



— MONTENGARDE —

MINOTAUR MONITOR

MMXXVI EDITION
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1



What's happening
this month?

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BARONY OF MONTENGARDE

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

This is the January 2026, issue of the Minotaur Monitor, the official newsletter of the Barony of Montengard. Montengard is with the Kingdom of Avacal and is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, inc., and the Minotaur Monitor is published as a service the SAC's membership.

This newsletter is available online at (ADD LINK). All Changes of address or questions about subscriptions should be sent to the Corporate Office by email membership@sca.org or phone at 800-789-7486 or 408-263-9305 (Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm PT) ext.203. You may also mail in membership to Member Services Office, SCA, Inc., at https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/*membership. For more information or to purchase memberships online, please visit https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/*membership



Copyright © 2021 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Kingdom Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

IMPORTANT FIGURES IN THE BARONY

Their Excellencies of Montengarde:
HE Refr Bjarnarson and HE Ádís Ulfsdóttir
excellencies@montengarde.org

Herald
Lord Alexander Blackadder
herald@montengarde.org

Knight Marshal:
Lordship Allert Pierson
branchmarshall@montengarde.org

Exchequer:
Tora Thrandia
exchequer@montengarde.org

Captain of Armored Combat:
Vladimir of Montengarde

Minister of Arts and Sciences:
HL Custance Frideswide Featherstonehaugh
arts-sciences@montengarde.org

Captain of Archers:
Lordship Sigfuss Thorwulfsson
archery@montengarde.org

Seneschal:
Lordship Quon Jien
seneschal@montengarde.org

Chatelaine:
Master Bjar the Blue
chatelaine1@montengarde.org

Events Deputy:
Mistress Kathryn inghean Ui Mhaonaigh
deputy-events@montengarde.org

Chronicler:
Odilia Mae Winter
chronicler@montengarde.org

Webminister:
Master Mordecai Salzer
webmaster@montengarde.org



The Sign Post

Facebook Links

Unofficial Barony of Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17RdqSpoig/>

Fighters of Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BvAtVzwsS/>

Archers of Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Ckux4v9yq/>

Bard Hard with Montengarde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BHK7jGzgP/>

Avacal-Group

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/17fNN7Rxfc/>

The Kingdom of Avacal Page

<https://www.facebook.com/KingdomofAvacalSCA>

Avacal Buy/Sell, Trade/Barter

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/14GTzeqrsAb/>

While these are the key Facebook groups, there are many more that can be found by searching keywords such as Montengarde, SCA and Avacal

Website Links

Barony of Montengarde

<https://www.montengarde.org/Welcome/>

Kingdom of Avacal

<https://avacal.org/>

Society for Creative Anachronisms

<https://www.sca.org/>

Addresses

The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary

7 11 St NE Calgary, AB T2E 4Z2

Archery World

106 - 3420 12th ST NE Calgary

Monthly Festivities

Tavern Night

Jan 6st at The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary from 7pm-10pm

A social evening with friends featuring a mix of dancing, medieval gaming, and arts & sciences Beverages and sometimes food are provided for a nominal cost. Tavern is a “in garb” event but if you are without garb then have no fear! There is often loaner clothes curtesy of the Gold Key!

Montengarde Council

Jan 22nd via Discord from roughly 7pm - 8pm

Open to any interested in the business side of the Barony! Here you will hear reports from all the officers and will include updates on upcoming events.

Martial Practice

Every Thursday at The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary from 6:30pm-9pm

Our warriors participate in tournaments for individuals and teams, tactical melees involving dozens of combatants, and even large-scale wars with thousands of participants! Thus, these practices allow our fighters to keep their skills sharp. There is a \$6 fee for fighters and by donation for non-combat attendees.

Bard Hard

Jan 11nd via zoom from roughly 5pm - 10pm

A great way to meet with your fellow bards, perform, and listen to all that our talented barony has to offer.

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85062066750>

Meeting ID:

850-6206-6750

Passcode: 1

Archery Practice

Every Friday at Archery World Calgary from 7pm-9pm

As of right now, Montengarde has negotiated a \$17 fee to practice at Archery World (cash). When you get there, just inform the staff that you are with the SCA, and loaner equipment is available for those interested!

A&S Round Table and Social

Jan 6th and 20th via Discord from 7pm-9pm
These nights are a great way to connect with the talented members of the barony and discuss projects or just work through various ideas with other people. Occasionally, these nights will be hosted in person, and information regarding this will be posted on Facebook or directly on the website.



NOTES FROM THE CHRONICLER

As the calendar turns and a new year dawns upon our humble hall, the Chronicle sets forth with a refreshed appearance, complete with our very own cover art for the first time. Consider it a new chapter in our ongoing record, inked with renewed spirit.

Inside this edition, you'll find a fantastic interview with Sir Kira of the Shadow, key information about upcoming events, and even a new challenge! And fear not, our beloved word search remains safely tucked within these pages, ready for all who enjoy the challenge.

Here's to a year of good stories, sharp quills, and many more chronicles to come.

Odilia Mae-Winter

12TH NIGHT

Saturday, January 17th 2026

Delacour Community Hall, Country Hills Blvd, Delacour, AB T0M 0T0

12th night is the final night of the Christmas season and marks the eve of Epiphany, the coming of the wise men to visit the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Often, it is celebrated 12 days after Christmas (hence the name), and people celebrate it with great feasts, games, and plays.

Join the Barony as we bid farewell to the Fierce Baron Refr and the most Fairy Baroness Adis and marvel at the prowess of our Artists as they compete to be the next Emerald Rose. Watch in awe as the daring, the bold, and dashing Rapier combatants compete for the honour of being named Dragon Blade! Feeling Hungry? Enjoy Pork Ribs, BBQ Sauce, Chicken, Corn & Peppers, Stuffing, Garden Salad, Italian or Ranch Dressing, and an Apple Crumble with Whipped Cream dessert.

Adult Registration - \$30
Adult Member Registration - \$20
Youth Registration (Ages 0-17) -
Free!

Adult Feast - \$15
Youth Feast (Ages 12-17) - \$10
Child Feast (Ages 0-11) - Free!

Got Questions? Here are the amazing people who are assisting this event!

Event Stewards: Dolce Adalina Machiavelli and Arjun Singh

Feast Stewards: Ellias Silver

Luncheon Stewards: Ellisif Snorraddottir and Kathryn inghean ui Aibhe

Check out the Avacal Facebook events page for more information!

FORESTER'S CHALLENGE

Looking for a little bit of project or activity inspiration? Perchance, a little bit of personal motivation? If so, the Æthelmearc Royal Foresters Guild is once again hosting their Foresters Challenge. Participants need not be members of the Guild, nor resident in Æthelmearc, to undertake activities and join the Challenge. There is still plenty of time, as the Challenge runs through to June 19, 2026.



Within the SCA, foresters are a group of enthusiastic, supportive, and friendly souls for whom camping, pavilioning and, outdoor living count among the finer things in life. It is the purpose of foresters to research, recreate, educate, and demonstrate historical tools, methods, equipment, and techniques for living, camping, traveling, and cooking in the wilderness. We engage in travel overland and via inland waterways, with equipment both medieval and modern. Martial, arts & sciences, and service activities abound, as does persona development relevant to field, farm and forest pursuits.

If any, or all, of the above is of interest to you, please look to The Foresters Challenge guidelines and activity descriptions at <https://aethelmearcforesters.weebly.com/the-long-trail/2025-2026-aethelmearc-foresters-guild-challenges>. The Æthelmearc Foresters can also be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/830976317838192>.

WHO ARE THE FORESTERS?

As explained on their website, The Aethelmearc Royal Foresters Guild is a place for those interested in exploring the outdoors as their SCA persona might have done so in the past. Kingdom Foresters learn and demonstrate historic camping, primitive fire starting, bushcraft, hiking, foraging, fishing, hunting, outdoor cooking, or any number of other related pursuits (or kit building to better do those activities in a period style). If these are these of interest to you, we would love to get to know you better as we are always looking for new recruits to explore our Sylvan lands and history alike!



AVACAL WINTER CROWN

February 13th - 16th 2026

FluidPro REcreation Arena, 9831 97 St, Wembley AB

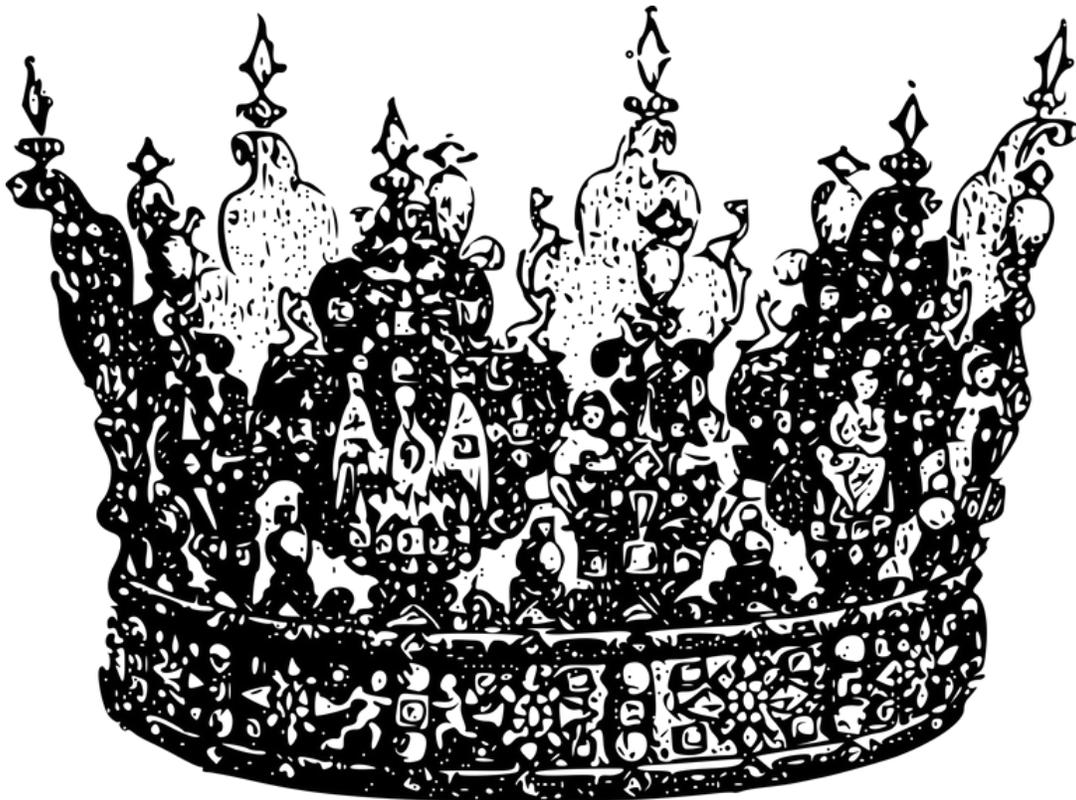
The Kingdom of Avacal Seeks New Heirs, and the Shire of Vinjar is proud to host Winter Crown 2026

Adult Registration - \$40
Adult Member Registration - \$30
Youth Registration (Ages 0-17) - Free!

Adult Feast - \$30
Youth Feast (Ages 12-17) - \$15
Child Feast (Ages 0-11) - Free!

Got Questions? Here are the amazing people who are assisting this event!

Event Stewards: Sir Olaf the Snowman and Lord Ademar Denedei di Pietro



UPCOMING ELEVATIONS

Did you know that in the coming months, 3 members of Montengarde will be elevated to various levels of Peerage?

To be “elevated” in the SCA means to be inducted into a Peerafe, a high honor recognizing exceptional contributions, skill, and setting a standard of courtesy in specific areas like martial arts, arts & Sciences, or service. These individuals are those who, through talent, hard work, and long effort, have earned recognition for their contributions and skills.

Those in the **Order of Chivalry** are Knights and Masters-at-Arms. These fighters have achieved great skill on the tounry field and are considered by the other members of the Chivalry to be models of prowess, chivalry, and honour.

Those in the **Order of the Laurel** are craftsmen and artisans recognized for their research and skill.

Those in the **Order of the Pelican** are those whose service has made a great difference to the SCA. These could include those who have run Society-wide publications, organized larger events, held kingdom offices, and managed complicated finances.

Those in the **Order of Defense** are recognized for their great skill at rapier and or cut and thrust combat

Those in the **Order of the Mark** are recognized for their great prowess in a ranged martial pursuit. This includes target archery, combat archery, siege weapons, and thrown weapons

SIR KEIRA OF THE SHADOW

Sir Kira of the Shadow is set to be elevated during **12th Night** to the **Order of the Pelican**. To celebrate, we reached out to her and conducted a short interview!

Q- How long have you been in the SCA?

A- "I have been playing since 2003"

Q- What is your favourite memory of the SCA?

A- "That's not really possible to answer as there are many amazing moments to date. Big highlights that were big turning points for me were the day I was put on Vigil for the Order of Chivalry and the day I WAS knighted, specifically the buffet, for a whole host of reasons. Culminating moments after a long journey have a way of doing that."



Q- Can you give me a summary of some of the services you have completed?

A- "I've held a few officer positions (Montengarde Knight Marhsal, Kingdom Earl Marshal & Baronial Seneschal), I help out with YAC and do the occasional event stewarding. When you list it like that, I can think of several other folks who would make good additions to the Order before I!"

Q- What does the Order of the Pelican mean to you?

A- "The Order that keeps the SCA turning. Full of experienced and helpful folks that people can turn to, and do, to get things done!"

SIR KEIRA OF THE SHADOW

Sir Kira of the Shadow is set to be elevated during 12th night to the Order of the Pelican. To celebrate, we reached out to her and conducted a short interview!

Q- How would you like to see the community evolve in the future?

A- “Trick question; the real question is how would I like to see the SCA proceed as a whole. The reality is, we are moving in that direction already. Whenever I leave Avacal, I am ALWAYS happier to come home. I hope that folks find a thing that brings them joy, regardless of discipline or activity and puts that’s happiness in the Things ahead of other considerations. Without it, no amount of work or involvement will feel quite as satisfying

“It won’t do to say to a man, ‘ You can create. Do so’. It is much safer to wait for a man to say, “I can create, and I will do so whether you wish it or not.’
-Nine Tomorrows, Isaac Asimov.”

Open section - Is there anything else you want me to include within this short interview?

“I thank the folks that decided this was something to grant me, though honestly, I am one cog in a great machine. That won’t really change, and my goal hopefully is to find a new more! I thank every other person who’s stepped into a positions, offered to help at Gate and does the million little unseen things at Tavern, and practice and demo’s to make the wheels of game keep turning. Many hands make light work.”



WORD SEARCH

Courtesy of Master Bjar the Blue

M P H R U T T O K A L O J R K H S T
 N X A C Y S E U F E S I J B O K E H
 L E N V M X U C U T I K A G V U O G
 J J U S K W O P D X S E M B A W L I
 A H K C A I M Y M H Q A H U N X L N
 C Y K E R T W B A A N O P I A G A H
 G D A V C L U B V A R K R J F G L T
 B R H S Y I E R Y G S K H G E C D F
 E K Y R X Y T M N N I B Q N B B H L
 V E A L A Q S S E A Y N K O A Z T E
 P M F L A N C E L U L U N D L X M W
 B L D I Q K R Q H O C I L E U N Z T
 U A G C L G X H W T S Q A E L M Q V
 X P R L R P O M A N A D E R L A J D
 O J F E A S T O F F O O L S A A C X
 M C V U S T A G O H S D Z T L P D G
 W E N C E S L A U S I V E G V F H S
 K X V F V B J T T S K J C D B M K I

AKITU	CALENNIG	DONGJI	EVERGREENS	FEASTOFFOOLS	GRYLA	HANUKKAH
HOGMANAY	JOLAKOTTUR	KRAMPUS	LABEFANA	MARYLWYD	POMANADER	SATURNALIA
SEOLLAL	SHABEYALDA	SHOGATSU	SOLSTICE	TWELFTHNIGHT	WENCESLAUS	YULELADS

WHAT DO THESE WORDS MEAN?

Courtesy of Master Bjar the Blue

AKITU – an ancient Mesopotamian New Year celebration (technically celebrating the New Year in spring)

CALENNIG – Welsh, derived from Latin, possibly introduced by the Romans. Children would sing and be gifted with nuts, bread, or cheese (modern age has added fruits like apples or oranges)

DONGJI – Korean “little New Year”, with customs dating back to at least the start of the Current Era. Tied to the shortest day of the year.

EVERGREENS – Yule logs, wreaths, holly, and pine boughs were commonly used to celebrations as varied as Roman Saturnalia, Renaissance German Christmas trees, and Norse solstice events.

HOGMANAY – a Scottish New Year celebration of dance and fire festivals, having started during Norse occupation with their solstice traditions.

JOLAKOTTUR – (Yule Cat) a giant Icelandic cat who eats people who have not received new clothes before Christmas Eve.

LA BEFANA – also known as Vecchia, Pifanie, or Stria depending on where in Italy you are, an old woman who rides a broom and brings gifts to good children, punish the bad, and accept offerings of food.

MARY LWYD – a winter wassiling folk custom in South Wales, where a horse's skull decorated in ribbons and bells is carried from home to home, demanding food and drink in exchange for merriment and good fortune.

SHAB-E YALDA – an ancient Persian solstice custom, where friends and families would gather and stay awake through the long dark night and celebrate with a fire festival with the following daybreak.

SHOGATSU – the Japanese New Year, a time of fresh starts, temple visits, special meals, cleaning, and bell ringing.



Why was the
Knight only a
foot tall?

Not this
again.....

Because he
was a ruler :)

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BARONY OF MONTENGARDE