

# THE BICRANIAL BEAR AUGUST 2022

Greetings to the Citizens of Adiantum!

Welcome to the third BiCranial Bear for 2022. This issue includes an introduction to our current Baronial Champions and a short interview with Michael of Dragonswood, Founding Baron of Adiantum.

In the past year I have been trying to fill in some of the history of Adiantum and introduce its officers and champions. However, I would love to have articles by other folks. Write about what you love – how to do something, research you've been doing, no s--- there I was stories, memorable moments, etc., etc. The newsletter is a chance for us to share something more narrative or explanatory than what we post on our Facebook page.

In service to Adiantum,  
Yseult of Broceliande, Chronicler

The BiCranial Bear is the official newsletter of the Barony of Adiantum

## AN INTERVIEW

Last April I was able to interview Adiantum's Founding Baron, Michael of Dragonswood . . .

**[How did you hear about the SCA?]** Michael was active in the science fiction con world, and the SCA would put on fighting or dance demos at the cons. He attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> ever Star Trek convention in LA. He also attended UC Berkeley for one term and talked with someone from the West Kingdom who put him in touch with Alyanora of Vinca / Mina Wagner in Eugene. An Tir had become a Principality of the West Kingdom on August 25, 1973 (A.S. VIII). Alyanora threw a medieval themed party two months later, and the participants agreed to schedule a local SCA event.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Revel was held indoors in the community hall of Laurelwood Community Center on January 26, 1974. Michael said, "I remember thinking, 'Everyone's in costume, there are candles, WOW!'" The 1<sup>st</sup> outdoor revel was held April 6, 1974, at the shelter in Hendricks Park. As Michael remarked, "Revels were always potlucks".

Alyanora and Michael ran most of the events during the first year or so, but Egil Skallagrimsson Memorial Tourney, first held in 1975, was the brainchild of Thorgeirr Eikenskjalldi. Ulfhedinn helped with the details because he had an Icelandic persona. There were probably 2 or 3 dozen people in the first few years, mostly from the community, but many also from the UO. Mina and Michael / Alyanora and Michael were students.

He remembers talking with Poul Anderson's wife who was the Herald of the SCA at the time, and he asked what it took to become a Herald. She asked if he was interested, he said yes, and she said, 'You're the herald!' He did the drawings for the first heraldic submissions for the group's arms. The first idea, from Walter the Lout, was a banana slug rampant devourant of a laurel wreath. Anderson's wife reviewed the submission, did not like it at all, and rejected it. Walter the Lout sold odd stuffed animals at Eugene's Saturday Market, including a teddy bear with two heads, so that was the next heraldic animal they submitted as Adiantum's coat of arms. That one passed; the animal was deemed heraldic appropriate. Ulfhedinn and Reginleif hosted Anderson's wife soon after, and on entering their house, she saw the two-headed teddy bear on a shelf and realized that she had been had. She stormed off to the guest room and was not seen for several hours. Michael still has a two-headed bear and calls them Ti and Tum, after Adiantum.

The Barony of Adiantum's name was suggested by Alyanora. The adiantum fern is, of course, native here, but apparently the Latin name means 'sheds water', which seemed appropriate for Eugene, since the UO mascot was a duck whose feathers shed water.

Michael of Dragonswood and Alyanora of Vinca became the founding Baron and Baroness of Adiantum on either March 7 or March 27, 1976, A.S. X, and served until May 25, 1980 (A.S. XV) when Michael had to leave Eugene to find a job after graduating from the UO. He remembers asking the SCA heralds what sort of head gear a baron was supposed to wear. They replied, "a silver circlet." When asked if it could have points, etc, they just reiterated, "a silver circlet." Michael had one made for himself with a single point. When he left and Ulfhedinn became the second Baron, the circlet didn't fit him, so Michael just passed on the massive Baronial signet ring.

**[What were some of your good early memories from Adiantum?]** "I remember peasant revels. Dublin O'Guinn had the idea that we should have a revel where everyone came as a disreputable peasant, not a lord or lady, and there was a prize for the most repulsive costume. Dublin came as a leper. That was the first of many peasant revels. Those revels also spawned the name 'rats on a stick,' hot dogs or corn dogs eaten on a stick."

The Barony made much of its income in the 1970s from holding bake sales in front of the UO Bookstore. One sale, everyone contributed brownies, and Michael created the Order of the Baronial Brownie for service to the Barony.

Michael remembers lots of interaction among the groups in An Tir, but the Principality chafed under the rule of the West. Members in the San Francisco area expected folks from An Tir to drive all the way to California for West Kingdom events, but they rarely drove north to our events. Their reluctance was lampooned in a Crier cartoon showing calipers measuring the distance between Seattle and San Francisco with the caption "It's the same distance both ways."

=/=/=/=/=/=

## Adiantum's champions

Due to the lack of in-person events during the pandemic, the various Baronial Championship competitions didn't happen until this year. We now have a full roster of new Champions, and here they are to introduce themselves to you. We weren't able to contact our Rapier Champion, Talorgan Ratatoskr MacGregor, before publication, but we'll introduce him next issue.

# ARCHERY

Greetings, I am Magister Tymme "Prodkiller" Lytefelow, the Adiantum archery champion.

I have been in the SCA since 2006. I started when my wife asked to go try archery with the local branch. Long story short, after taking her multiple times, I decided to try it, and here I am.

In addition to being an archer, I have made my own arrow and bolt quivers, plus my wife's bolt quiver. I have made Draw Length Measuring Sticks for many branches through multiple kingdoms. I make arrows and crossbow bolts (for people across the contiguous US).

I have been Glymm Mere's archery champion twice, and Wyewood's archery champion twice. Wyewood is my home branch, and I have been Wyewood's Chief Archer for over 10 years. I am the current Secretary of the Order of the Grey Goose Shaft (OGGS).

I have been the Kingdom Archery Scores Deputy since 2016. I maintain the official Top 10 list for archery, provide the list each season to the Moneyers' Guild for the Top 10 medallions, maintain the Branch and Individual Medallions lists, the Grand Master and Ludicrous Bowman lists, and I manage the Kingdom Royal Archer site, including the scoresheets and the OGGS/Arcuarius list.

I have a YouTube channel under Tymme Lytefelow with SCA archery related topics that might be useful.

As archery champion, since I live so far away, I have offered (and make the offer here as well) to teach virtual classes. They don't have to be limited to Adiantum, but I would prefer they be of benefit to the archers of Adiantum as that is the purpose.





## THROWN WEAPONS

I am HL Nathanael Lekarev and I am the thrown weapons champion of Adiantum.

I married into the SCA. My wife (Rotrude Half Blind) brought me to a small baronial event in Long Island about 12 years ago, and that sparked my interest. We later learned how to brew mead from the Baron of that barony (An Dubhaigeainn).

Since that time I've collected many other interests (as Master Sean has said he only has one hobby, the SCA), including naalbinding, pewter casting, weaving, gambling (period dice and card games; I need to spread out my pewter stuff somehow).

Though I currently reside in the Barony of Madrone, I look forward to running next year's thrown weapons championship. I have some thoughts for the novelty competition that should fit with the feel of Egil's. I also look forward to defending my title as champion in the future.

=/=/=/=/=/=



## CUT & THRUST

Greetings. My name is Master Alaryn Aecenstaeff MoD, and I am the current Cut & Thrust champion for the Barony of Adiantum.

I began in the SCA in A.S. 17 (1982). I was a young man who was a huge Tolkien fan, and when I first encountered SCA Knights, Fair Damsels, crafters, brewers and more while at a small local Ren fair in Alaska I knew I had found my people.

Since then, I've participated in Heavy fighting, Archery, Fencing and held Marshal offices from the shire to the Kingdom level. I've participated in brewing and fencing guilds, learned to raise bees and had more fun over the years than is probably allowed in some locations.

As the current C&T champion, I would like to foster the involvement of more of the community at large in our fast-growing sport. The steel fighting community is welcoming to anyone who would like to give it a try at any level of experience, this includes C&T. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns about C&T which you may have. Feel free to look me up on FB chat as Ed Branscum or email me at [EVBranscum@yahoo.com](mailto:EVBranscum@yahoo.com).

=/=/=/=/=/=

## ARMORED COMBAT

I am Vicaria (Viscountess) Vesta Antonia Aurelia, OL. I'm allergic to coffee, am waaaaay too Midwestern for anything spicier than mayonnaise, and don't like strawberries, kiwis or apricots.

I started in Amtgard in McMinnville and then Portland, and then when I moved to Southern Oregon, joined the then-Shire of Caverns Gate. I've lived in Caverns Gate, Myrtle Holt and Glyn Dwfn, and currently play in the Barony of Glyn Dwfn, where I serve as Court Herald to Their Excellencies Piaras and Milisandia.

I am a Sergeant Emerita of Adiantum, being Marian Staarveld's last Sergeant and serving everyone up to Ceridwen :) I recommend Sergeantry to everyone; I think it's an amazing opportunity to meet people, get involved and learn a lot.

I fight both armored/heavy and C&T, and I'm just, maybe, kinda a \*little bit\* obsessed with the Minoans and the Bronze Age world. Just a smidge :D You probably know me because of my love for pompoms, ShrinkyDinks™ and shenanigans!





## ARTS & SCIENCES

I, Brynfarr Olfuss, originally started the SCA back in 1994 where my first event was Egils at Zumwalt park. I was a fringe player, going to a few events but never really getting involved. In 2019 my wife and I attended our first 12<sup>th</sup> Night, and we decided that the SCA was an organization we enjoyed. Since then we have met many wonderful friends and family and do what we can to support the organization to the best of our ability.

I am also Thrown Weapons Champion for Tymberhavene. These are my first two Championships that I have held and am excited to encourage other people to try the focus of my Championships. My focus as Champion is to inspire people to try new things and to be a conduit to other people who can help teach people the crafting that is outside of my focus.

I have recently stepped down as the Adiantum Chamberlain, equipment manager basically. I was not able to accomplish what I wanted due top covid pandemic issues, but was able to maintain the standard that was started by my predecessor Thorholfr.

=/=/=/=/=

## BARDIC

I'm Gryphon Blackhart (freshly AOA'd but I'm fine with or without "Lord"). I was born to SCAdians, so I've been in the society all my 22 years, and intend to remain.

Besides my bardic/musical interests, I fight heavy combat and craft. Mostly I make things to fight with or play music on, but not exclusively. I do woodworking, leatherworking, and dabble in whatever else on the side.

As champion you'll see me around, either fighting or playing music in various settings. I live in the shire of Mountain Edge but will roam pretty far in search of events. I may be teaching classes soon (exciting!), on whistle/recorder playing. Or, on whistle making. Or... something. Anyway, there might be a class, and music will be involved!

