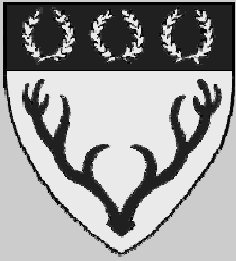


WELCOME TO THE CURRENT MIDDLE AGES



GLOSSARY OF BASIC SCA TERMS:

ANACHRONISM: Something or someone that is out of its place in time.

GARB: Pre-17th Century clothing that we wear to events

EVENT: An official gathering of the SCA that includes various activities like dancing, feasting, fighting, and classes.

PERIOD: The time period covered by the SCA (the Middle Ages and Renaissance).

PERSONA: The "character" that we play.

DEVICE OR ARMS: Heraldic insignia ("coat of arms").

CHATELAINE, CHATELAIN, CASTELLAN, OR HOSPITALLER: The officer responsible for helping newcomers to get started.

HEAVY WEAPONS: Slang for armored combat, which is fought with weapons made of rattan and other materials.

KNOWNE WORLD: The areas of the world where the SCA has a presence, defined according to SCA boundaries.

CROWN TOURNAMENT: Heavy weapons tournament held to determine who will be Prince or Princess (and thus, the next King or Queen). Both male and female fighters can enter the tournament.

GOLD KEY: Loaner garb that is kept by the Chatelaine for newcomers who have not yet been able to buy or make garb of their own.

WHO ARE WE AND WHY ARE WE DRESSED IN SILLY CLOTHES?

The SCA, or Society for Creative Anachronism, is a non-profit educational organization that is dedicated to researching and recreating the culture of the Middle Ages and Renaissance in the present day. In other words, we dress in pre-17th century clothing ("garb") and do our best to reconstruct the way of life of the period, and then we try to pass that knowledge on to others.

The SCA "Knowne World" is divided into 18 kingdoms that are further divided into smaller groups, each covering a real geographic area. For example, you are currently located in the Shire of Hartshorn-dale, which covers Montgomery and Chester Counties, in the East Kingdom, which covers parts of the northeastern US and Canada.

How did we get started? In 1966, some science fiction and fantasy fans and writers gathered to hold a medieval themed-party in Berkeley, California. The Society incorporated as a non-profit group soon after, and has since grown to include over 25,000 paying members around the world. In addition, we estimate that we have three or four non-paying participants for each paid membership.

Originally, the SCA was limited to the recreation of Western European culture, but the scope of the group has expanded to include other civilizations that would have had contact with Europe during our "period." As a result, it is not uncommon to see a Viking strolling with a Japanese monk at our events!

HOW DO YOU GET TO BE KING?

The SCA is loosely modeled after a feudal society. Each kingdom has a King and Queen, Prince and Princess, Barons and Baronesses, knights and squires, other members of royalty, and officers, all of whom report to those of higher rank. Each local chapter also has its own set of officers who report to the officers at the kingdom level.

The throne for each kingdom is won by right of arms in a "Crown Tournament." The winner becomes the Prince or Princess, and the heir to the throne. The heir and his or her consort are eventually crowned as King and Queen, and they reign for a specific period of time (six months in the East Kingdom), during which the next Crown Tournament is held.



CONTACT INFO:**Shire of Hartshorn-dale:**

Montgomery and Chester Counties, PA
(<http://www.hartshorn-dale.org>)

Barony of Bhakail:

Philadelphia, Delaware, and
Southern Bucks Counties, PA
(<http://bhakail.eastkingdom.org>)

Shire of Buckland Cross:

Southern Bucks County, PA
(<http://bucklandcross.eastkingdom.org>)

Shire of Eisental:

Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon,
Schuylkill, and Berks Counties, PA
(<http://eisental.eastkingdom.org>)

Shire of Silver Rylle:

Lancaster and Lebanon Counties, PA
(<http://silverrylle.eastkingdom.org>)

Shire of Iron Bog:

Gloucester, Camden, and South
Burlington, NJ
(<http://ironbog.eastkingdom.org>)

East Kingdom:

(<http://www.eastkingdom.org>)

SCA, Inc.:

(<http://www.sca.org>)

**IT'S NOT JUST RESEARCH!**

The SCA is built around the premise that the best way to learn something is to try it firsthand. Rather than simply reading about a subject, you can actually try your hand at fencing, embroidery, gaming, dancing, brewing, singing, armored combat, weaving, woodworking, archery, and everything in between. You get to decide what you'd like to do, and the level of participation is completely up to you.

In addition, we each chose a "persona," or the character that we would like to have been if we had lived in the Middle Ages or Renaissance. We chose our names, our backgrounds and nationalities, even our "devices" (coats of arms). Titles and awards are granted by the King and Queen to reward acts of service, chivalry, and courtesy, excellence in the arts and sciences, and prowess on the battlefield or range.

GETTING INVOLVED

People of all ages are welcome in the SCA. We encourage participation by children and teenagers, and many events include supervised activities for minors of every age group. To join, find the local chapter in your area (see the links on the left) and contact its Chatelaine or Castellan. The Chatelaine/Castellan is responsible for helping newcomers get started and will also have a collection of loaner garb ("Gold Key") for people who want to go to their first event and haven't had a chance to make or buy garb yet.

After that, all you need to do is show up at a practice, meeting, or event. It also helps to subscribe to the local chapter's electronic mailing list, or a list specific to SCA newcomers. You do not need to actually join the SCA in order to attend and participate, but some activities and offices require a paid membership or have basic requirements that must be met before you are allowed to participate. The only requirement to attend an event is that you wear a pre-1600 costume – it doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be an attempt to fit in. Most practices and meetings do not require the wearing of garb, but all events do. A listing of events can be found on the East Kingdom website.

For more information and help getting started, visit any of the links listed to the left, visit <http://www.newcomers.hartshorn-dale.org/>, or send an email to chatelaine@hartshorn-dale.org. Membership applications can be found at <http://www.sca.org>.