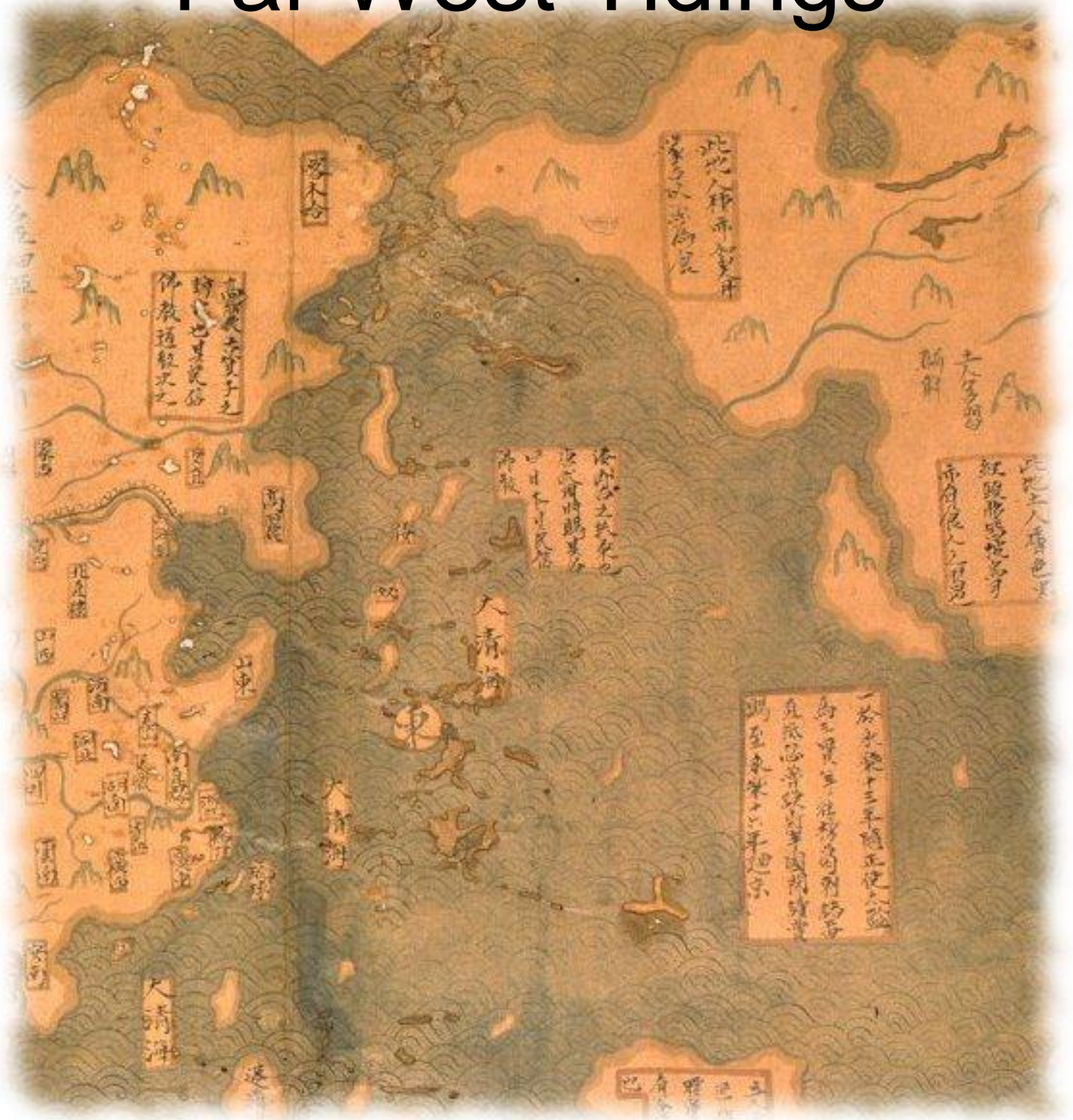


# Far West Tidings



April 2011 – A.S. XLV

*Being the Official newsletter of the Palatine Barony of the Far West*

**The Far West Tidings is not an official publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., or of the Kingdom of the West, and this document does not delineate policy on behalf of any of those entities.**

*All contents of these pages belong to the authors, artists, musicians, and other credited persons. If no person is credited they belong to the Palatine Barony of the Far West. Use of the content without permission of the owners may result in liability for infringement of copyright and other actions. All rights are reserved and will be enforced.*

### **About the cover:**

Some historians believe the Chinese seafarer Zheng He discovered America more than 70 years before Christopher Columbus set foot in the New World. This map (only Far West portions used) depicts all of the continents, including a small Australia, a roughed-out North America, and Antarctica. An inscription identifies the map as a copy made in 1763 of an original drawn in 1418.

Additional reading on this subject can be found at:

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/01/0118\\_060118\\_chinese\\_map.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/01/0118_060118_chinese_map.html)

# Contents

Chronicler's Comments.....	1
From the Officers... ..	1
Seneschal .....	1
Changes to the Baronial Customs & Traditions .....	3
Introduction .....	3
X. ....	3
X.2. ....	3
X.4. ....	3
XI. ....	4
XI.B. ....	4
XI.E. ....	4
XI.F.....	4
XII .....	5
XII.D.....	5
Awards .....	7
Golden Playne's Christmas Revel (26 December 2010).....	7
Kingdom Level Awards:.....	7
Baronial Awards: .....	7
Battle Rock Crest Tournament (26 March 2011) .....	7
Kingdom Level Awards:.....	7
Baronial Awards: .....	7
Baronial Events .....	8
2011 .....	8
April.....	8
May .....	8
June .....	8
July .....	8
October .....	8
December.....	8
A Journey to Lochac.....	9
I: Herein lies a description of those parts of the West Kingdom that lie in the most western reaches of the Marches of Their Majesties' territories.....	9
II: A description of that part of the kingdom to the South and the lands therein that lie upon the Crescent Islands.....	9
III: A description of that part of the southern kingdom to the west, on the Great Continent. ....	11

III: Of those lands that were not seen but have been heard of.....	12
Contact Information.....	14
Branches.....	14
Active Groups.....	14
Inactive Groups.....	14

## Chronicler's Comments

This will probably be my final issue. I am due to travel to the distant Kingdom of Drachenwald when the tides become more favorable. My stay here in the Far West has been wonderful (this is my second time here.) The friends I've made will last a lifetime and the growth the Barony has experienced is a true testament to the dedication of its members.

I would like to announce the impending vacancy of the Baronial Chronicler and Webminister positions. Both positions are still in the phase of reimagining but could use more work. Unfortunately, my efforts at the Webminister position have not moved as quickly as I had hoped, but I will send this template to the new Chronicler in hopes that The Far West Tidings stays active.

If you would like to submit an article, a story, a song, a recipe, a work of art, or even an event notice please submit them to [farwestcoronet@yahoo.com](mailto:farwestcoronet@yahoo.com)

- Lord Njall Hamarskalde



Greetings unto the populace. My apologies for the tardiness of this issue, but I have been working to put the finishing touches on this issue to get it out. I suspect this will be my only direct editing contribution, as Lord Wilhelm has graciously offered to take up the mantle of Baronial Chronicler.

I must also apologize for the lack of articles and artwork, as we did not have access to the [farwestchronicler@yahoo.com](mailto:farwestchronicler@yahoo.com) account at the time of publishing. Contributors shall be contacted to see if they would allow their works to be published in a later issue.

In Service,

li Katsumori

## From the Officers...

### Seneschal

Your Excellencies, my fellow Officers, and my most noble cousins! I bid you welcome one and all. I am pleased to be able to address you in this forum. The fact that a second issue of the Far West Tidings has appeared in such short order is another good sign of the positive trend which I have been noticing in the Palatine Barony over the past year. I have high hopes that I will be able to continue writing to you in this way in the months to come.

There are a number of pressing matters which I must discuss this month, but first I wanted to ask for your help with a priority problem.

WHAT A BORING HEADLINE!

I want to find a suitable name for the Baronial Seneschal's column. So far, I've had two thoughts: "The Dolphin's Spout" or "The Blowhole". What do people think? Does one strike your fancy more than the other? Are they both atrocious? Can anyone come up with anything better? Please feel free to send me your comments or post them directly to the Far West Yahoo! group.

With that critical problem out of the way, I'll move on to the real business.

YOUR BARONY NEEDS YOU!!

Are you tired of sitting at home bored in the evenings with nothing to occupy your time but some nifty new hi-tech gadget or a really good book? Do you look at yourself in the mirror in the morning and think, "I'm not devoting enough of my time to the Society; I need to find some way to sacrifice more of my life to the SCA!"? If so, I have the perfect opportunities for you!

The Palatine Baron and Baroness are currently on the lookout for five—yes, you heard right; that's five!—bright and active individuals to fill two currently vacant and three soon-to-be-vacant Baronial Offices.

- (1) Chancellor of the Exchequer
- (2) Chronicler
- (3) Webminister
- (4) Surgeon
- (5) Scribe

Their Excellencies request that any and all SCA members interested in serving their Palatine Barony put together a short résumé or curriculum vitae and e-mail it with a cover letter to:

- (1) the Baronial Coronet ([fwcoronet@yahoo.com](mailto:fwcoronet@yahoo.com));
- (2) the Baronial Seneschal ([klement\\_st.christoph@yahoo.com](mailto:klement_st.christoph@yahoo.com) and [farwest.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:farwest.seneschal@gmail.com)); and
- (3) the person currently holding the office, if available (e.g. Lord Rothri de Ross ([bryon1187@yahoo.com](mailto:bryon1187@yahoo.com)) for the office

of the Chancellor of the Exchequer)

The Palatine Barony is full of capable and energetic people, so I expect to see an avalanche of applications cascading into my inbox. Submit your résumé or CV early to ensure that everyone remembers your name and, in any case, please send your application as soon as possible, so that Their Excellencies have sufficient time to evaluate the candidates properly.

#### MEETINGS AT APRIL CORONET

For my final piece of business, I would like to encourage Baronial Officers and subsidiary branch Seneschals to join me in a pilgrimage to Warrior's Gate in April. I am planning to attend April Coronet this year, and I would dearly like to hold both a Baronial Officers' meeting and a Baronial Seneschals' meeting in the morning on Sunday, 24 April 2011. I realize that this will not be possible for everyone, but these meetings will clearly be more fun and more effective if more of you can make it.

With that, I have come to the end of my list of things to talk about this month. So now, in deference to your busy schedules, I am simply going to cut this short. Until the next eagerly awaited issue of the Far West Tidings, I remain . . .

Yours in service,

Klement St. Christoph, OL  
Seneschal of the Palatine Barony of the Far West

# Changes to the Baronial Customs & Traditions

Changes to the Baronial Customs and Traditions for the Barony of the Far West.

(Last updated and signed by Their Majesties Titus and Arianwen, King and Queen of the West, and his Excellency Baron Rowan Buchanan, Seneschal of the West, in November 2010.)

## Introduction

Original:

“The customs and traditions here written were first established during the era of Their Excellencies Alwyn and Rhiannon, the founding Palatine Baron and the founding Palatine Baroness Far West. Their Excellencies believed it to be necessary to the welfare of the Far West that the customs and traditions be preserved in writing, that future generations might know and respect the legacy they receive.

Revisions have been made by Edward and Marixsa (XXVI), Christoforo and Marixsa (XXVIII), Marie and Robert (XXIX), Thomas and Michelle (XXIX), Toshio and Siobhan (XXXII), Morgan and Wei (XXXVI), and Abe and Li (XLV).“

Updated:

“The customs and traditions here written were first established during the era of Their Excellencies Alwyn and Rhiannon, the founding Palatine Baron and the founding Palatine Baroness Far West. Their Excellencies believed it to be necessary to the welfare of the Far West that the customs and traditions be preserved in writing, that future generations might know and respect the legacy they receive.

Revisions have been made by Edward and Marixsa (XXVI), Christoforo and Marixsa (XXVIII), Marie and Robert (XXIX), Thomas and Michelle (XXIX), Toshio and Siobhan (XXXII), Morgan and Wei (XXXVI), Abe and Li (XLV), and Turtious and Tatiana (XLV).“

## X.

### X.2.

Original: “There shall be a Baronial Heavy Weapons Championship Tourney held in conjunction with the Baronial Coronet event to determine the Baronial Heavy Weapons Champion for that reign.”

Revised: “There shall be a Baronial Heavy Weapons or Rapier Championship Tournament held in conjunction with the Baronial Coronet event to determine the Baronial Heavy Weapons or Rapier Champion for that reign.”

### X.4.

Original: “In addition, there may be other Baronial Championship events (e.g. Rapier or Bardic Championships), to be held at the whim of the Coronet.”

Revised: “In addition, there may be other Baronial Championship events (e.g. Bardic Championships), to be held at the whim of the Coronet.”



## **XI.**

Original: "Baronial Tourney"

Revised: "Baronial Coronet Tournament"

### **XI.B.**

Original: "The usual order for Coronet Tourneys shall be to alternate between standard heavy weapons and an arts and sciences tourney. By tradition, the martial tournament will be held in October and the A&S tournament in April."

Revised: "The usual order for Coronet Tournaments shall be to alternate between a Heavy, Rapier and Arts and Sciences tournament."

### **XI.E.**

Original: "If the Tourney is standard SCA heavy weapons, the Coronet may apply such specifics as it wishes provided they do not violate the governing documents of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.; the Laws of the West Kingdom; or this document."

Revised: "The tournaments will rotate as follows:

1. The tournament will rotate between a Heavy Tournament, Rapier Tournament and Arts and Sciences Tournament.
2. Any group bidding to host the Martial Coronet Tournament must be able to demonstrate that they are able to provide the following:
  - a. An authorized marshal of the combat format for each Tournament;
3. The Coronet may apply such specifics as it wishes to the format of the Martial Coronet Tournament provided they do not violate the governing documents of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.; the Laws of the West Kingdom; or this document."

### **XI.F.**

Original: "F. If the Tourney is an arts and sciences tournament then the following conventions must be met:

1. The arts and sciences tourney must consist of at least five (5) categories chosen by the competitor, unless otherwise specified by the Coronet. These could include, but are not limited to, such medieval arts and sciences as calligraphy, illumination, embroidery, bardic arts, dance, chess, heraldry, and costuming. Others may be added at the behest of the Coronet.
2. All arts and science entries to the Coronet Tournament shall include documentation, preferably three (3) sources. Each entry shall be judged based on the West Kingdom A&S judging standards, which can be obtained from the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.
3. Entries for the arts and sciences tournament shall have been completed while the competitor is in residence, and shall never have won a Baronial or Kingdom arts and sciences competition. Live performances may be exempted from this rule at the discretion of the Coronet, as performance art is often subject to the variabilities of the audience and venue.
4. Multiple entries may be combined into a single physical item if the entries are clearly separate from each other. For example, both calligraphy and illumination may be entered on a single scroll. On the other hand, a dress with embroidery relies upon the embroidery as part of the dress, but the embroidery would be considered separate from the buttons. There must be separate documentation for each entry.
5. Specific details of the Tourney will be published to the populace as far in advance as possible.

6. The entries will be judged by a selection of at least three (3) qualified individuals chosen by the Coronet such as (but not limited to) past and present Coronets, the Baronial Seneschal, and the Baronial Minister(s) of Arts and Sciences.
7. All judges must be willing and able to judge all entries, to ensure a consistency of scoring across all applicants. If a judge does not score every valid entry, then their scores will be disregarded and a new judge chosen in their place.
8. Scores shall be tallied and checked by no fewer than two (2) individuals. Ideally these individuals will not have been judges themselves and cannot have been the current competitors.”

Revised: “If the Coronet Tournament is an arts and sciences tournament then the following conventions must be met:

1. Each competitor in the Arts and Sciences Coronet Tournament must enter five (5) entries.
2. The five (5) entries must cover at least five (5) different categories. Categories are to be chosen by the competitor, unless otherwise specified by the Coronet. Categories may include, but are not limited to, such medieval arts and sciences as calligraphy, illumination, embroidery, bardic arts, dance, chess, heraldry, and costuming. Others may be added at the behest of the Coronet.
3. Each Arts and Sciences entry to the Coronet Tournament shall include documentation, preferably three (3) sources.
4. Each entry shall be judged based on the West Kingdom A&S judging standards, which can be obtained from the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences.
5. Entries for the Arts and Sciences Coronet Tournament shall have been completed while the competitor is in residence, and shall never have won a Baronial or Kingdom arts and sciences competition. Live performances may be exempted from this rule at the discretion of the Coronet, as performance art is often subject to the variabilities of the audience and venue.
6. Multiple entries may be combined into a single physical item if the entries are clearly separate from each other. For example, both calligraphy and illumination may be entered on a single scroll. On the other hand, a dress with embroidery relies upon the embroidery as part of the dress, but the embroidery would be considered separate from the buttons. There must be separate documentation for each entry, even if it is part of the same item as another entry.
7. Specific details of the Tournament will be published to the populace as far in advance as possible.
8. The entries will be judged by a selection of at least three (3) qualified individuals chosen by the Coronet such as (but not limited to) past and present Coronets, the Baronial Seneschal, and the Baronial Minister(s) of Arts and Sciences.
9. All judges must be willing and able to judge all entries, to ensure a consistency of scoring across all applicants. If a judge does not score every valid entry, then his/her scores will be disregarded and a new judge chosen in his/her place.
10. Scores shall be tallied and checked by no fewer than two (2) individuals. These individuals cannot have been the current competitors, and ideally they will not have been judges themselves.”

## XII

### XII.D

#### XII.D.2.

Original: “The Baronial Heavy Weapons Champion Tourney (should the Baronial Tourney be martial) or Baronial Arts and Sciences Champion Tourney (should the Baronial Tourney be arts and sciences) scheduled in conjunction with the Coronet Tourney shall be the new Coronet Tourney.”

Revised: “The Baronial Champion Tournament of the current combat format (should the Coronet Tournament be martial) or Baronial Arts and Sciences Champion Tournament (should the Coronet Tournament be arts and sciences) scheduled in conjunction with the Coronet Tournament shall be the new Coronet Tournament.”

### *XII.D.3.*

Original: "The victor in that tourney shall be invested immediately, and the runner up shall be Baronial Heavy Weapons Champion or Baronial Arts and Sciences Champion, accordingly."

Revised: "The victor in that tournament shall be invested immediately, and the runner up shall be Baronial Heavy weapons, Rapier Champion or Baronial Arts and Sciences Champion, accordingly."

### *XII.D.4.*

Original: "4. The gentles who failed to accept investiture shall be banned from competing for the Coronet for the next two Coronet Tourneys."

Revised: "The gentles who failed to accept investiture shall be banned from competing for the Coronet for the next Coronet Tournament."

### *XII.D.6.*

Original: "If there are fewer than two competitors in the appropriate Championship Tourney, the other Championship Tourney shall be the new Coronet Tourney."

Revised: "If there are fewer than two competitors in the appropriate Championship Tournament, the other Championship Tournament shall be the new Coronet Tournament."

## Awards

### Golden Playne's Christmas Revel (26 December 2010)

#### Kingdom Level Awards:

##### *Award of Arms*

Dread Faldimore of Golden Playne

#### Baronial Awards:

##### *Far West Support*

Klement St. Christoph  
Grímr Korní

##### *Broken Tusk*

Pop of Golden Playne

### Battle Rock Crest Tournament (26 March 2011)

#### Kingdom Level Awards:

##### *Award of Arms*

Chrysanthos of Thebes  
Willem Troch de L'isle

#### Baronial Awards:

##### *Order of the Oriental Dragon*

Wilhelm Meis  
Pipa Follywolle

##### *Order of the Burdened Bouget*

Wilhelm Meis

##### *Order of the Baronial Gallant*

Adam de Ansætleh  
Pipa Follywolle

##### *Coronet's Appreciation*

Adam de Ansætleh

##### *Honor of Izanagi's Spear*

Steven of Battle Rock

##### *Far West Support*

Pipa Follywolle  
Howard "Black Harry" Adams

##### *Order of the Attic Helm*

Otto Spilman

##### *Order of the Empty Shell*

Njal Hamarskalde  
Willem Troch de L'isle

## **Baronial Events**

### **2011**

#### **April**

April 23-24: Far West Spring Coronet Tournament (Arts and Sciences), Stronghold of Warrior's Gate

#### **May**

May 6-8: Beltane Festival, Stronghold of Battle Rock

#### **June**

TBD: Far West Baronial Birthday, Stronghold of Battle Rock

#### **July**

TBD: Battle Rock Summer Stronghold Championship Tourney

#### **October**

TBD: Far West Heavy Coronet Tournament, Canton of Golden Playne

#### **December**

TBD: Yule, Stronghold of Battle Rock

## A Journey to Lochac

By Ii Katsumori and Abe Akirakeiko

Being a report to their Majesties, sovereign rulers of the Kingdom of the West, from their subjects, Abe Akirakeiko and Ii Katsumori, on their recent mission to the distant kingdom of Lochac. Herein lies an account of those areas which were visited or which were heard about. This voyage embarked from the Palatine Barony of the Far West, at the outer boundaries of their majesties' realm, which part shall be catalogued below, followed by a description of all the wondrous lands and peoples we did encounter on our journey.

### **I: Herein lies a description of those parts of the West Kingdom that lie in the most western reaches of the Marches of Their Majesties' territories.**

That Barony, being a Palatine Barony, which resides in the furthest reaches of the Western Kingdom is known simply as the Far West. It is overseen by a Baron and Baroness who oversee the Crown's wishes, and who are in charge of rewarding the Crown's subjects when it is appropriate. Though the people are scarce, the territory is vast, such that it would be hard for most people to comprehend, reaching from the most northern climes where it snows greatly in the winter, to the hot lands of the tropics which are markedly closer to the sun and therefore hot all year round.

There is a striped lion that resides in this land, though not on most islands. It is the king of the forest and greatly feared by locals, though it is rare to come across one these days. There are also bears, and in the south are elephants and a type of dragon that crawls on the ground and has a poisonous bite. There are also crocodiles in the rivers.

There are many strongholds and forts set up around the countryside, and these are found as follows: In the Gate of Warriors, within the Vale of the Dragon, and at Battlerock. There is also a port, which is called by the inhabitants the Shielded Harbor. There are rumors of ancient strongholds that exist elsewhere in these lands, but we have not seen them ourselves. There is also a small canton, newly formed, in the southern hot regions, just north of the torrid zone, and this was the port of our departure, as it was closest to those southern lands.

Before departing, we should first like to commend to your majesties another group of people living within the boundaries of the Far West. They are called "Avalon" and are like us in many ways, though their traditions vary, slightly. They live in the northern islands, between the Vale of the Dragon and the port of Shielded Harbor. They pay homage to an absent king, whom they say will one day return and lead them to glory. There are two groups of people—those of Loletor in the east and those of Westlichesland, opposite. Each is ruled, in the absence of a king, by a Baron. For spectacle they have tournaments in plate armor, where the combatants frequently wrestle. Nonetheless, they are extremely generous and recognize the majesty of the Kingdom of the West even while not being its direct subjects, though there are some few that maintain loyalty to both.

### **II: A description of that part of the kingdom to the South and the lands therein that lie upon the Crescent Islands.**

Many miles to the southeast of the southernmost Canton of the Far West lies the Kingdom of Lochac. It is a land made chiefly of four islands, one greater and three lesser. It is surrounded on all sides by water, and so the water must be crossed in order to attain it. The journey takes a travel past many as yet unexplored territories, wherein there are said to reside many strange and wondrous creatures, including dragons and a wild man of the forests. Rhinoceros and elephants may also be found here, as well as many spices which are much coveted by those in the west.

Passing through the Torrid Zone, where it was once believed no man could pass for fear of death within the great heat that scorches the ground, one comes to the southern lands. Here, the northern celestial bodies are rarely present, and the sun itself passes through the northern quadrant of the sky, such that without a reliable navigator one would believe

that east is west and vice versa, and there is little wonder why some would get lost in such straits. You should also know that, as everything else is backwards, so too are the seasons, and thus, though it would be summer in our northern climes, we found ourselves in the middle of winter. This is because the sun in the summer is closer to our northern reaches, thus depriving those in the south. When Apollo's chariot dips to the south, though, then they find themselves reveling in summer whilst we are left cold and hungry.

Our first port was not, as one might presume, the closest part of that kingdom, but rather nearer to its furthest, for we followed the chain of islands south of the torrid zone with the help of local guides and came to the eastern most edge of that realm, to the northernmost island of the area known as the Crescent Isles. When we came into port we found ourselves at the southernmost tip of that island and so made our way via a local merchant train up to the north.

Let us now give a brief description of that island that we did cross. The land is fertile, and has been put much to use in the service of the inhabitants to graze sheep, which are renowned both for their wool and for their meat. There are deer in the forests, which are hunted, as well as rabbits and a type of large squirrel, about the size of a small cat, with an incomparably soft pelt that is vigorously hunted. There are also many strange birds. One looks like a parrot, but is carnivorous, consuming meat and is thought by some to be a threat to the sheep. There are also small birds with no wings and long beaks that come out at night, and we were told of a much larger bird, also lacking the capability of flight, which towers over men by at least a span or more.

The mountains in the north are quite beautiful from afar, but can be treacherous to cross. Fortunately, there are myriad valleys that travelers can use, if they take the inland route. Otherwise, they would need to travel along the coast. The snow-capped peaks of those mountains hold, if local tradition is to be believed, great fiery wrath, and the ground still shakes, occasionally.

The northernmost point of the Crescent Isles is ruled by the Barony of Ildhaffin, which is renowned for its sailing ships, which travel regularly great distances to bring back trade goods from faraway lands. It was to here that we first traveled on the event of the coronation of the new King and Queen of Lochac. This was held in a sacred hall, suitably grand for the ceremony. We were first brought in to wait on the old King and Queen, to whom we presented some small gifts and tokens from us and from the West. They then had some last words before stepping down and eventually elevating their heirs to the thrones of Lochac. This ceremony was attended to with all great care and due protocol was followed throughout. Once they had attained their status, the peers of that realm who were present made known their vows of fealty, as did the great officers of state and the landed nobility present. In turn, the royalty reconfirmed them in their positions and pledged their reciprocation.

This ceremony was followed by feasting, which was as well laid out as any hall we have been privileged to attend. We were given a seat of honor as Your Majesties' representatives, and we were able to then present to them the presents we had brought from Her Majesty's artisan, which we had kept safe for the journey south. We expressed to them Your Majesties' good wishes and they exchanged with us similar sentiments to bring back to Your Majesties. Beyond that there was feasting and much joy to be had. The following day saw two tournaments of valor; one heavily armored and the other in more civilian clothing. The Barony of Ildhaffin has a respected tradition of the art of fence, and thus displayed their prowess for all to see by imitating the styles of various masters from across Europe. It was truly an enlightening exhibition which words themselves cannot capture.

After the festivities themselves concluded, their Excellencies of Ildhaffin allowed us the use of their library, which has several marvelous texts, which surprised us greatly. We were also shown some of the natural features of their land before we finally had to depart and be on our way.

Before describing our next journey, let us briefly diverge and concern ourselves with the southern island of these far eastern isles, where there is the Barony of Southren Gard. As it was told to us, this is a land of mountains and seas, being similar to the north, but more dramatic in landscape. As that land is still further from the sun, its climate is much colder, which makes it comparable, perhaps, to those regions south of Oertha. They claim as their territory a land to the south where there is always snow, and no animals live there but birds and seals. They make good their claims through a navy that patrols their waters, although admiral of their navy is not actually resident in their lands, living some ways off in the place of Inis Fowr, of which more shall be said later.

There is, in this place, a great fair every year, and this is where merchants come from across the kingdom to meet and trade with one another. This also occasions tournaments, dancing, and general merriment.

### **III: A description of that part of the southern kingdom to the west, on the Great Continent.**

We traveled onwards, across the oceans, to the island of the northwest. This island is the largest of the four, and is filled with all manner of strange creatures. There are deadly snakes and spiders, and the interior is dominated by scorching deserts. Most settlements are around the coast, where water and food are most easily available, though there are more nomadic persons who travel the heart of the desert, which is said to be populated with all manner of reptile as well as camels and wild dogs.

Along the rivers and coasts the fish are plentiful, but the waters are also the home of many strange and deadly creatures. To the north are tales of crocodiles larger, even, than those of the Nile, in Egypt. These can spring from the waters with surprising speed, and not even a man in armor would be safe from their bite. There are also valleys that contain great lizards or wyrms as large as a horse, or so the locals claim.

One of the more curious inhabitants is a bear which dwells in the tall trees. Its color is grey, blending into the bark of the local trees. Thus hidden from view, it waits silently, sometimes waiting days, for any living creature to walk beneath its tree. Upon sensing that a meal is beneath, the creature will let go and fall, or drop, directly upon their intended victim, which they will then savage with claws and teeth as ferocious as any creature alive.

It was thus in this dangerous country that we landed between the Baronies of River Haven and St. Florian's. These two Baronies straddle a great river between them, and were, until recently, in conflict with one another. The two currently live in a state of truce, but travelers should be prepared to avoid the region should any conflicts arise.

We were met, upon our arrival, by his Excellency, the Baron of St. Florian, who feasted us and welcomed us on our journey. We were not able to stay long, but we were able to see that the character of the people of St. Florian and River Haven are quite civilized, and their manners are those that we would recognize in our own lands. St. Florian is also the homeland of the current dynasty of the kings of Lochac.

Turning south in our travels we sailed past the Barony of Rowany down to the fourth island. Called by the locals the "Great Island", or "Inysfowr", this island actually floats upon the waves like a boat, though it is so large, one would not realize it. It remains tethered in place by unknown means, but is probably not so entirely detached from the ocean floor as one might believe. Still, there is constant worry on the island that it will one day sink, and thus the locals employ a chant, or sorts, to ensure that the island remains upright. So far, these prayers and supplications appear to be having a goodly effect.

The population of the island is small, but rich in resources and manners. Being so far south, and far from the sun, they wear much wool and fur, which is reasonably plentiful in their region. Regardless, they crave silks, which are a



reasonable trade item, as well as elephants, though one questions the advisability of the latter given the climate and cost of shipping.

At Innisfor we witnessed the start of their tournament season, which was full of colorful heraldic display. They take matters of honor seriously and those in fealty are quick to come to the defense of their kingdom should they believe that honor is at stake.

They practice dance not too dissimilar from that found elsewhere, though with some regional variation. They also play a game wherein players attempt to kick a bell while performing an energetic dance step. The bell is slowly raised higher and higher, increasing the difficulty of the performance.

The land of Innysfour sits just above the Great Southern Oceans, and in olden times they laid claim to the great land of ice to their south. This claim was contested by another Barony, that of Southren Gahd, and war broke out across the water between the two Baronies. Eventually the war was settled in Southren Gahd's favor through a compromise. Thus, though the land to the south belongs to one Barony, the admiral for the fleet that protects it lives within the boundaries of Innisfour and is granted a kind of dual citizenship.

The animals of this smaller "great island" are lesser in number than those on the larger landmass to the north, but no less deadly. There is a striped wolf as well as a beast so ferocious it is called a "devil". All snakes on the island are poisonous, and one may wonder whether or not the lack of poisonous snakes in Ireland is because they all fled here.

A series of smaller islands connects the southern and northern western islands, and it is to the latter that we made our way back to, despite the pleasant weather and fine company we found in Innisfowr. Rather, we made our way northwards to the Barony of Rowany, the premier Barony of the Kingdom, having been the first in these lands.

Here we feasted well, and met a goodly number of the inhabitants, all of whom were extremely welcoming to strangers, foreign though we were. It is here that a great Festival is held every year, and it is said that this Festival draws people from all over the Kingdom, and that it is one of the chief events of the tournament season for the attendees.

I should tell you know of creatures they have in these lands, such that you wouldn't believe. Chief amongst them is a creature that stands on two legs, like a man, but has legs like that of a rabbit. It has two heads, one on the top and a smaller one where its stomach would be. This latter it can withdraw into itself like a turtle into its shell. It also has a long, thick tail like that of a crocodile. It is covered in a soft fur that feels like a short wool. On its feet are large claws that could easily disembowel a person, as well as long, sharp claws on its hands, which are otherwise like a man's. They roam in groups, but do not appear to be as aggressive as their appearance would suggest.

There is also a bird that is covered in fur, rather than feathers. It has spurs, like a cock, on its hind legs, which I am told are quite poisonous. Instead of wings, it has small, webbed feet, making it look not unlike a cross between a duck and a rat, but with a flattened tail.

And there are more, but they are too numerous to set down in this brief telling.

### **III: Of those lands that were not seen but have been heard of.**

The southern coast of the Great Continent is sparsely populated. Following the coastline westward, one comes upon a pair of harbors, which mark the Barony of Innilgard. Of this place I have heard many good things, and would recommend it to merchants and travelers.

Beyond that, many leagues further, one comes to the tip of the land, where it turns north. Beyond that, to the west, is the open ocean, where a ship may easily get lost if they do not know the seas. At this westernmost tip is the fair land of Aneala, which thrives with great abundance even though it is at the very frontier. This is the last bastion of known hospitality before turning north.

The north coast has no great settlements, and the traveler would do well to provision at Aneala before turning north. Following the coast north-northwest, it will eventually turn back to the northeast, come around again, through a great gulf, and turn south once again, coming finally to the Barony of River Haven and back to the main lands of this great Kingdom.

The north coast has, as I said, a great gulf, and on the west side is a peninsula that sticks up towards the equator. Traveling north from this peninsula, one can come upon a chain of islands, which one might follow northwest until one returns again to the lands of the Far West, coming to port in the harbor at the mouth of the great river that leads to the Canton of Golden Playne.

All these things and more they had, and many of them we saw with our own eyes, so you can know that this is the truth.

## Contact Information

Palatine Barony of the Far West [http://farwestbarony.wikia.com/wiki/SCA\\_Far\\_West\\_Wiki](http://farwestbarony.wikia.com/wiki/SCA_Far_West_Wiki)  
Coronet: [fwcoronet@yahoo.com](mailto:fwcoronet@yahoo.com)  
Seneschal: [farwest.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:farwest.seneschal@gmail.com)  
Chronicler: [farwestchronicler@yahoo.com](mailto:farwestchronicler@yahoo.com)

## Branches

### Active Groups

Stronghold of Warrior's Gate	- Korea	Contact the <a href="#">FW Seneschal</a>
Canton of Golden Playne	- Thailand	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/goldenplayne">http://sites.google.com/site/goldenplayne</a>
Stronghold of Shielded Harbor	- Sasebo, Japan	Contact the <a href="#">FW Seneschal</a>
Stronghold of Vale de Draco	- Tokyo, Japan	<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Valdedraco/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Valdedraco/</a>
Stronghold of Battle Rock	- Okinawa, Japan	<a href="http://www.scabattlerock.com/">http://www.scabattlerock.com/</a>

### Inactive Groups

Little or no information is currently known about the SCA activity in these groups. If you have contact information for any members in the following areas, please send an email to [farwestchronicler@yahoo.com](mailto:farwestchronicler@yahoo.com) and [farwest.seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:farwest.seneschal@gmail.com).

Fortaleza de Islas de las Velas Latinas	- Guam
Stronghold of Eternal Winds	- Misawa Japan
College of St Phillip	- Philippines
Stronghold of Empty Isle	- Diego Garcia

NOTE: We also have members of the barony in China, but there is as yet no official designator for that region. For more information, please contact the [Baronial Seneschal](#).