

Raven's Cry

Barony of Raven's Cove Newsletter

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Anno Societas

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Regnum

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A note from your Baroness:

Happy New Year to all! 2013 has gone into the history books and 2014 is ahead. This is the time of year that I love because it is like a blank page. We can write what we wish, do what we want to do and make our own story come to life.

This is also true for the Barony of Raven's Cove. It's a brand new year and we can bring in new and exciting ideas for the future of the Barony. I have already seen questions regarding cut & thrust on the Facebook page. Great! We should explore this new style of fighting since there are a lot of folks that seem interested in it. I would love for some of the fighters to step up and contact folks to see if they want to come out and work with us.

There are also events coming up that many have not attended, like Ymir and Pennsic. If you are interested in Ymir, please talk with others who have attended in the past. As the first fighting event of the season, it has its own challenges and if you have never attended, you would be well advised to get some information. Pennsic is probably the biggest event of the year for the SCA and requires some early planning. If you may be interested, let one of us know and we would be happy to sit down and talk with you about it. Since registration is best done soon in the year, we need to get a good idea of how many might be going so that we can arrange for a land space. The event lasts for 2 weeks but you can go for 1 week if you wish and it is a camping event. Details will follow.

Finally, we are now heading into the 4th year of the Barony, which means that by the end of 2014, we will be looking for new baronage. If you have an interest in being baron/baroness, please talk with Baron Torquil or myself about the job. It is not hard but it does present challenges that you should be aware of.

In service to Kingdom and Barony,

Katharine de la Vache

Baroness Raven's Cove

From the Seneschal:

Happy Christmas to the most wonderful barony on the planet! The Yule Season is upon us and is in full swing! I continue to beam with pride at the work our barony is doing. It seems that things are beginning to take shape quite nicely and we will be even more successful in the New Year! I wish you all safe travels, warm conversation and the love of the season!

In Service to the Dream,

Lady Edan

From the Knight's Marshal:

To the populace, we have had a wonderful year from the point of view of the fighting arts. We had three armored authorizations and one rapier authorization. Our Baronial Levy is growing by leaps and bounds! We also now have two Marshals in training, so this will facilitate fighter practices in the future. Thank you to all who not only fight, but support our fighters, for without support, we could not be as effective as we are. Happy Christmas to our populace!

Lord Lochlainn

From the Chirurgeon:

We have ended the year with no injuries worse than a minor cut. That is a testament to our ENTIRE populace looking out for one another. Thank you Raven's Cove for taking care of each other.

Lord Lochlainn

From the Chatelain:

I'm very happy to see new faces popping up on the Facebook page inquiring about practices and other Baronial gatherings. This past month I attended Unevent and I have come away from that experience with a lot of really great ideas to help grow our Barony. I am hoping that we can make 2014 a great year and expose a whole bunch of folks to our wonderful society. If you have any suggestions or leads for possible demos, please let me know!

Yours in service,
Roland Wodeman

A Movie Review of Arn the Templar

By Lord Godfrey of York (Steven Rothwell)

Arn The Templar, or Arn the Knight Templar, is the English Cut of a Swedish movie and its sequel. The movies themselves are based off of a Swedish book series. The books are about the adventures of the fictional Arn Magnusson, and both them and the movie take place in the 12th Century.

The Movie starts off with Arn as a small child, and follows him and his love Cecilia throughout their lives. It has plenty of happy moments, but the movie mostly showcases Arn's and Cecilia's strength through their various tribulations. The story is very good, but nothing that will leave you speechless. The movie itself is dubbed over, with subtitles available if you wish to hear it in the original Swedish language. The dub is excellent, with no awkward sentences or word play. The scenes are well shot, with a refreshing lack of too much digital scenery. The fight scenes are very short, usually closing with a poignant shot of some object. The fighting is very well done, but you will be left wishing for a little bit more of it. This is a problem with foreign films, as their budgets are unusually small compared to American productions.

From a Medieval Enthusiasts perspective, the film represents how Europeans are excellent at filming medieval movies. It shows the Scandinavian cultures as advanced as any other European nation at that time, and not a bunch of anachronistic group of dark age Vikings. Armor shown close up appears to be of excellent historical correctness. No obvious pieces of armor from other centuries, almost all correct for 12th/13th century Europe. Arn in particular seems to wear a riveted hauberk for most of the movie, though it is hard to tell if it is truly metal. Fighting in the movie is aimed at being realistic, with no "300" style fighting. There is a refreshing lack of "ye olde dirty peasants" in most of the film, with peasants wearing at work and leisure well fitting and historically accurate clothes. While the intrigues are a little unsubtle, play well at the old themes of noble dynastic intrigue. Also of note is the showing of an convent in the film, and showcases the power held by the abbess, and through her the power of the church of old.

All in all, Arn the Templar is nothing spectacular, but a very good medieval movie none the less, made even more so for its tiny budget. I recommend to any Scadian wishing to enjoy a modern made movie placed in the period.

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