Pilgrims were afforded other special considerations such as free food and lodging with the badge of a shrine as one of the means of proving their status as a pilgrim.

# *Barony of Axemoor Officers*

Baron & Baroness

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# Officer Notes...



## Message from the Seneschal

Unto the Good Gentles of the Barony of Axemoor, Greetings! As some of you know, I've been hunting out of Kingdom for employment for a variety of personal and professional reasons. As I write this, I'm making plans to travel to the Kingdom of AnTir for my second interview next week. It pains me to consider leaving the friends I've made here, but so far I haven't found that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. I do have friends in AnTir, and I've had offers of introductions from others I know, so I won't be among strangers very long, if that is where I land.

Meanwhile back in the swamps, there is a bit of business, the subject on working with the media has come up again. Mistress Roz (Kingdom Media Relations) has sent the following:

You should have someone (or ones) at the local level who are willing and able to go in front of the camera. This person should fit into the following definition:

"The image we wish to portray to the outside world should reflect our goals, purpose for existence and the finer aspects of achievement. To this end, people asked to speak to the media should show the best of:

- o Clean-cut image
- o Professional style
- o Knowledge of the rules, purpose, and policies of the Society For Creative Anachronism.
- o Skill at avoiding unfortunate topics.
- o Skill as a public speaker"

This is from: <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/mediapolicy.pdf>

I would encourage you all to read this document as there are more guidelines listed. In my local group, we all try to keep brochures about the SCA with us that we can pass out. When in doubt of what to say, a well worded brochure can be a life saver.

Here is the link to the Society Media page: <http://www.sca.org/media/>

## Birthdays

- 3 Colin the Elder
- 15 Alis of Axemoor
- 23 Baroness Tegan verch Dwgan
- 31 Alexander of Axemoor

### Birthday Dirge

Chorus: Happy Birthday <thud>  
Happy Birthday <thud>

May the candles on your cake  
Burn like cities in you wake.  
Chorus  
Your friends are here, your enemies, too.  
If we knew just who was who.  
Chorus

## This Month in History

### This month, October of 1361:

Joan Palantagenet, who was divorced from her first husband after a secret marriage when she was twelve and was widowed from her second husband after he died in France, married Prince Edward of England. "The Fair Maid of Kent," as Joan was known as, was not at first considered the ideal wife for the heir to the throne, but later proved to be successful. Joan gave birth two male sons, the youngest of whom survived to become Richard II.

**Axemoor Flashbacks**

## *The Sweetest Sound*

By Lord Eachan Tor Graeme\*

Of all the Sounds I've ever Heard  
of which the poets sing;  
Of lowing herd or trilling bird  
or bells that sweetly ring;

There is one sound I prize most high  
and hold close in my mind;  
And will not fail to bring a sigh  
though I be old and blind.

It is a sound I hold inside  
and to my heart I hug.  
'Tis the sound I hear whene'er I  
pull cork from my mead jug.

\*the author is such a notorious sot that all would surely have attributed this to him in any event, and it is only with grave misgivings concerning belaboring the obvious that the name was given.

An excerpt from the "Double-Bladed Axe"  
Volume 1  
A.S. XIV (C.E. 1979)

If the media in question is more than a local newspaper/tv crew, but say a magazine, a national news outlet, commercial or documentary type film crew, then they need to be forwarded to me (Kingdom Media Officer) immediately. They must have prior permission before filming. Rules are listed here:

<http://www.sca.org/officers/media/filmcrewrules.html>

The obvious persons to work with local media are the Crowns and the Chatelaine, but any of you could find yourselves "being asked a couple of questions." Just remember if they're anyone other than local media, then we need coordinate with Kingdom via the Media Relations Office and Seneschal.

Yours in Service to the Dream,  
Gwen  
THL Gwendolyn MacAuslane of Loch Lomond  
Seneschal, Barony of Axemoor



### *Herald's Report*

Report will be given at the meeting



### **FROM THE KNIGHTS MARSHALL**

Report will be given at the meeting



### *Arts & Sciences*

Report will be given at the meeting



## *Historian's Report*

The month of September saw the Barony hold a Regional Fighter Practice for the southern area of the Kingdom in preparation for War of the Pearls, which was fought at Holmes State Park in Durant, MS. The Regional Fighter practice was held on Saturday, September 5, 2009 at John Slidell Park in Slidell, LA. There were about 20 fighters and about the same number give or take for the populace. We also had several onlookers who would stop in the park and observe, take pictures and ask questions. It was a good turn out considering it was Labor Day weekend. We had fighters from Northover, Barony of Seleone and Axemoor, plus Their Majesties (at the time) Loric and Diana. Sir Rorik and Sir Uric also showed up. There two authorizations in heavy combat and one authorization on spear. The heavy combat fighters was one of Axemoor's, our own Sebstantius the Inquistive, mundanely known as Scott, and a fighter from Seleone. Dafydd was our spear authorization, so that now makes him almost authorized for everything possible, except Siege weapons and rapier. So how about it Dafydd? Siege weapons?!??!?

War of Pearls was the next event that the Barony of Axemoor made its presence known on the battlefield. We entered into the War with mainly new fighters both with Seleone and the other Shires, but when we showed them how well trained our fighters were, one could over hear the fighters and various knights of the Baronies of Small Gray Bear and Grey Niche comment on how well our fighters acted as a unit and we moved as a unified unit against them even though we were greatly outnumbered. War of Pearls was a great event for the fighters of Axemoor and to which we made it known Kingdom wide, we are Axemoor and we fight together as a team. Other happenings at the War of Pearls saw our Kingdom Historian, Her Excellency Baroness Barbara awarded the Order of the Tower and Lily by Their Excellencies Charles and Martha.

# November 2009

<http://www.axemoor.net/axemoor%20calander/November2009.html>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Fighter Practice The Fly 5pm	2	3	4 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	5	6	7
8 Fighter Practice The Fly 5pm	9 Christmas Revel Planning	10 Dance Class 7pm	11 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	12	13	14 Gleann Abhann Fall Crown List - Shire of Ardanroe
15 Archery/ Fighter Practice (Excellency Dafydd's House)	16	17 Populace Meeting 7pm (Old Metairie Library)	18 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	19	20	21 Autumn Melees (BAM) - Ansteorra
22 Fighter Practice The Fly 5pm	23 Christmas Revel Planning	24	25 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	26	27	28
29 Fighter Practice The Fly 5pm	30					

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29 Fighter Practice The Fly 5pm	30					

# October 2009

<http://www.axemoor.net/axemoor%20calander/October2009.html>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Gleann Abhann Fall Coronation Shire of Troll Fen
4	5	6 Dance Class 7pm	7 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	8	9	10 Gleann Abhann Fall Coronation
						Diamond Wars - Barony of Small Gray Bear
11	12	13 Populace meeting 7pm (Old Metairie Library)	14 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	15	16	17
						Swamp Romp - Troll Fen
18	19	20	21 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Fighter Practice Slidell at Heritage Park 7pm	29	30	31 Harvest Home - Northover

This was their first inductee since their investiture in April. His Excellency Master, Baron Charles took his first apprentice at War of Pearls and the apprentice was Axemoor's very own Lord Gilla Patraic uHa Branain. Let's all give Lorid Patraic a big Congratulations!! Way to go!! Now on the other hand, the ever continuing scanning of the Axemoor photos is still in progress. I do plan on having it all complete by Christmas Revel so that way I can bring the laptop with the pictures loaded as a photo show that will allow all of the Kingdom to see past and present photos and hopefully help with the identifying of the people, event and place and mayhap the year. So this concludes my report for September. Back to the scanner. Place, scan, accept, place, scan, accept, place, scan, accept.

## Adalyde de Sardaigne



## Webminister/Constable

Updated Calendar, Main Page and Events Page.  
Please check for issues, corrections or additions.  
Thanks,  
Egil



## Chatelaine's Corner

Welcome to the various new members and for those that have not been out to fighter practices lately, we do have quite a few on both sides of the barony. Thank you so much to everyone that answers questions from those interested bystanders at practices. The gold key belongings have been sorted out into 6 totes and are now housed in the trailer. The flyers have been updated with the current officer info and there are packets already put together to go out to those that express an interest from the LA Ren-Faire. If there is any information from the other officers that you would like to see in the packets please send it to me. The packets currently consist of a Welcome note from the Barony, a current BT, Back in Time Flyer, Stefan's Florigelium flyer & info and a Christmas Revel flyer. I have found an old copy of a "New Members Guide to the SCA" and will be adding that as it is general info that does not go out of date. YIS, Baroness Tegan verch Dwgan Master Charles du Bourbon Chateaines, Barony of Axemoor

# From the Baron and Baroness...

Greetings,

We have returned home safe and sound from the coronation of William and Onora. The event was wonderful, the weather beautiful and the festivities remarkable.

Congratulations to our new King and Queen, William and Onora, and also congratulations to the newest counties in Gleann Abhann, Loric and Diana.

We would like to take a moment to tell you how especially proud we are of Axemoor - we do indeed have the greatest populace in the whole wide world.

His Excellency Daffyd is once again the The Kingdom's Yeoman, he overcame a myriad of talented competitors (including our very own champion, Lady Gwenlian) to emerge victorious. We are so very very proud of him, as he represents the very best of Axemoor - and so very proud of all of those from Axemoor who participated in any of the lists at Coronation.

We would also like to sing the praises of Lord Inigo who had amazing day on the field - he fought well, and though not the last person standing on the field, he was the person standing in our hearts. He fought honorably and he fought well...and though we were in meetings much of the day we did hear word fame of his prowess on the field. We would also like to thank his lordship Gellis for fighting this weekend. He is shining star in the coronet of Axemoor, and we are proud to call him our champion.

M'Lord Sebastianus we also would commend to our populace for the special words we received from Her Highness Ansteorra expressing her gratitude for how very helpful he was to Her. Thank you Sebastianus for making our most royal visitor feel comfortable and cared for. Her Highness went out of her way to find us, because she found out Sebastianus was one of ours. You did indeed make us proud M'Lord!

Also, thanks to our page M'Lady Sarah, our page, for assisting His Excellency in morning court, your service was greatly appreciated.

Finally, to the ladies of LeScats (Ladies' Elite Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society) We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for being unfailingly amazing entourage for ourselves - we truly felt like a Baron and Baroness in your care. It was greatly appreciated, as coronations are always busy for the landed nobles with the meetings and engagements we have to attend.

We were so happy to see all the happy faces from Axemoor in attendance, and are so very grateful for your showing up to support Gleann Abhann

We remain yours in service,

Charles and Martha  
Baron and Baroness of Axemoor