

Frequently Asked Questions for the Merry Rose Tavern at Cheapside

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This document is a list of the most Frequently Asked Questions on the mailing list hosted at atlantia@atlantia.sca.org (also known as the Merry Rose Tavern at Cheapside, or simply, the Merry Rose). The mailing list serves as a vehicle for discussion within the Kingdom of Atlantia of the Society for Creative Anachronism. For more information the reader is referred to the Frequently Asked Questions from the Rialto (rec.org.sca, FAQ located at <http://rialto.ansteorra.org/sca-faq.html>). This document also contains Lady Anarra's Little Book of List Etiquette (Copyright (c) 1996,2001 Terry L. Neill).

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1 The Merry Rose Tavern at Cheapside

1.1 What is the Merry Rose? What's it for?

The Merry Rose is what is normally called a mailing list or mail exploder. People send messages to one central address, which then turns around and resends that message out to a list of people that has subscribed to the list. The Merry Rose exists to discuss topics of interest to the Kingdom of Atlantia in the Society for Creative Anachronism. The SCA is a non-profit, educational organization of people that study the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and recreate those parts we find interesting.

1.2 Why is it called the Merry Rose? Why is it sometimes called Cheapside?

People in the SCA use a medieval name instead of their real name in order to get more into the mindset of the past. This also extends to other things that have to do with the SCA. The Merry Rose is supposedly a tavern where people gather to gossip and exchange ideas. It is sometimes called Cheapside because when we were deciding on a name, everyone had a suggestion and they sort of all got combined together. Cheapside is a section of London and the Merry Rose Tavern is located there.

1.3 How do I post to the Merry Rose? Why don't some of my posts make it to the list?

To post messages to the Merry Rose they must be sent to atlantia@atlantia.sca.org. This will resend them to everyone on the list, including yourself, unless you have instructed the software not to send you posts sent by yourself. It used to be that anyone could send posts to the list, but unfortunately mailing lists are a prime target for spammers so sometime in 1999-2000 the list went to a subscribers only posting policy. Exceptions to this rule, if there is a good reason are available, please contact the list keeper, kendrick@wayfarer.org for more information. When you receive a post from the list and you try to reply to it, you must make sure that the address it is going to is atlantia@atlantia.sca.org. Some mailers try to send it back to owner-atlantia@atlantia.sca.org. This address doesn't go to the list, it only goes to the list administrators. Another reason may be that if you try to send a message to a large group of people our mail system may reject the message because the mail header is too long. If this is the case, try resending your message just to the Merry Rose by itself. Finally, a third reason some posts don't make it to the list is that our system tries to be smart and intercept messages that it thinks are asking for help. It then sends them to the list administrator instead of the list. This problem is being worked on.

1.4 How do I subscribe to the Merry Rose? How do I unsubscribe?

All subscription/configuration requests are handled by a web page. Please see <http://seahorse.atlantia.sca.org/listinfo.cgi/atlantia-atlantia.sca.org> for more information. If you do not have web access, you can send a message to atlantia-request@atlantia.sca.org for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe via e-mail.

1.5 How do I add my SCA name to the listing along with my e-mail address?

The first place the list was hosted allowed people to add comments besides their e-mail address to the main list, but our current place uses a newer version of the software that is set to strip those comments out, and only keep the e-mail address. This is done because many times those comments were not formatted correctly and just ended up being problems for the list administrators.

1.6 What are those lines at the end of every message?

The mailing list software that we are using has been configured to add those lines to the end of every message sent out in order to remind people about various places for list information. When you quote someone's message in a reply, you should take care to delete those lines so they won't end up in the message twice (or more times).

1.7 Is there a digest for the Merry Rose?

Yes, after operating for almost two years, the Merry Rose finally got a digest version. If you would rather get one large message once in a while, rather than a bunch of small ones, you might consider subscribing to the digest instead of the main list. The digest saves all the messages posted to the main list and periodically sends them out in one big mail message.

1.8 How do I subscribe to the digest? How do I unsubscribe?

To change your subscription to digest mode, please see the web page <http://seahorse.atlantia.sca.org/listinfo.cgi/atlantia-atlantia.sca.org> for more information. If you do not have web access, you can send a message to atlantia-request@atlantia.sca.org for instructions on how to set digest mode via e-mail.

1.9 If I'm subscribed to the digest, how do I post to the list?

Posting is the same regardless of whether you're subscribed to the digest or the main list. See section 1.3 (How do I post to the Merry Rose?) for more information.

1.10 Can I have the Merry Rose not send me messages while I'm on vacation?

Yes, see the web page <http://seahorse.atlantia.sca.org/listinfo.cgi/atlantia-atlantia.sca.org> for more information. If you do not have web access, you can send a message to atlantia-request@atlantia.sca.org for instructions on how to set no-mail mode via e-mail. Remember to turn mail back on when you come back. :-)

1.11 Is there a web page for the Merry Rose?

Yes! You can find more information about the Merry Rose at <http://merryrose.atlantia.sca.org/>. There you can find links to the frequently asked questions and the archives, along with links to the Kingdom of Atlantia and SCA web pages.

1.12 Where can I get back posts from the Merry Rose?

Posts from the Merry Rose (except those before January 1995) are archived and can be found at several locations. Posts between January 1995 and June 1999 can be found at <http://merryrose.atlantia.sca.org/archive/>. Posts after January 2001 can be found at <http://seahorse.atlantia.sca.org/pipermail/atlantia-atlantia.sca.org/>. Posts between July 1999 and January 2001 are currently not available publicly but the hope is that they will be soon. If you need to find a post within this time period, please e-mail the listkeeper kendrick@wayfarer.org.

1.13 Is there a badge for the Merry Rose people?

There is an unofficial badge that was presented to Lord Kendrick Wayfarer at the Storvik Baronial Investiture in March of 1995. The blazon is

(fieldless) On the seeds of a rose barbed and seeded proper, in fess two roundels in pale, a billet fesswise and an increscent, all sable.

which is heraldese for a rose with a smiley on it. :-) There have been rumors of badges to be made, but as of yet none have surfaced. You can see what it looks like at the 1.11 (Merry Rose website).

1.14 Why do I keep hearing about a northern principality?

The topic of a principality in the northern reaches of Atlantia is one that seems to crop up every now and then. This list was created in the midst of some of these talks and therefore received a lion's share of posts on it near the beginning. That has since tapered off, but you may still hear people talk about it now and then. Apparently this issue is able to galvanize people on both sides into almost despising the people on the other, while those who don't feel strongly either way get caught in the middle.

1.15 Oh no, I just heard about the latest computer virus! Should I send a message to the Merry Rose so everyone else can hear about it too?

No, absolutely not! The Merry Rose is a list about SCA stuff, specifically concerning SCA stuff in the Kingdom of Atlantia. It is the **most inappropriate** place to which you could possibly send your information. Also, not everyone uses the same kind of computer you do, so your "important information" about the latest MS-Windows virus may not even affect a lot of the people you end up sending your message to. I'm not saying you shouldn't tell your friends, just that the Merry Rose is the **wrong** way to go about it.

Here are some places you can look to find out about virus hoaxes and urban legends. (Note that it is very likely that these URLs do not exist anymore. If you find one that is broken, please e-mail the FAQ maintainer at kendrick@wayfarer.org.)

- <http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>
- <http://kumite.com/myths/>
- <http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>
- <http://www.icsa.net/services/consortia/anti-virus/alerthoax.shtml>

- <http://www.hoaxkill.com>
- <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>
- <http://kumite.com/myths/>
- <http://www.snopes.com/>
- <http://www.europe.datafellows.com/news/hoax/index.html>
- <http://www.nonprofit.net/hoax/hoax.html>

1.16 Should I send pictures, attachments, etc... to the list?

No. Although most modern mailers can automatically handle binary attachments to e-mail messages, not all of them can. In addition, the Merry Rose digest is constructed by concatenating a bunch of e-mail messages together and sending them all out as one message. If you attach a picture to your message to the list, all the people receiving the digest will get is a bunch of junk. If you have pictures that you took at an event that you want everyone to see, please put them up on a web page and send a message to the list informing everyone of their location, but please don't send them to the list.

1.17 Is this FAQ available in other formats (i.e. pdf) so I can print it out?

Yes, you can find this FAQ in [text](#) , [postscript](#) , [PDF](#) , and [SGML](#) format at the [1.11](#) (Merry Rose website).

1.18 But wait, you haven't answered the question *I* had?

No, problem. Just send any other questions you may have to kendrick@wayfarer.org so I can answer them for you and add them to this document so other people can find them too.

2 Lady Anarra's Little Book of List Etiquette ;)

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The Society for Creative Anachronism revolves around ideals of Chivalry and Honor. Etiquette is merely an extension of those ideals.

When posting to the list, please bear these simple rules in mind:

Trim the message you are replying to. In other words, do not quote the entire message then tack your message on to the end. This is extremely annoying! Instead, cut all but the relevant part of the post and add your reply to that.

Add substance to the discussion. Resist the impulse to post a "Me too" or "I agree" message to the list. If you agree, state some reasons why. Add value.

Stay on topic. This is a list to discuss aspects of the SCA, medieval history, and Atlantian topics. It is not a place for virus warnings or the latest modern political jokes.

Change your subject line. If your reply drifts the discussion from the original topic, change the subject line to reflect that. Many people delete mail un-read based on the subject line. If you've got inspirational things

to say about Viking Longship construction, make sure your subject line doesn't say "(SILLY) Hagar the Horrible!"

Post items of general interest to the list. Send personal notes to the person.

"Mary, remember that discussion we had last week?"

is inappropriate.

"Lady Mary and I were discussing exactly the same thing last week and we thought..."

is very appropriate.

Make sure your message is addressed ONLY to the list. There are few things more annoying or wasteful of disk space than getting two (or more!) copies of every message. If your e-mail program automatically replies to all then make sure you delete the person's personal address (or delete the list address if it's a personal message).

Be polite. It seems like it wouldn't be necessary to say this in an SCA FAQ. Unfortunately it is. The print-only medium of the e-mail environment makes misunderstandings common. The reply feature makes angry posts easy to send. Re-read your post before you send it. Would you say that to the person's face? In front of someone who's good opinion you value? Assume there has been a misunderstanding and strive to correct it.

"Do you really mean to say that East Kingdom Sheep are superior to Atlantian ones?"

is MUCH better than

"You idiot! How dare you insult Atlantia's sheep! You should be thrown out of the Order of the Hooked Crook immediately!"

If you have a problem with a post or poster, send a private message. Posting chastising messages in public does not help to solve the situation.

Do not post private e-mail on a public forum without permission from the sender.

"Lord John wrote to me the other day that he liked court."

is appropriate.

"Lord John wrote to me the other day: 'I like court because I can get in a good nap.'"

is not appropriate.

Realize that a large portion of the Atlantian populace does not have access to the Merry Rose. Issues discussed here cannot turn into 'decisions' without input from the rest of the kingdom. The Merry Rose supplements, not replaces, conventional means of communication.

Make sure you're sending posts in ASCII and not with foreign characters like accents and umlauts. Some American mail programs cannot read non-ASCII characters.

Several e-mail programs balk at HTML-encoded e-mail. So if you have Outlook or some other HTML-friendly program, please set your mail format options to "Plain Text" instead of HTML.

Finally - enjoy the discussions generated here. Share them with your non-e-mail friends!