

the BICRANIAL BEAR, APRIL 2022

Greetings to the Citizens of Adiantum!

This issue of the *BiCranial Bear* contains a history of the Egil Skallagrímsson Memorial Tourney, Adiantum's signature event, and perhaps the longest running Baronial tourney in the Known World. After a two year hiatus due to the plague upon our lands, we will once again be able to join together to celebrate Egil, who epitomized many of the qualities we prize in the SCA – he was a 10th century Icelandic poet and warrior as well as a farmer. Below is the illustration of Egil from a 17th century manuscript of *Egil's Saga*.

We hope to see you all at Egil's Tourney this year, May 27-30, at Lynx Hollow Park in Creswell, Oregon. You can find full event information here

<https://antir.org/events/egil-skallagrímsson-memorial-tourney-46/>

The Facebook event page is

https://www.facebook.com/events/635704360996530?active_tab=about

In service to Adiantum,

Yseult of Broceliande, Chronicler



A History of the Egil Skallagrimsson Memorial Tourney

by Yseult of Brocelliande, OP, OL, Baroness of Court

The Egil Skallagrimsson Memorial Tourney was the brainchild of Thorgeirr Eikenskjalldi. Ulfhedinn inn vegfarandi (who was to become Adiantum's second Baron) helped with the details, since he had an Icelandic persona. Egil Skallagrimsson was an historical person, "a poet, warrior and farmer," who was born about 904 and died at Mosfellsbær, Iceland around 995. He is memorialized in Egil's Saga, one of the Norse sagas written down between 1220 and 1240 probably by "Snorri Sturluson (1176-1241), who was a descendant of Egil".

The first Egil's Memorial Tourney was held on Memorial Day weekend in 1975, A. S. 10, at Armitage Park on the north side of Eugene. There was a lunar eclipse and a feast featuring a roast suckling pig. The tourney prize was a silver mounted drinking horn made by Thorgeirr Eikenskjalldi and won by Sir Stephen McEanreig.



Egil's Tourney #2 moved to Gate Creek Park near Vida and was known as Egil's Drowning due to the amount of rain that fell that weekend. The tourney prize was a large maple iron-bound tourney chest with iron lock and keys in a Viking design made by Ulfhedinn, Edwin of Svartelder, and Thorstein, lined in blue taffeta by Victoria de Toledo, won by Duke James Greyhelm. Corwin of Thornwood ran the event. Here's the chest being shown off at Midwinter Feast by Ulfhedinn.



This is the first Norse Stickball game, perhaps from Egil's Tourney #2:



The following year Egil's Tourney #3 remained at Gate Creek Park and became known as Egilsswarming due to the enormous swarm of bees that attended the event. There were also double moon-bows! Reginleif the Unruly sponsored a Rain Tales contest (inspired by Egils #2). Gangenrath Erinon sponsored an Armorer's Contest, and there was a Norse Costume contest. The tourney Prize was a decorated hand axe by Edwin of Svartelder and a soapstone mold by Gerek the Far-seeing, won by Duke James Greyhelm.



Egil's Tourney #4 moved to Thorgeir's land, 2 miles south of Alpine, and Egil's #5 settled at Bellfountain Park, north of Monroe. The tourney prize was a Viking tool kit, a wooden chest with tools, being examined here by Manfred, who would later go on to become the first King of An Tir.



Egil's Tourneys #6, 7, and 8 were held at Bellfountain Park, but we have no further information about them except that the Barony had built and painted the "Great Wall" to mark the tourney fields.



Egil's #9 (1983, A.S. 18) was held in Bellfountain Park as well, stewarded by Yseult of Broceliande. The Barony made its first baronial pavilion for the event, a day shade. Attendance at the event had increased to the point that we needed to find a larger site, so Egil's #10, 11 and 12 occurred at Bristow Park between Pleasant Hill and Dexter.

The event stewards for Egil's #10 were Shara Tunoy and Xeri-Ye. Ulfhedinn made the tourney prize: Vapnabunadr (Norse warrior's accoutrements): spear, axe, shield, and enough leather for armor. Shara again stewarded Egil's #11, this time with the help of Anarra Perrin. The prize for this year was a pair of carved end boards for a Norse A-frame tent. We also had our first Drama Festival sponsored by Galen Patternweaver.

In 1986 the Canadian holiday that was the usual date for May Crown Tourney coincided with the American Memorial Day weekend. Word fame of our Egil's prizes was growing and attracting more and more fighters, so the compromise that year was to combine Crown and Egils into Cregils. Berek and Leisl von Langental stewarded Crown on Saturday and Anarra Perrin stewarded Egil's Tourney on Sunday with a tourney prize of a Viking bed. We had another Drama Festival sponsored by Galen, for which she produced "The Chatelaine's Revenge", a hilarious send-up of the SCA.

Bristow Park was the site of one of my fondest Egils memories. The park had been mowed but not raked. There was two foot high cut grass all over the site. People pushed it off their camp sites, but the large area for the tourney fields was a mess. Anarra and one or two others, all in work grab like peasants, grabbed rakes and piled the loose grass into rows and carted it away. The whole thing looked just like the June panel from the Trés Riches Heures of the Duke de Berry. But we had also improved the park with our work on it over three years, and the locals wanted to use it on Memorial Day weekend, so we were once again in need of a new site.



Egil's Tourney #13, 1987, A.S. 22, was the first of nine held at Zumwalt Park on the western shore of Fern Ridge Reservoir. Sophia & Brennian were the event stewards and the tourney prize was a wood tourney chest by Gerek the Far-seeing. We had another Drama Festival run by Galen Paternweaver and a Crimson Sky woods battles run by Isamu. The prize for the costume contest was a Norse warp-weighted loom. We were on a roll, and at this point Egil's was probably the largest tourney in An Tir. Brennian again stewarded Egil's #14 and the main tourney prize was a Damascus steel dagger by William Bjorn. Galen & Gwion wrote a hilarious musical for the Drama Festival.

Egil's #15 in 1989 was even bigger. The stewards were Yseult and Gwion. We were getting so many fighters that Ambrose developed a new configuration for the fighting fields that included a practice field for warm-ups. We made a new, 2nd Baronial pavilion for lists, waterbearers, etc. This year the tourney prize was a bronze Norse axe and there was a demonstration of bronze pouring and the drama festival Saturday that included a play by Gerhard von Nordflammen and the Starfollower consort. We had made a giant maypole and had a proper maypole dance on Sunday after the prize tourney. There were tourney banner and weaving competitions sponsored by Phalen and Galen respectively. Draco made Baronial surcoats (black & gold) for the heralds. Over the past few years Egil's had become a meeting point for An Tir and West Kingdom fighters and merchants. Here is Gerhard Kendal, Baron of Lion's Gate (Vancouver, Canada, wearing shades) and his daughter Melissa and Master Duke Frederick of Holland of the West Kingdom at an early Egils:



Costume prize for Egil's #15, silk tablet weaving by Baroness Reginleif:



Our first Ithrotir Competition was held at Egil's #16 in 1990. Gerek the Far-seeing and Chimene de CinqTours were the event stewards and also ran the Ithrotir, which was a group of eight contests that challenged the entrants to demonstrate the best qualities / skills of a Norse nobleman: Fot (Costuming), Smid (Decorated Useful Object), Brugg (Brewing), Skaldspar (Poetry), Tafl (Board Games) Spojtsskot (Spear Throwing), Boggaskot (Bow Shooting), Glima (Wrestling). The tourney prize this year was a carved tourney table by Gerek, won by Torgul Steingrimsson.

Egil's Tourney had become such a shopping event that for Egil's #17 (1991) we had to have a specific merchant-ocrat, Steelwolf the Armorer, to sort it all out. The overall event steward was Etaine Karlsdottir, now returned to us as Emma Haldane. Galen Patternweaver shifted from sponsoring a drama festival to overseeing children's activities as we had an increasing number of kids attending the event. This year's overall Ithrotir prize was a Norse bed by Gerek the Farseeing, won by Master William Bjornson. The tourney prize was a sword by Steelwolf, won by King Davin Stronghand.

Egil's #18 in 1992 was stewarded by Lono & Valeria. The tourney Prize was a cloak won by Thorin, and the Ithrotir Prize was a sword by Steelwolf, won by Frances of Saxony. We thought that there might have been a drowning early Sunday morning, but fortunately it turned out to be a false alarm. Egil's had become huge – about 1500 people attended that year.

Steelwolf and Soren were the stewards for Egil's #19. The tourney prize was a hardwood tourney table by Gerek the Far-seeing, and the Ithrotir Prize was cloak woven by Valeria. Egil's #20 was stewarded by Valeria bat Adama Ha Khazari and Lonergan Fionn O'Flaherty (Seneschal). The tourney Prize was 30" Damascus steel sword crafted by Steelwolf. Our gate count was 1332. Egil's #21 (1995) was stewarded by Breniann MacCuUladh & Lady Karis Jessica Pursey. This was our last Egil's Tourney at Zumwalt Park. Once again we had improved the park with our ongoing labors – leveling the tourney field area, beating back the blackberries – until the locals wanted to use it on Memorial Day weekend.

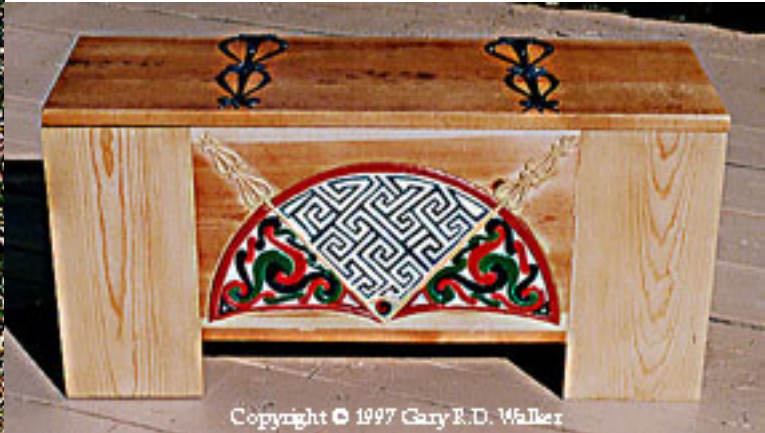
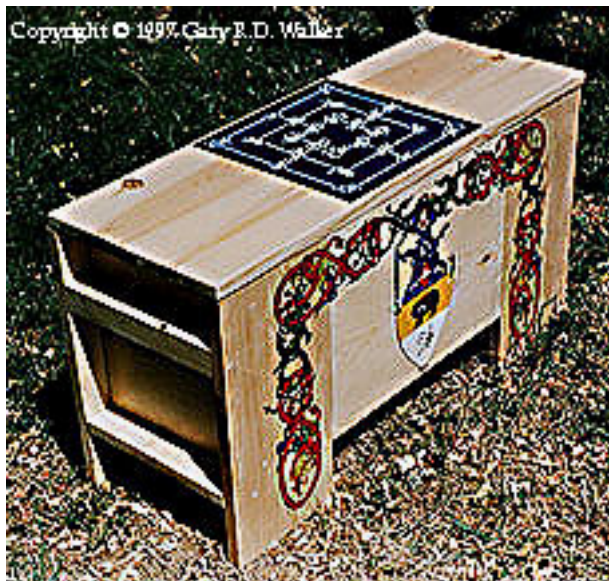
So we went back to Elijah Bristow Park in Dexter for our next three Egil's Tourneys. #22 was again stewarded Brennainn MacCuUladh and Karis Jessica Pursey. Approximately 1200 people attended. #23 was stewarded by Shawynde Vellon & Signe de Vellon. #24 was stewarded by Meagan of Windermere & Etienne le Marchand with an attendance cap of 1200. We had a Holmgang tournament as well as the Ithrotir competition.

Records from the 1990s are sketchy. We have pictures of prizes but no clear indication of which contests they were for or what year they were awarded, but the workmanship continued Adiantum's word fame as the provider of the best tourney and competition prizes!



This one was an ice chest.

The chest with the gameboard on top was an Archery contest prize and the second chest with Oseberg ornament was an Egil's Tourney prize, both by Gerek the Far-seeing with hinges on the second one by Ulfhedinn.



The knock-down oak table with Ringereike ornament was a Egil's Tourney prize by Gerek the Far-seeing



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Above and below, chests by Gerek the Far-seeing. Below, the holmgang prize for Egil's #27 (2001):



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Egil's Tournes #25 and 26 were held at Howard Buford Recreation Area next to Mt. Pisgah. The #25 event stewards were Trudchen von Bayern & Eibhlin nic Roderick. Mongolian football happened, maybe to replace Norse Stick Ball?. The main tourney prize was a Norse A-frame tent. #26 was run by Thom Redbeard & Donald the Undecided and there was Mongolian football again. The only records I could find for Egil's #27 and 28 said that the stewards for #27 were Meagan Windermeme & Grainne Gelleo of Locksley – no record of where it was held, etc. And the same for #28: – Lord Thom Redbeard as the event steward, but it's not clear where it was held – perhaps Elijah Bristow Park again?

Egil's Tourney #29 (A.S. 38, 2003) was the first one held at Lynx Hollow State Park, our current site. The events stewards were Karis Jessica Pursey and Durin Oldenmoor. The overall prize for the Ithrotir competition was a glass drinking horn with silver leaf at top, designed by Olaf Magnison. Egil's #30 was stewarded by the Baroness, Katerine Martel, and Tadhg, #31 by Katerine Martel and Grainne. The steward for #32 was Fearga Cavanaugh, and the tourney prize was a carved and painted tourney box. Alysaundre Weldon & Johann Friedrich Spies stewarded #33.

Egil's Tourney #34 (A.S. 43, 2008) was the first appearance of the Three Pillars Competition, developed by Marian Staarveld and Raven qara Ton. Interest in the Ithrotir had waned when the Grand Thing event had started up in Stromgard, drawing off many folk interested in Norse culture. The Three Pillars of the SCA are the martial activities, the arts & sciences, and service. Competitors entered a variety of contests to show their abilities in all three categories. Alysaundre Weldon & Karis Jessica Pursey were the event stewards.

The Egil's #35 (2009) stewards were Arianna Aislinn and Elizabeth Turner, with Alysaundre Weldon as advising autocrat. Raven and Marian again ran the Three Pillars competition; its overall prize was two folding chairs by Alysaundre Weldon



The two photos below show the various prizes for the Three Pillars competition.



Egil's #36 was run by Andrew Crowe and Ceridwen ferch Morgan. Both the tourney prize and the overall Three Pillars prizes were painted day shades made by Raven, Marian, and Yseult.



Andrew Crowe & Telisia Bruttusdottir stewarded Egil's #37. Luciano Foscari, Maeve Cunningham, and Durin Oldenmoor ran #38 in 2012 (A.S.47), and Luciano Foscari, Durin Oldenmoor, and Lucius von Bamberg stewarded #39.

Cardwoven trim by Sir Gabriel Luvday, the costume contest prize fro Egil's #38 (2012):



In 2014 (A.S. 49) Egil's Tourney #40 saw a new autocrat team, Bastian Eisengart & Petronia Casta, who used the 40th, ruby, anniversary as their theme. Egil's #41 was run by Godwyn Renard, Tadhg, and Ayla Roth.

The theme for Egil's Tourney #42 in 2016 was the Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, with towels as the site token. Tessina was the event steward, with Yseult as the supervising steward. The tourney prize was a wood table, and the Three Pillars prize was a wooden bed frame.



Egil's #43 was stewarded by Ayla Roth, Lucius von Bamberg, and Yseult of Broceliande. The tourney prize was silver rings, and the Three Pillars prize was a Norse long tent (canvas & poles) won by Johanna Trewpeny. The towel site tokens for Egil's #42 were so popular that we did them again for #43



Egil's #44 (2018), stewarded by Yseult of Broceliande, was big, as this was the first year in a long time that we did not have the Grand Thing event competing with us on Memorial Day weekend. Gate sign-ins were 1016. Since there wasn't a Norse event scheduled against us, we included the Ithrotir competition again, as well as the Three Pillars competition. The tourney prize was a Norse coat & a chain mail aventail by John Menard won by

Sir Nicolai. The Ithrotir prize, a Norse rune stone carved by Tryggr Tyrreson, was won by Nathanael. The Three Pillars prize was two wood tourney boxes by Anton won (again) by Johanna Trewpeny. The prizes for the martial, A&S, and service sections of the Three Pillars competition were Norse caftan style coats made by various people in the Barony



Egil's Tourney #45 (2019) was again stewarded by Yseult of Broceliande, but due to family medical emergencies, she was in Virginia from January 2019, so Skaldr-Thorsteinn Thunderhand/Anarra Durinsdottir volunteered to be the on-site steward. The tourney prize was a knock-down table and two benches by HL Katherine Fox. The Three Pillars prize was a Panther Norse pavilion. Probably due to horrendous rain all weekend, attendance was back down to the 700-800 person level.

Plans for Egil's #46 were laid in 2020 by Durin, Tadgh, and Tessina, but the pandemic intervened and the event was postponed for two years. We are now looking forward to holding Egil's Tourney #46 forty-eight years after the journey first began.

Photos pp.1-6 from Ulfhedinn and Reginleif. Photos pp.7-9 from Gerek the Far-seeing. Photo p.10, Alysandre. Photos p.11 and top of p.12 from Marian Staarveld. Lower photo p. 12, Gabriel. Photo p.13, Alys Photo p.14, Louisa