



# Let It Be Knowne

The Shire of Owlsherst

The Society for Creative Anachronism

**THL Seamus Mac Neachtain**





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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHRONICLER

This Quarter's issue not only has news of recent Shire activities, but also much in the way of announcements and upcoming events, including East Kingdom Coronation coming to the South Western Shires in October! It also contains news of the passing of one of our own, possibly the most difficult column I have ever written.

As we engage in our summer activities, vacation, prepare for Pennsic (or non-Pennsic parties), and get ready for back-to-school, take a moment to hug people and tell them you love them. There's never enough time.

YIS, Siobhán ingean ui Ghadhra



## East Kingdom Coronation



The Shire of Montvale has been awarded the bid for EK Coronation of Luis and Margarita on October 5, 2019 at the First Church of the Brethren, 2710 Kingston Road, in York, PA---mark your calendars! Torvi fra Bergstopt from Montvale will be Event Steward, with Linette de Gallardon from Owlsherst as Deputy Event Steward. This is very much a SW Inter-Shire Alliance event, so all hands are needed on deck! Many of the major event coordinator positions have been filled, but we need volunteers to complete our team, plus we need help from everyone in the Shire to make hosting this event a success.

This going to be an amazing event! The theme will follow the new King as he travels with the Crusades from Spain to Antioch, and will reflect the cultures of the countries and comrades he encounters along the way. The sumptuous dayboard will feature different foods from his travels, including delicacies from Italy, land of his love and Queen.

Come to our next planning meeting to get involved. It is at 6:30 pm on August 14, 2019 at Mexitaly Restaurant. You can also contact Torvi for further details, or if you have questions.

## In Memoriam

### THL Seamus Mac Neachtain

By Siobhán ingean uí Ghadhra

Lord Seamus Mac Neachtain was called Home on June 30, 2019. Seamus exemplified what The Dream means to all of us in the SCA. He was the epitome of what we strive to be: loyal, chivalrous, loving, caring, generous. We in the Society had his prowess and leadership for 18 years, during which time he garnered numerous awards, both on and off the field of battle. His colleagues remember him as larger than life, with huge bear hugs, a booming voice, and an imposing presence on the field. His friends remember him as a close comrade who loved to drink and tell stories. His family remembers him as a loving husband and amazing dad. His generosity was legendary, and he helped all those who he saw in need, be it with garb, gear, or support.

Seamus was Commander of the East Kingdom Southern Army, and was also a recipient of the Silver Tyger, as well as being inducted into the Order of the Tygers Combatant. His love and dedication for heavy combat fighting was something to which all fighters could aspire. To quote his Master of Arms and mentor, Ruslan Novgorodcev, "Mere words cannot even begin to express what Seamus meant for his family and for the 'family' of which we belong to. He gave so much of himself and the world and those he impacted are the better for it." His family and friends bid him farewell in a manner he would have appreciated: with song, stories, toasts, tears, and flames.

To me, Seamus was, and is, truly an angel. When he hugged you, it felt like he enfolded you with his great wings that provided comfort and strength. I deeply miss his generous soul and his friendship. In my role as Chronicler, I photographed him at SRWC, and he joked that he'd never get any coverage. I retorted that he would be featured in this issue of the Newsletter. I believe he knows that I kept my promise.

Note: If anyone desires specific citation for the photos in the cover collage tribute to Seamus, please contact the Chronicler directly.

## Newcomer's Corner:

### I Made A Thing!

### Documentation – A Beginner's Guide

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So, you want to enter Arts and Sciences (A&S) and you have decided to make a Thingy. Thingies come in lots of types, and shapes and sizes in the SCA, but yours will be uniquely yours. You'd like to enter your newly made Thingy in a competition you say?

Oh dear, they are asking you to document your Thingy! What is documentation you ask? Well let's go over a quick and easy list of things that make up good Thingy documentation. Let's get started.

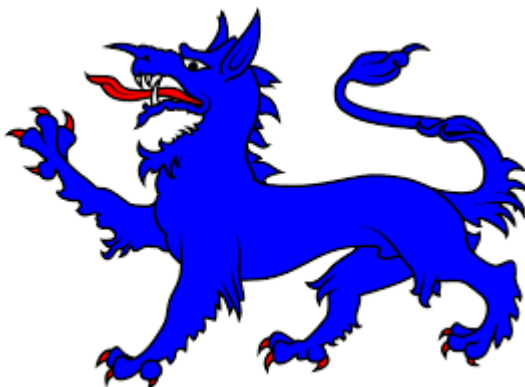


1. Assume the person reading your documentation has no idea what it is that you have made. They are Thingy ignorant. You must teach them the wonders of your Thingy.
2. How did you get the idea to make your Thingy?
3. What museum, online source, book, or other place did you see a representation of your thingy?
4. Did you find a painting, illumination, illustration, whole Thingy or piece of Thingy in a museum to look at in order to make your Thingy? (list all these sources and talk about them)
5. What time period is your Thingy from?
6. What culture/ people group/ country is your Thingy from?
7. What is your Thingy used for in its appropriate time period?
8. Who used your thingy and how? Does it take skill? Is it easy to do? Have you mastered wielding a Thingy?
9. What tools were used to make your Thingy by the people that originally made these Thingies waaaay back when Thingies were in original use?
10. What tools did YOU use to make your thingy?
11. If you used different tools to make your thingy, from the ones originally used to make in-period Thingies please discuss....
12. What were the materials used to make Thingies in period?
13. What materials did YOU use to make your Thingy?
14. If you used different materials to make YOUR Thingy, vs original period Thingies, please discuss...
15. Did someone else help you make your Thingy? (credit the work of others also researching Thingies and anyone who helped you directly to make your Thingy)
16. What did you enjoy about making your Thingy? Was it an easy process, or troublesome?
13. If you had to make another thingy would you do something different?
14. If you teach Thingy making classes, feel free to list that

These things are really just common sense and they cover the main points documentation should cover though you can expand and be specific. This is what any person whether a Laurel, or otherwise, is going to want to know about the Thingy you've entered into A&S. You can even use headers so they know what each paragraph or page is covering. That way they can find the answers to their questions as they read. Usually the way they judge will be on how clearly you explain the reasoning behind your Thingy. Now go make gloriously wonderful Thingies and enter them into A&S forthwith!

Important PS: If you have already made your Thingy, go ahead and write about it- but if you want to put the horse before the cart instead of vice versa, get all the stuff together to write about the Thingy, then make the thingy. A well-informed process is a good thing. It can affect the final Thingy product and make it even better.

Also, now is the time to organize your sources into a nice neat Bibliography. Go for it, it isn't just the icing on the cake, it is the cake. You're basing your whole Thingy on this stuff. Make sure people know exactly what it is and where you found it.



## Shire Spotlight

### Gnaea Celera, Glass-Maker



Extant piece, left, Celera's reproduction, right.



Owlsherst Shire's talented and skilled glassmaker Gnaea Celera, mundanely known as Leslie Pierce, has been chosen to represent the East Kingdom in the Arts & Sciences War Point at the Pennsic War! Her project is Anglo-Saxon beakers, which date to the 7th century. She found a photo of an extant one from an auction house and fell in love with the color and design, and decided to see if she could replicate it.

For her current project she is trying a new angle. The focus of her previous project was the visual representation of her learning process. That display was both illuminating and inspiring! For this new project she wanted to show more of the material culture of the time period, and put the vessels in a tangible context. She says that researching and writing her documentation has been fun, too, in keeping with the theme of creating the feel of a specific time and place. As she prepares to set up this new display, we are all excited to see what she and her fellow Champions have been working diligently on, as well. It should be a great showing all around!



## Shire Business Meeting Recap

Brief summary of Shire business meeting June 25, 2019

Officers gave monthly reports.

### Old Business:

- Final report issues from the Owlsherst Country Twelfth Night event in January were summarized.
- Discussion of future of Shire and South Western Region within East Kingdom.
- Penn-Mar Irish Festival demo- well-attended by Shire members, with a number of contacts made. Plans for next year's event, as well. This was great public exposure for what we do as a Shire.

### New Business:

- Coronation – It was announced that we and Shire of Montvale have been awarded the bid. The date is 10/5/19 at the church. The South Western Shires and Baronies indicated they would also participate.
- Due to Pennsic there will be no heavy fighter practice 7/24, 7/31, 8/7 and 8/14. Depending on interest there may be A&S activities and rapier activities.

Future meetings: August 27, September 24, October 22

## Upcoming Events of Interest

- Jul 27-Aug 10 – Pennsic War – Kingdom of Aethelmearc – Cooper's Lake, PA
- Aug 14 – Coronation Committee Meeting – Mexitaly – York, PA
- Aug 26, Sep 19, Oct 21, Nov 4, Nov 18 – Cooks Guild meetings for Twelfth Night – Orlaithe's house – York, PA
- Aug 31 – Demo at McLain Celtic Festival – Shire of Blak Rose – Carlisle, PA
- Sep 7 - Shire Inventory – Wulfgar's house – Etters, PA
- Sep 7 – Brennan's Ducal Challenge – Barony of Settmoor Swamp – Pittstown, NJ
- Sep 28-29 Benedicta Vita Arms/Tournament of Fallen Stag – Shire of Caer Adamant – Newark, DE
- Oct 5 – East Kingdom Coronation of Luis & Margarita – York, PA
- Oct 18-20 - River War – Barony of Iron Bog – Mullica Hill, NJ
- Oct 26 – Winter Nights & Bardic Banshee – Shire of Caer Adamant – Wilmington, DE
- Nov 23 – 100 Minutes War – Shire of Rusted Woodlands – Sparta, NJ

**REMINDER:** *Polling for awards at Coronation will be due soon after Pennsic. Date and details will be coming soon. And remember that recommendations for non-polling awards are welcome at any time.*

When you and the squad are  
smashing karaoke



When you and your mate agree to get in shape  
together but it gets to summer and...



### Shire Officers

To contact the Shire Officers individually, please use the links on the Officers page of the Shire web site,  
<https://owlsherst.eastkingdom.org>

**Seneschal** - Maïstresse Linette de Gallardon  
**Herald** - Lady Leonilla Kalista Kievlianina  
**Knight's Marshal** - Master Wulfgar o'the Wood  
**Rapier Marshal** - Lord Dorian  
**Youth Fighter Marshal** - Sir Hroudland  
**Archery Marshal** -  
**Minister of Lists** - Lord Conall na Seamar  
 O'Conghaile

**Exchequer** - Lady Fabrisse  
**Arts & Sciences Minister** - Lady Esmeria de Rus  
**Chatelain** - Lord Donnchadh Mac Lochlainn  
**Deputy Chatelain** - Weston Keller  
**Chamberlaine** - Mistress Ketilrídr Brúnadóttir  
**Chronicler** - Lady Siobhán ingean ui Gadhra  
**Chronicler's Social Media Deputy** - Lady Cordelia Sharpe  
**Webminister** - Lord Edmund Forster



Pictures from:

- Revenge of the Stitch in April (E. Sites)
- The Shire's recent demo at the Penn-Mar Irish Festival in Shrewsbury ---we even got featured in the York newspaper! (S. Spiller)
- Southern Region War Camp in June (J. Diodato)





**Links of Interest:**

- Owlsherst Shire web site - <https://owlsherst.eastkingdom.org/>
- Owlsherst Shire Facebook discussion page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/361579113923151/>
- East Kingdom web page - <https://www.eastkingdom.org/index.php>
- SCA web page - <https://sca.org/>



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