



Annals of Eplaheimr

Official newsletter of the Barony of Eplaheimr



ASLVIX, Issue 16, February 2025

NEWSLETTER

The Annals of Eplaheimr

Credits: Cover photograph of Mistress Órlaith Ildánach at her elevation to Laurel by Melisende

Masthead in JSL blackletter and JSL Ancient. Internal Text in Tahoma. The Annals is created in Open Office. All stock images are royalty free.

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Please note that submission for publication constitutes your agreement for your work to be published in the Annals and on the Eplaheimr website.



Court of Love

15th - 16th February

Eplaheim'r annual Court of Love will be taking place in the Clara Scout Den, Co. Offaly. There will be silliness and fun, food and good company! Come and join us!

Info and Booking



From Their Excellencies



Greetings unto the Populace,

As we pen this letter, our hearts are filled with joy and pride for the flourishing state of our beloved Barony. The spirit, dedication, and camaraderie of our members continue to shine brightly, making our Barony a beacon of excellence within the Kingdom.

We were truly impressed by the recent Coronation event, which was a magnificent testament to the talents and dedication of our populace. The food was delightful, the atmosphere welcoming, and the evening flowed seamlessly thanks to the efforts of so many hardworking individuals. It was clear that everyone in attendance enjoyed the day immensely, and we extend our deepest gratitude to all who contributed to its success.

We are also bursting with pride as we reflect on how many of our Barony's members were recognized with awards by Their Majesties, as well as by Their Highnesses. Each award bestowed is a testament to the talent, service, and dedication that make our Barony so remarkable. To those honored, know that your achievements inspire us all.

Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating our upcoming Court of Love. This promises to be a celebration of fellowship, love, and creativity, and we cannot wait to see what wonders you, our beloved populace, will bring to life. Let us come together to make this a day filled with joy and cherished memories.

As always, we are honored to serve such a vibrant and thriving community. Your enthusiasm and contributions are what make our Barony a truly special place.

With gratitude and affection,

Rogned Stengrimova
Banbharún

Adele de Chadwykke
Banbharún



An interview-style feature

SCA Name and Title

THL Fianna Rua Nic Mhathúna
Ordo Hirundis, Orden des Lindquistringes,
Order of Ffraid, Order of the Fox, Order of
the Silver Martlet, Tuatha den Carbhad Óir,
Tuatha d’Cóire na hEplaheimr. Uisneach
Herald of the Barony of Eplaheimr



Pic by Mistress Lissette de la Rose

How long have you played?

17 years this coming October/November (2025)

Do you have a preferred Time Period?

Largely Irish, as difficult as that can be. I try to centre on 1200s in my home area in Monaghan and I can stay historically-accurate to Mac Mathúna history with early to mid-1500s English dress, but I also like to dabble in 1400s cotehardies, 8 - 900s Norse/Danish dress, and occasionally skip back to the late Bronze or early Iron Age.

Do you have any Persona background story?

1200s Fianna was a younger daughter of a Mac Mathúna sept from Dartraige on the modern Monaghan-Fermanagh border. The Anglo-Normans started to build a motte-and-bailey fortress in Cluain Eois beside the Crois Mhaol monastery to control the southern end of Loch Erne in 1212. Unfortunately it burned down in 1213 or so – around which time it was decided that Fianna should further her studies southwards in Áth Luan (where a less flammable stone castle had recently been built...).

1500s Fianna's family have skipped across the modern county of Monaghan to Farnaighe, where her father had sworn fealty and adopted English dress and customs. She has Very Strong Feelings about this abandonment of their heritage, but a good dress is a good dress...

What is your preferred SCA Activity or A&S or both?

Fencing and archery were my first loves, but I am fond of calligraphy, jewellery making, and some basic fibre arts. I like a good costume and have yet to break some student habits so finding ways to make a decent-looking outfit from budget materials is a good way to keep me occupied (do ask about the Duvet Dress!) I also have an interest in Bardic arts but can fall victim to stage fright for anything other than comedies or filk.

What keeps you coming back to the SCA?

It's my found family. It's an outlet for so many creative activities. It's an outlet for Mom Energy to be part of an event team. And it's just fun!

What has been your best SCA experience so far?

It is a bittersweet one, but our online Investiture event. It was brilliant being part of that team and seeing it finally happening in what was an incredibly difficult time for so many people (my own grandfather passed away that evening, but as a musical family the show must go on!). As far as we could tell from our bedroom in Athlone everything went flawlessly and nobody noticed any blips in our Irish translations - and I did have a bit of a Kermit flail when Her Majesty Jacqueline spoke to the new Baronial couple in Icelandic....

What is the SCA Achievement so far that means the most to you?

Being part of two new beginnings - I was the founding Seneschal of the College of Kingslake, around which time the idea of a Barony started being kicked around. And of course, our elevation from Shire to Barony!

Seeing things grow and take root, even if Kingslake are currently dormant, and knowing that I was some small part of that is a feeling that I can't quite put into words.



SCA Name and Title

Lord Robert of Eplaheimr

How long have you been playing?

Roughly since 2014/2015, 11 years or thereabouts. However, my first event was run by the College of Kingslake, in Athlone Institute of Technology. My girlfriend at the time (now wife) convinced me to attend. I recall the uneasiness of dressing in Garb for the first time, but remember the welcome I felt and the fun and food on the day. I eventually started playing frequently a few years later.



Pic by Margaret de Mey

Do you have a preferred time period is any, and why?

I like the 12th century, mainly for the style of clothing. Saying that, peasant clothing doesn't change much.

Do you have any persona, background story?

My persona is still being worked on (yes even after 11 years), however, I've a strong feeling he likes to come up with ridiculous stories based on magical fish and linen.

What is your preferred SCA activity or A&S, or both?

I've been known to fence and partake of archery when possible. Moreso the fencing as I enjoy the speed, skill and energy displayed by opponents, while I fulfil the role of pin cushion, occasionally getting to be the needle. Of the time's I've had the pleasure to do leatherwork, I've thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of A&S and intend to make it a larger part of my coming year.

What keeps you coming back to the SCA?

As mentioned earlier, the general welcoming attitude of the people in the SCA, the fun events and combat.

What has been your best SCA experience so far?

That's a hard one to pin down, recently receiving the Order of the Fox, it's quite the feeling to receive an award you certainly weren't expecting.

What is the SCA Achievement so far that means the most to you, and why?

Being able to run or help run an event and that all can enjoy it.



Meet Ildánach Órlaith Chaomhanách, the newest Peer in Eplaheimr, and Companion of the Order of the Laurel.

Ildánach Órlaith is the first Peer made in Eplaheimr since it went Barony. She was elevated at the recent 12th night Coronation event in Galway. The Annals catches up with her now she has had a chance to catch her breath!

What title have you decided to use?

I'm still poking that a bit, I did a bit of digging on sca.heralry.sca.org and the usual alternative for Mistress for an Irish persona is Maistreas. I definitely want it to be Irish. I had wondered if there was a reasonable case for Irish laurels to adopt Ollam or Ollamh, which used to be the name for those who had achieved the highest degree of an artistic practice or learning, but now it's me I'm thinking about it feels a bit presumptive!

I adore the title Ildánach, and have always wanted to be what it means, many skilled, like a life goal that crystallised around Princess Agnes using it in a boast for me as Lady Gytha's consort many years ago.



With Their Majesties Ærickr and Jacquelyna at her elevation at 12th night Coronation

You chose to be surprised when it came to it, was that a positive experience?

Yes, I was always worried I would overthink things if I was forewarned if it was to ever happen, and just make myself miserable second guessing myself. It being a surprise, instead I got to move around in blissful ignorance just doing my own thing, not stressing out about anything and, of course, being conned into doing things I like to prepare for my own vigil, which impresses me no end. It means I was cheerfully breathing in fresh evergreens and playing with ogham instead of worrying. It also meant that people I love and admire went to an enormous amount of trouble and effort to make things as wonderful as possible for me and I had no idea before it happened. It was all unveiled as a complete package. I think I said somewhere that an elevation is a indescribably valuable gift to one person, I will forever treasure the blur of small and large and huge considerations put in place for me and the gorgeous things people said.

What was the piece of advice you got that you remember the most?

That being a member of the Order gives a little extra whoosh to whatever I want to enthuse about and lend weight to. That if we're enthusiastic and welcoming we are fortunate enough to have our words fall on prepared ground, as it were, and that this is also a responsibility to use well.

What stands out for you, from the whole experience?

Selfishly - I don't think I have ever been so carried away with the idea that I matter and am thought well of by people I love, admire and am proud of being associated with. In everyday life we hear a lot about workplaces being like a family, or people being more than a number, and often it falls far short of the truth. The SCA is a place many of us feel really seen and heard, and I've loved it since the first event I went to (and was recorded for TV declaring my immediate intention of joining so I could do all the crafts). I had reasons to make things and try things, to fail and succeed in my own way and for there to be a purpose to it all that mattered to me. My elevation was like that feeling, magnified by a factor of millions. I really feel that learning and making is crucial to our development and happiness as people. What I want to put out into the world is a shared enthusiasm for learning and trying things, being excited by the experience with others who *get it*, or winning over people who didn't think they did.



*Lady Meri decorating Orlaith's hair for her elevation using Ivy collected on New Year's Day from Moanmore East Stone Circle
Pic by Melisende Fitzwalter*

The other thing is an enormous reminder of just how truly, truly wonderful my friends are, and how proud and fortunate I have been to be an apprentice (and evil step apprentice) to such amazing, talented, generous and thoroughly interesting people. (I highly recommend the apprentice experience, by the way.)

You have been elevated for doing many things (hence the title bestowed on you of Ildánach). Which craft do you most enjoy doing and teaching?

ooh that's like asking who's my favourite child! I think at the core of everything is an interest in how things work and go together, so research and joining up concepts are essential. I enjoy teaching anything that makes at least one other person light up and go "ooh, that's so cool!" and bonus points if I hear the phrase "Let's try it, for science!", so those tend to be the workshops like dyeing, pigments, glasswork and casting.

I adore anything that sources from one interest and feeds into another - like foraging and forest walking that provide the materials for pigments and inks, or ingredients for cooking. I got a bit burnt out cooking, but have noticed myself thinking of new dishes I'd like to explore at future (small) events.

Woodwork and turning has, because of equipment availability, been a more solitary thing through which I feel an intense connection with my Dad. I am finding that this year it's a bit bittersweet trying to get back into projects. It has not been the same since he passed last year, so it'll take me a little while to figure out how to make that properly comfortable again.

I need to get back to doing more illumination, I find it remarkably zen and I am horribly out of practice. I am not sure I can see me persisting with calligraphy in the same way, it seems to poke anxious demons into existence with every scroll.



Orlaith teaching, pic by Melisende Fitzwalter

Do you have any goals yet, as a new Peer?

I would love to make more arts and sciences available throughout as far a radius as I can reach. I have always regretted that Ireland has poor access to many crafts and craft materials in our modern age, despite a fantastic history of beautiful art. I *wanted* to do leatherwork and turning and blacksmithing and glass blowing and enamelling and so on and so on. I want other people who similarly wish to try things, to be supported to find ways to do them. I want to help people figure out a way to try out any A&S activity we list on our websites. Medieval crafts teach you so much about processes and exploring the world around you, and just jumping in with vague instructions to try things til they work. I consider I've done a decent job if my class enjoys the experience of learning for learning.

I also want to try to build up the visibility of the fabulous things being achieved in the A&S community at large, bring hidden and shy beauties into the light.

Do you have any advice for anyone about to go through the same experience?

Have an ICOP - (an In case of peerage) document. It may feel weird to fill them out and you think 'ahhh, that's years away', but add your personal little wishes and they apparently make amazing things happen on the day. Make sure someone knows about it and who is storing it. Be clear on whether you want to be surprised or know in advance, to plan and ABSOLUTELY let people know if you don't want the experience. Or if you change your mind about your previous feelings about it.

If you are in a peer dependent relationship, trust them. Trust the Order you are about to join.

Be prepared for a very strange range of emotions, things you absolutely did not think you would feel. Be okay with hiding in your room alone for a bit. Watch for the small, great things and really bask in them, like someone squeezing your hand a little, the expressions of your friends' in jokes, the ceremonies and traditions you become part of. Enjoy things like someone taking great care to make your laurel cloak and brooch, your vigil book, to do your hair or bake delicious treats or run a tavern. If you're anything like me make sure at least one of your friends is prepared to either convince you to bring the decent garb, or brings it along for you. Don't worry about what you look like or if people can see your paint splattered boots under your dress, they don't care and you certainly won't. Your speakers will say things that will blur from memory while fixing their message forever in your core being at exactly the same time. Bring a notebook to every event. Be awestruck and happy and feel good because while all these great people have done these great things for you, you also did this for yourself - you made some astonishingly good decisions and choices to get here.



Pic by Daniel Styrinheim

This month in History

660 – Foundation of the Nation of Japan with the accession to the throne of Emperor Jimmu.

1177 – John de Courcy, invades Ulster and seizes Down, defeating King Rory MacDonlevy, twice.

1315 – Edward the Bruce, King of Scotland and his Irish allies win the battle of Skerries in Kildare

1429 – Joan of Arc and Charles d'Albret besiege and liberate the town of Saint-Pierre-le-Moûtier

1478 – George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence died in the Tower of London, supposedly drowned in a butt of Malmsey Wine.

1564 – Galileo Galilei born in Pisa. First Astronomer to use a telescope.

1587 – Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle after 9 years as a prisoner of the English.

1594 – Sigismund III of the House of Vasa is crowned King of Sweden, succeeding his father John III of Sweden.

Source: onthisday.com



Baronial

News

From
12th Night Coronation



The Honourable Ladies Fianna Rua Nic Mhathúna and Viscountess Susannah of York were both recognised with the Ordo Hirundinis (GoA) for their service to the SCA.



Lady Mór ni Bheag had her status recognised with an Award of Arms



Ildánach Órlaith Chaomhanách was given the Order of the Sun and Chalice as befits someone who is an example to others.



Lord David the Armourer and Lady Alice de la Wode were bestowed the Order of the Silver Martlet for their many contributions to the Arts and Sciences.



Lord Robert of Eplaheimr was awarded the Order of the Fox for his continued prowess in combat.

The above list may not be exhaustive – the op is not updated yet!



What's On

Cluain Oir Activity Day

Saturday 8th February

St. Nicholas Parochial School, Galway City

Another fun day of crafting and fighting! There will be music and fencing and other fun Medieval activities. Newcomers are free, non-members must pre-book by noon Wednesday 5th. Members can show up on the day.

[Info & Booking](#)

Court of Love

15th - 16th February

Clara Scout Den

A fun weekend of silliness, A&S craziness and fun. Weekend is catered and crash space is available to stay over.

[Info & Booking](#)

Cluain Oir Activity Day

Saturday 8th March

St. Nicholas Parochial School, Galway City

Another fun day of crafting and fighting! There will be music and fencing and other fun Medieval activities. Newcomers are free, non-members must pre-book by noon Wednesday 5th. Members can show up on the day.

[Info & Booking](#)

Loughdevnaree University

14th - 16th March

Crawfordsburn Scout Camp

A weekend of classes and learning in good company. More information will be made available.

[Info & Booking](#)

Blogs and Vlogs



A selection of
Blogs and Vlogs
from Eplaheimr
and around the
Knowne World.

This Issue's Theme: Leatherworking

The Reverend's Big Blog of Leather

DIY Medieval and Early Modern Leatherwork
<https://leatherworkingreverend.wordpress.com/>

Purses in Pieces

Free Downloadable pdf of 2007 Old edition of the Book
examining Medieval Leather Purses and Pouches.
[A pdf download of Purses in Pieces](#)

Theriod Arms

Searchable Database of information on Period Arms, Armour
and Weapons. A search for "Leather" will reveal a lot.
<https://www.therionarms.com/links.shtml>

Paleotool

A source of Medieval images of leatherworking.
[Paleotool Article](#)

Medieval Excellence

Article on care of Leather goods.
<https://medievalexcellence.com/2021/04/14/leather-treatment/>

Dates for Your Diary

4th February - Monthly Baronial Zoom Meeting - 8pm

5th February - Deadline for non-Members to book for
Cluain Oir Day (SCA Galway)

12th February - deadline to book for Court of Love

5th March - Deadline for non-Members to book for
Cluain Oir Day (SCA Galway)

Baronial



Directory

Barony

Baroness Rogned Stengrimova – baron.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Baroness Adele de Chaddwyke – baroness.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Seneschal (Chairperson) – THL Eplaheimr-Jin Ünege – seneschal.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Exchequer (Treasurer) – Lord Robaird of Eplaheimr – exchequer.eplaheimr@gmail.com

MoAS (Arts & Sciences) – Viscountess Susannah of York – eplaheimr.moas@gmail.com

Chronicler (Newsletter) – Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter – chronicler.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Marshal (Combar activities) – Lady Marina de Grado – knightmarshal.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Uisneach Herald (Voice Heraldry) – Lady Fianna Rua nic Mhathúna fiannarusca@gmail.com

Cruachán Herald (Book Heraldry) – Lord Nemet Arpad graylion@sm-wg.net

Tuatha

Canton of Cluain Óir (Galway City & County)

Sheriff: Lord David the Armourer – davidheneghan2@gmail.com

Báile Ceann an-tSionnan (Limerick)

Sheriff: THL Ünege – coussotyann@gmail.com

Capall Uisce (Dromineer & North Tipperary)

Sheriff: Lady Marina de Grado – marinapostir@gmail.com

Tir Chroi (Athlone and surrounds)

Sheriff: Lord Robaird of Eplaheimr – roborourke@gmail.com

Eiscir Airgead (Clara and surrounds)

Sheriff: Lady Alice de la Wode – sheriffeiscirairgead@gmail.com

Name TBC (Longford Town and surrounds)

Sheriff: Lord Aodhán de Pairc – aodhanhudson@gmail.com

