

The Blue Strand

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



A truly unreasonable number of Monicans travelled to Innilgard for Inter-College War, and made off with the Sword of Knowledge and/or Truth. Photo credit: Ollivier Le Floch

Victory to St Monica!

Monican horde defeats all opposition at ICW

— JOANNA OF BREADWOOD

Inter-College War is one of the most important events of the year for Collegians. The annals of our history are long and storied. This is the time of year when legends are made. Dynasties are formed. Rulers are overthrown. And in the centre of it all lies The Sword of Knowledge and/or Truth – the holiest relic of all the Colleges of Lochac. It is this Sword which we have fought over since time immemorial (read: 1994). And for the first time in history, that Sword is now held by the College of St Monica!

It was a clear but chilly weekend in Innilgard when we fought over the custodianship of the Sword with our sister colleges – Blessed Herman, St Christina, St Ursula, St Basil and Passaqua. A terrifying number of Monicans had made the trip there – mostly by bus – and we were the most numerous college in attendance. It was a true feat of administration.

We engaged in Jolly Ollie’s game of intrigue and deception, all for the chance to locate a large white box (a stand-in for the Sword) which was hidden somewhere within the campsite.

The College of St Monica was so numerous that several of our brethren turned coat to the College of St Basil, to try to even up the playing field. There was Heavy War, and Rapier War, several Arts and Sciences competitions, a Scavenger Hunt and a lot of Relic-related Hijinks.

I wish I could say the way we won was by pouring our hearts and souls into the game to locate the box – but in actuality, Lazarus Fish tripped over it when we were on a mindless amble through the campsite and then we hacked the lock. For the record, we actually *did* pour our hearts and souls into the game, and we also collected all the clues the “correct” way as well. It’s just that sometimes the best way to find something is a good old fashioned emu bob. I guess we had the power of god and anime on our side this time. The other colleges must surely quake in the wake of the spectre of our brilliance.

Huzzah for St Monica, and to the other colleges – cry now and fight us for it next year!

WHAT’S ON?

August Activities

- Thursday 7th August – Fighter Training + A&S
- Saturday 9th August – Crafthall, Storage Inventory & Potluck
- Tuesday 12th August – Council Meeting
- Thursday 14th August – Fighter Training + A&S
- Sunday 17th August – Archery Training
- Thursday 21st August – Fighter Training + A&S
- Thursday 28th August – Fighter Training + A&S

Coming Soon!

- October – Ironbeard Challenge
- November 15th – Day of Champions

More information:
<https://kraeglas.lochac.sca.org/>

Rapier Update:

From the college

— RÚNA KEILISELGR

Congratulations to our newly authorised Monicans in rapier, three of which participated in war at Intercollege War. We didn’t beat the Hermanites, but we made a good showing. Next year!



Several Monican rapier fighters at ICW. Photo credit: Aufidius Felix.



Baroness Margie watches over the Barony’s archers at Ironbeard Challenge A.S. LVIII. You could be one of the archers of Krae Glas! Just come along to archery on Sunday the 17th of August at Noble Park Secondary College from 1-4pm and join in! Photo credit: Julia of the Ravens

From the Baron and Baroness

Report given verbally and recorded by Rúna

———— RÚNA KEILISELGR

Their Excellencies want to have more events so they can give out awards. They are also seeking award recommendations from the College.

His Excellency is going to reach out to Don Everard to see if he wants anything from the B&B for his elevation to the Order of the Chivalry in September. It is rare to have a new Knight in Krae Glas, and this is really special to the Barony and Their Excellencies.

They are pleased to see the new officer changes such

as the appointment of Lord Robert as Webminister and note the awards page needs more work on the website. They are also looking for a Vicar as it is Their intention to contest Crown.

Her Excellency has been keenly attending archery trainings and most Crafthalls. His Excellency has been less active because he has often been interstate for work commitments.

Their Excellencies congratulate St Monica for winning Intercollege War and are keen to see the winning streak continue.



Winner of a Roman chariot race. Image credit: public domain.

History’s Most Ferocious Sports Fans

Chariot Racing in Rome

— MORRIS MORSE MORLEY MORECOCKE

When you think of Rome and sports, your mind probably flicks over to the famed gladiatorial arenas, but did you know there was an even more popular pastime which started long before and

lasted long after the era of gladiators? Chariot racing! Originating in the Greek world, and probably even older, chariot races were THE main event for much of (especially Eastern) Roman history into the High Middle Ages, before the perfidious Venetians ruined everything.

Having been extremely popular in Rome, and supplanting gladiatorial combat following the rise of Christianity on moral grounds, the sport remained massively popular even long after the West fell. The famous Hippodrome of Constantinople was built and renovated many times to host extravagant games and could host as many as 100,000 spectators. Wow! But just who were these spectators?

They were known as the ‘demes,’ which comes from an Athenian term for neighbourhood, but in this instance the demes were a fusion of sports team and political party. The most notable teams were the Venetoi, or the Blues, and the

Prasinoi, or the Greens. Pretty much every citizen in Constantinople belonged to one of these two teams, and when they weren’t fighting each other over sports, they fought over politics.

The Hippodrome was more than a venue for racing, it was the de facto forum where the mob would voice their ‘opinions’ directly to the Emperor. One of the most famous instances of, ahem, ‘opinions’ were the Nika riots of 532, where, after the government tried to execute some hooligans, one blue and one green, but failed, the crowd demanded their pardon. The emperor Justinian refused, and, long story short, 30,000 people were killed in the stadium and half the city was burnt down. That got dark.

Despite this, and a number of crackdowns against them, the demes continued to be a strong force in Constantinople for centuries to come, with general hooliganry continuing despite the Empire’s slow decline until the beginning of the 13th century.



Dancers at Craethall. The Seneschal (and deputies), in addition to the Council help ensure we can continue to run fun events like these. If you are able, please consider putting your hand up for a role on Council. Photo credit: Julia of the Ravens.

Seeking Deputy Seneschal

The Krae Glas Seneschal is looking for a new deputy – it could be you!

———— RÚNFRÍÐR KEILISELGR

Hi there!

It is Rúna here, the Seneschal of Krae Glas. The laws of Lochac and the laws of common sense mean that I need to **find a deputy** within six months of stepping up. It is not that point yet, but I want to get ahead and have two fairly onerous offices already.

If you think you could help or want to discuss this, let me know! Further details below.

To be my deputy, Kingdom law requires that you:

- Be a member of the SCA (if this would be financially difficult, we can sort it out)
- Be 18+
- Be willing and able to perform the duties of the office, which principally include being and willing to take over the office of Seneschal at short notice for up to several weeks
- Maintain privacy and confidentiality

I am able to appoint a deputy as I see fit and we'll agree on your duties and tenure together.

Here's what I'm currently thinking:

- **Tenure: 1 year.** After that, I plan to actively search for the next Seneschal of Krae Glas and I'd like to have a deputy to train into that role. If that is you, excellent, but I would want to have that discussion rather than have unspoken expectations from either of us or the Barony.
- **Workload: 1-2 hours per week,** unless you choose to take on extra projects or there's an emergency.

- **Duties:**
 1. Attend Council meetings, which are currently once a month on Tuesday evenings (up to 2 hours).
 2. Be ready to step in as Seneschal at short notice for up to several weeks.

I also have some duties that can be easily delegated. You can take on some or none of them: minutes taking for Council meetings, following up on reports, event stewarding or helping event stewards, following up on action items, helping with handovers of officers and/or listening to me vent.

“TL; DR –
Seneschal needs help,
enquire within”

Ideal person: *I will not consider any applications from post-pandemic Seneschals of either Barony.* I would like either someone who is either entirely new blood or a member of the older guard with some cultural competence.

Let me know if you're curious. I would love to chat more.



The German language is more similar to English than you might think. Photo credit: Joanna

German With Joanna

The wonders of the Second German Consonant Shift

— JOANNA OF BREADWOOD

You probably think English isn't very similar to its Germanic cousins. After all, it's chockoblock full of those fonky French words, and it's not like German is mutually intelligible with English... or is it?

Okay no it isn't, but with a little knowledge of the Second Germanic Consonant Shift, you too can start making all sorts of fun connections. Behold, the main sound changes:

/p/ shifts into /pf/ or /f/
/t/ shifts into /ts/ (spelled 'z') or /s/
/k/ shifts into /x/ (spelled 'ch') but not in every case (e.g. corn -> Korn)

This means we have:

Pepper -> Pfeffer
Tide (i.e. time) -> Zeit ("tzeit")
Water -> Wasser
Break -> brechen
-kin -> -chen (suffix makes something sound cuter, like in 'munchkin')

We also have a change from /d/ into /t/. This you can see earlier in the tide -> Zeit example. Additionally,

Deep -> tief
Mid- (e.g. midwife) -> mit (meaning 'with')

There was also a change from /b/ ('th') to /d/ in all Germanic languages except English, but this isn't actually part of the Second Consonant Shift, it affects Dutch and other Low German variants as well.

That -> das
Thank -> danken

Pretty simple, right? Knowing these sound changes means you can "undo" them, so to speak, to attempt to make a guess about what the word might be in English. Have a go with these examples!

- offen
- Zunge
- durstig

From the editor

Technically it's all from me, but still

Hello.

Are you like me and interested in going on a newsletter related power trip?

You could have an article about whatever niche topic you want added to this very newsletter!

You could be as unhinged as me. It could happen.

Send any write ups (between 100-400 words) completely without context to joannabraidwood@gmail.com. Make it happen.



About the editor

Joanna of Breadwood is probably a little mad.

If you made it this far, thanks for joining us.

That's all folks!

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