



Quivers & Quarrels



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Mounted Archery in the SCA: How to Get Started

Period Shoots: The Rotella and the Harlequin

Care and Feeding of a Medieval Crossbow

My Medieval Life: Glasses versus Contacts

Personal Profile: Rekon of Saaremaa

On Target: The Archer's Cross

Archery at Samhain

Winter SSAC Rules

Fall SSAC Scores

Local Practices



Quivers & Quarrels is the official publication for the archery community of the **Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.**, and is published as a service to the archery community.

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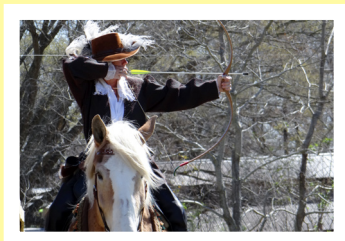


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New Year, New Things?

Mighty Archers of the Known World,

I am determined to finish some major projects by this summer so that I can have more time to spend on this glorious hobby. I have not picked up any of my bows since summer (Bad Sayako! Bad!), and it has been quite a long time since I shot from horseback. I think it's been over a year. Well, I suppose we do what we can as life ebbs and flows. If anything, my household family and I will be making plans for regular sewing sessions until we gear up for the first major event that we go to every year. Like many of us in the SCA who make our own garb, I have yards and yards of fabric bursting out of totes in my basement that is begging to become garments.

I have been thinking much about mounted archery lately, and how inaccessible it is to the non-horsey archers in our community who would be interested in participating. Honestly, it's inaccessible for me too, and I have horses, am a very experienced rider, and a reasonably decent archer. What I lack is the time to spend on it, and the climate to stay in touch with it for more than a few months out of the year. The farm where I board my horses does not have a covered arena, and here in An Tir, that means I can only get regular saddle time in the summer when the weather is dry. Winter means mud caked onto horse legs and sloppy arena footing.

I see much difficulty in connecting with mounted archery, so I have been thinking very hard on how to participate in mounted archery without horses, and how to get started in it with the intention to learn to ride. I have also been thinking about how those interested can find opportunities to learn to ride, and to eventually shoot from horseback. I have written an article in two parts about getting into mounted archery that will appear in *Quivers & Quarrels*, beginning with this edition. The goal of these articles isn't necessarily to teach you about mounted archery or how to do mounted archery. Instead, my hope is that it will help you find where the open doors are so that you can connect with this elusive martial activity. Perhaps I will write more about it in future editions, after growing my own mounted skills more. It is on my bucket list to take my horse and my bow to a clinic and learn from someone who has mastered the art.

In addition to mounted archery, this issue will bring you more insights into period shoots to challenge your skills and your development as a historical archer.

Until the spring, Season's and New Year's blessings to all. As for me, I will be spending the holidays with my family in the Shire of Windy Meades, hunting for more wild turkey flight feathers with my sister and my children, and making garb patterns in my head. I am already looking forward to warmer weather and weekends with our silly, fun-loving household.

Yours in Service,
Lady Sayako Enoki



Guest Column On Target: The Archer's Cross

By THL Deryk Archer

"On Target" is a recurring archery column featured in the *Aethelmearc Gazette*. To read more "On Target" entries and other articles related to archery, please visit <http://aethelmearcgazette.com/category/archery/>



This month's edition of *On Target* from THLord Deryk Archer is about shooting at an archer's cross. This is a very period shoot.

First, color in a cross on a piece of foamboard. I prefer to make the arms of the cross approximately four inches wide (see *Figure 1*). Attach the target to your usual straw or foam target butt.

After you get some experience shooting at the target, cut the cross out (see *Figure 2*), reinforce the foamboard with several layers of cardboard to prevent blow throughs, and nail a stake to each side of the target. Hammer the stakes into the ground and place another target behind the cross target, approximately 3 feet beyond the open cross. I used a target from a previous shoot.

You can draw bricks on the foamboard around the cut-out cross to better simulate a castle wall.

Scoring is one point per hit. This simulates attacking a castle with arrow slits.

Figure 1: (Above inset) Solid archer's cross target.

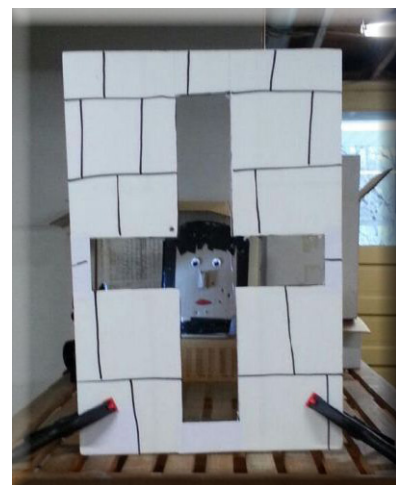


Figure 2: Archer's cross target with cross cut out.

Period Shoots: The Rotella and the Harlequin

By: Sir Jon FitzRauf

The Rotella Shoot

This shoot is based upon an Italian competition dating back to 1443 in Lucca, Italy. It was shot twice a year on the first of May and the first of September. Participation in the shoot was limited to male citizens of Lucca who were part of their town militia, and was only shot with crossbows. There was a prize of eighteen florins (Approximately \$3,600 in current value) for the four best crossbowmen of the day. The prize was divided among the four according to their ranking in the contest. The arrows closest to the center of the target determined their ranking.

The target, or Rotella, was a round shield about two feet in diameter, in the center of this was a painted circle representing the shield boss. This boss, or Brocca, was the same as the gold in modern target archery. The Rotella and Brocca are similar to the roundel style targets used in many other countries during this period.

This was said to have been placed at one hundred and twenty paces, or about ninety-eight yards. However, some historians question this distance because the plaza in which it was reported to have been held is not ninety-eight yards long. They feel that the paces should be interpreted as of one foot in front of the other, or between about thirty-five to forty yards. Similar competitions now held in Italy are shot at about forty yards.

The crossbowmen shot only one bolt each at the target. Just one chance to hit the target simulated the conditions of battle. When all had shot, the bolts furthest from the center of the Brocca were removed until only the four closest to the center of the Brocca remained. Their placement was then carefully measured to determine the four winners. In the case of ties in distance from the center, “bolts near the upper part of the Brocca were regarded as superior to those in the lower part while those at the sides were inferior to the rest”. When this did not eliminate a tie, then the crossbowman that had made his shot earlier won.

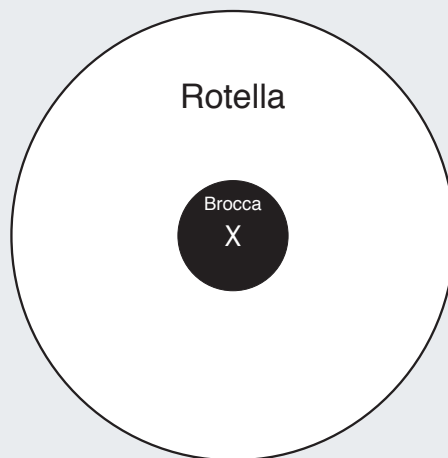


Figure 1: Example of Rotella target.

The Shoot

An SCA version of the competition consists of a single Rotella target which is shot at in two rounds of six ends each and of one arrow or bolt per end. Both handbows and crossbows may participate in the shooting at the same time. However, handbows and crossbows compete in separate divisions.

Range

The distance is 30 yards.

Target

The Rotella is 24 inches in diameter. The Brocca is centered in the Rotella and is six inches in diameter. The Brocca is a contrasting color to the Rotella. An

“X” should be drawn in the center of the Brocca for measuring distance to the arrows/bolts. The face of the Rotella and Brocca must be plain. However, the area around the outside of the Rotella may be decorated (see Figure 1).

Arrows

There are two rounds of six ends with one arrow or bolt per end. Each end is shot and scored before the next end is shot. Arrows or bolts that fall or are knocked out of the target receive no score.

Archers should select two or three of their best arrows or bolts for the competition, but have six arrows available. Their names or other obvious form of identification must be on their shafts for purposes of identification.

Shooting

The archers will shoot one at a time in a predetermined order as selected by lot, and the order of shooting is to be written down. The order of shooting will be reversed for the second round. This is for the purpose of tie breaking and so that no archer might always shoot first or last. The archer shooting first will not strike a previous arrow or bolt that might deflect theirs. The archer shooting last is more likely to strike a previous arrow or bolt and be deflected. The archers take their turns standing directly in front of the target, so that their arrows or bolts all strike from the same angle.

Handbows and crossbows compete in separate divisions. However, they may shoot together in the same ends.

The marshal in charge will call each archer to the line in the order determined, and will also tell the next archer to stand ready.

In order to save time during the competition, arrows that miss the target and backstop may only be searched for after the end of each round.

Scoring

The distance is measured from the center (X) of the Brocca to the nearest edge of the arrow/bolt. If an arrow either falls out of the target or is knocked out by another bolt, it counts as zero. If the shaft of an arrow is broken off by another arrow, but the point remains in the target, it still counts.

For ease of scoring, arrows or bolts tied with equal distances from the center, the arrow or bolt that was shot first will be considered closer.

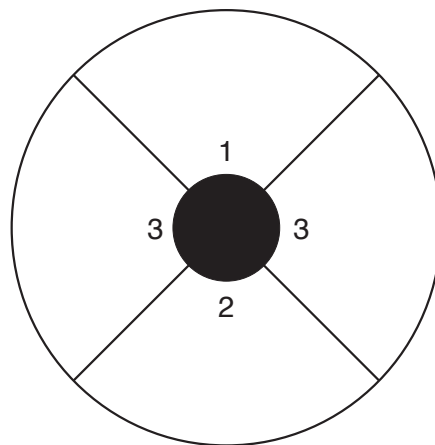


Figure 2: The zones of the rotella for Medieval method of scoring.

- Arrows striking within the Rotella or Bocca, except for the four closest, receive one point.
 - The arrow closest to the center receives five points.
 - The arrow second closest to the center receives four points.
 - The arrow third closest to the center receives three points.
 - The arrow fourth closest to the center receives two points.

In period, only the closest to the center would receive a score and that of one point.

The medieval method of scoring competitions using the roundel often used the following system for

judging arrows equal distant from the center (see Figure 2):

- In the case of arrows or bolts equal distant from the center, those in area “1” of the target count higher than any of the other areas.
- Arrows in area “2” count higher than those in the two “3” areas.
- Arrows in the right hand area “3” (3:00 o’clock) count higher than arrows in the left hand area “3”.
- In the case of arrows equal distant from the center in the “1” or “2” areas, the arrow closest to the right counts higher.
- In the case of arrows equal distant from the center in either of the “3” areas, the arrow closest to the top counts higher.

When there are four or fewer archers in a division, the following scoring will be used:

For four archers:

- Closest is four points.
- Second closest is three points.
- Third closest is two points.
- Fourth closest is one point.

For three archers:

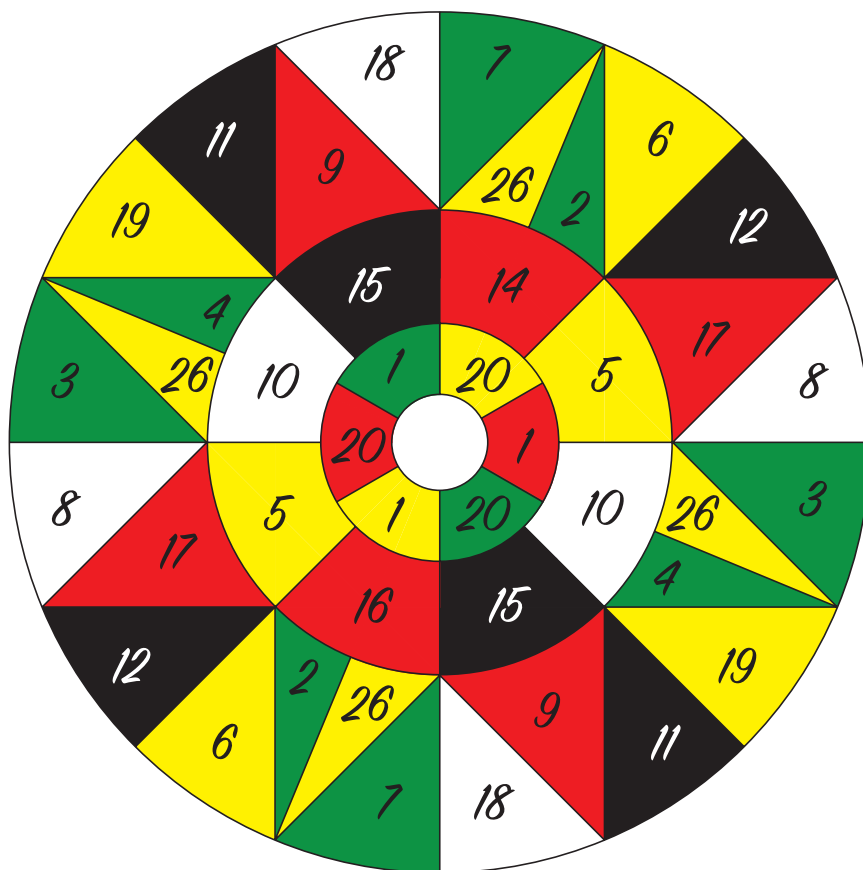
- Closest is three points.
- Second closest is two points.
- Third closest is one point.

Since scoring is relative, the competition cannot be shot with fewer than three archers in a division.

Background for this competition was taken from the 2008 issue of the Journal of the Society of Archer-Antiquaries, "Crossbows with horn or wood bow laths; with reference to mediaeval shooting contests", pages 64-71.

The Harlequin Target

Digital files for the Harlequin target and competition handouts that are suitable for printing are available in the Quivers & Quarrels Facebook group, from Lady Sayako at lsubaki@hotmail.com (her personal email).



The Harlequin target face consists of four concentric rings. The center disk is two inches, the inner ring is eight inches, the middle ring is 16 inches and the outer ring is 24 inches. They are divided into different shapes with a value written in each. The disk is one section. The inner ring is divided into six equal sections. The middle ring is divided into eight equal sections. The outer edge of the outside ring is divided into 16 sections. Then the outer ring is divided into 28 different sized triangles. The blank center disk is scored as zero points. The colors of the scoring areas should be as shown in the illustration (see Figure 3). It is easier to see how to divide the scoring areas than it is to describe how to do it.

This is a version of the “blazon” or “Flemish blazon” style of target (see Figure 4), sometimes seen as several boxes inside a square. It is named “Harlequin” because of the many patches of color similar to the costume of Harlequin in the Commedia dell’ Arte.

The rules for this version were adapted from those on the web site of the “des Arbalétriersdu Grand Serment Royal et de Saint-Georges de Bruxelles” (<http://michel-staes.e-monsite.com/pages/page-6.html>)

Copies of the target showing the scoring should be available to the archers at the shooting line for easy reference, so that they can plan their shots. The image of the target in this article may be enlarged and printed as a reference for each archer. The rules for scoring should also be included on the same sheet.

The object of the competition is to achieve a predetermined score, which each archer picks by drawing a token from a container. The tokens may be slips of paper. The tokens are numbered 60 through 100. The number on the token is the score the archer must make. The archers must shoot all six arrows or bolts. For example if the archers draws a 74 token, one way they could achieve the score would be to shoot: 20, 20, 20, 5, 5, 4 for a total of 74 points.

Figure 3: (Left) The harlequin target.

The distance to the target is fifteen yards.

The archers shoot at the target one at a time, each shooting their six arrows or bolts and they shoot in ascending order of their token numbers. More than one target may be set up to speed up the competition.

If an arrow or bolt strikes the line between two areas, the archer may choose which value to score.

An arrow or bolt striking outside the scoring face scores zero points, the third arrow or bolt missing the scoring face will have its value increased by the drawing of a token valued between one and five. The fourth arrow or bolt missing the scoring face causes the archer to be eliminated from the competition. The center disk scores as zero points with no penalty.

A scoring area may be hit only once for score. Additional hits to the same section do not count toward the total score.

Figure 4: Details from a Book of Hours by Simon Bening. Circa 1530.

Note the circular targets with the scoring areas in colored sections of a circle with the values in roman numerals.



If an archer reaches his predetermined score in less than six arrows or bolts, they must still continue shooting until six arrows or bolts have been shot.

The winner is the archer that precisely reaches their predetermined score. If no archer accomplishes their predetermined score, then the archer that is closest to their score, plus or minus, is the winner. For example, if one archer needed 74 and had a 73 or 75 (one point difference), they would beat an archer who needed an 88 and had an 86 or 90 (two point difference). If several archers reach their score or are equal in proximity to their predetermined score, there will be a shoot off of one arrow or bolt each. The winner will be the archer that hits closest to the center of the target.

Hand-bows and crossbows may complete in separate divisions.



The four bolts in the right hand target seem to have been aimed not at the center, but at different scoring areas.

Mounted Archery in the SCA Part One: How to Get Started

By: Lady Sayako Enoki (MKA Linda Tsubaki)

Lady Sayako has been riding for almost 35 years, and currently owns two horses. Sayako schools her gelding for low-level three day eventing (dressage, cross country jumping, and stadium jumping). Her mare is a steady mount for all ages, levels, and styles of riding in an established lesson program, as well as serving as Sayako's archery mount. Sayako is also an amateur trainer, specializing in starting untrained horses, behavior issues, and rehabilitation.

As much as we, as a Society, dislike the notion that any one of our martial activities is “elite”, the reality is that some of our martial activities are much more accessible and affordable than others. Fortunately, target archery is one of the easier martial activities to access and participate in without a large investment in equipment, but there are many archers who would love to try mounted archery. Mounted archery, of course, requires horses and everything that comes with them.

Mounted archery is unique among our martial activities because it is a marriage of two distinct sets of skills. In order to be proficient at mounted archery, one must be both a proficient rider and a proficient

archer, and to a large degree, these two skills must be developed independently of each other.

Proficiency as a rider is achieved through time, quality instruction, practice, and a variety of experiences. It is not recommended that the beginning rider self-direct the learning journey as is possible with archery. Learning to ride well isn't just about technical skill and applying aids to the horse and getting correct responses. It's also about body discipline, physical fitness, connection and partnership with the horse, and the subtiles and nuances of the physical language between you and your mount. In order to become a proficient mounted archer, one must attain a certain level of technical skill as a rider. In order to become an

exceptional mounted archer, one must attain a level of horsemanship beyond technical skill so as to forge a solid partnership with the horse, and to move as one physical being to the benefit of both.

Proficiency as an archer is also achieved through time, quality instruction, practice, and a variety of experiences. You must be proficient on the target range before marrying the skill to riding, having practiced enough to train your muscles to automatically shoot with good form. You must have spent enough hours shooting to know your equipment so well that it ceases to become a bow, and begins to become an extension of you.



When you have achieved proficiency in both martial activities to where your shooting and riding are both natural to you, and you can manage your bow and your horse safely, then you are ready to begin shooting mounted. This does not mean that you have to be an expert in each. It means that you are proficient enough that marrying the two skills together will not be so awkward that safety is compromised.

It is of course possible to begin mounted archery with a lesser level of skill, and to have “try me” sessions on horseback at a walk or by being led by a handler. At minimum, you should be able to demonstrate a qualifying level of skill as outlined by the authorization guidelines for your Kingdom. Shooting from a walk is not difficult, and it’s still a lot of fun. However, struggling with either riding or shooting while you are trying to do both at the same time is counter-productive and could create a safety hazard, hence the necessary level of individual skill from the beginning.

This article will be in two parts. Part 1 will address ways to get started in mounted archery. This discussion is meant to be general, and not comprehensive of all possible obstacles. Part 2 will cover ways you can train for mounted archery on the range, mounted and unmounted on the equestrian side, and some parting thoughts. Part 2 will appear in the Spring 2016 edition of *Quivers & Quarrels*.

Getting into Mounted Archery: The Equestrian Side

Let’s begin with the assumption that the reader has limited or no experience with horses. The idea that one must own horses in order to participate in mounted archery, or in SCA equestrian activities in general is understandable, but false. While horse ownership does indeed make participation in equestrian activities easier, becoming an owner is the last link in a long chain of acquiring knowledge and gaining experience. If one becomes an owner too early in that process, the lack of knowledge and skill can be quite detrimental to the person and to the horse.

Considering the question of ownership, the most obvious obstacle to getting into mounted archery is having access to horses to learn to ride and shoot from. Not only must one have access to horses, but one must have access to suitable horses. How do we find suitable

horses, and how do we gain access to learn to ride them? Here is what I would advise:

- *The first step is always to take riding lessons from a qualified instructor.* The cost of lessons from a professional can sometimes be partially or fully traded for barn chores or other services that you may be able to offer, and group lessons are more affordable than private lessons. Generally, professional private lessons on the instructor’s school horses are somewhere around \$50 an hour, which is 30-40 minutes of actual riding, and the rest of the time is spent learning about handling horses, grooming, and putting riding equipment on the horse (which is called “tacking up”). However, a qualified instructor may also be found in your the local SCA equestrian community.

Keep in mind that one does not have to be a professional instructor to be well-qualified. In the modern horse world, many riders compete as amateurs, myself included. What distinguishes amateurs from professionals isn’t necessarily their level of skill and knowledge, though certainly it often is. The technical distinction is whether or not the person accepts a fee for providing training or instruction. I have never charged for instruction or training, partially because I do this horse thing out of a life-long passion for it. But more importantly, it is to preserve my status as an amateur for those rare occasions when I do manage to compete. If you choose an amateur instructor, be sure to investigate their experience and accomplishments carefully. Choose an amateur instructor who has many years of experience, and ask for references.

- *What riding discipline should you choose to learn?* That is entirely up to you. Any riding discipline will be suitable, and being exposed to different disciplines will only benefit your riding. However, my recommendation is to learn the English riding discipline, specifically jumping. The body discipline that you need to remain balanced and harmonious with the horse over fences is very much like the body discipline that you need to shoot arrows from horseback at any pace higher than a walk. The riding position over fences is called “two point”, which is a balanced position out of the saddle that allows freedom of movement for the horse over the fence while the rider stays

in harmony with the energy of the movement (*see photos below*). Two point, its balance, and all of the muscles it uses are your shooting platform. You do not need to learn to jump anything big. Small fences will do. You just need to learn the body discipline and develop the right muscles.

- *Simply knowing the horse people in your local group may open many doors for you.* Even if they do not have horses that are suitable for beginning lessons or the availability to teach you, horse people may be able to help you brainstorm about where the opportunities will be.
- *Ask your local equestrian martial for help.* If your area has a local practice, attend the practices, and volunteer to help on the ground at practices and at



events. Every opportunity that you have to spend with the equestrian community is an opportunity to learn, and an opportunity to form relationships that may lead to future saddle time. There is an enormous amount of knowledge you can gain about horses, riding, and horsemanship without ever sitting on the back of a horse.

- *Leasing versus owning.* If your goal is to become an owner, the progression toward ownership that most trainers recommend is to take lessons until you are a proficient rider with a solid grasp of basic horse keeping and horsemanship. Depending on how often you take lessons and are exposed to horses, this could be months, or it could be years.

Once you are proficient with the basics, then work with your instructor to find a horse to lease. Leasing can be either a full lease or a partial lease, and you enjoy all of the benefits of ownership without many of the responsibilities and costs. Leased horses often remain at their boarding facilities, giving you a place to ride, and will usually come with their own bridle, saddle, and other equipment. Many people lease for years before deciding to take that last step to become an owner, if ever. I was 31 years old and had been riding for over 20 years when I became an owner for the first time.

Forging a path that leads you to access to horses may take some time, but don't give up on it. Access to horses

(Top) An English rider in “two point” position on her horse while jumping a fence.

(Bottom) A mounted archer shooting from his horse at a canter. He is using a thumb draw.

Note the similarities in rider position in each photo. Both tasks require strong core muscles and the ability to ride the energy of the horse's movement rather than cope with it.

aside, the obstacle that is usually the first one to be voiced is how to afford the opportunity to learn to ride. I cannot emphasize enough that you do not need to be an owner to learn to ride, nor should you become an owner to “get into horses”. Likewise, you do not necessarily need to spend lots of money on lessons to learn to ride. Not having the financial resources for regular lessons is common, but not insurmountable. While paid lessons will help you progress more quickly, there is a lot of value in looking for opportunities to exchange work for lessons (being a “working student”), and getting to know your local SCA equestrian community.

Most riders in your equestrian community will not be willing to share their horses and teach beginners. There are an infinite number of reasons why a horse would not be suitable to share with beginning riders, so please do not be discouraged when owners do not offer to teach you or let you ride their horses. Beginner’s lesson horses are worth their weight in gold and are not as common as one might expect. But, sooner or later, you will get to know someone who would be willing share a suitable horse and teach you. In between those opportunities, stay connected to the equestrian community, take professional lesson whenever possible, and learn as much as you can.

Once you have established how to gain access to horses and learn to ride, the next step is to find a horse that is suitable for mounted archery. What makes a horse suitable for mounted archery? Again, I make these recommendations very broadly and with the beginning rider in mind.

First, the horse must have a level of training and experience to not need much input from you through the reins, and to respond instead to your leg and seat. Horses who are finished properly in a discipline should have enough of this skill to navigate the straight run of an archery course with minimal dependence on the rider. Look for a horse who has many years as a riding horse, not for young horses who only have months or weeks as riding horses. Have someone knowledgeable who is not the owner help you assess the horse’s level of skill.

Second, the horse must have a quiet and uncomplicated temperament. Horses who are excitable tend to lose their ability to think and focus, much like excitable children trying to do homework. Likewise, horses who have issues with anxiety are well beyond the skill level



(Above) Sayako’s horseback view, sharing a winter riding lesson with her son, Nicholas.

of beginners, no matter how well trained the horses are. You are quite vulnerable while you are drawing your bow and focusing on the approaching target, particularly as you are developing your skill. Your mount must be able to stay on task and at the pace that you ask for while you are shooting.

Third, the horse must not be “spooky”, which is related to having a quiet temperament. Horses are herd animals. They are prey animals, which are flight animals. They are constantly scanning their environments for danger. A horse can respond, or “spook”, to a perceived threat or a “scary” unknown to any degree from simply flinching to bolting away in panic. The magnitude of the horse’s response tends to reflect how quiet his temperament is, or isn’t. An ideal horse will be very low on the spectrum of being spooky, and will have a quiet enough temperament to be desensitized easily to all of the new experiences he will have with mounted archery.

Finally, since you may very likely be the horse’s first experience with mounted archery, validate his suitability with your riding instructor, or perhaps qualified members of your local equestrian community. Introduce him to archery under the supervision of someone well-qualified to help you with desensitizing him and exposing him to a new activity. For horses with quiet temperaments, being desensitized and adjusting to new experiences is usually a very simple process, but

it should not be handled by an inexperienced horse person without supervision.

Distinguishing suitable horses from unsuitable ones sounds like a lot to digest, but it really isn't. Most horses who are suitable for beginning or intermediate riders should also be suitable for mounted archery.

Getting into Mounted Archery: The Equipment Side

There are fewer obstacles on the equipment side of mounted archery, especially since most newcomers to mounted archery will already have archery equipment. Any bow that is allowable under your Kingdom rules can be used for mounted archery, though period-style bows are more suitable for mounted archery than modern pistol-grip recurves. This section will cover what equipment you should start acquiring. Goals for skills will be discussed in Part 2 in the next edition of *Quivers & Quarrels*.

Must-Haves

A helmet. First and foremost, get a riding helmet, and wear it every ride, every time, without exception. Ever. I have very, very few strong opinions about the choices that others are free to make, and the use of riding helmets is at the top of that very short list. I do not allow anyone to ride one of my animals without a helmet strapped firmly to his or her head, and you will never find me mounted without one.

Your head is several feet in the air when you are sitting on the back of a horse, and your head hitting the ground, a tree, or a fence post from that height at any speed can be a very, very bad thing. Skill and experience do not excuse you from the possibility of having riding accidents, and neither does having a steady mount. Sooner or later, you will come out of the saddle and hit the dirt. You may or may not get hurt, but I promise you, it won't be the last time. After decades of riding and the ability to stay seated

through all kinds of horsey shenanigans, I still hit the dirt every now and then. Every horse person has an opinion about the use of riding helmets, and to my knowledge, their use is not required for adults in the SCA. However, it is my opinion that to ride without one is completely foolish.

All that being said, helmets do not have to be expensive. They just have to be brand new*, specifically equestrian**, and SEI-ASTM certified. If those three conditions are met, you can spend \$35, or you can spend \$500. It doesn't matter. New, certified equestrian helmets will all protect your head because certified helmets all meet the same minimum performance standard.

If you are concerned about keeping in the spirit of being period, you can buy a skullcap-style helmet, which is a helmet without a brim in the front, and create a period-appropriate cover for it.

Riding boots. Many manufacturers make good entry-level synthetic riding boots for around \$50 or less. Some manufacturers also make riding boots that resemble sneakers or hiking boots, so they won't look out of place if worn outside of the barn. You should always ride in good boots with a hard sole and a small heel. This is for safety. Hiking boots are fine to start learning in, but in the long term, they are not designed to support your foot and the stresses placed on it when you ride in stirrups. Good riding boots have a steel shank to properly support your foot.

A quiver. You may need to replace your quiver with one that is suitable for shooting from horseback. As you practice unmounted (which will be covered in Part 2), you will settle on what style of quiver suits your persona and works well for you as an archer. Of the quivers that I own, my mounted preference is for a quiver that is hung from my belt and straps to my right thigh, though I will be experimenting with other styles as I have the opportunity.

*Helmets are lined with a foam that absorbs the energy of impact by microscopically decomposing when shocked. This means that if the riding helmet is dropped on a hard surface, it compromises the protective properties of the foam. The foam also weakens over time. Riding helmets should be replaced every five to seven years, even if they are rarely used and never dropped, and they should absolutely be replaced after any fall where your head hits the ground or an object. Never buy a used helmet.

**I am often asked if bicycle helmets are okay to ride horses in. Most bicycle-related head injuries are to the front of the head, whereas most equestrian-related head injuries are to the back of the head. Bicycle helmets will offer you better protection than no helmet at all, but they are not designed to protect the areas of the head most likely to be affected in equestrian accidents.

Arrows. Check your Kingdom rules for what arrows are legal for mounted archery. My preference is for carbon, which is legal for mounted archery under An Tir's rules. Carbon is very durable, and when it does break, it breaks into pieces rather than into splinters, which makes carbon arrows a little safer around horses. Carbon is also easy to test for hidden cracks should it miss the target and come to a dead stop against a post or wall. Just flex it back and forth, and if it crackles, throw it away. If it doesn't crackle, put it back in your quiver.

If you are only able to shoot from horseback indoors or in an area where you don't have a lot of open space behind the targets, you can also shoot arrows tipped with rubber blunts, or shoot flu-flus, which are arrows with very big, fluffy fletches so that they slow down significantly as they fly. No matter what kind of arrow you decide on, each kind of shaft material has advantages and disadvantage, particularly in an equestrian environment. Safety around horses and their environment should be the primary consideration when choosing arrows, followed by the arrow's compatibility with your bow.

A bow. As long as your bow is legal for mounted archery under your Kingdom rules, it is suitable for mounted archery. However, I would advise against using modern recurves. There will be times when you need both hands to manage your horse, particularly if your horse is an English horse and is trained to be ridden with both of your hands on the reins. The bulbous pistol grips of modern recurves take up your whole hand, leaving very little of your hand left to hold the rein. If you need to use your bow hand immediately, say, if your horse starts to act up, your only decent option is to drop the bow on the ground to free up the hand for the reins. Dropping your bow may be a necessary evil, but it can create another set of problems. Dropping a bow isn't very good for it, and your horse can step on it or get it tangled up in his legs. Any style of the static-eared recurves (commonly called "horsebows") are a much better option for mounted archery. Not only are they period for many personae, but the grips are smaller, leaving you plenty of space in your hand to manage reins, and they are shelfless, meaning you can learn to shoot from either side of the bow and with a thumb draw.

Also, be sure that your bow falls within your Kingdom rules for limits on draw weight for mounted archery.

For An Tir, the limit on draw weight is 35 pounds at 28 inches. As a rule, if you cannot comfortably shoot your present bow (and by "comfortably" - be honest with yourself here - I mean practice steadily for at least 1/2 hour before you begin to fatigue), choose a bow with a lighter draw weight for mounted archery. You do not want to struggle with fatigue or with drawing your bow when you are on the back of a horse, least of all when you are moving faster than a walk. Just about every muscle in your body will have its own task when you shoot at a pace faster than a walk, so don't add the draw weight of your bow to the things that challenge your fitness and body discipline. You should be able to draw your mounted bow very easily.

If cost is a consideration, it might benefit you to find an inexpensive fiberglass starter bow, like the kind that kids use in camp programs. They're cheap, they have lighter draw weights, they have small grips, you can shoot off either side of the bow, and they can take a beating. If you need to drop a fiberglass starter bow from horseback, you can do so without your heart sinking.

What you don't need. You do not need to buy equipment for a horse. Lesson horses and leased horses will come with their own saddles and bridles ("tack"), and it is important to use them instead of using your own equipment. Horses are fitted for saddles like people are fitted for shoes. Saddles come in different sizes and have different purposes, and one saddle will not fit every horse. Likewise, bridles come in different sizes, and bits (the metal piece that goes in the horse's mouth) is specific to the size and training of the horse, and how he likes to respond to it. A horse's tack is as individual to him as your clothes and shoes are to you. If you do happen to have your own tack, be sure to ask the instructor or owner if it is okay to use it on the horse so long as it properly fits. However, while you are learning, don't worry about investing any money in horse equipment.

Hopefully this article has given you a realistic overview of what it takes to get into mounted archery as a martial activity. Part 2 will go over many of the practical things you can do to develop your skills as a mounted archer. Watch for "Mounted Archery in the SCA Part 2: Practical Things to Do" in the next edition of *Quivers & Quarrels*.

Care and Feeding of a Medieval Crossbow

By: *Barun Siegfried Sebastian Faust*

Medieval crossbows require a fair bit of maintenance and tweaking to ensure that they can be shot accurately and safely. Also, crossbows can be very finicky about their ammunition. This article will discuss the various parts of a crossbow, possible malfunctions, how to fix them, and tips for finding the correct ammunition.

The Prod

The prod (or bow section) is the most important part of the crossbow. Problems with the prod, especially its mounting, can cause all sorts of difficulties.

Loose Bridle or Bow Irons

The most common problem you will have with a crossbow is the loosening of the bridle, or bow irons. Let's look at the bow irons first.

If you have bow irons, you should become familiar with them and tighten them often, because they tend to work loose as you shoot. You should check them each time you go out to shoot and regularly while shooting. Luckily, they are designed to be easily tightened. Simply knock the wedges on either side of the crossbow in towards the stock to tighten it (*see Figure 1*). Usually, using two hammers to hit both sides of the irons at the same time easily accomplishes this task. If your bow irons are loosening far too fast for your own purposes, the wedges may be too smooth. You can remove the wedges and use a file or sandpaper on them to rough them up a little bit and make them hold better.

More commonly, a crossbow will have a cord binding, known as the bridle. This binding may be made of many different materials: linen, rawhide, sinew, nylon, etc. But in all cases, the basic principle remains the same. The cord wraps many times around the prod on both sides, passing through a hole in the stock. Another cord (usually of different type) wraps around the bundle of cord on each side of this to tighten it down, gaining a mechanical advantage.

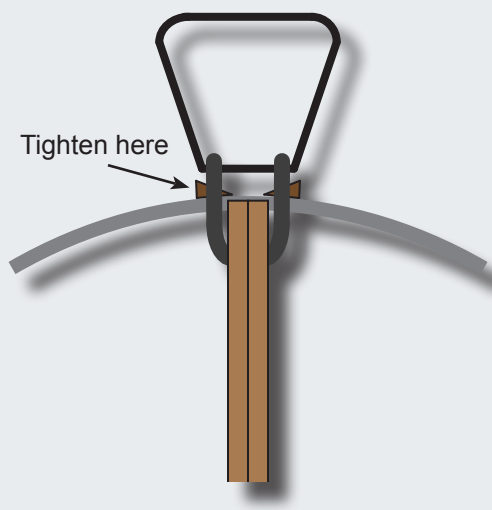


Figure 1: Wedges to check and tighten the bow iron.

As time wears on, and the strands stretch and reposition themselves, the bridle will become loose. If you can pinch the bridle just behind the prod and move it slightly, then the bridle probably needs tightening. If it is loose enough that the prod can wobble in its socket, then the crossbow will have accuracy problems. If it is so loose that the prod wobbles a lot, or moves side-to-side, then shooting becomes a safety problem, as the bolt may go in unpredictable

directions.

To tighten the bridle, take some cord (artificial sinew works well), and start wrapping this cord around the existing wrapping, towards the prod, pulling it tighter. Multiple techniques may be used: wrapping it in a spiral like a string serving; tying it off at either end and spiral wrapping; or tying a running knot. Any method that pulls the binding tighter and won't slip will work. I prefer the running knot, in which you pass the string under the bridle, then back through, forming a half hitch. Reverse the direction and repeat until the bridle is tight. Make sure that you tighten both sides equally,

and don't go too far on a side at one time, or you can actually tip the prod and will not be able to tighten the other side properly.

Also note that the stirrup of a crossbow, when bound on, can become loose. This is perfectly fine, and completely safe, since the stirrup doesn't even need to be there. Usually, the stirrup fastens onto the crossbow with a completely different set of cords than on the prod itself. This way, the stirrup can loosen without the prod loosening. (The main point is that it is the prod that matters.) As long as the prod remains tight, it doesn't matter how loose the stirrup becomes. That said, you can tighten the stirrup the same way as the whole prod binding. You can also choose to wrap some cord around the upper sections of binding that hold only the stirrup to pull them snug.

Tipped Mounting

A tipped mounting occurs when the prod is at an angle to the stock (*see Figure 2*), with the tips at different heights in comparison to the shelf. This configuration causes the string to come off the shelf at different angles on either side. A small amount of tipping will not cause a problem. A severe amount can cause accuracy issues, as well as making one side of the string serving wear much quicker than the other. If the bridle is slightly loose, the angle can sometimes be fixed by firmly but gently tapping the prod with a rubber mallet to force it into place, and then tightening the bridle. Otherwise, the only way to fix this problem is to remove the prod and remount it square.

Too Much/Too Little Shelf Drag

Shelf drag refers to the string's pulling down on the shelf of the crossbow. With too much shelf drag, indicated by the string's coming down at a strong angle from the shelf, the crossbow will function; however, the crossbow will be less efficient than it could be, and the string serving will wear out very fast.

Having too little shelf drag can cause the crossbow to misfire (*see Figure 3*). This problem can be detected by noticing the string hovering above the shelf at rest, or by looking at the tips of the prods when cocked to see if they are pulling the string above the shelf. Either condition can cause the string to jump over the bolt, potentially destroying the bolt or sending it tumbling

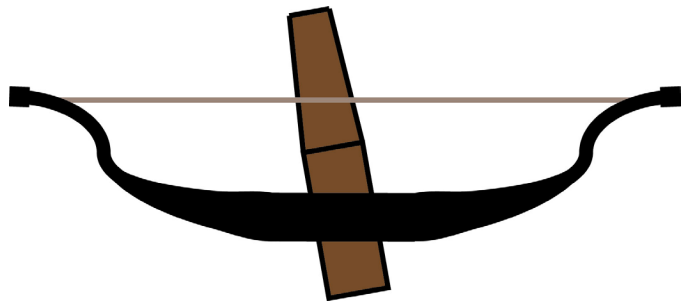


Figure 2: Tipped mounting

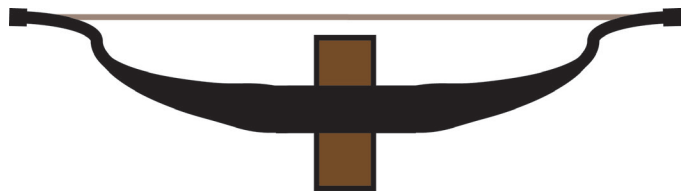


Figure 3: Too little shelf drag.

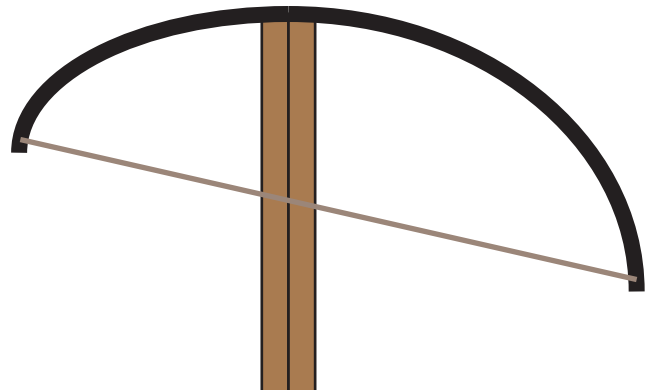


Figure 4: Prod that is off center.

only a few feet in front of you.

The only way to fix these problems is to remove the prod, change its socket to correct the angle, and then remount it.

Off Center

A crossbow prod that is mounted off center will cause the crossbow bolts' back ends to be kicked at an angle, making them to go off target and wobble in flight (*see Figure 4*). Two ways can determine if it is perfectly centered. The first is to measure the distance of the prod from tip to stock on both sides and ensure it is the same. The other method is to use a bow square (or other square) to check that the string is perfectly perpendicular to the groove in the stock. You can sometimes fix a deviation by again using a rubber mallet, or if needed, removing and remounting the

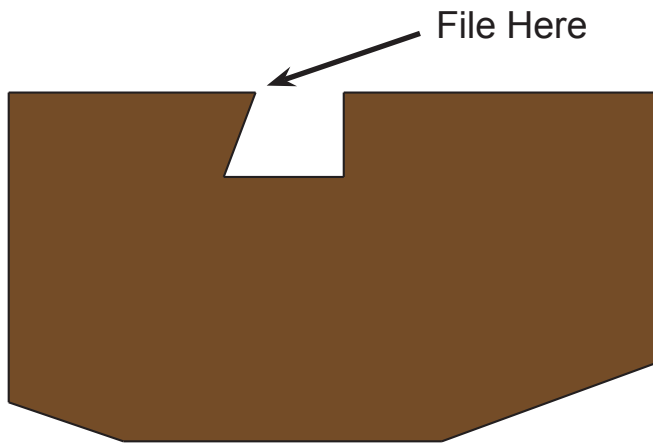


Figure 5: Notch lock

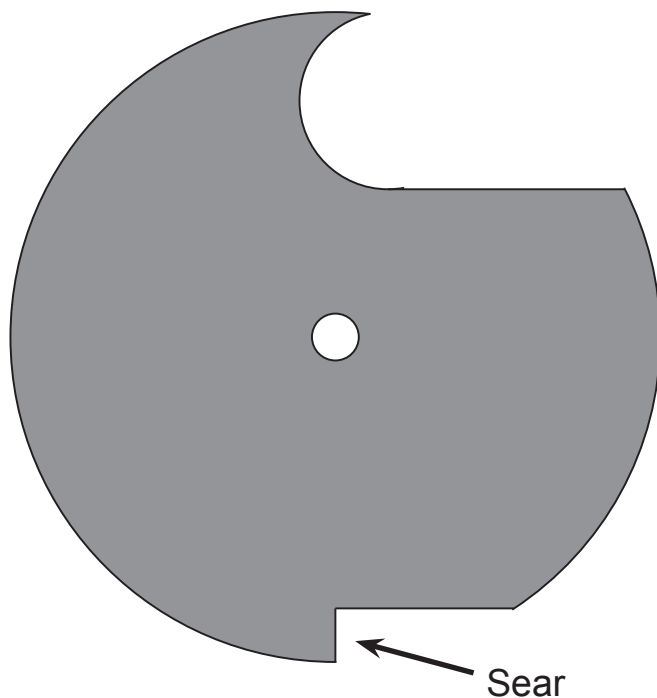


Figure 6: Rolling nut

prod.

Brace Height

The brace height of a crossbow equals the distance between the prod and the string at rest. You should ensure that this distance is close to that recommended by the manufacturer of the crossbow/prod. The average brace height of an SCA crossbow is around 3 1/2". (This is the recommended height for any steel prods made by Master Gladius, which comprise the bulk of reenactment crossbow prods.) Up to a half-inch of difference in this measurement is acceptable. You can change the brace height by twisting your string tighter or looser, as needed. In the worst case, you can acquire a new string of the proper length.

The Trigger

The trigger assembly must be kept in working order. Otherwise, the crossbow may not fire, or worse, may misfire when you least expect it. Because of this potential danger, never point a loaded crossbow at anything you don't wish to shoot.

Notch Locks

The notch lock style crossbow has one of the simpler styles of releases. It consists of a ledge cut into the shelf into which the string is pulled back. A lever, either on the top or on the bottom, pushes a pin upwards that forces the string off the ledge.

A few things bear watching with notch lock crossbows, mostly with the ledge itself. First you want to make sure that the ledge is very smooth; otherwise it will rub on the string and eventually eat the serving. You can sand it with very fine sandpaper (work your way up to 400 grit), and rub a little bit of beeswax into it to help with lubrication (see Figure 5).

Next, check that the shelf angles backwards slightly. If it does not, then the string may jump off the shelf by itself. Conversely, if the string is having problems coming off the shelf, then you may want to file the lip of the shelf slightly, which should help the string leave.

Claplock

A claplock is a late-period lock style similar to the notch lock. The difference is that the ledge angles forward so that the string easily leaves, and a piece of metal holds it in. Maintain the ledge as described for the notch lock, taking the different angle into account. The angle should be just enough so the string leaves the notch when under pressure. If the angle is too great, the crossbow will not fire; and an angle that is too small will place too much pressure on the clasp mechanism and cause it to fail.

Rolling Nut

The rolling nut was the most common form of crossbow lock in the Middle Ages (see Figure 6). This type consists of a cylindrical nut that rotates in a socket with two prongs to hold the string. The trigger contacts the bottom of the nut, in a reinforced section

called the sear. When the trigger is depressed, the nut can roll freely, and the string is released.

One common problem is the nut's not rolling freely. It jams, usually in a forward position after firing, and takes considerable effort to turn it backwards. Most often this problem occurs because something clogs the socket that holds the nut, or the nut is too large. Either way, you need to remove the nut (usually by cutting away the sinew holding it in place, or removing a bolt or screw) and check the socket. If it is free of debris, then you can sand the nut slightly to reduce its size and allow it to turn more freely. Some people also use powdered graphite to lubricate the nut, although it tends to leave a black streak on the shelf of the crossbow. Do not use any grease or liquid-based lubricant on the nut, as it will soak into the wood and cause it to swell and lock the nut tightly.

The second most common problem happens when the crossbow will not remain cocked. This issue usually presents itself at first when the crossbow dry-fires itself just after cocking. After that (or after a few more fires), it will not remain cocked, as the nut will roll freely. The usual problem is that the sear and/or the front of the trigger have been worn round, and therefore will not lock together properly any more. Remove the nut and trigger, and try to file them flat again. While this action usually works on a rounded trigger, it is often very hard to do on a rounded sear, which will sometimes require the making of a new nut for the crossbow.

The String

The string on a crossbow takes a lot of abuse – not only at the tips, where it is constantly under many pounds of pressure. Crossbows are known for eating their center serving regularly. (And some crossbows are hungrier than others).

Center Serving

The center serving of a crossbow constantly wears as it drags across the shelf, as well as on the nut or notch. All crossbowmen need to become proficient at redoing a center serving. A center serving for a crossbow must be as tight as possible to make sure that it wears slowly. Use a serving tool and follow the directions that come with it. It is recommended that you place two or three layers of serving on the center of your crossbow

strings. This way, if one layer breaks through during a competition, you can quickly pull its remains off and continue shooting on the under-serving until you get a chance to fix the string. I also highly recommend using braided fastflight serving, as it will greatly increase the lifespan of the serving.

End Loops

The end loops of a crossbow string take almost as much abuse, but most of the wear can be avoided. First of all, I recommend that the end loops be double-served. Again, it is important that this be as tight as possible. Either braided or twisted fastflight serving will prevent them from breaking through. The other suggestion for maximum string life is to place small leather patches or disks around the string prong on the prod, so the string rests on the leather. This cushioning will protect it from any sharp edges on the prod that may cut the string.

The Ammunition

The only rule of thumb that seems to apply to crossbows is that each crossbow has its own taste in ammunition. Make test bolts of different types – about two or three of each type will do – and fire them all. See which ones your crossbow seems to send the straightest, with least wobble, the most consistently, and with the best aim points. Find that, go with it, and don't let anyone else tell you otherwise as long as the bolts are still flying well from your crossbow.

Shafts

Just about any good straight piece of wood will do for a crossbow shaft. Commercial arrow shaft material of cedar, pine, chundoo, etc. will work nicely. Crossbows are not really affected by spine weight, because of the shorter length of their bolts. What does matter is their strength. Choose one of the heavier draw weights for the shaft diameter that you are using. It is important that they have the same spine, mostly for weight reasons. All your bolts should have the same weight. The closer the bolts weigh to each other, the closer they will group. You can use hardwood dowels for your crossbow shafts, but for accuracy you will want to ensure equal weight and straightness.

The lengths of the shafts are a personal preference. In general, the longer the shaft, the more stable the bolt

will be in flight; also, it won't bury as easily in a target, or blow through. However, the longer bolts will cost more, as two crossbow bolts can't be made out of one arrow shaft. Some crossbows shoot the shorter bolts fine; some work better with the longer bolts. Some people also like the longer bolts because it gives them a better aiming point in front of their crossbow.

The diameter of your shafts is partially based upon your crossbow and also falls under personal preference. Your crossbow may be set up to only accept certain diameters of bolts, and you will need to determine this. The first check is to see how big of a diameter will fit inside the fingers of the nut. If you want a wider shaft, you will either need to file the prongs wider apart or file the sides of the ends of your crossbow bolts narrower to fit inside the nut. You always want to make sure that the bolt contacts the string.

Secondly, examine where the string of your crossbow crosses the end of your bolt. Optimally, it should cross right in the center of the bolt, where it has the most surface area to grab. If it hits the bolt below center, then you either need to use smaller diameter bolts or serve the string with more layers to thicken it to the right dimensions. Otherwise, the string can pass under the crossbow bolt, causing the bolt to flip up in the air and tumble only a few feet in front of you.

If the crossbow string is higher than the center of the bolt, then you probably need to use thicker bolts, or possibly remove some layers of center-serving, if you have more than two on the string. If this adjustment is not done, then the string can jump over the bolt, smacking the bolt downward, destroying it, or sending it weakly a few feet in front of you.

Beyond that, the diameter is a personal preference. Some people prefer thicker, and therefore heavier bolts, which tend to be more stable but drop significantly at longer ranges. Others prefer thinner, lighter bolts, which can be a little more erratic but tend to have a very flat trajectory.

Points

Per SCA rules, you will need use some form of point that won't cause damage to the targets, usually a target point, field point, or bullet point. The selection of which type of point to use is based completely on personal preference (*see Figure 7*).

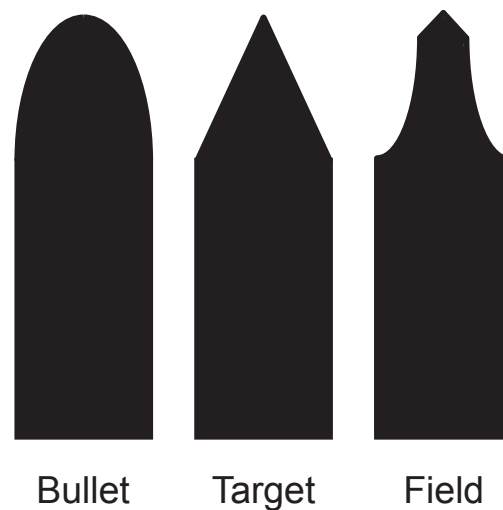


Figure 7: Various types of points for bolts

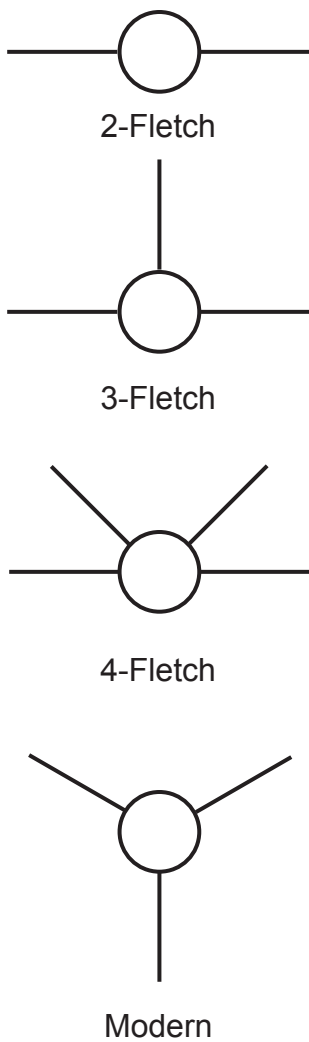
The one issue that does matter is getting a proper weight balance. You want your bolts to be tip-heavy, which helps them to stabilize in flight properly. Assuming that you are using fairly heavy shafts, a good starting point with which to test is a 125gr point on a 5/16" shaft, and the 145gr or 165gr points on the 11/32 or 23/64 shafts. From there you can experiment to see what feels best to you.

You don't want to shoot too light of a bolt from a heavy-poundage crossbow; you will prematurely end the life of the prod, because the bolt will not be able to absorb all the power that the prod has to deliver. For example, a heavy 5/16" bolt with a 125gr tip is the lightest thing you should shoot out of a 125lb crossbow.

Fletching

SCA rules allow for great flexibility in fletching materials for bolts. Besides the normal feather fletches, bolts can have parchment, wood, leather, or any other period fletching material. However, the most common and useful is the feather.

Crossbow bolts tend to have between a 2 1/2" and 4" feather, set as far back on the bolt as possible without it interfering with the lock mechanism or the string. The fletches should have some amount of angle set to them to help the bolts spin and stabilize. As long as the bolt sits solidly in its track, don't worry about having too much angle to the fletches. The bolt doesn't really have time to spin until it has already left the crossbow. At that point, the spinning of the bolt will help keep it from wobbling.



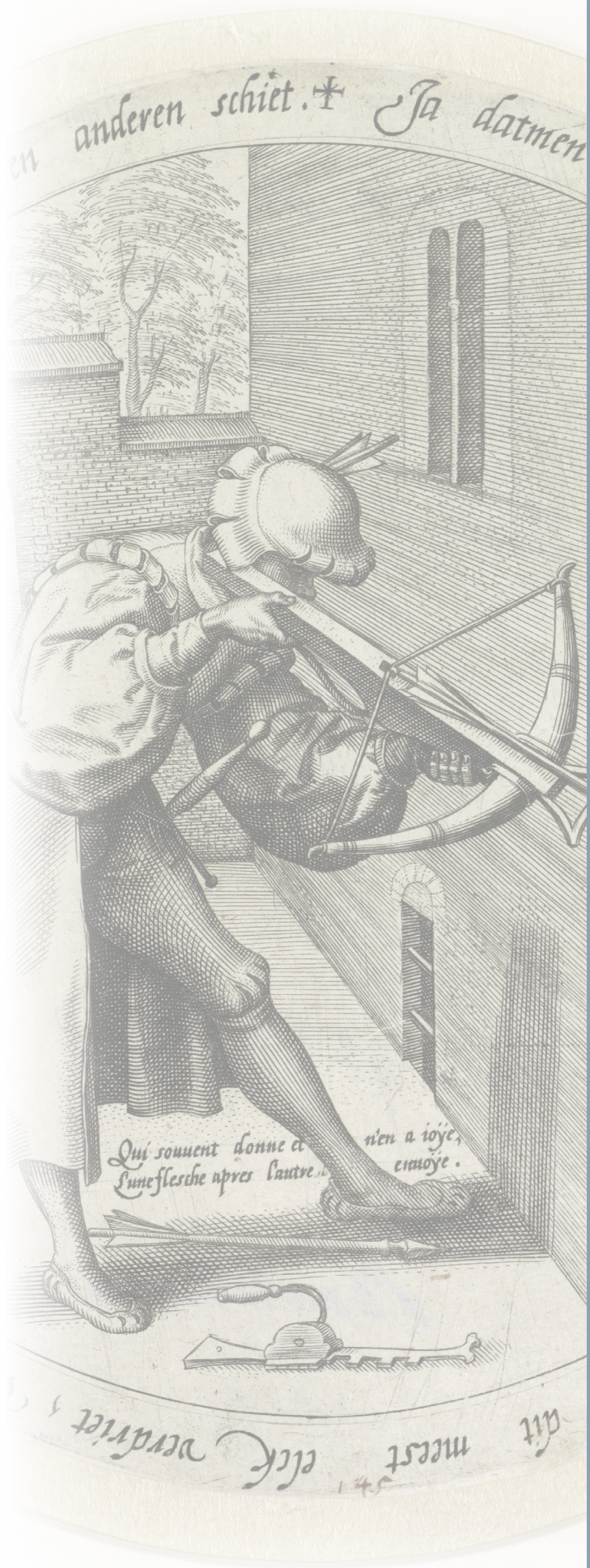
A number of different fletching styles are used on the crossbow bolt (see Figure 8). The most common is the 2-fletch, with a fletch on either side of the bolt at a 180 degree angle. Another period style of fletching is a 3-fletch, which has a vertical fletch coming straight up at a 90 degree angle to the other two. Finally, there is also a 4-fletch design that is sometimes affectionately called a “hedgehog”. In this style, two equally-spaced fletches on the top of the bolt are set between the original two fletches. In other words, it is like a 6-fletch flu-flu arrow, but with two fletches removed. There are also some more modern styled crossbows that have a deep channel under their track that allows for a traditional arrow style 3-fletch bolt, where one fletch is dropped vertically down into the channel.

Figure 8: Various configurations of fletching for crossbow bolts

Other Topics and Tips

Many crossbowmen use beeswax or harder wax to lubricate the shelf of their crossbow. This step not only increases the speed of the string, but also stops it from wearing so badly. If you do this, take care not to get any wax in the bolt channel, on the bolt itself, or on the center of the serving. Only use a very small amount; too much can cause problems.

Take care of your stock. If it has been lacquered, check and make sure that it hasn't cracked or chipped. Most crossbows are finished with oil (tung oil, linseed oil, etc). With these finishes, you should give the crossbow a light rubdown each year of use with the same oil to help keep it from drying out.



Personal Profile: Rekon of Saaremaa

By: D'vorah bint Da'ud, m.k.a. Judith Epstein

The Society for Creative Anachronism boasts so many impressive archers that we could feature a different one every day and not run out in a year's time. This article focuses on an impressive archer who is also an impressive person, Lady Rekon of Saaremaa.

I first encountered Lady Rekon in December of 2013 at the home of Lady Cecilia Dysney of the barony of Dreiburgen in the Kingdom of Caid (Jenna Black, Riverside, CA). Cecilia had invited several people over for a largesse making party, and roughly a dozen attended for some or all of the evening. Some of us



strung beads for paternosters and necklaces, while others made cockades out of ribbon, all to be given to Her (then) Majesty A'isha to hand out to the Kingdom's strongest supporters of the Inspirational Equality movement. I noticed Rekon doing some painting on small pewter buttons to be put in the centers of the cockades, and learned that she had made them all herself, and paid for them from her own pocket. I admired her skill and her patience painting such small details. She accepted compliments from myself and others, but with the air of someone who was uncomfortable with direct admiration.

In 2014 I ran into Rekon again at an event called Arts & Archery, hosted by the Barony of Lyondemere. Along with her well made and period accurate garb, which she wore as naturally as if she'd been born to it, she also had an air of of solidity, reliability, and forthrightness in her demeanor. When asked, Rekon taught me and my spouse which elements of her arrows and bow made the difference and allowed her to compete within the Period Archery division instead of in the Modern Recurve division. She was also very forthcoming regarding her garb and that of her partner, Paganus Grimlove.

I had opportunities to admire her shooting form, though not many more opportunities to speak with her that day. Still, Rekon had made an impression on me. I decided I needed to know her, and a week or so later, I located and friended her on Facebook. That was where I learned of her passion for justice, her love of raising period breeds of chickens, and her industriousness on behalf of her Barony and Kingdom. Every so often, she would post pictures of largesse she was beginning or finishing. "This is for Their Majesties." "These are the site tokens for the upcoming event." "This is for someone who deserves

it.” Rekon was one of those wonderful people who, rather than seeking attention for herself, hunted for opportunities to give recognition and appreciation to others. My respect for her just kept ratcheting upwards.

Though we have attended only a few of the same events, at each one I find Lady Rekon glued to the archery range. She shoots well, treats others with hearty, yet quiet respect, and works hard to assist with each shoot. She helps set up, or take down, or both. She makes suggestions to newer archers without making them feel patronized or insulted by being offered improvement opportunities. I have never heard Lady Rekon lose her temper, behave with less than utmost civility, or speak ill of anyone, even in circumstances in which I felt she would have been well within reason to do so. She sets a beautiful example of what a person of chivalry should be, while never directly correcting anyone who is not behaving as well as she is. She is a leader, but a very subtle one; you will only be led by Rekon if you yourself wish to be led, because her leadership is entirely example-based.

Recently Lady Rekon sustained a tear to her rotator cuff, causing her to have to severely curtail her archery pursuits. Many another archer would have simply ceased attending practices, not wishing to be resigned to merely watching others enjoying a past time in which they were restricted from participating. Instead, Rekon chose to assist her Baronial marshal in the keeping of records and the scheduling of practices. She continues to fletch arrows and attends both practices and events, helping to set up or take down, as her shoulder permits, and helping to keep scores. She even painted some very period-styled targets for a novelty shoot.

Mind you, this good soul’s activities within the SCA are by no means limited to archery. She paints, pewters, makes leather goods, creates largesse items large and small, as well as contributing to the very medieval barter-based economy among the populace. Her work is traded for excellent garb, which she researches extensively but does not make for herself. Rekon educates others as well; recently, she taught a class in intaglio -- stone carving -- at Collegium Caidis, donating both her time and supplies. Her site tokens are researched, hand-carved, or hand-cast by herself alone, and much sought after. I’ve actually spoken to a

gentle (who wished to remain anonymous, but claimed a mad crafter-crush on her) who said he attended an event he had contemplated skipping, when he discovered that Rekon was making the site tokens.

Not only is Rekon a terrific athlete when she’s uninjured, an amazing crafter, a patient instructor, and a service-oriented individual, but she is one of the most generous souls. Even though she can little afford to do so, this good lady has actually donated both time and supplies to the enrichment of Caid. More than one large batch of site tokens came directly from her own pocket.

Rekon’s persona is that of a 10th century woman living on the island of Saaremaa, off the coast of what is now Estonia. In part, Rekon was inspired by her mentor in college, where she studied archaeology. The mentor was an expert on Bronze Age Spain, and was succeeded in the department by another who was just as enthusiastic about Viking-era Iceland. She was fascinated to learn from him that their longhouses were made with thick sod walls, laid in herringbone pattern. “Who bothers to lay sod to get cool zigzag patterns?” she wondered, and immediately dove headfirst in love with early Icelandic people.

Many archeologists and anthropologists feel that life in such cold places was barely at subsistence level in many ways; yet, they would take the time to do something that held no practical benefit and might even have had a negative impact on the structural integrity. They were willing to take the effort to think about these things, put in serious time and planning, and all for a purely cosmetic effect. Their commitment to beautifying their lives in the cold, harsh north impressed Rekon mightily. I believe she felt a kinship with them, as a fellow lover of beauty.

“Also,” Rekon informed me, “I was originally planning to play early Irish Viking. But there are so many people in my area that do that exact thing, and I wanted to find something a little more rare. Since I have the fancy degree and all.” Estonia gave her a chance to explore the early northern culture and make her own discoveries rather than tread in the footsteps of so many others, then share what she’d learned and compare findings with those who studied more widely known cultures.

So well did Rekon learn her material that by the time she did encounter the SCA, she ran into a problem. "I researched the heck out of my garb before my first event. [It was] linen and accurate, with an accurate wool cloak trimmed with tablet woven trim, clasped with a silver penannular brooch I made myself." I noted that Rekon was a fairly soft-spoken person who might not immediately feel ready to jump in and approach people, and she responded with a heartfelt, "Yes. For six months everyone thought I'd just moved in from out of town and wasn't very friendly. The Baroness finally asked, and then everyone was much nicer."

Since that time, Lady Rekon has been quietly serving, making art, and her word-fame has spread. Two baronial awards and fourteen kingdom level awards have found their way to her, only one of which is for arts martial: the Argent Arrow, Caid's armigerous award for excellence in archery. Most of her recognitions are for service or the arts; some encompass both and were given as recognition for

the many items of largesse that the good lady has made and donated to the kingdom. One was her "naked" Award of Arms, given for "diverse efforts" not otherwise specified. The other is the Legion of Courtesy, given to those who exemplify our Society's ideal standard in behavior. When I saw it among the list of Rekon's accomplishments, I can say honestly that I was pleased, impressed -- but not at all surprised. Her selfless devotion to her Kingdom and Barony, in both archery and the arts, is a standard to which we all would do well to aspire.

Lady Rekon of Saaremaa is an inspiring model of generosity, kindness, and chivalry, whom I am glad and humbled to be able to call my friend.

I interviewed Lady Rekon multiple times, and edited the interviews together for the sake of a smoother flow. While there was not space for the remainder within this article, you can find the substance of those interviews on my blog, <http://beautifulmistakes.buzz/rekon-interview>.

The Society of Archer-Antiquaries



Society of Archer-Antiquaries (SAA) membership is open to all interested persons. Annual dues of £25 (approximately \$39 US, depending on the current exchange rate) include three news booklets and the annual journal. All overseas applicants may - if more convenient - use Paypal to send 25 GBP to bogaman@btinternet.com adding £1 to cover the Paypal administration charge. Please make the payment in GBP (£ sterling) and mark it as "friends and family".

Subscribe now, in time for the 2016 issue of the Journal.

Though membership is based in the UK, the SAA has a North American representative, Fred Hardyway. He may be contacted at: Fred Hardyway, 775 S.E.Forest Way, #668 Pullman. WA. 99163 USA. america@societyofarcher-antiquaries.org

Visit the SSA on the web at: <http://www.societyofarcher-antiquaries.org/>

My Medieval Life

“My Medieval Life” is a blog by Negoshka Gorodisha (mka Kristine Schilling) documenting her return to the Dream after many years of absence, and her journey as a new archer in the SCA. To follow this blog, please visit <http://munchkinsmedievalife.weebly.com>

Glasses vs. Contacts

Depth Perception: *Noun. The ability to perceive the relative distance of objects in one’s visual field.*

You do not notice when your depth perception is off if you have been wearing glasses for some time. I wore glasses for nearly 8 years. Yesterday, I went to the optometrist and got contacts again. The difference was so dramatic that I could not drive for about an hour. The ground was closer. I could see by moving my eyes instead of my head. It was dramatic, eye opening (literally) and incredible to see the world as it should be seen once again.

Today, I shot for the first time ever with contact lenses. For the first hour I was shooting all over the place, I could not seem to find my focus point. And then suddenly.... WHAM. There it was. I started shooting my full dozen, not trying to score, just relaxing, breathing out on release and following through a bit with my bow arm.

Three solid rounds of 12 arrows in which 9 out of 12 landed in red, yellow or near the line in blue. I was in absolute heaven! I think I found my form, and my eyes helped me do it. I would recommend to anyone who asks: Get contacts so you can see the way you were meant to see!





COMPETITIONS & HIGHLIGHTS

Society Seasonal Archery Competition (SSAC)

Shoot Begins Tuesday December 1, 2015
Shoot Ends Monday February 29, 2016

Scores must be Submitted by: Monday, March 7, 2016 and within 30 days of being shot.

The Winter Society Seasonal Archery Competition will be the Yin Yang, the rules for which are below. If you can not see the image of the target, it can be see at: http://scores-sca.org/public/scores_rules.php?R=25&-Shoot=288

This shoot is pulled from the old Atlantian Seasonal Challenge. It is simply a fun shoot which forces you to weigh your skills versus the risk you wish to take. The highest points are the closest to the highest negative points. Please read the SSAC General Rules, as these apply to all SSAC shoots. Below are the additional rules for this specific shoot.



Target

Take a standard FITA 60cm target, use a compass, draw two half-circles to make an 'S' curve that stretches from top to bottom of the target's scoring area.

Winter Alternate: use the 40cm instead of the 60cm target.

- Draw a half-circle that connects the top edge of the 1-ring with the center of the bullseye (set the static end of your compass in the middle of the 3-ring). This is the top of your S-curve.
- Now draw a half-circle that connects the center of the bullseye to the to the bottom edge (set the static end of your compass in the middle of the 3-ring). This is the bottom of your S-curve.
- Use a marker to make the S more visible from 20 yards.
- If you have drawn it correctly, you should see a large capital S overlayed on the target's scoring area.

Rules

The S-curve creates the Yin and Yang areas of the target. The Yin is the upper/right area of the target. The Yang is the lower/left area of the target.

- The challenge consists of 4 ends.
- Scores CAN go below zero. Your final score may be negative.
- Arrows that break or just touch the dividing line

between scoring zones are scored in the archer's favor.

- Archers must shoot the ends in the order listed.*

Note: When shooting with a large group of archers it is allowed to have half of the group reverse the order of the Yin/Yang components at each range, but it should be the same group of archers who shoot the Yang first at each range.

Distances

The two Timed ends are shot back to back at 20 yards.

The two Un-timed ends are shot back to back at 30 yards. Shot during the Winter Season all ends are shot at 20 yards.

Scoring

Standard RR scoring, but with negative values for hitting the "Foe" side. Yes, your total for any given end *can* be negative!

Printable score sheet provided by HL Iurii Levchenich from An Tir here: http://scores-sca.org/ssac/images/ssac_210_scoresheet_b.pdf

Ends

Yin Stages For the two Yin ends, the upper/right area has positive values, the lower/left area has negative values. For example: a shot high and right in the 2-ring is worth the usual 2 points. But a shot low and left in the 4-ring is -4 points.

Yang Stages

For the two Yang ends, the scoring values are flipped - the upper/right area is now negative, the lower/left area is positive.

End 1: Yin - 6 arrows, untimed, 30 yards

End 2: Yang - 6 arrows, untimed, 30 yards

End 3: Speed Yin - 30 seconds, 20 yards

End 4: Speed Yang - 30 seconds, 20 yards

This shoot was provided by the Atlantian Archery Community. For questions contact Master Jonathas at Jonathas@RedFoxDen.org



Starting with the Spring 2015 SSAC, Sir Jon Fitz-Rauf will be giving an archery coin to the top five archers in each of the five divisions as a token of their skill in the SSAC. The divisions are period handbow, period crossbow, open handbow, open crossbow, and youth.

The coins were a gift to Sir Jon from the Moneyers Guild of An Tir. The dies were cut by Arion the Wanderer, OGGs. The inscription lettering style is circa late 1200's - early 1300's. It reads: SIR.JON.FITZRAUF on the bust side and TRVE.HEART.TRVE.AIM on the reverse, which means "TRUE HEART/TRUE AIM". The coin is modeled after the French gros tournois/ English groat. It is 25 mm diameter x 0.7 mm and is 3% silver / 97% tin pewter.

To receive a coin, you must be one of the top five in any of the divisions, and you must send Sir Jon a self-addressed stamped (49 cents) business size envelope by US mail within forty-five days of the end of each season's contest. His mailing address is: John R Edgerton, 7662 Wells Ave. Newark, CA 94560-3530. Please include your Scadian name and division.

Fall SSAC Results

Rules for this Shoot

The target is setup like a Tic-Tac-Toe board, where the scoring area is 6” square, with a 1” gap between squares. This shoot is shot at 20 yards for both Adults and Youth. The goal for each end is to shoot a score that matches the number of the end. The first end is for 10 points, followed by 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20. Your actual score is how many points you shoot above or below the intended number. The ends should be shot in order from low to high, alternating un-timed, timed. This shoot has three Un-timed ends the 10, 14, and 18. For each un-timed end you have up to 6 arrows to attempt to match the points. This shoot has three Timed ends the 12, 16, and 20. For each timed end you have up to 30 seconds, unlimited arrows, to attempt to match the points. All arrows touching any part of the scoring area count as that score, even those breaking the line into the gap. Arrows landing completely within the 1” gap count as zero.

Final scores for the Spring SSAC competition.

Full scores may be seen at the [SCA SCA-scores site](#).

Period Handbow

1. Leif of Crescent Moon	Calontir	Loch Bheathrock	0.0
2. Kezia von Holzenhaus	Calontir	Lonely Tower	1.0
3. Konrad von Alpirtsbach	Outlands	Caer Galen	4.0
4. Aodh Ó Siadhail	Drachenwald	Dun in Mara	6.0
5. Alaricus Simmonds	An Tir	Dragon`s Lair	6.0
6. Patrick of the Quiet Woods	Outlands	Caerthe	7.0
7. Dairenn of Galway	Outlands	Caerthe	7.0
8. Ubertino Nicolai	Outlands	Caer Galen	12.0
9. Michéal of Dun in Mara	Drachenwald	Dun in Mara	13.0
10. Harjuwalcean Jaakko	Drachenwald	Aarnimets	13.0

Open Handbow

1. Dragomira Sokolov	An Tir	Wyewood	0.0
2. Landon Lovel	Trimaris	Starhaven	1.0
3. Jamil al`Wadi	Outlands	Hawk`s Hollow	2.0
4. Kateryna atte Hagenes	Trimaris	Starhaven	2.0
5. Loegaire mac Lochlainn (Loric)	An Tir	Dragon`s Lair	3.0
6. Eric Morrison	Outlands	Hawk`s Hollow	3.0
7. Muldonny McVriw	Middle	Eastwatch	4.0
8. Dairenn of Galway	Outlands	Caerthe	4.0
9. Robin of Ambledune	Lochac	Politar chopolis	5.0
10. ((Justin Godey))	West	Vinhold	5.0

Period Crossbow

1. Mika Longbow	Outlands	Caerthe	-10.0
2. Daffyd of Emmet	Outlands	Caerthe	-4.0
3. Dolan Madoc	Calontir	Lonely Tower	0.0
4. Karl von Konigsberg	Atlantia	Dun Carraig	3.0

5. Stephan Sorenson	Outlands	Hawk`s Hollow	3.0
6. Jonathas Reinisch	Atlantia	Dun Carraig	5.0
7. Eric Morrison	Outlands	Hawk`s Hollow	6.0
8. Tymme Lytefelow	An Tir	Wyewood	7.0
9. Kaitlyn McKenna	Ansteorra	Shadowlands	9.0
10. Angus Montgomery the Forrester	Outlands	Caerthe	15.0

Open Crossbow

1. Daffyd of Emmet	Outlands	Caerthe	-6.0
2. Dolan Madoc	Calontir	Lonely Tower	0.0
3. Tarmach	Middle	Cleftlands	0.0
4. Gladius the Alchemist	Middle	Cleftlands	0.0
5. James Barkley	Middle	Cleftlands	5.0
6. Kaitlyn McKenna	Ansteorra	Shadowlands	10.0
7. Jonathas Reinisch	Atlantia	Dun Carraig	12.0
8. William Cristofore of Devonshire	An Tir	Adiantum	21.0
9. Plachoya Sobaka	Ansteorra	Shadowlands	28.0
10. Miriel of Shadowlands	Ansteorra	Shadowlands	34.0

Youth

1. ((Justin Godey))	West	Vinhold	20.0
2. Summer of Starkhafn	Caid	Starkhafn	22.0
3. josie	West	Vinhold	71.0

Archery at Samhain

by Lord Hrafn Knútsson O.A.B.

I, Hrafn Knútsson, Live Weapons Marshal in charge for Samhain – War of the River Baronies, hosted by the Barony of Grey Niche in the Kingdom of Gleann Abhann, bring you news and tidings from the war.

Samhain was held at the Castrum in north eastern Arkansas 22-25 Oct 2015. The opposing side was the Three Rivers Barony, Calontir. The Castrum based on the idea of a Roman fort set in the English Isles during the first century. After crossing the foot bridge you pass a small Roman village and get your first glance of The Castrum in the near distance. If you travel past The Castrum hundreds of yards you come to a path into the woods that travels up the hill across another foot bridge and on up to the hill top were a small Celt village is located. The site quite expansive with close to 100 acres for use and primitive camping.

While we were graced with some rain, it did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. Just over 300 people came together from seven different Kingdoms. The crowns of Gleann Abhann and Calontir were both in attendance with their armies to support the Baronies.

Fifteen archers comprised from the Kingdoms of Gleann Abhann, Calontir, Meridies, and Ansteorra

Left: Roman village and encampments, after crossing the footbridge.

Center: Archery field, as seen from the tower.

Right: Northeast tower of the Castrum.

took to Archery field throughout the war. We did not just compete in the tournaments, we came together as a community to set the field and raise a humble sun shade with materials from the land. I am ever so grateful to all that lent their hands.

Friday evening just after sunset was the first of our tournaments, The Torchlight. We did battle against the zombie animals using ballistic targets that revealed paint to indicate success. Red for head shot worth 2pts, Green for body worth one pt and white for a miss. Three arrows a round were fired down range 20 yards, for six rounds total, at the target illuminated by four torches, and a red and a blue captured lights to indicate center mass of the backstop. The Castrum torches upon the walls were lit behind us giving us such a magical sight to behold. Much fun was had, jokes passed at the eye socket hits that had white paint robbing away what we thought would be a head shot. It was an interesting shoot as you lost track of the arrows right before they hit the targets, so you had to adjust from





Above: Castrum at night.

memory on the next round. I am pleased to announce that Asher of Bheathroch, Canton of Loch Bheathroch, Kingdom of Calontir, found his mark the most, thus winning our first Torchlight Tournament. No arrows were harmed or lost during this shoot.

And the rain came on Saturday morning, but lightened enough that the Tower Defender shoot was only slightly delayed. This tournament was fired from the north east tower of The Castrum over the moat at a target based on Giostra of the Archidado. The only positive points, worth four points, on the 34 inch target area was the six-inch orange square in the center, surrounded by areas in black, red, and green worth minus one point, yellow and blue worth minus two points, and two white prisons making you skip the next round. Each round we set loose six arrows for six rounds in total. The target was set 47 yards from the tower base, which had an approximately 15 yard of elevation above it. Split lines favored the archer. This was a fantastically unique opportunity to fire from this fortification. It lightens my heart that I was able to arrange this shoot and to see everyone having such enjoyment.

It is my pleasure to announce that Lord Kenneth MacAndrews O.A.B., Barony of Grey Niche, Kingdom of Gleann Abhann as winner of the first ever Tower Defender at The Castrum.

Far Right: Torchlight tournament target.

Right: Detail of the zombie animals for the torchlight tournament.



We were Honored to hold the Queen's Yeoman Tournament for Her Royal Majesty Queen Linnet MacLeod, and the rains parted before Her Majesty, giving us clear skies for the remainder of the tournament. The host for the tournament was Duchess Kenna nic Ahern Von Ziemer. Her Grace is the previous holder of The Queen's Yeoman title, and chose the rules for the tournament. Unfortunately, Her Grace fell ill and could not be in attendance. The tournament was a modified coin shoot, up to six arrows per round for three rounds. Each round archers placed a six-inch coin on the backstop bearing their name as the targets. The first arrow to hit during the speed rounds claimed the coin, with up to six arrows per round for a total of three rounds. A round was complete when all coins were claimed, or all arrows spent. All were invited to participate, but only the highest scoring Gleann Abhann citizen could win the title of Queen's Yeoman and swear fealty as Her Majesty Yeoman Protector.

The Archers who presented themselves before Her Majesty, who asked permission bear arms before her and entry into Her tournament were: Duke Sir Uther von Ziemer, Lord Uchtan mac Duib, Lord Kenneth MacAndrews O.A.B., Lord Hrafn Knútsson O.A.B., Eoghan Mac Íomhair, Munlik Erdene and Asher of Bheathroch. Once again, words of merriment were exchanged amongst the line as coins were claimed. Yet I would be ahead of myself if I were to announce now the victor at this point of the telling.

I will say that all claimed at least one coin.



Above: Target for the Tower Defender Shoot.

I most assuredly would be remiss if I did not mention the other activities of our Archer Community. Lord Sigvat Odvarrson held a class on the bowyer tools and their use. Lord Edmund of Penyngton was instructed by Lord Sigvat throughout Samhain in taking a stave and working

it into as near completion of a bow as Edmund could

get. Further instructions were given to see him through completion. Lord Sigvat, a citizen of Meridies, helped my Kingdom of Gleann Abhann to help the Kingdom of Calontir. The Calontir Falcons were tragically lost in a car fire while their owners, the (mka) Brooks family, were returning home from Gulf Wars this past year. Lord Sigvat donated a number of bows that he made with his own hands to be used for fund raising towards the purchase of new falcons for the Brooks family. The Falcons are seen in many parts of the Known World, it was an Honor to be able to hold one of the new raptors. Thank you to everyone who has participated in any of the many fundraisers.

At the Court of Baron Guillermo Berenguer and Baroness Arielle de Barbazon of Grey Niche, the winners of the Torchlight and Tower Defender tournaments were honored before the court with an award of scrolls to mark the achievements.

Their Royal Majesties King Faelan Haraldsson and Queen Linnet MacLeod held Court, where they Honored the winner of the Queen's Yeoman by passing the Regalia, and inviting the recipient Lord Kenneth MacAndrews O.A.B. the honor of standing in Court as the Queen's Yeoman.

Eoghan Mac Íomhair was also Honored before their Majesties by being inducted into the Gleann Abhann

Order of the Arrow and Bolt, as well as granted an Award of Arms.

Lord Kenneth MacAndrews O.A.B. announced, as current holder of the Gleann Abhann Silver Arrow Champion, that he would not be able to travel and accept future challenges. He passed the Honor to the one present that has bested him the most in the past upon the verdant fields, Lord Eoghan Mac Íomhair O.A.B. The Silver Arrow is a Gleann Abhann tradition in that the holder can be challenged in one on one competition for the right to be become Champion of the Silver Arrow. All Honorable and Just Challenges are accepted when ever possible to set the Field.

Their Royal Majesties called into Court Lord Sigvat Odvarrson, were they did Honor him for all his efforts in assisting Our Kingdom of Gleann Abhann with fund raising efforts towards the Kingdom of Calontir and their Falcons by making him an Honorary Citizen of Gleann Abhann.

Alas, my words come to a close, yet I wish still to express at how proud I am of the representation of our Archer Community brought to light at this past Samhain. Thank you one and all for attending, for your efforts, and for friendships made. I also extend a grateful thank you to my fellow LW Marshals, Kenneth MacAndrews and Eoghan Mac Íomhair for their help upon the lines. If you would like to keep track of future events at The Castrum, please follow the facebook page The Castrum. Word has reached me that in the near future, an Enchanted Ground event is being planned. I leave you, dear readers, with my last words, a simple Archer parting, "Until we met again upon the line."

Right: Lord Hrafn Knútsson holding one of the Calontir Falcons.



Local Archery Practices

Editor's Note: This list is a work in progress. Please send your submissions and updates for local practices to qqchronicler@gmail.com, or contact me via the Quivers & Quarrels Facebook group. Quivers & Quarrels is only published quarterly, so it is highly recommended to include contact or web information along with a brief description of your archery practice arrangements. YIS, Sayako

Ansteorra

Northkeep

Missile practice scheduled every Sunday from noon until whenever people go home.

9737 W 61st Street S, Sapulpa, OK.74066 (918) 200-5584

Calling first is a good idea, as I may be gone to an event.

Random cook out / pot lucks. Thrown weapons practice from noon till 2pm. Children's archery practice from 1pm till 2:15pm. Adult archery practice from 2:30pm till people go home.

Submitted by Arthur Blackmoon, Baronial Missile Marshal - Barony of NorthKeep.

Cancellations: For major regional archery events and if the temperature is below 40 degrees.

An Tir

Barony of Dragon's Lair (Kitsap County Area, WA)

Winter Archery Practice is held at the VFW Hall in Silverdale, weather and light permitting, on Wednesdays from 5-7 pm. Any questions please contact the Chief Archer, Lady Kloe of Thira, or a Deputy Chief Archer for more information.

For more information about the archery newcomers program and for updated information about practices throughout the seasons, please visit www.dragonslaire.org

Barony of Three Mountains (Portland, OR Area)

The Barony of Three Mountains is pleased to host archery practice every Wednesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at:

Trackers Earth
4617 SE Milwaukie Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

This is an indoor 40 yard heated range. Contact Archos Andrew Stuebhard (Baronial Archer) at archer3m@yahoo.com, or Archos Eobhan Dunbar at eobhan.dunbar@gmail.com for more information.

Barony of Wyewood

By Ikea in Renton, WA. Saturday 10am-1pm, Wed will be 4:30pm-7:30pm.

Please contact t_a_geyer@yahoo.com for more information.

Wyewood also has a Yahoo group for announcing whether practice is on or cancelled, and that is "wyewood_archery".

Tymme "Prodkiller" Lytefelow
Chief Archer, Barony of Wyewood
Arcuarus to HL Evrard de Valogne, OGGS

Summits (Principality of An Tir)

Shire of Glyn Dwnf

Archery, thrown weapons, and At'latl practices are currently the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 1pm to dusk in Shady Cove, OR. In inclement weather, we do equipment repairs and construction. As darkness falls we have a potluck dinner and socialize. Check Glyn Dwnf's website at <http://glyndwnf.antir.sca.org/> for address or more information.

Atenveldt

Baronies of Sundragon and Atenveldt

The baronies practice together on Sundays at El Oso Park. This is for royal rounds and tournaments only at this time for target archery. October thru April 9 AM and May thru September 7 AM

Atlantia

A list of practices for the Kingdom of Atlantia (Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia) can be found at <http://scores-sca.org/public/practices.php?R=2&>

Avacal

Barony of Montengard (Calgary, Alberta)

Archery practice is held at the Calgary Archery Centre 4855 47 St. SE Calgary, AB.

This is an indoor range space with multi distance ranges, 3d course and pro shop.

The SCA hosts practices Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6:30 - 9 pm.

capt.archers@montengarde.org
www.montengarde.org

Caid

Altavia

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of every month at Woodley Park 11:30am-3:30pm

Angels

See webpage at <http://www.sca-angels.org/>, or contact Lady Rayne Archer of Annan at raynearcherofannan@gmail.com.

Calafia

Sundays from 10:00 am to noon, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at UCSD Thornton Hospital from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Dreiburgen

1st and 3rd Sundays, 10am at House Montrose in Pedley, 2nd and 4th Sunday at Paganus and Rekon's

Dun Or

Unofficial practices Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm at H&W Archery on Trevor St. in Lancaster and last Sunday of the month at 2:00 in Littlerock

Gyldenholt

Target Archery Practices are weekly on Sunday from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Santiago Park Archery Range in Santa Ana, CA. Contact the Gyldenholt Captain of Archers at archery@sca-caid.org.

Lyondemere

El Dorado Park (north of Spring Street), Long Beach 7550 E Spring St, Long Beach, CA, 90815 - Sundays from 1-5; and Thursday nights from 7-9 PM at Rancho park in Cheviot Hills.

Naevehjem

At Baldwin's keep, a private residence. For more info contact jotl2008@wildblue.net

Nordwache

No Info

Starkhafi

Clark County Archery Range (6800 E. Russell, Las Vegas, NV 89112) located behind Sam Boyd Stadium/Old Silver Bowl Park. Tuesday: 6:00pm until 7:30pm (or dark) Saturday: 10:00am until noon. Western Seas

Shire of Al-Sahid

Same as Dreiburgen

Shire of Carrweg Wen

On Hold

Shire of Darach

No Archery Practice

Lochac

Barony of Southron Gaard

Weekly practices from 2pm to 4pm every Sunday, weather permitting, on the back field of Kirkwood Intermediate.

Submitted by Darayavaush Ah.r.r. Captain of Archer for Southron Gaard and current Baronial Archery Champion, MKA Damon Daines

Meridies

Barony of Thor's Mountain (Knoxville, TN)

The Barony of Thor's Mountain holds its practices on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, 3:30pm to 5:30pm, with reservations (no practices on weekends with Kingdom-Level Events or TM events. We post updates on our website calendar.)

Midrealm

Barony of Ayreton (Chicago Area)

Wednesdays: 6:30PM, 7240 Madison Street, Forest Park
(708) 366-4864

Confirm with: Forester Lukas Mesmer Stout-maker@hotmail.com

Barony of Cynnabar (Ann Arbor, Michigan)

"Official Archery Practice in the Barony of Cynnabar is held Sundays from 2-4pm, weather permitting, at the archery range of The Honorable Lord Forester Dillon ap Dillon.

More information regarding archery in the Barony of Cynnabar can be found at our Website: <http://www.cynnabar.org/archery>

For all questions regarding practice dates, times, and the location of the official Baronial archery range, please contact Lady Godaeth se Wisfaest, GM, archery@cynnabar.org

Barony of Cleftlands (Cleveland/Cuyahoga County, Ohio)

The Cleftlands is instituting two new weekly archery practices. A West side practice on Monday evenings at the Cleveland Metroparks Albion Woods archery range. I'll be out there starting at 5:00pm. We plan to shoot until dark. If loaner equipment is

needed, I can bring it if I am notified by no later than 3:00pm. An East side Tuesday evening archery practice will begin on April 21st at 5:00pm. This will take place in the back yard of Lisa Heller at 411 Douglas Blvd, Richmond Heights 44143. It will also run until dark. Loaner equipment will be stored on site, so no advance notice will be required. There will be no charge for either practice, but donations will be accepted to cover the equipment costs. These practices will continue until Autumn when the days are too short to allow us to shoot outdoors in the evening. At the date we'll return to shooting in the indoor arena in Russel.

Barony of Flaming Gryphon

Archery practice at Wildlife District 5 at 1076 Old Springfield Pike in Xenia, OH. As of November, indoors.

The Shire of Eastwatch (Cleveland Ohio area)

The Shire of Eastwatch has archery practice every Sunday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Free Spirit Farm located at 13987 Watt Road, Novelty, Ohio 44072.
If people would like to contact us about attending, they can email me at whgkings-tone@ameritech.net or they can call me at (216) 246-0085.

Our practices sessions are announced on the Facebook Pages for Eastwatch, Barony of the Cleftlands, March of Gwyntarian, Northern Oaken Archery, as well as the Eastwatch Yahoo group page. Besides archery, horseback riding is also available at Free Spirit Farm .

Shire of Mnynydd Seren (Bloomington, IN)

When: 2:00 P.M. every Saturday
Where: Shire of Mnynydd Seren
5501 South Rogers St, Bloomington Indiana
Contact: Eogan - Baiorofred@gmail.com

Cancellations: For major regional archery events and if the temperature is below 40 degrees.

Barony of Sternfeld (Indianapolis, IN)

Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Yurts of America, 4375 Sellers Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226.

Outdoor practices will be announced on the Sternfeld Facebook page and on the Yahoo group page. Come have some fun!

Trimaris

Barony of Darkwater (Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Lake Counties)

When: Darkwater archery practice
Where: 8545 Treasure Island rd Leesburg, FL 34788
Address: 8545 Treasure Island Rd Leesburg, FL, 34788

Contact: Ld Willaum of Willowbrook
352-326-0083

Notes: Practices are the second and last Sunday of the month. We do a potluck after practice if you wish to attend you are more than welcome to join in. We do ask that you bring a little something to add to the meal.

Barony of Marcaster (Pinellas County, Florida)

All practices are Camp Soule, 2201 Soule Rd., Clearwater, FL 33759
Some loaner gear is available for folks who wish to try out the sport.

Honorable Lord Gavin Kyncade
Marcaster Archery & Thrown Weapons
Ranger
gavin.kinkade@yahoo.com

Barony of Oldenfeld (Tallahassee, Gadsden, Wakulla)

When: Oldenfeld Archery Practice
Where: Ox Bottom Hollow
Address: 2020 Ox Bottom Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312
Contact: Jay or Jancie Ter Louw
(850) 668-3807

Notes: We will practice at 3 p.m. on any Sunday that does not have an SCA event or mundane schedule conflict. Please call or email to confirm the actual dates of practices.

Canton of Peregrine Springs (Seminole County)

When: Darkwater East Archery Practices
Where: Springdale Farms, Longwood FL
Address: Bay Meadow Lane
Longwood, FL 32750
Contact: Bennett Redstone (407) 456-0077

Notes: First, third, and (optionally) fifth Sunday of the month. No practices the Sunday of a Kingdom event. Check postings on Trimaris-Archers board on Yahoo for cancellations.

Shire of Southkeep (Miami-Dade County/Florida Keys)

When: Every Other Sunday @ 1:00pm
Where: Homestead
Address: 20420 SW 319th Street
Homestead, FL 33030
Contact: Cian mac Cullough
(305) 213-3732

Notes: We practice every other Sunday (weather permitting), provided there are no events or modern conflicts. There may occasionally be additional practices scheduled, depending on availability of a ranger. Please call or e-mail to confirm, or check Facebook. There are usually other activities going on for those who don't want to shoot. Practices are potluck, and we ask that you do bring something to contribute if you can. However, if for some reason you cannot, please don't let that stop you from coming

Shire of Trysel
(Ft. Myers)

When: Sunday @ 2:00pm
Where: Fort DeNaud Archery Range
Address: 506 Trader Road
LaBelle, FL 33935

Contact: Juliana Strangewayes
(239) 839-8333

Notes: All are welcome. We will practice on Sundays unless an event or mundane scheduling conflict arises. Please contact by phone or email to confirm and avoid disappointment.

West Kingdom

Barony of Eskalya
(Anchorage, Alaska)

We usually hold practice Sundays at 2pm at the public range in Kincaid Park during the summer/fall. During the winter we occasionally visit an indoor range. This year we will also be going to the Northwest Archers classes (non-sca.) We will have to use their equipment, (compounds) but at least it will be free target time.

For more information, please contact Dawn Quick at c_textrix@yahoo.com

Province of the Golden Rivers
(Sacramento Area, California)

Target archery practice is held from 10 am to 1 pm, non-event Sundays at Creekwood Equestrian Park in Elverta, CA (Sacramento

area). This is an outdoor range on a horse ranch.

In addition to IKAC, Royal Round, and Seasonal shoots, we have also thrown weapons and mounted archery available, depending on interest. Some loaner gear is on-hand, more in the works.

Archers of Golden Rivers have a Facebook Group for discussion of upcoming practices and other activities:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/735450109809751/>

For additional information, contact our Target Archery Marshal, Brigid O'Connor, email: arcmarshal@goldenrivers.westkingdom.org



Submission Deadlines

Spring 2016 Edition

February 29, 2016
(for publication March 2016)

Summer 2016 Edition

May 31, 2016
(for publication June 2016)

Fall 2016 Edition

August 31, 2016
(for publication in September 2016)

Winter 2016 Edition

November 30, 2016
(for publication in December 2016)

Submissions, including photographs and releases, are due by the submission deadlines above. Questions about submissions may be directed to the Chronicler, at qqchronicler@gmail.com.

Advertising in *Quivers & Quarrels* is not available at this time.

Questions regarding advertising may be directed to the Chronicler, at qqchronicler@gmail.com.

Submission Guidelines

All submissions require releases.

Written submissions may be of any length. Very lengthy feature articles may be broken up over two or more editions.

Written submissions must be in .doc, .docx, .txt, or .indd format. PDF files may be acceptable, but are not recommended. No other typeset formats. Document formatting for style is optional. Submissions should be minimally formatted with headings so that sections are clear. Academic-style papers with references should be submitted in MLA or APA style with all appropriate citations. Footnotes will be reformatted into endnotes, and tables of content will be omitted.

Photographs and illustrations must be submitted separately as .jpg, .jpeg, .bmp, or .ai files, though they may also be included within the text of the article to indicate placement. Photographs and illustrations of a usable file size and resolution generally cannot be extracted from .doc, .docx, or .pdf files, so the original, full-size files are needed.

In-text photographs should be a minimum of 2048x1536 pixels at 300 dpi. Full-page or cover photographs should be a minimum of 2736x3648 pixels at 300 dpi. Sizes are approximate. Photos with a resolution of 150 dpi or less cannot be used.

Questions about submission guidelines may be directed to the Chronicler, at qqchronicler@gmail.com.

