

# The Kings Garb



June ASXXXVI  
(2001 A.D.)

## Editorial: We will either find a way or make one. -Hannibal

Well everyone, welcome to my first *King's Garb* as Chronicler. As this is my first issue, there are a few things that I would like to go over in order to make the *Garb* as interesting and entertaining as possible. Firstly, I am would be curious what you would like to see in it, I can fill it with all sorts of things that I find interesting (bring for the all Byzantine issue), but you might beg to differ with what I consider interesting and entertaining. Any ideas and suggestions are welcome, you do not even have to accompany them with a submission. If you are interested in seeing a Black Death crossword puzzle, let me know and I will make it happen. Secondly, I am always looking for submissions of any shape or form for the *Garb*. Whether they be research articles, interesting tales from events, or even crudely drawn Viking cartoons, send them my way and you too can be a published author of sorts. Thirdly, and lastly, please forgive any omissions of proper titles, terms, and the like. I am oh so new to this and as such probably do not know any better. If you are Duke Edward Greatandwonderful and you notice yourself appearing in the *Garb* as Big Ed Shakeystick, let me know, and it can be fixed. So there you go, I am through chattering, sit back and (hopefully) enjoy June's *Garb*. 9 out of 10 eunuch's agree it is quite nice indeed.

Your chronicler,  
Armatus  
Armatus

The cover is the engraving, "Knight, Death and the Devil" by Albrecht Durer, 1513. Interesting things to note are that death holds an hourglass, a fox tail is tied to Knights lance (which I believe was thought to possess healing powers), as well as the beautiful armour detail. Mmmm....

.....sallet.

### A Word from the Baron and Baroness

Raoul and Roxanne, Baron and Baroness of Myrgan Wood send greetings and warm wishes unto the populace of the Barony. Welcome, Armatus, to our curia. Thank you for taking on the Office of Chronicler. We look forward to your contributions. Congratulations to the Royal heirs, Count Aveloc and Mahliqa, Crown Prince and Princess of An Tir, and to the very newly chosen Tanist and Tanista of Avacal!!

While peace and prosperity reign in our neck of the woods, there does happen to be a couple of matters from further afield. There have been many discussions regarding the benefits of obtaining membership in the SCA of late. As a result of some of these discussions we have decided to bring one suggested benefit to the members of Myrgan Wood. There will be offered a discount to those gentles who attend our events and are members of SCA Inc. Anyone who has other ideas of ways to offer real benefits to our members we invite you to share your ideas.

There is also an issue at the Corporate level regarding archery combat. As of August 1st, all fibreglass and wooden shafted arrows will require a blunt on the nock end. There are a number of people who would rather see the protection of the eye using mesh, lexan or sport goggles. We encourage all who have an opinion on this to write a letter explaining your opinion (Lochac has received permission to use these protections). Names, address and further information can be provided by us. As Quad War approaches, Baroness Roxanne is beginning to feel panic! The 22 tabards for the Baronial army are appearing to come up short as the numbers of fighters, fencers, and missile combatants swell. GO TEAM MYRGAN WOOD!!! If there is anyone who is willing to help finish the last few of these and probably 5 more please contact Her Excellency. Baron Raoul is preparing his war tactics and encourages fighters of every flavour to come out to practise with him so these can be developed!!

### Latin Phrases for Fun and Profit

Fortes fortuna juvat: Fortune favors the bold – Virgil

Festina lente: Make haste slowly – Augustus Caesar

Honor est praemium virtutis: Honor is the reward of virtue – Cicero

Veni, vidi, vici: I came, I saw, I conquered – Julius Caesar

Aut vincere aut mori: Death or victory

Ars longa vita brevis: Art is long, life is short

In vino veritas: In wine there is truth

Sapientia vino obumbratur: Wisdom is overshadowed by wine

Damnant quod non intelligunt: They condemn what they do not understand

Venari, lavari, ludere, ridere: occ est vivere: To hunt, to swim, to play, to grin: this is to live

Virute et Armis: By valor and arms

Quod Sereris Metes: As you sow, so shall you reap

Quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentes: Whatever it is, I fear Greeks bearing gifts. - Virgil

*Check out the online latin dictionaries in the Web Links section.*

### **Web Links**

<http://www.sca.org/> - the SCA Corporate Homepage  
<http://www.antir.sca.org/> - the Kingdom of An Tir's Homepage  
<http://www.avacal.org/> - the Principality of Avacal's Homepage  
<http://www.theringlord.com/mw/> - Myrgan Wood's Homepage  
<http://www.applink.net/wolfpack/> - Gavvin's Keep, all sorts of various medieval resources  
<http://www.florilegium.org/> - Stefan's Florilegium, a huge collection of information posted to various SCA newsgroups  
<http://www.teleport.com/~tguptill/tent.html> -medieval pavillion resources  
<http://www.histopia.nl/onldict/lat.html> -an online English/Latin dictionary  
<http://dictionaries.travlang.com/EnglishLatin/> - another online English/Latin dictionary

### **Armatus' Interesting Fact o' the Month**

In the Byzantine Empire, many of the highest positions of power were occupied by eunuchs, which for those who do not know are castrated men. As they could not become emperor due to their disfigurement and could not pass on hereditary rights, they were often advanced more quickly through political office. Many military commanders, religious patriarchs, and even doctors (eunuchs were the only men who could treat women) were eunuchs. As such castration bore no disgrace, and many noblemen, including Emperor Romanus I, had their sons castrated to better their chances of success.

### **Swords & Steel – A Metallurgical Miscellany**

Swords, and really all blades used in combat, are an interesting item to study. In the next few Garbs, I will present a few articles on several aspects of some of the science behind the sword. The first of these is an explanation of the properties desired in a sword. Later articles will delve into how these goals are achieved.

#### **Part 1 – Desired Properties**

The ultimate goals of a sword to be used in combat are that it will not break, it will not bend, and that it will retain a sharp cutting edge. The first goal, that the sword will not break, is related to the toughness of its steel, or more simply, how much impact the blade can absorb before it breaks. In battle, a sword will be struck against other weapons, armour, as well as flesh and bone. When doing this, the blade should not break. By using materials with high toughness and resilience (engineering terms, see the definitions at the end), some of the force of the impact can be absorbed, often by the flex in the blade, preventing the breakage of the sword. Obviously, if a warrior's sword broke in half during combat, he was in a spot of trouble. The second goal, that the sword will not bend, is related to its yield strength (another engineering term). Whether due to the impact of a blow or any other force, if the sword flexes and does not flex back to its original shape, the warrior will be in danger as the blade may now be off balance or unsuitable for use in cutting or thrusting, again leaving our poor warrior in peril. The third goal, that the sword retains a sharp edge, is related to the hardness of the steel. As the goal of a sword is to cut through flesh and bone as well as perhaps armour, its sharpness is quite important indeed. To cut into something, the blade must be roughly equivalent or superior in hardness to that which is to be cut. If the sword does not have a hard sharp cutting edge, our brave warrior might as well swing around a blunt rod.

## Leaping

Given such a simple set of properties, one would think a 'perfect' material could easily be found in this day and age, but it is not that simple. The difficulty arises in the fact that the properties that advance the sword towards one goal almost always does it at the expense of another goal. For example, a soft mild steel blade may be very difficult to actually break with impact, but it will easily be bent, and it will not be able to retain a sharp cutting edge. Conversely, a very hard steel blade may retain an excellent cutting edge and be very difficult to bend, but it may break or shatter if parried by another sword or struck upon armour.

*Part 2 of Swords & Steel will appear in July's Garb...*

### **Engineering Terms (Hopefully) Explained**

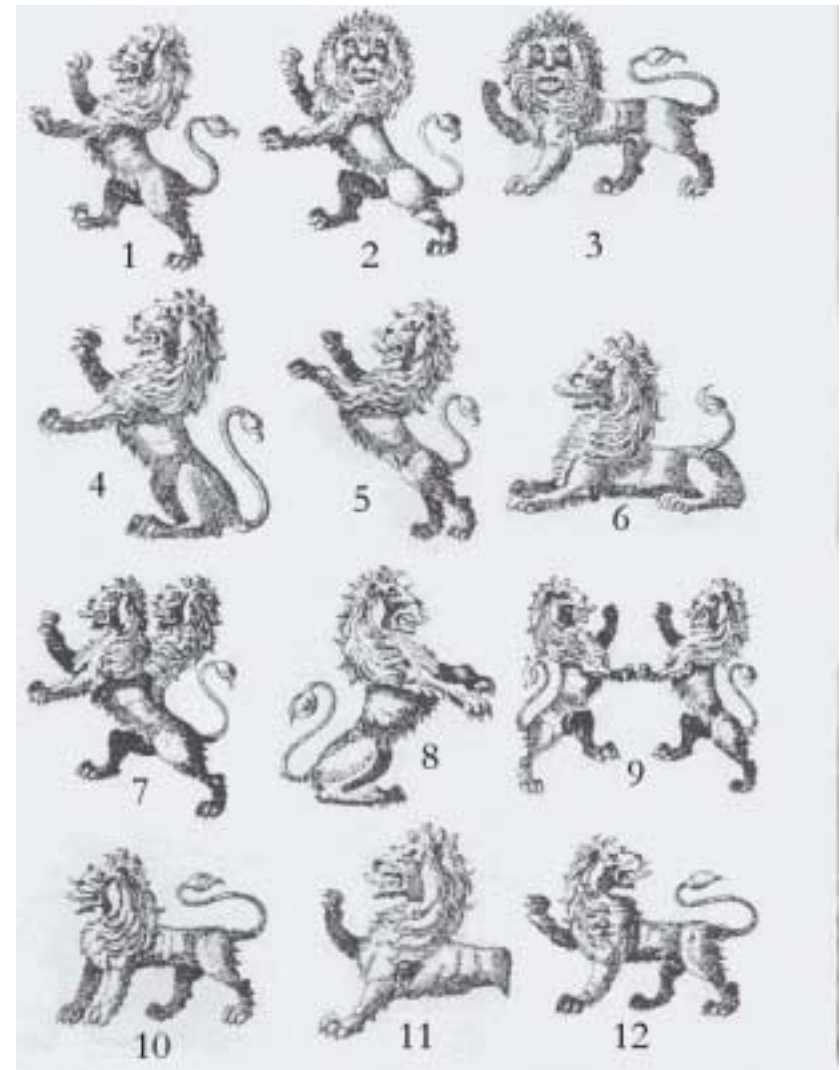
*Toughness* – The amount of energy you can apply to an object before it breaks. For example the amount of energy applied to bend a butter knife until it breaks.

*Resilience* – The amount of energy you can apply to an object with it still bending back naturally to its original shape. For example the amount of energy applied to bend a butter knife while it will still return to its original shape.

*Yield Strength* – The amount of pressure (force divided by area) that can be applied to an object without permanently deforming it. This could be bending, stretching or squishing an object. For example when you bend a paper clip until it doesn't bend back on its own, you have exceeded its yield strength.

*Hardness* – More or less how easy something is to scratch, which is often closely related to a material's Yield Strength. Hardness is a relative scale. For example, a quarter is harder than penny. You can scratch a penny with a quarter, but you can't scratch a quarter with a penny. Not easily at least...

*Contributed by Armatus*



## Lions!

Everyone and their war hound knows what a lion rampant looks like, right? Test your knowledge of heraldry and try to match the picture with the description. Answers are on page 11.

- A. Two lions respectant
- B. Lion sejant
- C. Lion bicapitated
- D. Lion standing
- E. Lion rampant
- F. Lion passant guardant
- G. Lion salient
- H. Lion couchant
- I. Lion passant regardant
- J. Demi lion, passant
- K. Lion counter sejant
- L. Lion rampant guardant

Lion pictures were scanned from:  
Neubecker, Otfried Heraldry: Sources, Symbols and Meaning  
London: Tiger Books International, 1997.

## Sergeantry in Myrgan Wood

**Contributed by Roxanne & Raoul Delaroche**

Sergeantry is a term that refers to sergeants (which are heavy fighters), gallants (which are fencers), and yeomen (which are missile combatants). These are fighters who have sworn fealty to a Baroness. The specific purpose of the sergeantry varies from Barony to Barony but generally revolves around combat in war and service to the Barony. It originated in the Barony of Lion's Gate when An Tir was merely a Principality. The purpose of the sergeantry was intended to be a step to knighthood. There were few Knights in the Principality to squire the promising fighters and so few were attaining their white belts. It was thought that if a fighter were accepted as a sergeant, that was proof that they had the chivalrous skills and knowledge that it took to be a knight. When a sergeant travelled to kingdom core, he need only prove his fighting ability. If you are interested in the full story written by Baron Gerhard, it is on the kingdom web site. Currently there are enough Knights in Avacal that this purpose is redundant.

We would like to reform the idea of the sergeantry in order to make it more relevant to Myrgan Wood at present. What we envision is kind of a "farm team" approach. When a fighter, fencer, or light shows potential to be a Knight, Don or a member of the Grey Goose Shaft, we would offer them a position with the sergeantry. Our offer is to teach these inexperienced fighters about the SCA and the dream while they are developing their fighting skills. Once having gained knowledge and experience, we would then promote them to the Knights, Dons, and members of the OGGS who would then, hopefully, consider taking new squires or cadets. Once a fighter becomes a squire, cadet, or enters the OGGS, they would turn their blue belt (sign of sergeantry) back in. This

process is a way for inexperienced fighters to learn about our game and gain notice by those of higher rank.

As with any change, this will take time to iron out the wrinkles and for the details to be worked out. With the advice of the local Chivalry, we are certain that this process can be a positive one for Myrgan Wood.

Baron Gerhard's Article can be found at:

<http://www.antir.sca.org/Pubs/ATH/6sergeants.html>

### **Myrgan Wood Arts & Sciences Championship Results**

Myrgan Woods new Champion of Arts & Science is Ntalia.

Winners of the single entries are as follows:

- Accessories & Costume Embellishment: Ntalia
- Late Period Costuming: Jacqueline of Aquitaine
- Decorative Metalwork: Ntalia
- Literature: Elizabeth the Vacillant
- Needlework: Lady Galeana Nicoletti
- Performing Arts: Elizabeth the Vacillant
- Practical Tools & Utensils: Schmett

Congratulations to all the winners!

Answers to Leaping Lions  
1-E, 2-L, 3-F, 4-B, 5-G, 6-H  
7-C, 8-K, 9-A, 10-D, 11-J, 12-I

### **QUAD WAR – Pre-Event Copy**

Well the time's coming up fast; We're all looking forward to Quad War! Here's a little pre-info to wet your whistle:

Dates: 28 June to 2 July, 2001

Place: Quad War Site (near Marsden, SK)

Site fees: \$5.00 for 16 years of age and older

(all minors must be accompanied by a legal guardian not a friend of age).

Looking for Volunteers for:

Classes

Troll

Water Bearing

Site Improvement

Activities this Year are:

Heavy and Light Wars

Dragoon and Light Battle

6' and under Weapon Battle

Rapier Tournament

U of Avacal Classes

Bardic Competition

For further information, check out the web site at

<http://www.geocities.com/quadwar>

or contact: Alfheim der Wundersman

(780-594-1083 or [gail.hiar@portagec.ab.ca](mailto:gail.hiar@portagec.ab.ca) )

or Co-Autocrat:

Dougal the Frugal

(780-594-1830 or [dkhenn@telusplanet.net](mailto:dkhenn@telusplanet.net) ).

## Events

Fighting Practice is held:

-every Sunday at 2pm near The Ukrainian Poetess on the UofS campus

-every Wednesday at 7pm, **relocated** near Kinsman Park on Spadina Crescent (across from the Mendel Art Gallery) it has been suggested that those not intending to fight dress in garb as this is a very visible location

### **June**

DragonSlayer - Montengarde - June 15-17

Castel Rouge - A Day in the Park - June 16

QuadWar - Borealis - June 28 - July 2

### **July**

Celtic Games – Myrgan Wood - July 7

Tournament of the Dragon – Myrgan Wood - July 13-15

### **August**

Moorish Tavern – Midewinde - August 3-5

Avacal Investiture - Valley Wold – August 18

Avacal Seargent's Trials - August 25

### **September**

Crown - September 1

Harvest Feast - Bitter End – September 22

Vinfest - Vingard – September 29

## May Business Meeting Notes

Chronicler: -Alayna stepped down

-Armatus stepped up

Chirurgion: -2 minor injuries at the A&S Championship

Chatelaine: - there are a number of schools requesting demos. If you are available at all during the day and willing to take part in a school demo please contact Elizabeth as the schools are more that willing to accommodate your schedule.

- Biggar School is looking for a day long or at least afternoon demo with a number of people including archery, if you are interested please contact her immediately.

- Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan has contacted us with a request to repeat last year's presentation. They offered free seats at the performance this year. The date is July 15th (Sunday). Please let Elizabeth know if you are interested.

- Stensrude Lodge is also interested in a repeat performance. This will be on a Thursday night, May 31, please contact Elizabeth if you are interested in helping out.

A&S Minister: -if interested in a class on brewing mead taught by Pandora contact Lina Joya.

-class on appliqué for war tabards taught by Roxanne on May 9

Constable: -silver bracelet and green cloak with white lining are among the items in the lost and found, contact Artorius if the owners are found

Exchequer: -taverns are making money

-A&S Championship Event did not make money

-those who reserve a feast ticket, but decide to eat off the board are asked to contact the feastocrat to avoid excess food production

-Baronial account stands at ~\$5700

Master of Stables: -fighting practice as usual

Herald: At the A&S Championship  
-Ntalia won A&S Triathlon  
-Pandora received Red Crocus  
-Rogan and Alayna received Award of Arms  
-Gunther won heavy tournament  
-Artorius won Most Chivalrous

Baron&Baroness:-A&S Championship was a great event  
-May Crown will offer discount to SCA members

Other Business: -\$110 approved for a Vicount circlet for Gunther  
-Redfish are doing Anniversary, which will be a dry event

Disclaimer: This is The King's Garb; a publication of the Barony of Myrgan Wood, of the S.C.A. The King's Garb is not a corporate publication and does not delineate official S.C.A. policy

### **Myrgan Wood Officers List**

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**Chatelaine:** Elizabeth the Vacillant (mka Charman Hawkins)  
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**Exchequer:** HE Chikaku Kawa no "Shunzei" (mka Constance Gignac)  
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**Minister of Arts and Science:** Lina Joya (mka Pixi Glasser)  
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**Knight Marshall:** Lord Rogan the Skinpeeler (mka Dave Tarry)  
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**Master of Lights:** Position vacant

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**Master of Web:** Kurtis Wagner (mka Rodney Brazeau)  
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