

A Newcomers Perspective of SCA

An invitation to the Society for Creative Anachronism was gifted to me by my kinfolk, and verily I was intrigued and excited to learn more about this organization. A full day of fantastic fantasy filled with friendly folk, I accept this new quest! Pleased to know that more than just I could go, I invited my romantic interest with me. She accepted and off we were to pick out properly themed attire. Gratefully I was updated that the need for newly purchased garments is not a requirement. I was quite pleased that the tailor had vintage cloth to spare.

Upon arriving at the easy to find local, we entered the great hall where clansmen greeted us and started our tour. Suddenly the terrible Troll of Toll told us that all must fork over our coin pouch! Not to fear, our kinsmen were ready and protected us stating the Troll has been fed on our behalf. I inquired what happens to those of us who do have protectors. The response that we are new works just as good as fighting to the last breath.

Soon enough it was time for us to draw knives! Of course this was to participate in the class given to us by Captain Rodrigo on safety and sharpness of weaponry. Utilizing the ways of old we ensured our blades would be good as if forged that day.

Back to more meeting and greeting, we entered a room full of us, more newcomers! Thegn Knut helped us understand the titles for who was who with what they do. When asked of our lineage I was more than happy to be part of Scottish decent. The handouts were helpful for creating a persona if we wished to dive deeper into this dreamy world. Thegn Knut was delightful, helpful, an all-around wonderful advisor.

Leaving with the desire to create a new ancient me we were swept into learning a brief history of the SCA. Thegn Dyfn helped us first timers understand the purpose of the organization without any dreadful droning. After the background was covered, we broke out some dice to throw at this new game chart. Attempting to put our wits to the test of bard-like abilities, I enjoyed entertaining everyone enthusiastically with a line or two from the numbers I drew. A poem came out, describing my first impressions of all that I'd seen so far. I could tell it pleased the Thane so much so that the idea of apprenticeship was mentioned. Perhaps one day I too could be a baron?

Although, a baron must always be ready and willing to defend his people and land I thought to myself. I am more than capable with modern implements but how can I train for times like this? As if to have an oracle next to me knowing my desired path we were led to the Live Weapons training where The Honorable Lord Nathri showed us the ropes. Well, these ropes looked and felt a lot like hand axes, javelins, knives and other fighting tools to use against the targets. It was great success and extreme fun that followed. Wooden badguys beware; before accosting me it should be known that I can now utilize these skills against you if you are a four foot by four foot square standing next to the one I am aiming at! Luckily, I have a lovely shieldmaiden who is quite skilled with knives to accompany me on such trips.

Thankfully I did not have to catch my own lunch there were multiple venues that would deliver or had the ability to acquire sustenance for the rest of day from. After I killed my beastly

hunger, we returned to the times of self-reliance. This time we decided to pick a seat the table of Lord Wayne the leather worker. Perfect pouches produced from this craft were entering my mind as we learned how to repair and stitch our own leather garments with multiple threading patterns.

A call to arms was issued to all of whom are qualified wanting to participate in the upcoming dueling practice. A sight to see it was with all the colors representing each individual knight. From axes to rapiers, long swords to spears the weaponry was just as impressive as the skills demonstrated by all combatants. Baron Şimon conducted the pairings perfectly for each participant performing. After the warming of warriors we witnessed the real competition for the title Champion of Twelfth Night. It was earned by Champions Juancho and Muirenn, maybe one day I will have the honor for competing in such tournaments.

Soon, too soon, evening was upon us. The Herald announced that we should ready ourselves for a feast of fortune. Words cannot describe the aroma for each delicious dish. Our seats were in perfect view for the performance for the visiting Baron & Baroness and all the other guests. An announcement of acquaintances new was made and a lovely semi-crystal chalice filled a dozen hands. The Baron then spoke to the deeds past of outstanding members of his realm, and amazing awards and gifts were given to members of the court. One last announcement was a birthday to be celebrated with a most unique song. The feast began and food from far and wide filled all who consumed entirely! Foam frothing from beers, mead flowing from horns, and wine were within abundance for those with the approval from his Excellency; it was all quite merry!

I sincerely say such stupendous sights haven not been seen in quite some time. I look most forward to returning to the warm welcome in future.

--Joseph McPherson