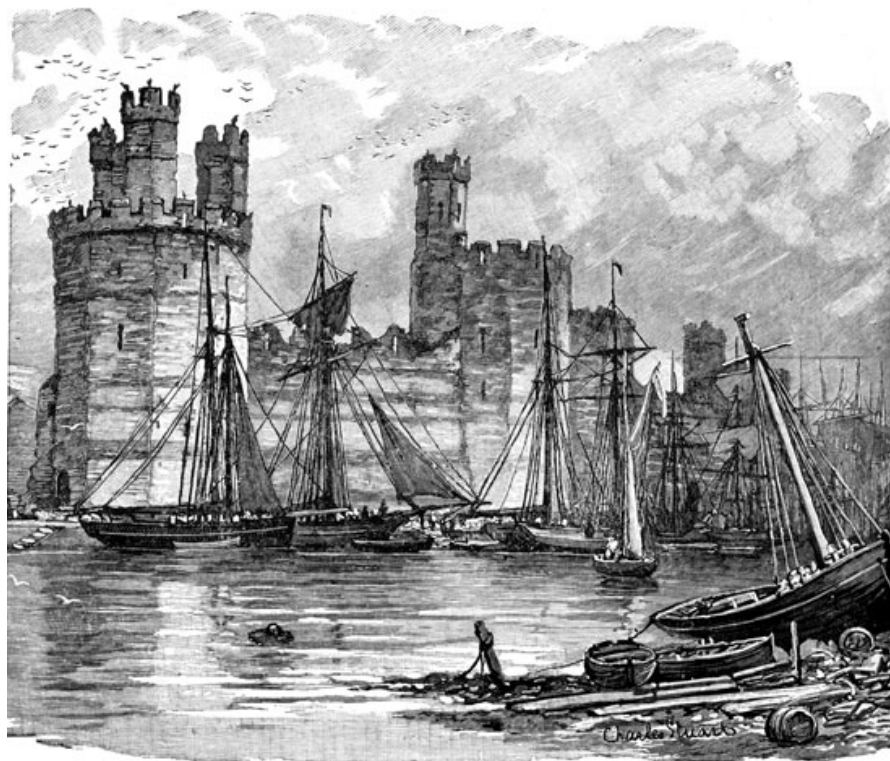


# the skein

wherein ARE wound  
the jararvellir jars



AUGUST 2010 A.S. XLV



## BARON AND BARONESS:

Their Excellencies Kitakaze Tatsu Raito and Æsa Gilsdottir  
(Neil and Angie Gilmore) 249-1869, raito@raito.com,  
angie.giles@gmail.com

## BARONIAL OFFICERS

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**Archery Captain:** Lady Jois Corbet (*Deena Thompson*) 226-0846,  
corvusjoyous@gmail.com



**Chatelaine:** Eliane Halevy (*Jennifer Friedman*) 238-7627,  
jennifer-friedman@sbcglobal.net



**Chirurgeon:** Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreassen*) 445-4622,  
tskrangsangel@lycos.com

**Chronicler:** Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-  
6891, goldschp@tds.net

**Demo Coordinator:** Annora le Spindlere (*Vicki Spindler*) 835-2617,  
demo\_coordinator@jararvellir.org

**Directory:** Cwenthryth wine (*Toni Sumner-Beebe*) 285-5404  
cwen@uwalumni.com



**Exchequer:** Annora le Spindlere (*Vicki Spindler*) 835-2617,  
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**Historian:** Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-6891,  
goldschp@tds.net



**Knight Marshal:** James Applegate (*James Bird*) 715-760-0603,  
japplegate1225@yahoo.com



**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** Cwenthryth wine (*Toni Sumner-Beebe*) 285-5404, cwen@uwalumni.com



**Pursuivant:** Karl von Frettchenburg (*Calvin Patten Jr*) 957-9903,  
lo\_grendel@yahoo.com

**Rapier Marshal:** Nikolaus der Ausländer (*Clint Hotaling*) 846-  
0859, n\_auslander@hotmail.com



**Seneschal:** Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (*John Beebe*) 628-0103,  
rezansky@sbcglobal.net

**UW Reservations:** Amy of Jararvellir (*Amy Dee*) 715-559-3653,  
uwreservations@jararvellir.org



**Web Minister:** James (*James Krot*) 989-493-1953,  
jamesjkrot@yahoo.com

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Baronial Mailing Address: PO Box 259537, Madison, WI 53725-9537

Baronial Web Page: <http://www.jararvellir.org>

Baronial Email list: [jararvellir@minstrel.com](mailto:jararvellir@minstrel.com)

# FROM THEIR EXCELLENCIES

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Greetings!

WW is just behind us, and by all accounts the event was a great success. Our deepest thanks to the event stewards, Ingus and Eithni, and also to the staff, whose tireless efforts make WW a truly amazing weekend. Those of you who volunteered to cover a shift during the event – know that your efforts were also noticed and appreciated. It makes us immensely proud to see our Barony work so well with Nordskogen and, every year without fail, put together a fun, educational, and inspiring gathering.

At WW we were most pleased to name a new Bard of Jararvellir. Several talented gentles entered the competition and indeed the decision was difficult as each piece and performer inspired us. Ultimately we chose Niamh of White Aspen as the new Bard of Jararvellir for her moving song based on period Welsh works. Our thanks to Ladies Alis and Tamar who served well as the previous Bards of Jararvellir and who provided a most welcoming atmosphere for the competition.

Looking forward, we will have a few months' rest as Jara's next confirmed event will be the Early Period Symposium on November 6. It is possible, however, that we will again host the Griffin's Needle Challenge; issues with the site caused the event as planned to be canceled, however if a new site is located, the event will be held this fall. Stay tuned to the Jara email list and the Skein for more details.

As fall approaches, we welcome back our college students who left Jara for the summer and we look forward to seeing them again. This fall will also bring the Library Mall demos; dates for this will be determined soon. Again, look to the Jara email list or the Skein for more information. These demos, besides being a good recruitment opportunity, allow us to fight and demonstrate our arts and are simply a lot of fun. We hope to see many of you there!

In service,

RAITO AND ÆSA

# AUGUST GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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*In attendance: Eithni, Paul Wickenden, Iohanna Carracci, Sol, Annora le Spindlere, Æsa, Marian, Eliane, Robert the Stout, Cwen, Eile, Stephen, and Ivan Rezansky.*

**Edgewood Demo (Marian):** I'd like to have us do the demo for Edgewood on September 26, from 1-3pm. I'd like to see heavy fighting, rapier, arts and sciences, and dancing. We will hold it in Washburn and have access to the patio.

**Warriors and Warlords (Eithni):** It's done! Hooray! The final count was around 760 people. We probably had fewer non-members (because of the increase in the surcharge). At least, we had fewer day trippers than in previous years. Useful feedback I received means that we'll be improving loading/unloading and working on the heavy fighting. I'm still working on a few receipts and I'll have the number at the next Meeting (WW post-mortem will be held at Ages of War). We will probably be in the black.

**Chronicler (Paul):** I won't be attending the Meeting next month and Robert is taking care of next month's *Skein*.

**Robert:** Hi.

**Exchequer (Annora):** We got the new checking account set up and I am almost ready to close the old one (just waiting for the last check to clear). As far as the office is concerned, I have officially taken over. So, if you have any business with the exchequer, contact me.

**Harvest Moot (Iohanna):** This year, I'd like to have a Fall Moot instead of a newcomer's feast. We would still invite the newcomers but it would be a place where new and old could share and take part. We could include newcomers' activities in the schedule. I'm willing to autocrat it. Do we want to try it? We'll look for a park for the day (and make sure it has open restrooms and an available fireplace). We'll try to hold this on Sunday October 17th. Because it will get dark

early, we'll plan to start early (10am?). We'll have a potluck feast at midday. How about we call it a "Harvest Moot"?

**Chatelaine (Eliane):** Our work at WW went pretty darned well. We had a family that wanted to join (I'll be following up with them). We did a story hour at the library which was fun (and hopefully we'll be able to do next year as well). We did tours and had 2-3 groups on both days that they were offered.

**Bardic Nights (Eliane):** By Chandler's request, we'll be having a Bardic circle at my house tomorrow night (at 7pm)

**Sol:** Nothing

**Coronation Gift Baskets (Æsa):** Coronation is coming up in a month. It's a great event and being held in a beautiful part of the Kingdom, so please come! We are planning on presenting a gift basket to Their Majesties and are soliciting contributions from the Barony. This coronation has a Norse theme so consider that for what you give for the basket.

**Gift for Orlova Dolina (Æsa):** It might also be a nice thing to give a gift to the hosts since they just went full status. What could they use? (Robert mentioned that he has the remains of Wulfholt's possessions; others suggested a monetary donation to seed their coffers) **[Meeting approved a proposal to give them \$250 from the Baronial funds]**

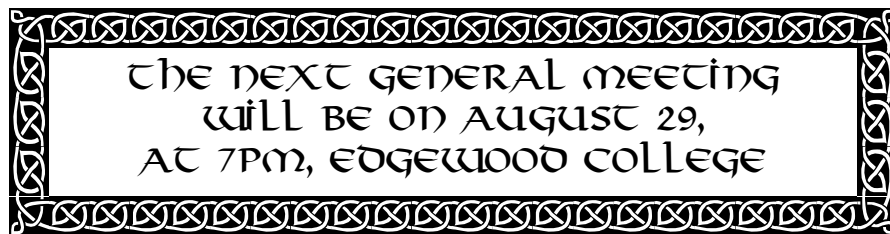
**It's Only A Flesh Wound (Stephen):** Planning for Flesh Wound is going well. I hope to have the contests all figured out after Pennsic.

**Baronial Shade Flies (Stephen):** Last year, we made two shade flies (as did Nordskogen, CAM, and others). The other groups are taking theirs to War this year. Is the Barony OK with ours going to War as well? **[Meeting approved the decision to take them to War but cautioned that someone will need to maintain them (taking them down during storms, etc.)]**

**Scroll Cases (Eile):** The signet is out of scroll cases again. So, we were thinking that we could throw together some more by holding a scroll case making day (Stephen thinks he may have some extras laying about and will check; Eithni has stacks of cardboard for about forty of them; extensive discussion of where to get fabric). I'm still

working on a date and a location, but we may be able to hold it at Eliane's. [Topic tabled until next Meeting]

**Seneschal (Ivan):** Nothing to report, except a reminder that our next meeting will be on August 29th (we are holding it a week early to avoid conflicts with Labor Day Weekend). We should be back at our regular site.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### youth BOFFER COMBAT

Greetings to all, especially parents and those who care for children in our group aged 6-17!

As some of you may know, we have a fairly large number of children in the group who have expressed interest in Youth Boffer Combat. Youth Boffer Combat is where kids age 6-17 can learn how to fight using padded weapons, in the same general style and spirit as Armored Combat for adults - just hitting very lightly and with specially made padded weapons. Like all our martial-related activities, Youth Boffer Combat requires marshals to make sure participants are safe. Like Armored and Rapier combat, participants have to authorize to take part in this activity at events; however, just like the adults, children can practice Youth Boffer Combat at

established practices with a marshal present without any authorization.

In the interest of trying to start this activity, I have created a Yahoo Group so those of us who are interested in setting up Youth Boffer Combat can discuss how we might do so in the group. (Yahoo Groups acts like an email list, but keeps an archive, and also allows storage of files and pictures. Please note you do NOT have to make a Yahoo account to join - you can just sign up for the email list only.)

For starters, we're asking parents and others interested in supporting this activity to join the list; later on I expect we'll add in those children whose parents feel they can be part of the group, to give them a chance to be part of the conversation.

Our first challenge will be to find some gentles who are willing to serve as Youth Marshals, and then to find a time for a regularly scheduled practice. We'll also need to start assembling weapons and the minimal armor needed for Youth Combat. But, I get ahead of myself... first let's get folks together in one forum to start the discussions...

To subscribe to the Jara Youth Combat email group, you can visit Yahoo Groups and look for the group JaraYouthCombat, or go to the group home page at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JaraYouthCombat/> Or you can send an email to: [JaraYouthCombat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:JaraYouthCombat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) (This will generate a confirmation email which you can respond to get signed up.) (Note: in order to avoid spammers, I will be approving members individually when you request membership.)

If anyone has any questions about this effort, about the email list or Yahoo group, or if there is a delay in getting your membership request approved, please feel free to contact me directly at my email address, [jbf@pobox.com](mailto:jbf@pobox.com)

Looking forward to developing yet another great activity within the Barony, I remain,

Yours in service,

**JACK**

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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**Deputy Chronicler** — The Deputy Chronicler helps with the production of the *Skein* and other print publications, as needed. The primary responsibility is helping the Chronicler with taking minutes at the General Meeting or publishing and distributing the *Skein* during periods when the Chronicler cannot do it. Familiarity with desktop publishing, strong communication skills, and ability to meet tight deadlines a plus. If you are interested in the position (or wish to learn more about its requirements), please contact Paul Wickenden at [goldschp@tds.net](mailto:goldschp@tds.net).



### TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE BARONY

By Bronwyn ferch Gwyn ap Rhys

Master Perygen Northymbr, Vicar for Baroness Asdis and one of only two peers we had at the time, played a part in the creation of the Hubble Space Telescope's Speed Photometer (HSP) from 1980 to 1985. I believe that he was either the lead or secondary programmer for the instrument. It was one of the things that worked.

Given how much the HST has changed our view of the world, and how much Galileo would have loved to have had access to its data, it is kind of cool that someone who spent his off-time (and there wasn't much of it) in the SCA. When Pery wasn't working on the HSP, he was the man who was originally responsible for the success of the Jara Music Guild.



# SCA Wisconsin FAQ

By Annora le Spindlere

Welcome to SCA-Wisconsin! By the time you are reading this, the brand new SCA-Wisconsin should be in place.

What is SCA-Wisconsin?

SCA-Wisconsin is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SCA, Inc, with the same board of directors but with its own Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, federal identification number, and so on. It is legally a separate organization.

Why was the new SCA-Wisconsin created?

The State of Wisconsin has annual filing requirements for charitable organizations such as the SCA. One of these requirements is that when the revenues get to a certain point the organization has to submit audited financial statements to the state. The cost an audit of SCA, Inc would be exorbitant, so the alternative is to form a subsidiary to cover the state of Wisconsin that will likely have revenues that are much less than the audit requirements. This is the same sort of situation that Illinois went through previously.

Why would Wisconsin have such a requirement?

Whenever you have an organization that doesn't pay taxes, you have the potential that someone will try to take advantage of the situation. The state uses the audit requirement to hold accountable those organizations that would abuse their tax-exempt status.

What will this mean going forward?

Most people won't even notice a difference. Your membership dues will still go to SCA, Inc. and insurance will still be through the national organization. Those most affected by this change are the Wisconsin, Kingdom and Societal exchequers as there will be additional reporting requirements and new bank accounts to be set up. (Next time you see him, be sure to thank HE Rodrigo for all his extra efforts!)

Wisconsin won't be the last state to go through this. There are other states that are already following suit.

# GILES FLETCHER AND THE RUSSIANS (PART 1 OF 2)

By Paul Wickenden of Thanet

Giles Fletcher served as English ambassador to Russia in 1588, renegotiating terms of trade between the two countries. But far more important than his diplomatic exploits were the record that he left of his trip. This account is one of the few outside observations of the Russians in period.

Like other foreign observers, both preceding and antecedent, his comments were far from complimentary. And, while his observations were colored both by his prejudices against the government (he was badly treated during his embassy) and his loyalties towards his own government over the Russian one, his feelings were undoubtedly shared by most other Westerners of the time. To provide a flavor of these feelings, let us look over some key points from his treatise, *Of the Russe Commonwealth* (published originally in 1591 and reprinted in facsimile in 1966).

## On the Government

Fletcher describes the Tsar as a tyrant and compares the Russian government poorly against Elizabeth I's reign at home. For the 21st century reader, the nuances may be lost, but Fletcher's complaints (the lack of hereditary officers, the handing out of political patronage by whim of the Tsar, and the "corrupt" role of the Church) had a hidden agenda that had more to do with politics at home than with the affairs of Russia. The criticisms were rooted in the concept of Constitutionalism in England which had been slowly growing since the arrival of the Normans and the signing of the Magna Carta, and would eventually explode within a short few years into the English Civil War. A good ruler, by Elizabethan standards, ruled with "enlightenment" and according to "natural principles." The Tsar was neither enlightened nor for that matter even aware of these principles (it would not be until Peter I that enlightened rule would come to Russia, and Constitutionalism and Rule of Law would remain elusive much longer than that).

Fletcher went further and described the Tsar as a person in unflattering prose. The Emperor, he said, "is for his person of a mean

stature, somewhat low and gross, of a fallow complexion, and inclining to dropsy, hawk-nosed, unsteady in his pace by reason of some weakness of his limbs, heavy and inactive, yet commonly smiling almost to laughter. For quality otherwise, simple and slow-witted, but very gentle and of an easy nature...."

#### On the Church

If Fletcher's opinion of the Tsar is colored by his loyalty to Queen Elizabeth, then his feelings towards the Russian Orthodox Church reveal absolute distaste and religious intolerance, for the Russian Church was far removed from the Anglican (bearing at best a small resemblance to the Catholic church, for which Fletcher expressed no love): "it is framed altogether after the manner of the Greek: as being a part of that Church, and never acknowledging the jurisdiction of the Latin Church, usurped by the Pope."

In his chapter "Of the Doctrine of the Russe Church, and What Errors It Holds," he highlights a series of objections. First of all, Fletcher, as a Protestant, objects to the hierarchical nature of the Orthodox Church, especially its deferral of the interpretation of the Scriptures to the Patriarch and the Synod (as well as to the Tsar). He notes that there is a overly cozy relationship between Church and State, observing that the people give what little money survives the state's capricious taxation to the monasteries out of fear and "superstition" – an arrangement that suits the Tsar quite well.

He complains that the Church ignores large sections of the Old Testament, carefully selecting the portions that are read publicly. And they also avoid Revelations and sections of the New Testament that they disagree with.

But the major "error" pointed out by Fletcher is the idolatry of the Church, with its fixation on icons and symbols (like the Cross). Fletcher describes their use of the Cross as "abuse," and accuses them of giving the sign of the Cross a reverence "which is due to God only." He chides them also for being "superstitious" about holy water and other "profane ceremonies."

This complaint is hardly a new objection and had divided East (Orthodox) from West (Catholic) long before. To a Protestant, the heavy reliance on ceremony and ritual smacked of "superstitious" practices, not true worship: "Many other vain and superstitious

ceremonies they have, which were long and tedious to report. By these it may appear how far they are fallen from the true knowledge and practice of Christian religion, having exchanged the word of God for their own vain traditions, and brought all to external and ridiculous ceremonies, without any regard of spirit and truth, which God requires in his true worship."

All this being said, his criticism of the Russian Church is more aimed at home and seems to have another target: the Roman Catholic Church. He faults the Russian faith as being led by ignorant priests who follow and promote "Popish superstition." In other words, to the extent that the Russian Orthodox resembles the Roman Catholic, they are guilty of deviations and "errors."



## EVENTS



### OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/Events/List.aspx>).

#### August 2010

13-15—Poorman's Pennsic  
XVII, **Falcon's Keep**  
(Wisconsin Rapids WI)

#### September 2010

24-26—Windhaven's Fall  
Fest, **Windhaven** (Oconto  
WI)

#### October 2010

2—Novices, Neophytes &  
Knives, **Turn an dem See**  
(Sheboygan WI)

15-17—The Youth Get a  
Castle, the Adults Get a Tent!,  
**Caer Anterth Mawr** (Kiel WI)

#### November 2010

6—Early Period Symposium,  
**Jararvellir** (Madison WI)

#### December 2010

4—Feast of Boar's Head  
XXXIV, **Caer Anterth Mawr**  
(West Bend WI)



# LOCAL NEWS



## STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

We have all of our regular dates through the end of the year, except for September 15th.

The full schedule can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

### JARARVELLIR ARTILLERY BRUNCH

Saturday, August 21 at 1pm

There's a change this month. Lady Sarangerel has offered to host but would like to combine brunch with her birthday so we'll be doing brunch on August 21. It will be held at her place (225 E Dean Ave., Madison WI — directions below).

Sarangerel says she would like people to wear garb and bring along projects so her family can meet her friends. The What Not starts at 1 pm and goes to 9 pm.

#### Directions

Take your best route to Monona Dr. Coming from the Beltline, turn right on E Dean just past the golf course.

From downtown, turn left on E Dean (the first light after Monona Grove High School). 225 will come up on your right.

Questions? Contact Moira (244-1559 or [blarose@tds.net](mailto:blarose@tds.net))

# BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

*Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!*

**Archery Practice Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-8PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846

**Armoured Combat Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM. UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Roisin igen Ailill (Rebecca Heidelberger) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com

**Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue**

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

**Brewing & Vintning Various locations (call for info)**

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

**Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM. Call for location**

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

**Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM. Contact for location and dates.**

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

**Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM Contact for location**

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

**Equestrian (not currently active but information available)**

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433,  
alissende@centurytel.net

**European Dance Sundays 3PM. UW Campus—check TITU for room.**

Contact: Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas (Jenny Becker) 206-9330,  
kathrynscurly98@aol.com

**Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine**

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

**Fool's Guild**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

**General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,  
Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.**

Contact: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (John Beebe) 298-0918, rezansky@sbcglobal.net

**Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.**

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859,  
n\_auslander@hotmail.com

**Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming**

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

**Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30. Call for location**

Contact: Lady Helena Caxton (Sara Andrews) 414-507-5872, helenacaxton@gmail.com

**Pottery Guild First or second Monday (alternating with Clothier's), Fired Up Pottery.**

Contact: Annora (Wendy Nelson) 438-6530, wendybyrd42@yahoo.com

**Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion**

Contact: Cosimo de Cellini (Joe Ordaz) 274-0997, jordaz@netzero.com

**Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish. Call to verify location**

Contact: Mistress Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

**Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon. UW Stock Pavilion.**

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

**Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM UW Campus—Check TITU**

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

**WhatNot Sundays 7pm. Knuckledown Saloon, 2513 Seiferth Rd., Madison WI 53716**

Contact: Elizabeth von Kalmbach.

**LEGALESE:** This is *The Skein*, a publication of the Barony of Jararvellir in the Kingdom of Northshield of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. *The Skein* is available from Paul Goldschmidt, 5625 Highland Way, Middleton WI 53562. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

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**SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Subscriptions for 2010 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year =\$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

**ART CREDITS:** The cover art is taken from an unknown antique book, reproduced at the Karen's Whimsy website (<http://karenswhimsy.com>) and is royalty-free. The filler art is taken from *Medieval Illustrations* (Mineola, NY: Dover, 2001) and is royalty-free.

## CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)  
<http://www.coillestoirmeilonline.org>

Seneschal: Matthias of Rolling Oaks (Matt Schwall)  
23149 State Hwy 21, Tomah WI 54660  
[limos112@hotmail.com](mailto:limos112@hotmail.com), (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah



The Skein  
Paul Goldschmidt  
5625 Highland Way  
Middleton WI 53562

