

The Society for Creative Anachronism

*On Behalf of The Crown Province of Ostgardr; The Cantons of Northpass, Lion's End, Whyt Whey
and the incipient Canton of Brokenbridge -*

Welcome! We are the Society for Creative Anachronism! If you are interested in what is going on...

Who are we? The Society for Creative Anachronism, commonly called the SCA, is a non-profit, educational, medieval recreation group. The term 'anachronism' refers to something that is out of its own time and place, and if you are watching people in armor fighting with swords and shields in the 21st century, you are seeing something anachronistic. We try to recreate the medieval and renaissance eras, bringing all of the arts and sciences of those days into the present: the fighting in armor, archery, fencing, brewing, calligraphy and illumination, sewing, embroidery, spinning and weaving, dancing, singing. We study and then do all these and more – and then many of us teach these arts and sciences to others.

How did the Society start? It was 1966 in Berkeley, California, and a group of people got together in a backyard to hold a medieval themed party based on chivalric ideals of medieval life. They dressed up in 'medieval' clothes, held a tournament and had a feast at the end of the day. It was so much fun that they decided to do it again, and again, and pretty soon they had so many people involved that they incorporated the group as a non-profit organization and began expanding.

Who are our members? SCA members do many things in their regular lives. Our members are teachers, lawyers, construction workers, EMT's, accountants, computer programmers, truck drivers, secretaries...but we all share a love of things medieval, and a desire to learn more about history.

How many members do we have? The SCA is organized into 19 kingdoms that make up "The Known World" and encompass the continental United States, Canada, parts of Europe, the middle-east, Australia and several of the Pacific Rim countries. As of today, the Society has approximately 45,000 members worldwide, and there are thousands more people who participate in our activities at least occasionally.

What time periods do we study? The Society's era is generally considered to start 'at the fall of the Roman Empire' and continue to the death of Queen Elizabeth the First of England (about 600 AD to 1600 AD). Our members choose a time period and a geographical place and then create a persona to fit that time and place. We have Scottish lairds, Italian courtiers, Viking raiders, Flemish merchants, Saxon landowners, Irish clansmen, Norman crusaders, Middle Eastern sheiks, Mongol horsemen, Japanese samurai and many more. Whatever the persona though, all strive to be chivalrous and courteous – so do not be surprised if that fighter in armor bows and calls you 'my lady' or 'my lord' when he – or she – greets you!

What activities do we offer? We hold 'events' almost every weekend, when we get together for tournaments, where our fighters compete in the lists to determine a champion, and feasts, where we sample the cuisines of different medieval times and places. Often feasts include entertainment by bards and musicians, and are followed by dancing, where people can learn galliards and bransles. We also hold classes in various medieval activities, and provide demonstrations of medieval arts and sciences at fairs and festivals. The only requirements to attend one of our events are an 'attempt' at pre-seventeenth century clothing and a willingness to be a participant on recreating the life of the Middle Ages.

Thank you for stopping by, and if you would like more information:

You can visit our main web site at www.sca.org

or our local web sites at www.eastkingdom.org (for the northeastern United States)

www.ostgardr.org (for New York City's five boroughs, Nassau, Westchester and Putnam counties) and

<http://whytwhey.ostgardr.org/> for the Canton of Whyt Whey (Manhattan) or <http://www.ostgardr.org/northpass/> for the Canton of Northpass (Westchester and Putnam Counties) or <http://www.lionsend.org/> for the Canton of Lion's End (Nassau County) or <http://www.cantonofbrokenbridge.org> for the incipient Canton of Brokenbridge (Brooklyn)

In Service:

Lady Lilie Dubh inghean ui Mordha {Aimee (Lilli) Haicken}, Chatelaine (Newcomers' Officer) of the Crown Province of Ostgardr, chatelaine@ostgardr.org or 917-838-4521.

Or Lady Brithwen de Bores Hulla (Luisa Walker), Seneschal (Chapter President) of the Crown Province of Ostgardr, seneschal@ostgardr.org