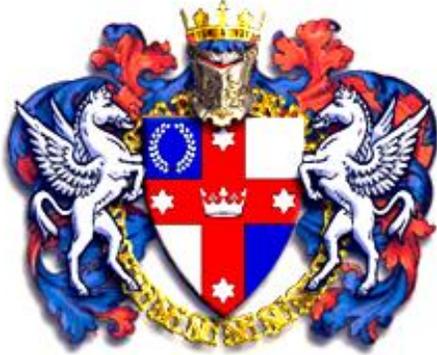


Kingdom of Lothac



Baronies



Shires



Introduction

Lothac has always been an exceptional and unique branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). She is one of only two Kingdoms that rule the Southern Hemisphere, and currently comprises the entirety of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, and the Bass Strait. This makes Lothac the Kingdom governing the largest combined land and sea area in the SCA. She is also the only Kingdom in the Knowne Worlde that was born from two parent Kingdoms – The West Kingdom and the Kingdom of Caid.

The name “Lothac” was discovered in a book of Marco Polo’s travels (1250) by Alexandro d’Argenteria, and was supported by a member poll to become the name of the Crown Principality in 1984. Apparently, the name is based on one of the names that the Chinese used to call this region.

The Kingdom arms are based on the design of a previous group who had attempted and failed to start the SCA in Australia prior to 1980. The colours of red, blue and white are the same as those on the Australian and New Zealand flags and the stars represent the Southern Cross, which is also used as a symbol of these two countries.

Timeline Summary

The groups that became Lothac formed in 1981, separately and independently, in Australia and New Zealand.

The Origins and Growth of the SCA in Australia

Lothac began as a group of gamers in Sydney, New South Wales (Australia) who heard distant rumours of the SCA and decided it sounded like fun. This group was initially known as the Kingdom of Cumberland, eventually becoming known as the Barony of Rowany.

What began as a small number of enthusiastic gamers in 1980 grew to 95 members (excluding Aneala – Perth, Western Australia) by September 1985, and to 1,489 members by December 2015.

The Origins and Growth of the SCA in New Zealand

Three geographically separate groups form the foundation of the SCA in New Zealand. In 1981, Elidan of Teonar and Sable John of the Franks from the Kingdom of Atlantia moved to Christchurch, New Zealand (South Island) and decided to start an SCA group there, with the first feast being held in 1982.

In 1994, Marienna Jensdatter called a meeting for anyone interested in forming an SCA group in Auckland, New Zealand (Northern North Island). Then, around August 1999, a third SCA group formed in Wellington, in the south of the North Island.

The collective SCA groups of New Zealand became known as the Crescent Isles due to the three crescents that appear as the primary charges on Caid’s Kingdom arms. From small beginnings, the Crescent Isles has since grown to 164 paying members as at December 2015 (AS 50).

Joining the SCA

In 1982, delegates from the Australian group travelled to America on a Kingdom shopping expedition carrying partitions of support from the various members. They visited the West Kingdom, Caid, Atenveldt, and Ansteorra. The conclusion of this expedition was for the Australian group to become the Marche Barony of Outrémer under the Kingdom of the West.

With a growing group established in Christchurch, New Zealand, it was decided to petition Kingdoms for support. The Kingdom of Caid answered the call, becoming the parent Kingdom of the fledgling group in June 1983. Formal recognition came on 26 November, 1983 with the emergence of the Shire of Southron Gaard. On 1 September, 1996 the Auckland, New Zealand group was elevated to the Shire of Ildhafn in the Kingdom of Caid, and the Darton, New Zealand group was elevated to the Shire of Darton in the Kingdom of Caid in April 2002.

The Crown Principality

The members of the Australian region (now referred to as Lochac) wanted to establish a national identity. It was decided by the Lochac Chancellor (the legal officer/adviser of the group - Hrölf Herjölfssen) that the Australian SCA membership was too small to become a Principality straight away, however, with the Barony of Rowany, Aneala Scir, and two incipient Shires of Innigard and River Haven, the membership was too large and disperse to be a single Barony. As such, the Lochac Chancellor convinced the Board that Lochac should instead become the first Crown Principality of the SCA – a previously unheard of group type. A Crown Principality is essentially a Principality with training wheels on, with the Viceroy and Vicereine only able to give out Awards of Arms. Since Lochac created the first Crown Principality, there have been several others in the US at various times.

In conceding to the petition to proclaim Lochac a Crown Principality, King James and Queen Verena of the West Kingdom signed the Charter of Lochac in October 1984, at which time the Rods of State were presented to a representative of Lochac. Following this, King Thomas and Queen Trista of the West Kingdom proclaimed Lochac a Crown Principality of the West on 5 January 1985.

An extremely long scroll (several feet long) was written petitioning the West Kingdom for Lochac to become a Crown Principality. The scroll included signatures of as many of the Lochac populace as possible, hence its long length. When the West conceded to the petition, they declared that the long scroll (excluding signatures) had to be read aloud at each Viceregal Tournament. It took a long time to read out, and was intended to encourage Lochac to ditch the Crown Principality and become a full Principality. The Crown Principality was also gifted a Royal pavilion by the Kingdom of the West. It was the first of its kind in Lochac and was well received.

The Principality

King Jade and Queen Anastasia declared Lochac a full Principality of the West on 11 July 1987 (AS 22). Thirty-six Princes and Princesses governed the Principality before Lochac advanced to Kingdom status on 6 July 2002. In the far west of the country, Aneala Scir and her Canton of Abertridwr initially opted not to join the Principality, instead becoming a Marche Barony of the West Kingdom. It returned to Lochac in 1989 as the Barony of Aneala.

The Kingdom

The Coronation of the first Crown of Lochac was held over a weekend of celebrations and tournaments hosted by the Barony of Politarchopolis (Canberra, Australia). The event was attended by more than 450 people, including visitors from other Kingdoms in the Known World. It began with a ball to honour Prince Gawyne and Princess Yve on Friday, 5 July 2002. The following day, the last Court of the West in Lochac was held, in which every Principality Officer formally resigned their post, all landed Barons and Baronesses stepped aside and returned their coronets to the Crown, and every Peer of the Realm was released from fealty to the Kingdom of the West.

On Saturday 6 July 2002 (AS 36), Lochac became the 17th Kingdom of the Known World at the hands of King Jade and Queen Megan of the West Kingdom, with Viscount Sir Alfar of Attica and Viscountess Gudrun Bodvarsdottir crowned as the first King and Queen.

The Kingdom has always had two reigns per year, with Crown Tournaments occurring in May and November, and Coronations occurring at Twelfth Night and Midwinter. As the SCA celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Kingdom of Lochac is governed by its 28th Reign.

One Kingdom Forged From Two

After a member poll, it was announced at May Crown 2003 that the Crescent Isles (the SCA groups in New Zealand formerly part of the Kingdom of Caid) were to join the Kingdom of Lochac. At this event a soteltie made by Catherine of Arrowsreach was presented to celebrate the occasion: a gingerbread crown filled with gingerbreads in the shapes of the North and South islands of New Zealand (the Crescent Isles), Tasmania (Ynys Fawr) and mainland Australia (Terra Rosa) were all hidden under a blanket displaying the Lochac device. A kangaroo and a Kiwi were tucked under the blanket together, resting their heads on little pillows. The Barony of Southron Gaard joined Lochac first in May 2003. The Shire of Ildhafn joined Lochac soon after, being immediately elevated to a Barony in the new Kingdom, and the Shire of Darton also joined the Kingdom of Lochac.

Lochac Today

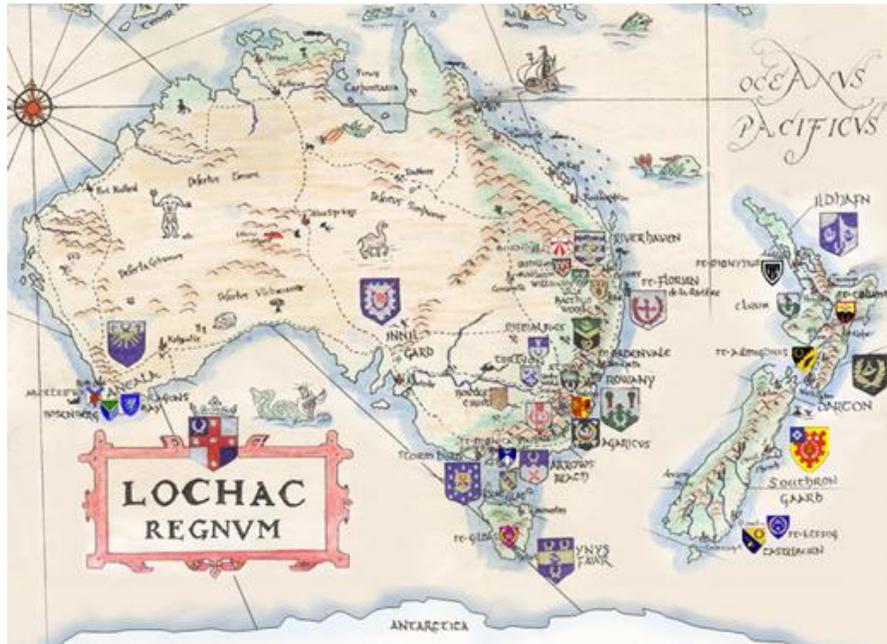
Lochac has grown much over her 20 years since becoming a Crown Principality of the West Kingdom. Membership has grown from a small handful of enthusiastic gamers in 1980 to over 1,600 official SCA Australia and New Zealand members in 2016 with membership almost doubling in Lochac over the past five years.

The Kingdom has an online presence through her [website](#)¹, [Facebook group](#)², [online mailing list](#)³, [Memories of Lochac](#)⁴ history website, and a newsletter titled [Pegasus](#)⁵.

Lochac today is made up of 34 active groups across Australia and New Zealand – 12 Baronies, 5 Shires, 8 Cantons, 7 Colleges, and 2 Hamlets. Lochac can also be divided up into several regions, including: the Crescent Isles (New Zealand), the Northern Reaches (Queensland, Australia), Terra Rosa (mainland Australia), Ynys Rhew (Australian Antarctica), and the Great White Southern Lands (New Zealand Antarctica).

As at January 2016 (AS 50), there are 88 Companions of the Order of Chivalry (45 made by Lochac), 133 Companions of the Order of the Laurel, 173 Companions of the Order of the Pelican, and 5 Companions of the Order of Defence in Lochac. The Kingdom also has 21 Companions of the Polling Order known as Lochac's Company of Archers.

Figure: Map of Lochac, hand-drawn by Lord Benedict Stonhewer of Askerigg and updated by Lord Ronan mac Brian.



One of the truly unique things about this Kingdom is Lochac's archery rules, which tend to differ from the rest of the Known World in two fundamental aspects:

- Non-contact participants are allowed to enter a war, called 'plumed combatants' because they wear a large, obvious plume atop their helmet to signify that they must not be hit by a non-archery weapon.
- Wooden arrow shafts with special-made rubber stoppers on the end are allowed and frequently used. As a result, all combatants in a war containing archery must wear mesh on their visors.

Though geographically isolated, Lochac's populace engages with the rest of the Known World regularly. There is a Lochac encampment each year at Pennsic War, with consistent attendance from Lochac since Pennsic 19. Several others have visited Estrella War, and many have moved to other Kingdoms. Conversely, Lochac hosts visitors from time to time from other Kingdoms. Mistress Hilary of Serendip, Sir William the Lucky, Master Eric and Mistress Kathe Willig von Mainz from the West Kingdom were the first to visit Lochac in AS 17. Since then, many have visited from the West Kingdom, Caid, the East Kingdom, Atlantia, and Drachenwald, to name a few.

Another claim to fame for Lochac is the Pen Gwynne War (held on 5-6 December, AS27), which was the first southern hemisphere war to be fought between two Kingdoms; the Kingdom of the West, represented by the Principality of Lochac, and the Kingdom of Caid, represented by the Southern Reaches (the informal name used to cover the various groups and incipient groups within New Zealand at the time). It was fought over claims to Antarctica.

¹ Kingdom website: <http://lochac.sca.org/lochac/>

² Lochac Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/lochac/>

³ Lochac Announce – the official Kingdom email list: <http://www.lochac.sca.org/mailman/listinfo/lochac-announce>

⁴ *Memories of Lochac* – the Kingdom of Lochac's history website: <http://history.lochac.sca.org/>

⁵ *Pegasus*, the Kingdom newsletter: <http://lochac.sca.org/lochac/info/chronicler/pegasus.html>

This short history was written by The Honourable Baroness Ceara Shionnach for the SCA 50 Year written histories project