

# Writing On The World



## The Key to It All (The Seneschal's Report)



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Unto the canton of Stowe on the Wowld does your Seneschal send greetings.

The canton is a hive of activity with many new faces finding their way in our society and our birthday event being only a few days away. It's great to see so many people on Wednesday nights even in the cold of winter which has traditionally been a quieter time of year. Quarterly officer reports were all in on time which is fantastic! This goes a long way towards helping our groups' future aspirations.

Our Birthday event is finally here and we look forward to a fantastic day of feasting and celebration. A heavy tourney will also be held during the day at the same location.

Finally on a sad note, we recently lost a dear friend and long-time member of our canton Lady Bella Vicina Da Cappa. Bella was a driving force and a wonderful person we were all lucky to know. Wherever she was things were getting done and more impor-



Alfgeirr Agnarsson

tantly people were being looked after. No one ever went hungry when Bella was cooking (even me with all of my food allergies, she wouldn't hear of it). She is greatly missed but always fondly remembered and the finest example of the hospitality we pride ourselves on.

I look forward to celebrating our birthday with you this Saturday to remember old friends and meet new ones.

YIS

Alfgeirr

## The Sands of Time (Record of Coming)

### STOWE 10th BIRTHDAY

3 August A.S. XLVIII (48) (2013)  
Toongabbie Scout Hall  
99 Bungaree Road  
Pendle Hill NSW 2145



# Stowe's 10th Birthday

*The Canton of Stowe on the Wowld would formally requests the presence of the Lords and Ladies of the Kingdom to come and join us in our humble Canton in celebrate our tenth year of life.*

*Our birthday celebrations kick off with a tourney of the 'mighty' in the afternoon, followed by a filling feast that is accompanied by music, dancing, and in tradition, much, much drinking. Fun is to be had by all.*

*So, please bring your good self's, your merriment, your dancing shoes and join us on the 3rd of August AS XLVIII (48) to participate in the celebrations that will only ever been seen once in 10 years.*

*Tourney place and times are still to be settled so please keep watch for the announcement which will head your way very soon.*

*The hall for the feast will open from 5.30 pm with the first remove to be served at 6.00 pm.*

*On the night we will be holding an A&S competition open to all whom wish to enter; the theme of the night is 'Stowe Pride'.*

*The competition will consist of three categories which are as follows.*

*1: A trinket; whether it is a pouch, broach, a favour for your favourite fighter, a small token of your choice or something else that displays something that you feel represents a little piece of Stowe on the Wowld.*

*2: A heraldic banner; your choice of style and size.*

*3: An item of clothing or if you like a complete outfit if you dare.*

*All categories will have a beginner to advance placement if entries are sufficient. So don't be shy everyone starts somewhere, jump in and give it a go.*



# Stowe's 10th Birthday (continued)



## *Details:*

*When:* 3 August AS XLVIII (48) - (2013)

*Where:* 99 Bungaree Road  
Pendle Hill NSW 2145

*Note:* Some billeting may be available if required. Email the Steward as soon as possible if you require this service.

## *Cost:*

\$21-Member booked.

\$25-Non member booked.

\$31-Member not booked.

\$36-Non member not booked.

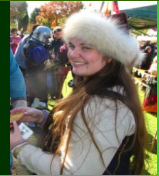
Please forward all booking, enquiries or dietary requirements to the **Steward** at:  
[stowe.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:stowe.bookings@gmail.com)

Also, be advised that we can only offer a limited number of spaces to this wonderful event, and there will only be a few spaces allocated for non booked attendees.

***All bookings will close Friday 26 July 2013.***

# People of Stowe

(Your Fellow Stowegians)



WOTW: What is your modern day name?  
Stowegian: Rebecca Berthold

WOTW: Do you have an SCA name; if so, what is it?  
Stowegian: Elvira

WOTW: When did you join the SCA?  
Stowegian: I joined March 2007 when I first started at uni with the College of St Malachy.

WOTW: Why did you join the SCA?  
Stowegian: When I first joined I was just so excited there was this "medieval society" at uni and thought it would be heaps of fun to dress up and go to feasts. After going to my first newcomers feast and then Rowany Festival 2 weeks after that I was hooked. I loved the pageantry, how nice every one was, the history and skills I had learnt even though I had only just joined and the fact I got to wear clothing I would love to wear in everyday life.

WOTW: What are you currently doing in the SCA?  
Stowegian: Having just moved up to Stowe a lot of my SCA projects have been put on hold like my glass bead making but I am currently researching to make a pair of deer mittens for my Viking outfit, trying to redo my Viking bead strands, also trying to restock the gemstone beads I sell (as well as staying on top of any new research that comes out on period gemstones) and trying to find the perfect outfit for some amazing red wool I have.

WOTW: What is your favourite experience in the SCA?  
Stowegian: There are so many! I always make a lot of fun memories at Rowany Festival.

WOTW: Do you have any interests outside the SCA; if so, what are they?  
Stowegian: Reading, music, making things, ancient history, finding interesting art/craft projects to use in my teaching (I'm a primary school teacher), and travelling.

WOTW: What is your favourite meal?  
Stowegian: Stuffed chicken breast or gnocchi.

WOTW: What is your favourite drink?  
Stowegian: Dessert wines and raspberry soft drink

WOTW: What is your favourite memory as a child and why?  
Stowegian: Growing up on Cambewarra Mountain - we lived on 40 acre property surrounded by national park so we had lots of rainforest and bushland to explore, lots of wild animals on the doorstep like echidnas and wombats, and had fun times making stuff in the backyard.

*Thanks for taking the time to speak to Writing on the Wowld.*



## The Kingdom of Lochac Awards

*(I would like to personally thank Marg Henley for her assistance in gathering the information to put in this article—The Chronicler).*

### Augmentation of Arms

- The Augmentation of Arms is a rare honour, given within some kingdoms (although possible in all). The recipient is entitled to register a modification to their arms.
- The form of an augmentation is not specified by a crown or law, this honour allows any form of augmentation which the College of Heralds permits to be registered based upon the rules for heraldic submissions. In Lochac the Augmentation of Arms is described as "a special and very rare honour. Given only a few times in the history of the Kingdom, it entitles the recipient to register an addition or alteration to their Arms in consultation with the awarding Crown. An Augmentation of Arms may be granted to a group or individual at the discretion of the Crown. In the case of an individual, it would normally be for exceptional and/or prolonged service to the Kingdom of Lochac."
- abbreviation: AugA

### Award of Arms

- The Award of Arms is given for service or other significant contribution to the well-being of the Kingdom, usually at the local level. There is no token, but the award confers the right to bear arms. Gentles granted an award of Arms are entitled to be addressed as "Lord" or "Lady". This award shall have the effect of converting devices previously registered with the College of Heralds to Arms.
- abbreviation: AA

### Champion of Lochac

- The title of Champion of Lochac is given to the runner up in the Crown Tournament for the duration of the reign.
- If both King and Queen are unable or unwilling to complete a reign, the Champion of Lochac shall reign as Regent, crowning the next King and Queen, and having the power of a regent, except they may not change the laws of Lochac or give out awards.
- From Lochac.
- abbreviation: CL

### Chivalry

- The Chivalry are elevated for their ability on the field and for their courtesy and chivalry. Peers must also support the Crown and kingdom, display courteous and noble behaviour, share their knowledge and skills with others, practice hospitality according to their means, and those skills and behaviours appropriate to the court. Chivalry in fealty (Knights) wear white belts, a chain of large single links, and spurs. Masters at Arms wear a white baldric.
- abbreviation: KSCA

### Cockatrice

- The Order of the Cockatrice may be given to those who have distinguished themselves over time by showing outstanding skill in the Arts & Sciences. They shall also have demonstrated chivalry, courtesy and courtly behaviour. Elevation to this Order shall confer upon the holders a Grant of Arms, if that person is not already a holder of a Grant of Arms. All bearers of Grants of Arms are entitled to be addressed as The Honourable Lord / Lady.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: Oct

### County

- The County is granted to those persons who have reigned over a kingdom, at the end of the first complete reign. The token is an embattled coronet.
- abbreviation: County

- The title of Court Baron or Court Baroness may be offered to those the Crown wishes to honour, for those whose contributions have enriched the Kingdom in unique ways. It is also often given to Landed Barons at the conclusion of their tenure. The symbol of the award is a low coronet of 6 points.
- In Lochac this title carries with it an Award of Arms, and the title of Court Baron/Baroness may be used by all who attain this title. Court Barons and Baronesses are entitled to be addressed as "Your Excellency".
- abbreviation: CB

## Cross of Lochac

- The Order of the Cross of Lochac (formerly the Order of the Southern Cross) may be given to those who have performed service to the Kingdom, but who are not citizens of Lochac. A representation of the southern cross is used in association with this award.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OCL

## Duchy

- The Duchy is granted to those persons who have reigned over a kingdom two or more times, at the end of the second complete reign. The token is a coronet adorned with strawberry leaves.
- abbreviation: Duchy

## Golden Rapier (Lochac)

- Given once, this is a fancier version of the Silver rapier given by the Principality of Lochac.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation:

## Golden Sword

- The Golden Sword, formerly known as the Hasta Belli (Spear of War), is given for achievement in the field of heavy fighting. The token is an eagle grasping a sheaf of arrows in its claws, worn as a pendant. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OGS

## Golden Tear

- The Golden Tear is given for substantial and unobtrusive service to the Kingdom. The token is a pendant in the form of a golden drop. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OGT

## Grant of Arms

- The Grant of Arms is given to mark the service of Great Officers of State, or as acknowledgement of activity in any field of endeavour at an equivalent level to the Great Officers of State fulfilling their duties. There is no badge or token. In some kingdoms, a recipient of a Grant of Arms styles him- or herself The Honourable Lord or Lady (as in: THL Frederick von Flintschtone); this is now permitted in Lochac, but usage varies.
- abbreviation: GA



## The Kingdom of Lochac Awards (continued)

### Hector

- The Order of Hector may be bestowed upon those the Crown of Lochac finds deserving of honour for excellence in equestrian activities. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous. The registered badge for this company is "Gules, a horse's head couped within a bordure wavy Or."
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OH

### Herald Extraordinary

- Those who have been of great assistance for sustained duration to the college of Heralds may be given the status of 'Herald Extraordinary' and given a personal heraldic title - their choice of a registrable heraldic name.
- abbreviation:

### Iron Spoon

- The Iron Spoon was granted to victors of Lochac Principality cooking contests. The order's badge is: A wrought iron spoon palewise, bowl to base, sable.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OIS

### Jomsviking

- The Jomsviking was given to those who have supported the army of the Principality of Lochac in any significant manner.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OJ

### King's Cypher

- The King's Cypher is awarded to those persons who have been thoughtful and helpful to the King during his reign. The token is a medallion, unique to the reign. A person might receive several Royal Cyphers from different reigns.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: KC

### Knotted Sword

- The Knotted Sword is presented to the fighter who is judged to have died most gallantly and spectacularly in each Crown tournament. The trophy is a plain sword with the blade tied in a knot, mounted on a wooden plaque, to which each recipient adds their name.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: KS

### Laurel

- The Laurel is given to those who show true excellence in the arts and/or sciences. Peers must also support the Crown and kingdom, display courteous and noble behaviour, share their knowledge and skills with others, practice hospitality according to their means, and those skills and behaviours appropriate to the court. The token is a medallion bearing a laurel wreath. Laurels in fealty may wear a chain.
- abbreviation: OL

- Companionship of the Archers is granted to those who demonstrate high achievement and service to the Kingdom in archery, with high levels of chivalry, courtesy, courtly behaviour and accomplishment. The duties of the members of this Company are to promote and encourage their art within the Kingdom of Lochac. They are to advise the Earl Marshal and the Archery Marshal on, and do research into, all aspects of the art of missile weapons. Membership of the Company confers an Grant of Arms to the bearer, if they do not have one already, and ranks equal in the order of precedence as the White Scarf and higher in precedence than other varieties of grants of arms.

- from Lochac
- abbreviation: LCA

### Lochac Cypher

- The Lochac Cypher was given to those who had been thoughtful and helpful personally to the Coronet. The token is a medallion, unique to the reign. A person might receive several Cyphers from different reigns.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: LC

### Lochac Order of Grace

- The Lochac Order of Grace is given once per reign to that person the queen (or the princess, when Lochac was a principality) regards as having displayed exceptional courtesy. The token is a purse bearing the order's badge: Gules, a hind courant Or between three mullets of six points argent. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: LOG

### Miles Regni

- The Miles Regni (Soldier of the Kingdom) is given to those who have supported the army of Lochac in any significant manner, including siege weapons and non contact participants. The token is a silver sword, worn as a pendant. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: MR

### Mouse Guard

- The Mouse Guard is given in recognition of the contribution given to our Kingdom by children between the ages of 4 and 13 years.. Note carefully - this does not preclude our young people from gaining any other Lochac award that they may fittingly receive.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: MG

### Nock

- The Nock is given for achievement in the field of missile combat. The token is a gold nock, worn as a pendant. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: Ono

### Pelican

- The Pelican is given for extraordinary service to the Kingdom, far and beyond that given by most members. Peers must also support the Crown and kingdom, display courteous and noble behaviour, share their knowledge and skills with others, practice hospitality according to their means, and those skills and behaviours appropriate to the court. The token is a medallion depicting a pelican in its piety. Pelicans in fealty may wear a chain.
- abbreviation: OP





## The Kingdom of Lochac Awards (continued)

### Pilgrim Order of Grace

- The Pilgrim's Order of Grace was granted to residents of other kingdoms who contributed to the Principality of Lochac. The Kingdom now awards the Southern Cross for such efforts.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: PG

### Pride of Lochac

- Membership to the Company of the Pride of Lochac is given to groups, such as households, who have as a group made noteworthy contribution to the kingdom. The registered badge for this company is "Quarterly azure and argent, a cross gules between four lion's faces counter-changed."
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OPL

### Prince's Cypher

- The Prince's Cypher was given to those who have been thoughtful and helpful personally to the Prince. The token is a medallion, unique to the reign, usually in the shape of the Prince's initials. This was replaced with the joint Lochac Cypher.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: PC

### Princess' Cypher

- The Princess' Cypher was given to those who have been thoughtful and helpful personally to the Princess. The token is a medallion, unique to the reign, usually in the shape of the Princess' initials. The Royal Cypher is now given instead. This was replaced with the joint Lochac Cypher.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: PsC

### Prometheus

- The order of Prometheus is given for excellence in teaching. The token is a pendant showing a flaming branch of fennel (prometeian flame). The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: PF

### Queen's Cypher

- The Queen's Cypher is given to those who have been thoughtful and helpful personally to the Queen. The token is a medallion, unique to the reign, usually in the shape of the Queen's initials. A person might receive several Cyphers from different reigns.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: QC

### Queen's Glove of Courtesy

- The Queen's Glove of Courtesy is presented to the winner of the rapier tourney of the same name, held annually at the Rowany Festival.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: QGC

## Rapier

- The Order of the Rapier is given for achievement in the field of Rapier fighting. The token is a gold rapier, worn as a pendant. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: ORa

## Rat Guard

- The Rat Guard was created by Princess Yolande as an award for service to the Principality for young subjects, between the Mouse Guard and the Silver Tear. It was only ever awarded once.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: RG

## Red Wyvern

- The Order of the Red Wyvern may be given to those who have distinguished themselves over time by performing outstanding service and great prowess in the Martial Arts. They shall also have demonstrated chivalry, courtesy, and courtly behaviour both on and off the field of combat. Such prowess can include skills in Armoured Combat, Archery, Rapier, the Equestrian Arts, Siege Warfare, or Leadership on the war field. Elevation to this Order shall confer upon the holders a Grant of Arms, if that person is not already a holder of a Grant of Arms. All bearers of Grants of Arms are entitled to be addressed as The Honourable Lord / Lady.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: ORW

## Roman Lilies

- The Roman Lily was given for achievement in the arts and sciences in the Principality of Lochac. The token is a black pendant bearing the order's badge: *Three lily blossoms in triquetra Or.*
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: ORoLi

## Rose

- The Order of the Rose is given automatically to Countesses by tradition in many kingdoms. There is no rank attached, as the Countess always receives a Patent of Arms with the County. There is no official token for the award. In Lochac, the The Order of the Rose comprises those who have served as Consort to the Sovereign in the Kingdom of Lochac, as defined in Corpora. Members of this order are charged with supporting and assisting the Crown and Their Heirs, and encouraging chivalric and courteous behaviour among all members of the Society. The order shall be non-armigerous.
- abbreviation: OR

## Rowan

- The Rowan is given to those who have displayed exceptional and consistent grace and courtesy to all. The order's badge is: A cinquefoil per pale vert and argent.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: ORwn

## Royal Cypher

- The Royal Cypher is given to those who have been thoughtful and helpful personally to the Crown. The token is a medallion, unique to the reign. A person might receive several Cyphers from different reigns.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: RC

## Royal Order of the Gingernut

- A solemn award given by Her Majesty Anastacia of Starfall during her first reign, to only three recipients. Bearers were commanded to "wear this biscuit until it falls from its string". Master Gereint Scholar managed to bear his award proudly for a year, after which it fell from its string "and there was much sadness".
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: ROGn



## The Kingdom of Lochac Awards (continued)

### Silver Helm

- The Silver Helm (formerly the Shining Helm) is given to those combatants who consistently present a good looking and period appearance on the field.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OSH

### Silver Nock

- The Silver Nock was given for achievement in the field of missile combat in the Principality of Lochac. The token is a silver nock pendant from a ribbon.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OSN

### Silver Pegasus

- The Order of the Silver Pegasus may be given to those who have distinguished themselves over time by performing outstanding service. They shall also have demonstrated chivalry, courtesy and courtly behaviour. Elevation to this Order shall confer upon the holders a Grant of Arms, if that person is not already a holder of a Grant of Arms. All bearers of Grants of Arms are entitled to be addressed as The Honourable Lord / Lady.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OSP

### Silver Rapier

- The Silver Rapier was given for achievement in the field of Rapier fighting in the Principality of Lochac.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OSR

### Silver Sword

- The Silver Sword was given for achievement in the field of heavy fighting in the Principality of Lochac.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OSS

### Silver Tear

- The Silver Tear was given for substantial and unobtrusive service to the Principality of Lochac. The order's badge is: A goutte de larme charged with a goutte d'eau.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OST

### Star and Lily

- The Order of the Star and Lily (formerly known as Golden Lily) is given for achievement in the arts and sciences. This Kingdom award has retained the token of the former Roman Lilies; a black pendant bearing the order's badge: Three lily blossoms in triquetra, Or. The Order confers an Award of Arms to the bearer, if they are not already armigerous.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: GL

### Taillefer

- The Taillefer (formerly Prix Jongleur) is given to those who by way of performance consistently entertain the populace of the Kingdom. The token is two conjoined silver masks of Tragedy and Comedy.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: PJ

### Viscounty

- The Viscounty is granted to those persons who have reigned over a principality, at the end of the first complete reign. Viscounty Coronets are in no way defined, but are a matter of personal taste. They normally reflect some element of the Principality Arms, plus personal decoration.
- abbreviation: Visc

### White Scarf

- The White Scarf is given for outstanding ability in rapier combat in accordance with the Treaty of the White Scarf: courteous and chivalrous behaviour, service, and teaching. The order's symbol is a white scarf, worn at the left shoulder or above the left elbow. The Order confers an Grant of Arms to the bearer, if they do not have one already, and ranks equal in the order of precedence as the Lochac Company of Archers and higher in precedence than other varieties of grants of arms.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: OWL

### Wreath of Chivalry

- The Wreath of Chivalry may be offered to that combatant whose behaviour most exemplifies the high ideals of courtesy and chivalry in the Crown Tourney of Lochac. The token is a wreath of Rosemary, wrapped with a white ribbon.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: WC

### Wreath of Valour

- The Wreath of Valour may be offered to that combatant whose behaviour most exemplifies the high ideals bravery and daring in the Crown Tourney of Lochac. The token is a wreath of Rosemary, wrapped with a red ribbon.
- from Lochac
- abbreviation: WV

## INFORMATION

You've read the Awards and you think that one or more people you know might deserve one but you don't know what to do about it. Where do you go from here?

To submit a recommendation use the following link <ctrl> + <click>:

<http://www.sca.org.au/canon/recommend.php>

If you want more help writing the recommendation you can use the following link <ctrl> + <click>:

<http://www.greydragon.org/library/How%20to%20write%20an%20Award%20Recommendation--SCA.doc>

***Don't hesitate to put in a recommendation because you don't know what award to recommend. This will be worked out for you. Don't hesitate because you are new or for any other reason.***

***If you think someone deserves an award put a recommendation in.***

# Merlin's Crystal Ball (Knowing the Future and the Past)



## The Picts

Not much is known about the Picts and there are many theories but it is generally accepted that the Picts, once believed to be a new race, were simply the descendents of the indigenous Iron Age people of Northern Scotland.

A lot of uncertainty surrounds the Picts because they left few written records. This means that we have no clear insight into how they lived, their belief system or how their society operated. The names of the Picts Kings, groupings and places, however, make it clear that their language was a form of British Celtic that was very close to Welsh but the few inscriptions that survive have proved to be indecipherable. Much of what is known comes from second-hand anecdotal evidence from different historical writers. These may have been biased impressions of the Picts as a people

The earliest known mention of the Picts dates from 297AD from a poem by Eumenius praising the Roman Emperor Constantius Chlorus. Eumenius wrote that the Britons were already accustomed to the semi-naked 'Picti' and 'Hiberni' (Irish) as their enemies.

The term 'Picti' appears to have been a Roman nickname used to describe the people north of Hadrian's Wall (a defensive fortification in Roman Britain that was 117.5 km long. Part of the wall was made from squared stone and some of turf). It appears that 'Pict' was a blanket term that was applied to an agglomeration of different people with different cultures that lived in northern Scotland (from the 'Life of St. Columba').



The word 'Pict' means 'painted people' that most probably refers to their custom of either tattooing their bodies or putting on 'war paint'. The Irish term for the Picts is 'Cruithni' which means 'the people of designs' which parallels the Roman name. The name 'Picti' may have been an adaption of the name they called themselves. Before the Romans came to Britain these 'northern people' probably lived in fragmented tribes who spent most of their time fighting among themselves. With the Roman threat from the south, however, it appears to have forced them together into the beginnings of a Pictish state. This allowed the tribes to resist the invaders and take advantage of opportunities to plunder.

By the time the Romans abandoned Britain in the fifth century AD the 'northern tribes' had begun to form into what would later become the Pictish Kingdom.

This nation was made up of several federations each with its own leader or King. One of these federations, Orkney, was part of the Pictish Kingdom for part of the time but had its own local ruler

that, probably, owed fealty to a central High King. There is debate on the extent of this allegiance but it seems Orkney maintained considerable independence because of their isolation.

There may have been some Picts who converted to Christianity in the Roman period but as a whole they probably converted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. Missionaries from Britain went to the south and from the Gaels to the west. Great relief cross-slabs found across eastern Scotland best characterises the Verturian Kingdom. These carved stone monuments, several metres high, generally have a cross and abstract imagery on one side, and naturalistic depictions, some secular and some scriptural, on the reverse.



*The Aberlemno Kirkyard Stone, Pictish stone*

The Verturian King, Unuist, founded the Church of St Andrews. It is probably Unuist's bones that were kept in the St Andrews Sarcophagus.

In 565 AD Adomnan, the biographer of St. Columbus writes that there were ‘Orcadians’ at the court of the Pictish High King, Bridei. These ‘Orcadians’ were described as ‘hostages’ which may imply strained relations between Orkney and the Pictish King.

As already stated; we know little about the Picts in what is now mainland Scotland, however, even less is known about the people of Orkney. This is due to the fact that the major chroniclers of the time, from Britain, never made it that far north in any great numbers – if at all.

In the 7<sup>th</sup> century the Picts suffered because of the ambitions of expansion of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Bernicia. Oswiu of Bernicia (642-671) conquered some of southern ‘Pictavia’. Oswiu’s son, Ecgrifith (671-685), installed a relative, Bridei (672-693) a son of Beli, as a sub-King in Fortriu (Werteru).

In 685 AD at the battle of Nechtansmer, or Dunnichen Moss, Bridei’s victory over Ecgrifith set the stage for the creation of the Verturinan Kingdom.

Around 700 AD the Kingdom known as Fortiu (the name derives from one of the Roman period peoples, the Verturiones) by the Irish and Werteru by the Anglo-Saxons, that developed around the banks of the river Tay, dominated the whole region. Outside observers thought that the Kings of Fortiu was in fact the Kings of the Picts as they were often called. The only surviving native text, written in Latin, calls this realm ‘Pictavia’. It is probable that the Kingdom of Fortiu overcame the its neighbours and incorporated their territories into its own.

Naiton (706-724), son of Derile, established better relations with

Bernicia. Naiton reorganised the Pictish Church along Anglo-Saxon lines.

From Archaeological evidence it is known that the Picts, like most people in the North of Europe around this time, were farmers living in small communities. They had cattle and horses which were a sign of wealth and prestige. The Picts also had sheep and pigs both of which were kept in large numbers. These animals were small by later day standards. Carvings show that the Picts had hunting dogs and also hunted with falcons. Their cereal crops included wheat, oats, barley and rye. Vegetables include kale, cabbage, onions, leeks, peas, beans, turnips, carrots and some types that are no longer common like skirret. Plants such as wild garlic, nettles and watercress may have been gathered in the wild. Wool was the main source of fibre for clothing. Flax was also common. Fish, shellfish, seals and whales were also used in settlements near the coasts and rivers. There is no evidence of towns in Scotland until the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Recent archaeological evidence has been found that watermills existed at this time in Pictland. Kilns were used for drying kernels of wheat and barley.



*Reconstructed crannog on Loch Tay*

There has been a lot of controversy around the disappearance of the Picts and their language. In 843 AD the Gaelic Prince, Cinaed mac Ailpin (Kenneth MacAlpin),

became King of the Picts. There was no suggestion, from sources at the time, that the end of Pictavia was near. It is thought that the Picts gradually merged with the Gaelic Kingdom of Dal Riata and, in the time of Cinaed’s grandsons (circa 900), formed the Kingdom of Alba. Alba expanded, absorbing the Brythonic Kingdom of Strathclyde and Bernician Lothian. By the year 1000 AD all trace of the Picts as a living people had gone being absorbed into the ‘Scots’ amalgamation of people.



*The Rogart brooch, 8th century, silver with*



*The Whitecleuch Chain, high status Pictish Silver chain, one of ten known to exist, dating from between 400 and 800 AD*



*The harpist on the Dupplin Cross, Scotland, c. 800 AD*



## STOWE CONTACT DETAILS

The Canton of Stowe-on-the-Wowld is an SCA group in the Barony of Rowany, Kingdom of Lochac (geographically Western Sydney NSW Australia). The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is a worldwide organisation dedicated to the study and recreation of pre-17th Century Europe with activities such as combat, feasting, minstrelsy, costuming, embroidery and much more.

We meet every Wednesday at 7-30 pm at the Toongabbie Scout Hall at 99 Bungaree Road, Toongabbie where we have fighter practice, many arts and sciences projects (not to mention much socialising) happening.

**Meeting:** 7:30 pm Wednesday Nights  
Toongabbie Scout Hall  
99 Bungaree Rd  
Pendle Hill NSW 2145

**Email:** [stowe.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:stowe.seneschal@gmail.com)

To keep in touch with happenings in and around Stowe, or to ask any questions, please feel free to join our emailing list, Stowegians. This list is moderated, the List Caretaker will ask you to verify who you are.

For more information about the Canton of Stowe on the Wowld, contact the Seneschal.

Email: [stowe.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:stowe.seneschal@gmail.com)



As previously stated the Canton of Stowe on the Wowld is part of the Barony of Rowany.

The Baron of Rowany is Baron Loyola Juan Sanchez Mendoza and the Baroness is Baroness Annora Martin.

The Barony can be contacted via the website in the contacts section: [rowany.lochac.sca.org](http://rowany.lochac.sca.org)



## THE QUILL (from the Chronicler)



*I would like to invite members of the SCA from Stowe on the Wowld to submit articles for consideration in our new Newsletter—Writing on the Wowld.*

*Articles can be historical, about creating or making things, advertising events and so on that would interest the readers.*

*Please email Durant Blanc d'Airelle at the following email address: [greenandwhite2009@hotmail.com](mailto:greenandwhite2009@hotmail.com) and put SCA News Letter Article in the Subject line of the email.*