

Greetings,

This is a very short report about the Society for Anachronism, Inc.'s Archives. Laura Pate, Mistress Celestine de Chatham, and John Fulton, Duke John the Bearkiller, had an opportunity to visit the Archives last summer for a few days. The intent was to get a complete grasp of what was stored there and report back to the Board and the membership. What we found was astonishing. The Archives contain written and printed material, along with some fascinating artifacts, that have been produced by individuals, groups, Kingdoms, and the Society over the last fifty years. The Archives contain a wide array of items that demonstrate why the SCA was created and why it has continued. The Archives traveled a good deal prior to 2002 before being housed in its current location. Since then it has grown and been lovingly tended.

The SCA Archives are currently being held at the home of Charles Alderson, the SCA Archivist. Charles, (or CT as he prefers to be called), is known in the Society as Master Aldred von Lechsend aus Froschheim. Mr. Alderson has been the SCA Archivist since 2002. He is assisted in the varied tasks involved with the office by his wife, daughter, and local SCA volunteers.

The Archives are housed in a 32' long by 12' wide by 20' high wooden shed in the back yard of Mr. Alderson. The SCA Archives share space with the Kingdom of Caid Archives. CT is also Caid's Archivist. The SCA Archives use about 60% of the storage building with the remainder being used by Caid's Archives and a small section holding Mr. Alderson's personal books.

The SCA Archives are kept in 127 boxes along with 11 filing cabinet drawers in multiple filing cabinets. The 127 boxes are stored on wooden shelves built along each wall. Additional boxes on the shelves contain donated and historical items in addition to documents. This currently allows for 6 shelves high, 10 columns of shelves, and 4 boxes to a shelf (240). There is space on the existing shelves to accommodate another 12 boxes. The building does have space available for expansion, when such needs becomes necessary.



The Oldest labeled box is dated 1969 to 1973. There is 1 box per year until 1980, and 3 boxes per year until 1989. Year 1990 begins 4 boxes and continues through 2005, when the collection again declines to 3 boxes. Beginning with 2014 the collection returns to one box per year, which Mr. Alderson believes is due to the conversion to electronic newsletters.

At the time of our visit only 13 older boxes had not been sorted. The items in those boxes will be arranged into labeled folders depending on what type of material they contain. Mr. Alderson and his team have kept current on more recent items donated or acquired.

We did get the opportunity to glance through several of the unsorted boxes. There is one box of Exchequer Files (2001/2002) received in April 2002 when Mr. Alderson took over as Archivist. Mr. Fulton contacted the Office about this and it was agreed Mr. Alderson should shred the files. That was done before we left. Most of the other unsorted boxes contained back issues of *Tournaments Illuminated*, *Complete Anachronist* and several issues of the *South Winds Newsletter*. It is CT's goal to collect at least two copies each of every edition of *Tournaments Illuminated* and *The Complete Anachronist*.

As mentioned earlier, the Archives also include 11 filing cabinet drawers in several different filing cabinets. Within these cabinets are 2 drawers of older Board Minutes & Society Officers reports (there are Board of Director's Minutes as early as 1972); 3 drawers with folders of material still to be sorted; and 2 drawers holding duplicates of *Tournaments Illuminated*. The remaining 4 drawers hold a complete set of *Tournaments Illuminated* and *The Complete Anachronist*.

At one time the Archives housed Heraldry and College of Arms material. Three pallets (60 plus boxes) had been kept and moved around for several years. The Society Herald's office finished scanning all material and those boxes were then shredded with approval. The only Heraldry or CoA documents the SCA Archives currently contains are Administrative Files. Unfortunately these files are not complete. There are very few Officers Reports from Society, Kingdoms or local groups from within any Kingdom being held within the Archives. What reports there are, are mainly from local Kingdom Officers from various Kingdoms.

Two copies of each kingdom newsletter is mailed each month to the SCA Archives. The newsletters arrive in 1 box from the Printer. Mr. Alderson tries to keep 2 of everything as common archival practice. If he receives more than 2 of a single item Mr. Alderson either files the extras with originals or, in the case of *Tournaments Illuminated*, there is a separate file drawer. Before electronic newsletters became standard practice, the Archive office received a great deal more examples/copies of local and Kingdom publications.

We found an old Board set of Minutes dated April 8, 1974 that said copies of *Tournaments Illuminated* were being put on microfilm. There is no evidence that was done.

In addition to the physical collection, Mr. Alderson maintains an electronic SCA Archive as well. A partial list of what is on file includes newsletters (both Kingdom and



John Fulton at the SCA Archives

local); a List of past Board members created using his current files and online sources starting from July 1968 - January 1999; 2 documents

BR: Andrew of Riga, Andre de Sabastapol, Polue flait ni Cualachta FR: Carol of Bellatrix and Paul of Bellatrix
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about an Order of the Rose query that includes the History of the Order; and a history of Atenveldt written by Arthur of Lockhaven. Mr. Alderson also maintains a list of Bod Minutes and/or Agendas. electronically.

Although the building is not temperature controlled, there are 2 doors at each end which provide good air flow for reasonable comfort. Mr. Alderson lives in Parris, California, which is known for its dry-summer subtropical Mediterranean climate. Humidity is low. This works well for outdoor, non-climate controlled storage. There was a termite problem discovered last year but the building was quickly repaired and treated, and only a few items were lost. Of note among the lost items was an older copy of the By-Laws and Corpora. Fortunately, two copies were found in the Caid Archives while we were there, so thankfully one was donated to the SCA Archives by Mr. Alderson.

The SCA Archives use standard Banker Boxes. The cost is 6 for \$20.00. Archival Boxes are available but they are very costly. Examples of storage boxes being considered for future use are Museum Archival (metal edges/acid free cost \$30.00 each), Weather Tight storage boxes (cost \$35 each). Plastic Storage boxes are also another option.

Mr. Alderson would like to continue to grow the Archives and possibly widen the sort and type on information and material saved. He has asked for more donations from the membership and for additional direction from the Board. Mr. Alderson will be attending the January 19, 2019 meeting in San Diego to discuss the maintenance and growth of this precious resource that contains a significant amount of our Society's history.

For questions regarding the Archives please contact: CT Alderson at archivist@sca.org.

Donation items can be sent to:
SCA Archive, c/o CT Alderson,
22650 Markham Street, Perris, CA
92570

Please contact CT if you are
interested in visiting the Archives

In service to the Society,

Laura Pate

John Fulton

A copy of the October 1968
Affidavit for Incorporation
by Jon De Cles as Steward/
President and Diana Paxson
Studebaker as Mistress of
Arts/Secretary.



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AFFIDAVIT

State of California) ss.
Alameda County

JON DE CLES and DIANA PAXSON STUDEBAKER, being first duly sworn, each for himself, deposes and says:

(Steward) (President)

That JOHN DE CLES is the Steward and that DIANA PAXSON STUDEBAKER is the Mistress of Arts of the SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, said offices being equivalent, respectively, to President and Secretary; that said association has duly authorized its incorporation and has authorized the undersigned, as said officers, to execute the Articles of Incorporation.

Jon De Cles

JON DE CLES

Diana Paxson Studebaker

DIANA PAXSON STUDEBAKER

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of October, 1968.

OFFICIAL SEAL
EDWIN V. McHENRY
NOTARY PUBLIC, CALIFORNIA
PRINCIPAL OFFICE
1000 1/2 STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

Edwin V. McHenry

Notary Public, State of California