

The Carraig Banner: A View from the Tower

October-December 2023 -- Anno Societatis LVIII

Welcome to our new Barons Akiyama Hiroaki and Akiyama Kazuhiko

Their Excellencies were invested during the morning court at Baroness Wars on September 9th, 2023. The ceremony was based on Takasago, a Muromachi-era Noh play about the spirits of two trees.

From our Barons

To Our Dearest C-Banners!

Beloved Baron Honda has stepped down from his service as our Landed Coronet, and my honorable husband Akiyama Hiroaki and I, Akiyama Kazuhiko, have stepped up to try to balance on his very tall geta sandals. It will only be through your engagement and creativity that we'll be even half as successful as our predecessor.

In any case, you're stuck with us for the next five years! ^o^

What shall we do with the upcoming month, then? We've got SO much to do!

First we'll have the demo at Stronghold. We'll be performing and teaching participants medieval dancing. While I (Kazuhiko) will be undergoing a grand test of my prowess (graduate exams) that weekend, please make sure to show my other half (Hiroaki) the Carraig Ban spirit. There will be several dance practices at A&S leading up to this event. A good showing here can help us in the future with accessing this very cool location for future medieval fun!

October is PACKED. Here are the events that we will be attending:

September 30 Michaelmas & Pagentry of Shutzenfest
October 6 Dancing Demo @ Stronghold
October 21 Fall Crown Tournament
October 28 Artisan's Day
November 04 [Bardic] Madness XXV

If you're heading to any of these, please let us know! And if you're heading somewhere that you wish your barons would go to, similarly please let us know. We're usually available via Facebook Messenger, and now also have access to carraigban.baron@midrealm.org.

Lastly, and most importantly: what do you personally need of your baronage? We are new to this, and depend on our populace to be an active part of this exciting new relationship. Tell us your SCAdian hopes and dreams! Tell us what's buggin' you. And definitely show us every animal picture you've ever taken.

Yours in Service,

Akiyama Kazuhiko and Akiyama Hiroaki, Carraig Ban-no-kami

From the Historian: Baroness Winifred Yseulte Carraig Ban's First Crown Tournament

It was held November 5, 1977. It was the 17th Crown Tourney for the Middle Kingdom. As that is quite a long time ago, I don't remember how many fighters there were. If I had to guess, it would be 16, or a situation that rounded up to 16.

The fighting for Crown, because of the fewer fighters, did not fill up all of the time, so authorization bouts were held between rounds. Difficult to believe now, but that was the case.

One of the interesting aspects / coincidences of this Crown was Aleid von Groningen authorized there. November 5 was one day past his 16th birthday, and in the Midrealm you could authorize at 16.

As we had enough student members, we could use University facilities, so the fighting was in the Duke Ellington Ballroom. Cardboard covered most of the floor.

The King at the time was Merowald; it was his second reign. The Queen was Kirsten. The winner of the Crown Tourney was Master Moonwulf fighting for Zarina Daeth. It would be her second reign; her first being with Michael of Boarshaven, until she abdicated. Since most members of the SCA felt she was justified in quitting, it was not a problem. She is, in fact, the only Midrealm Queen who has abdicated. The runner up was for the Crown was Polidor Haraldsson. Rory was Kingdom Seneschal at the time.

Arthelenda (later Nicholaa) Halden worked at the University at the Holmes Student Center which made this wonderfully easier (she had the keys). She was what would be called now the day Autocrat; Logos was in charge of the gate.

One of the things that happened at the tourney was one of the fighters, Brusten, hurt his hand and was taken to the ER where the two people accompanying him were asked his name. They only knew his SCA name. The hospital wondered how two people brought someone to ER and didn't know his name. It should be noted that at the time of this Crown Tourney, we only about 12-15 members. It was the first event for several members who stayed with the group for decades, including Mariana von Rabenstern.

Feast was held at St. Mary's church in DeKalb. One of our members was a parishioner there. We sat over 200 people to feast. It was a wonderful site, industrial ovens, dishwashers, everything. Behavior by some SCAdians eliminated our ability to use it again.

I don't recall too much about the feast menu other than the first remove was Roast Beef and we had mushroom pies. Arthelenda Haldon oversaw cleanup with a lot of helpers including Logos, Rory, Mira of Blackwood (who later went on to be the Mistress of Arts for the Kingdom and then Kingdom Seneschal), William, Mariana von Rabenstern and several others. Cleanup was where we used to have the most fun.

After feast, the tables were broken down and the hall was converted to court, (they did that in those days). Court was held, Tanist/Master Moonwulf and Princess/Countess Zarina were crowned. After that, the chairs were moved to the sides of the hall and we had dancing.

We were all younger then.

Note: I'm not using any honorifics such as sir, master, etc as they didn't have them at that point.

From the Chronicler

- The 1st Thursday of each month A&S is usually held at the Gail Borden Public Library main branch in Elgin, IL. Other Thursdays, it remains at the DeKalb Public Library. Updates are available on the barony's Facebook page, except for business meeting Thursdays (see below)
- Business meetings are the 3rd Thursday of even numbered months, alternating at the Gail Borden and DeKalb Public Libraries.
Upcoming meetings:
Thursday October 19 – Gail Borden (Elgin)
Thursday December 21 (tentative) if there is a December meeting, it will be in DeKalb
Updates on the Carraig Ban Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/baronyofcarraigban>
- Welcome to the members of the former shire of Blackhawk, which is now a hamlet of Carraig Ban. Unlike a canton, a hamlet has no officers, only the responsibility to “maintain communication channels with your sponsoring group.”

Calendar of Selected Events

A complete list and current official information is available at <https://midrealm.org/events-calendar>

October 6-8, 2023

Feast of the Chase

Waterloo, IL

<https://shatteredcrystal.midrealm.org/feast-of-the-chase>

October 14, 2023

Cooking Symposium

Metamora, IL

<https://illiton.midrealm.org/2023-illiton-cooking-symposium>

October 21, 2023

Fall Crown Tournament

Danville, IN

<https://sternfeld.midrealm.org/activities/midrealm-fall-crown-2023>

October 28, 2023

Artisans' Day

Lake Villa IL

<https://ravenslake.org/events/artisans-day>

November 18, 2023

RUM

Hinsdale IL

<https://ayreton.midrealm.org/RUM>

January 6, 2024

Twelfth Night

Hinsdale IL

no link yet

Baronial Officers

Baronage

Their Excellencies Akiyama Hiroaki and Akiyama Kazuhiko

carraigban.baron@midrealm.org

Landed Baron/ess is an appointed title and office given to individuals by the Crown of their Kingdom. They become the local extension of the Crown and a representative for the populace of their Barony.

Seneschal

Lord Alexicratus

carraigban.seneschal@midrealm.org

Serves as president of the group, acting as administrator and legal representative of the SCA.

Exchequer

Baron Honda Heihachiro

carraigban.exchequer@midrealm.org

Serves as treasurer for the group.

Herald

Lord Akiyama Kazuhiko

carraigban.herald@midrealm.org

Official messenger for the Barony and researcher of book heraldry.

Marshal

Lord Alexicratus

carraigban.marshal@midrealm.org

Trained officer who oversees armored combat activities for safety purposes.

Minister of the Arts and Sciences (MOAS)

Lord Akiyama Kazuhiko

carraigban.moas@midrealm.org

Responsible for the encouragement of arts and sciences.

Chatelaine

Piero Patroclus

carraigban.chatelaine@midrealm.org

Assists new individuals navigate the SCA.

Web Minister

Lady Honnor La Riote

carraigban.webminister@midrealm.org

Responsible for maintaining the Baronial Website.

Social Media Officer (SMO)

Lady Bien-Venue La Riote

carraigban.socialmedia@midrealm.org

Manages Baronial information that is circulated on social media outlets.

Signet

Lady Bien-Venue La Riote

carraigban.signet@midrealm.org

Coordinates volunteer artists of the society who create the awards scrolls given out to SCA members in recognition of their accomplishments.

Chronicler

Lady Gillian Durham

carraigban.chronicler@midrealm.org

Documents group activities, and produces the Baronial Newsletter.

Quarterminister

Lady Thana Speedo

Stores and catalogs Baronial equipment and provides access to it to stewards and officers for the running of events.

This is the October/December 2023 issue of the official newsletter of the Barony of Carraig Ban, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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