

Scorpion Tales



August

Newsletter 2021

Seneschal's Corner:

Greeting's shire,

As the Kingdom slowly opens up again, the guidelines will remain very fluid. These changes will be on the kingdom page. Please be patient and courteous to everyone who is trying to make events happen. There will be many things not in their control.

In service,

Sir Baron Killian MacTaggart KSCA

Officers reports:

Seneschal: opens meeting

Art/science: Getting ready for Highland.

Youth Activities: Getting ready for Highland.

Chatelaine: not present

Constable: not present

Chronicler: Need things for the newsletter.

Exchequer: Getting ready for Highland.

Marshals: Practices are going well.

Herald: not present

Web wright: getting ready for Highland

List: getting ready for Highland

New Business: Master Brocc of Alderde would like to teach dance to the shire.

Old Business: Need things for the history of the shire article for the Crown prints.

Highland war: getting site rules made and site tokens are almost done.

Other Business:

Next Shire Meeting:

September 20th at 6:30 in person and via zoom

Upcoming Kingdom events

Saturday, October 2

8:00am

Harvest Arts (Carreg Wen)

Tuesday, October 5

Great Western War (includes Queen's Champion Equestrian and Ranged)

Wednesday, October 6

Great Western War (includes Queen's Champion Equestrian and Ranged)

Thursday, October 7

Great Western War (includes Queen's Champion Equestrian and Ranged)

Friday, October 8

Great Western War (includes Queen's Champion Equestrian and Ranged)

Saturday, October 9

Great Western War (includes Queen's Champion Equestrian and Ranged)

Sunday, October 10

Great Western War (includes Queen's Champion Equestrian and Ranged)

Monday, October 11

Great Western War (includes Queen's Champion Equestrian and Ranged)

Saturday, October 16

8:00am

Nordwache Anniversary

12:30pm

Western Seas Baronial Tournament

Saturday, October 23

8:00am

Caid Archery Open

Sunday, October 24

8:00am

Agincourt Tournament and Feast (Altavia)

Saturday, October 30

8:00am

Dreiburgen Anniversay

Shire Regnum

Seneschal:

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This is the official newsletter for the Shire of al Sahid of the Kingdom of Caid of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA) It is not a publication of the SCA, Inc. and does

Arts and Science Corner

Sigurd and the Raven Banner

7.1.0 Compositional: Poetry

Songs we sing of
Ravens black, bearers
One-eye's will
Sage-spells

Hlodver is heir
Storm-clad center
Dragonships dock
Soaring the sea

Earl's fame earns a queen
Wed he Audna, wife and
Vowed to the vaunted lady
No maid's magic

On day Hlodver trod the Hel-path
Earl's son Sigurd
Stout was he and strong,
He feared no fate but one -

From the Scot's land to the south
Longships eleven in number
Many strong men
The Orkneys their aim,

Sigurd sighted them
To fall back before their foes

Sigurd to Skidda-myre
The sorceress to see,
Earl's own mother,
Came he to the cave

Silently she signed
The earl stood still,
"Seven men to one of mine,
Witch us so we may wage

With scorn the sorceress
"I would have warded you
If I knew you feared

Odin's messengers
of the bright word
flown into the world,
test men's deeds.

to the Orkneys
of the sea roads.
midst their deadly passage
to slay their foes.

Audna was her name.
wyrð woman
victories brave,
unmanfully asked.

hale at dawn, dead at noontide.
sat the high seat
seemingly fearless.
to fail that which he faced.

sailed Earl Finnleik
left Skye ports.
manned the oars
its harbors their prize.

set his men to wait
till fief-lord returned.

swiftly rode
sybil named Audra.
augurer and spell-weaver.
living cairn since her lord's death.

for her son to approach.
spoke of Finnleik's army.
your magic we need.
war against the Scots."

her son's eyes fixed.
in my wool-basket
the fall of the brave.

Do your duty	and die if God wills.
But since you are set on then this brave banner Victory it gives him But is the bane of him	a sager course may bear your courage for you. afore it is carried who bears it."
From a chest she shook a cloth The weave woven Black bird soaring on Wrought with strange spells	that shone in the dimness by a wise woman. bright banner sorcery gleaming.
"A goodly gift For he who fields the flag will But he who bears not the banner Huginn and Muninn will judge	grants the raven fall and to Valhalla go. his bravery is forfeit between them."
Sigurd was wroth at her words Silently he snatched the banner If to Odin geld was owed But Finnleik would fall	for wicked he judged them. and strode from her sight then the Earl would pay, first on the field.
To Skidda-myre Sigurd rode In battle array brawling men Weapons glittered, warriors roared, Glint of weapons, blood-glistened	the Scots to meet. bore proud banners war-surge meets shields glaring at the foe.
Armies clashed, crashed together Sigurd's standard-bearer Into the air aloft it flew and the banner bearer too	with clanging blades streamed the raven banner all who fought Sigurd fell was borne to the ground.
Three more brave bearers Three more fighters to the fates Ere the valiant for vanity's sake Warriors be wary	bore it across the field fell that day his victory achieved of spell-wrought deeds.
Wind-blown banner whets And bearer's blood Yet Orkney men overlooked For the savage sacrifice	blade woes is its bounty. Earl's lost honor satisfaction was deemed.
Twenty years of time While the spell-wrought raven	then trod the earl rested in shadows.
Then Máel Mórda rose in revolt	monarch of Leinster a rival for the high throne.

Brian Boru's lawful Blood's brother to Gormflaith,	brother by marriage Brian's own queen.
Queen Gormlaith gained Her brother Mael Morda Her son Sigtrygg despised Kinship was naught to killers	ground with allies the chief man among them his stepfather Brian with a king to betray.
Sigurd gave Sigtrygg To punish the prince Crooked conspirators Felling Brian Boru	his assent to war for his pride of high place. to Clontarth would go the royal blood to spill.
Took the earl the wyrd-wrapped Set sail with his men Orkney joining Ulster Ancient rights to recover	spell-weave south they bore and Ui Neill a rule to end.
At Clontarth the companies Monarch's heir Murchad Kerthialfad, king's foster son Fell warriors forced	clashed on the field. the Irishmen led cleaved the way forward to Sigurd's line.
Sailed the standard before many spears bore its For honor another raised it His battle went badly	snapping in the wind bearer to the ground. an man with courage overborne was he.
Standing with Sigurd Their sacrifice would stay To Thorstein of Sida That he should bear the banner	still were his kin certain defeat. Sigurd cried the battle to save.
Yet Asmund the White warned Thorstein heeded his words Sigurd roared at Hrafn the Red But Hrafn denied and dared him	of woe to come and hasted away. to raise the banner "Your own devil bear!"
Sigurd spat his command Earl-kin gave no ground Sigurd snatched up the cloth "Mayhap the beggar should bear	scarce heed gave Hrafn no glory in magecraft. the sigil to take. his own bag."

From its pole he plucked it
Clasping it close
When a spear pierced Sigurd
Fell was his passing and evil

This same fate failed his men
Swiftly taking sail upon
Killed was the high king and
Fallen too was Mael Morda
Irish and Ui Neill and Ulstermen

Far Skidda-myre saw
The weird women of Caithness
Singing their song
So fell the savage sigil

placed it in his cloak
to a coward's heart
slicing also the raven.
his fate.

and fast they fled
the gray sea.
of his kin many fell
much mourned was he.
united in uneasy peace.

Sigurd's fall
the war-weave cut.
of Earl's ending
the seer of deeds.

Documentation for “*Sigurd and the Raven Banner*”

I followed a poetic pattern primarily found in *The Poetic Edda*, a small collection of 32 Old Norse poems. Unlike skaldic poems, the Eddic poems are stanzaic and most of them use the *fornyrðislag*¹ form. *Fornyrðislag* stanzas usually consist of eight half lines or four full lines with the half lines separated by a space or caesura. This length is not a hard and fast rule: some stanzas are as short as four half lines or as long as twelve half lines.

The placement of stressed syllables is flexible in the lines. In general each half line has two-three unstressed syllables and two stressed; but this is also flexible. These poems use a few kennings but not to the extent as those found in skaldic poetry.

Each beginning half-line alliterates with the next half-line like this: the first or second stressed syllables of the first half-line alliterate with the first stressed syllable of the second half-line. In some of the surviving Anglo-Saxon heroic poems, including much of *Beowulf*, the alliteration scheme is even more demanding: it alliterates both the first and second stressed syllables of the first half-line with the first stressed syllable of the second. (No matter what, alliteration must occur on the first stressed syllables of the second half-line.)

My Choices

In my poem I followed the Eddic style of stanzas and alliteration. I chose to include two alliterative syllables in each first half line with a third alliteration in the second half line. Every stanza save one has four full lines / eight half lines. The short stanza was deliberate as a marked transition between times and events.

I considered using variations on *fornyrðislag* such as *málaháttir*, *ljóðaháttir* or *galdráháttir*. Structurally they are not very different from their *fornyrðislag* model but they are used for different poem subjects and moods. For example, *málaháttir* represents a conversational approach as if the poet were speaking to friends. *Ljóðaháttir* is a more formal story form similar to a sung ballad, while *galdráháttir* is a so-called “incantation” form with repeated lines like choruses. In the end I chose *fornyrðislag* as the best form for a short heroic poem.

I found the process a challenging one. I have written other poems in alliterative form so was familiar with that challenge. What I did not expect is how difficult it was (at least for me) to write the story poem using *fornyrðislag*’s stanzas. These compact sets of lines had to convey distinct images or events and there was no slopping over² to the next stanza.

The Story

¹ *Fornyrðislag* is pronounced [for(clicked r)-near-this-lak]. *Ljóðaháttir* is pronounced [leeyoh-th(soft)at-hotter].

² “Slopping over”: clearly a technical term.

The story is period and exists as a prose story in a translation by Jon A. Hjalalin and Gilbert (story into more modern English for storytelling

Most of the historical figures in the poem exist Murchad, his traitorous queen Gormlaith, and the Battle of Clontarf took place on Good Friday, 2 Bay. The plain is bounded by the sea and a sacred conditions of tide and wind. The sounds resemble 'Cluain tarbh,' Clontarf, the plain of bulls.

Did Earl Sigurd of the Orkneys exist? Maybe. The *Orkneyinga* and *Njall's Saga* -- were written 20 to corroborate but not impossible. Although Sig particular story he appears in other stories as a hero also appears in the *Heimskringla* and *Eyrbyggja*

The "raven banner" was a common Norse symbol with magical powers representing Odin's raven: dawn Odin released them to fly around the world news gathering is not particularly warlike, raven aspect that a raven symbol might be carried on a

Bibliography

Poems of the Elder Edda. Patricia Terry, translator. Philadelphia. 1990.

Maess, Harald S. *A History of Norwegian Literature*. 1993.

The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics. Cavanagh, Jahan Ramazani, Paul Rouze. 2012

Neijmann Breen, Daisy. *A History of Icelandic Literature*. Lincoln, NE. 2006.

³ Odin was sometimes called "the raven god (*Rafnagud*)."

Upcoming meetings and Practices in local

areas. For more information on the Barony of Dreiburgen meeting go to their facebook page.

Angels fighter practice:

coming soon

Dreiburgen fighter practice:

every Wednesday night 7:00

Andulka Park

5201 Chicago Ave.

Riverside, CA 92506

Dreiburgen Newcomers: every second

Monday, Via zoom

Brewers guild: every third Monday of the

month, via zoom

Dreiburgen arts and science: every fourth

Monday in Norco.

Culinary guild: every third Thursday

Via zoom

Shire of Al-Sahid practice:

Sunday at 6:30-8:00 p.m at Killian and

Teka's house.

Dreiburgen Archery Praticce

Sundays 9:30 – 1:30 Dates may varie best place for updates is the dreiburgen archery and throwing weapons facebook page. Next one is August 29th.

Rattan Sources

Franks cane and rush supply

7252 Heil Ave.

Huntington beach,

(714) 847-0707

Cane and Basket Suppys

1283 South Cochran ave.

Los Angeles

(323) 939-9644

Highland War September 4, 2021

Arts and Sciences- Plague Projects

There will be an Arts and Sciences People's Choice Competition during the day, bring your project, finished or in-progress that you have worked on during quarantine and enter.

Come and see what others are working on and cast your votes!

Plagues are a nuisance, but we had a little more time to create and try things!

There will be a class on making Medieval finger-looping trim~

There will be a class to learn basic hand-sewing techniques creating a small drawstring pouch to hold your ducats.

The times will be on the schedule on the day of the War. The classes are free to all.

We will be there all day at the Competition shelter holding an open workshop on needlework and sewing. Come and investigate sewing or trim making techniques.

Drop in and stay as long or little as you like. Bring your project or questions, learn or pass on tips and techniques.

The focus will be mainly on trim, but everyone and any project is welcome.

Highland Not-Quite-a-War

The martial Shire of al-Sahid loves starting Wars... but with the plague still upon some parts of our land, this year's Highland War will be a **one-day event**. We will pack as much of the War's fighting and fun into one single day as possible!

We invite all Caid to make the scenic trek to a beautiful park on Saturday, September 4, 2021. We are holding our 1-day War at beautiful Helendale Community Park, so please note the new address.

Location:

Helendale Community Center
15425 Wild Road
Helendale, CA 92345

Schedule for the Day:

Site opens: 8:00 am

Opening Court: 10:00 am (at Their Majesties' Pleasure)

Battles start 10 minutes after opening court closes

Closing Court: 3:00 pm (or at Their Majesties' Pleasure)

Site closes: 5:00 pm

There will be melees and or battle scenarios for armored and rapier as well as games and crafts for non-fighters. All attendees need to bring their own picnic food and beverages. This is a dry site.

Event Steward: Dame Teka Turmanov
(Tammy Anderson)

highlandwarsteward@gmail.com

Adult Event Registration: \$10 and Adult Member Discount Event Registration: \$5.

Payments will be accepted at the door. Please make checks payable to SCA Inc., Shire of Al-Sahid.

Please RSVP by registering here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUnKhEiM-qfiG7Ql0FU9X6SNAU5LHxW49HuEMpPiSeNOzpoA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Refund policy: There are no refunds since the money is collected at the site.

Disclaimer: Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.