

Photos for SCA Websites

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Outline

Equipment

Planning

Composing

Editing

Using your pictures

General Guidelines

Many cell phone cameras are sufficient

Larger lens cameras are more flexible

Take lots of shots - “film” in the digital age is free, battery may be your limiting factor

Start with full auto mode

If you are unhappy with the pictures' exposure, blur, depth of field, see backup slides for manual adjustment suggestions. We will go over many of these terms, as they come up.

A little bit about equipment before we start

- While you are learning, use what you have.
- Once you understand your needs, adjust your equipment.
- If you decide to purchase a new camera, research it a lot.
- Often times the best camera for the job is what you can easily reach from your basket or pouch.
- If somebody else has a better camera, ask for help.
- Most of the photographs in this presentation were shot with a cell phone camera.
- Huge camera files can be a problem to upload, sometimes simpler is better.

SLR vs Cell Phone

Same lighting,
Same black background



Canon 50D SLR



Google Pixel XL Cell Phone

Take lots of Pictures!!!

- Remember digital film is free, but have spare batteries
- If you use 10% of your shots, you're doing great!



Before taking Pictures: Look at your surroundings:



Watch your backgrounds - cars, portajohns, coolers, soda cans, signs etc. can distract. (Be aware of these things before you begin photographing your items and you will not need to remove them later.)



Planning your Pictures: What story are you telling?

Illustrating an object?

Describing a technique?

Documenting a process?

Recording an event?

Or do you just want to do it all?



Planning your Pictures:

What pictures do you need?

Single shot of finished item?

Close ups of portions of item?

Shots of each stage of a process or technique?

Is a carefully composed studio picture or a “candid” field picture better?



Item Detailed Shot

- Include a shot of the full item to give context.
- Then include a close-in shot of the detail that you want to highlight.



Single item shots

- Studio photo or a staged grouping of items. What tells your story the way you want it heard.



Home Photo Studios (Part 1)

- To photograph a single item it is helpful to have a small studio. This way you can control what the viewer sees. You can make a small studio or purchase one.
- We did both and I like the purchased one, because it stores almost flat. More on this later.



Backdrops



Visual Interest?

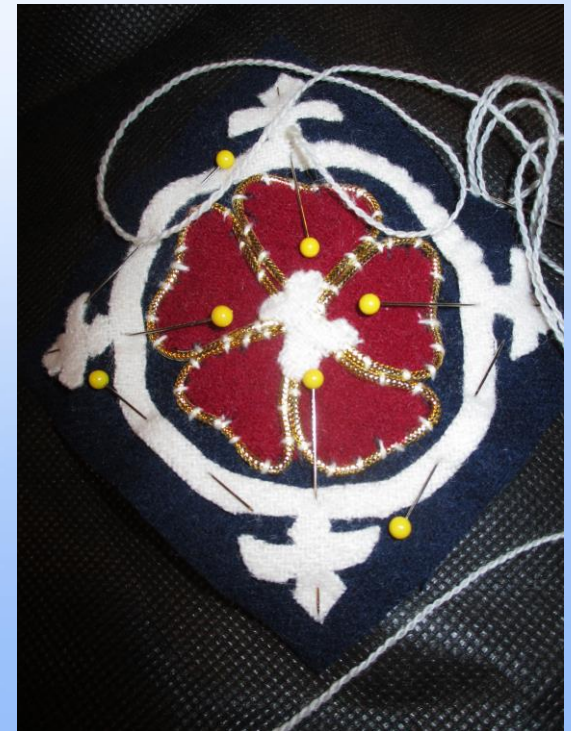


Angles



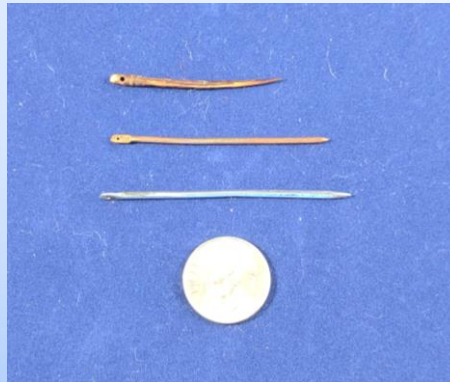
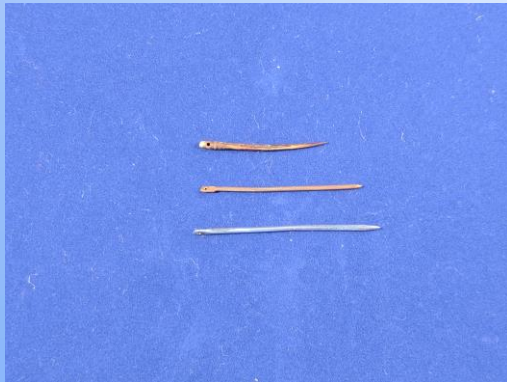
Horizontal or Vertical

- Take both, especially if you are taking pictures that you do not know, when you are going to use them. Otherwise you will want what you do not have for your page layout.
- You can rotate or crop a picture, but they can look odd.



Planning your Pictures: Composing your pictures

Is scale clear? - if necessary include
a ruler or coin to illustrate size



Positioning your Work



Shooting Clothing

- The best picture of your garb will be a picture taken of you wearing it.
- If the item no longer fits you, and wearing it is not an option, find an appropriate person to model it or use a dress form.



Please Iron your Clothing

- If you are taking the time to make a web page of your work make sure it looks the best that it can.
- That means removing wrinkles, pet hair, lint, etc.
- Again control what the viewer can see by watching your background.



Portrait Photography

- This could be a whole college level course.
- There are several SCA folks who are quite good at this. Take advantage of their skill and time.
- Make sure you can post/share their work.
- Say “Thank you” for their gift of a nice flattering picture of you in your garb.
- Should you be interested in a mug shot photos, then we can probably help you.

“How to” Pictures

- If possible, think about how you want to write the article or web post before you begin shooting pictures.
- If possible, have somebody else take these pictures of you doing the work.
- You know how to hold your hands and what to focus on. Plus you cannot be in two places at once.
- You may have to repeat these pictures, if you did not explain to the photographer exactly what you wanted.
- Again take lots of pictures, especially if you are doing something that you will not be repeating. You can always skip using a picture.

Pictures needed to show Process

- How to dye



These were not shot at the same time;
Do as I say, not as I do.

Planning your Outdoor Pictures: Composing your pictures

Is lighting good on your subject (person, object, detail of interest)?



Planning your Pictures: Composing your pictures

Rule of thirds - Mentally draw horizontal and vertical lines at $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ of picture. Align major object with a line for a more interesting shot



Horizon at 50%,
Path from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$.



Horizon at $\frac{2}{3}$. Path at 50%

Horizon at $\frac{1}{3}$, Cloud break at $\frac{2}{3}$



Lighting your outdoor pictures

Natural light

Use oblique lighting when possible

Golden hour - just after sunrise and just before sunset



Should you use a Flash?

Maybe?

Try to avoid direct flash

not flattering (wash out, red-eye, reflection)

may distract

Even when museums allow it, it is hard to shoot into a glass case with flash



Drawstring Bag
England, 1620-1623
Silk, metallic threads, linen ground, wood
1956-534

Shield-Shaped Purse
Probably England, 1700-1740
Silk, silver metallic threads, steel
Anonymous gift, 1971-1464

Shield-Shaped Purse
Probably France
Silk, silver gift
1985-224

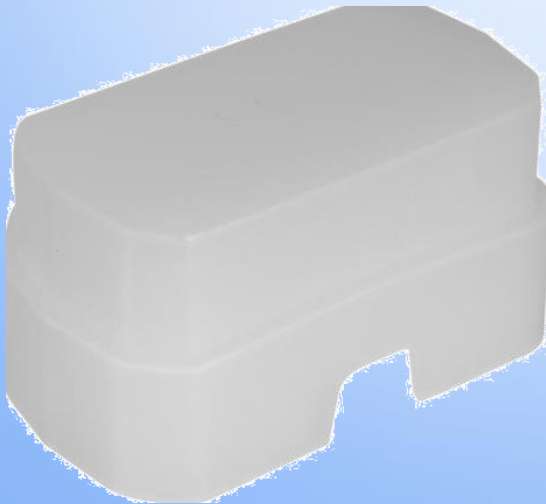
Flash

When flash is allowed or is the correct tool for the job, try to diffuse it.

Bounce flash

Diffuser

Reflective umbrella



SCA photo etiquette

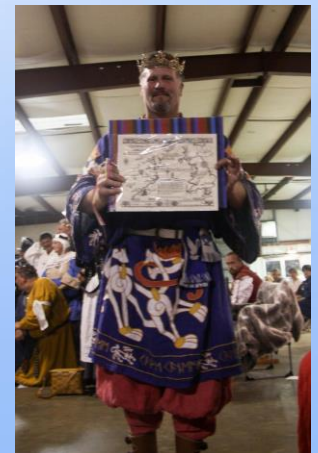
Do not distract from court or other ceremonies

No flash

Stay put - moving around distracts

Stand out of view of people watching the event - off to the side or on the floor down front

If I show up in event pictures with a camera on my face - one of us was in a bad spot.



SCA photo etiquette

Need releases from photographer and subjects to use on official webpages or newsletters

Photographer can complete a “blanket” release for SCA use

When in doubt, ask permission

Home Photo Studios

Photo tents

Portrait

Light well or use a tripod



Portrait Studios can be portable and inexpensive.



Photo tents: Start at \$14 on Amazon. Watch Sizes!

Homemade Light Tent



- Select cardboard box of appropriate size.
- Remove top, cut away most of 3 sides
- Tape 2 layers of cheap interfacing over sides
- Make backdrop with uncreased, gradual curve of posterboard.

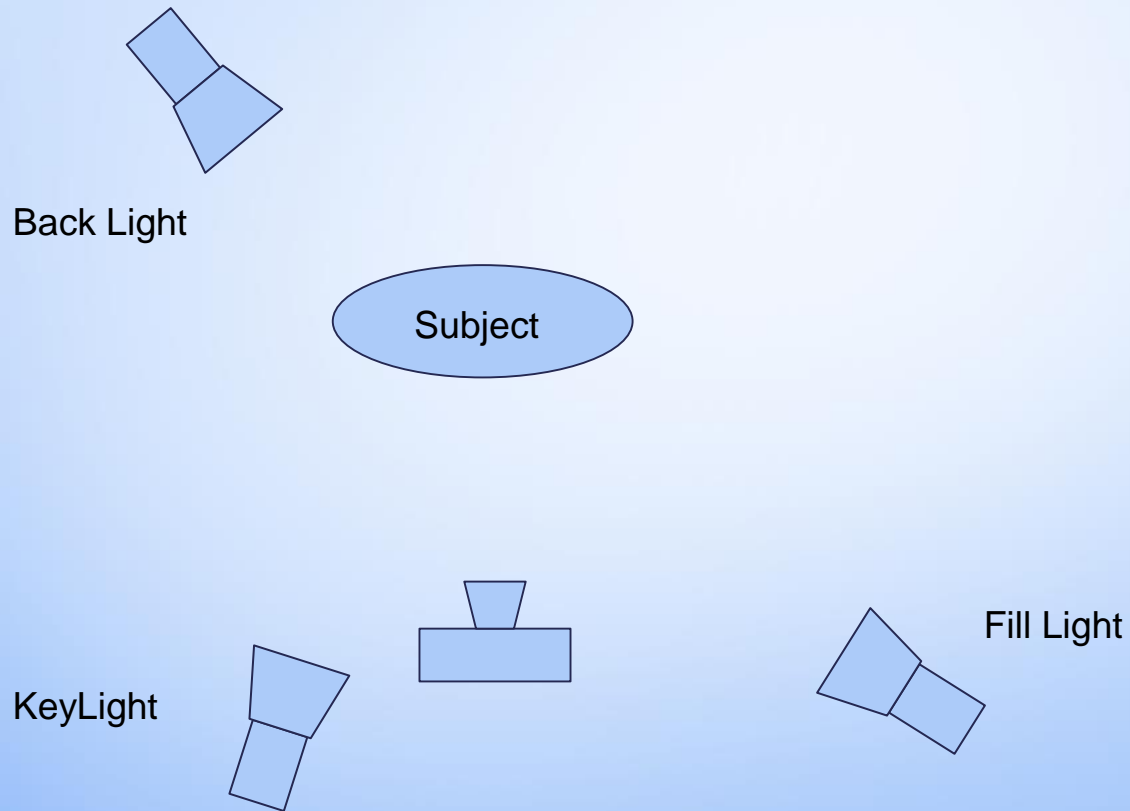


Light and Shoot

Simple Portable Portrait Studio



Classic, Simple, Portrait lighting



Learn from our Lighting Mistakes



Look at your pictures as you shoot in case you have bumped into a weird setting



This black and red tent looked fine to our eyes but confused the camera



We could see court, but the camera could not.

Editing your shots

Review all shots and select the best as a starting point.

Crop to focus attention

Adjust exposure to make image clear

Reduce resolution (and thus file size) for web use - loads faster and fits the page better

Cropping



Original picture



Cropped picture

Clean up Background Noise



Clean up your Background - Part 2

- Crop the photographer out of the shot before posting



Reshoot if you have to



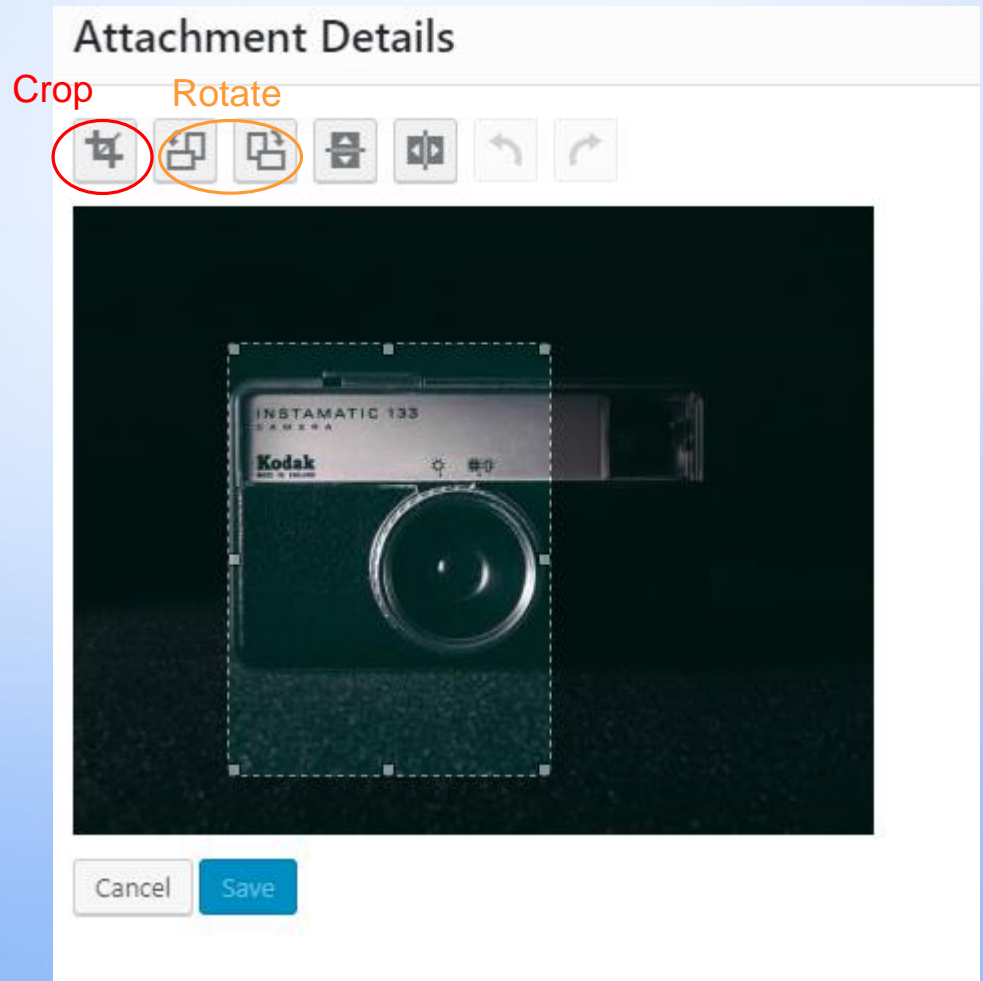
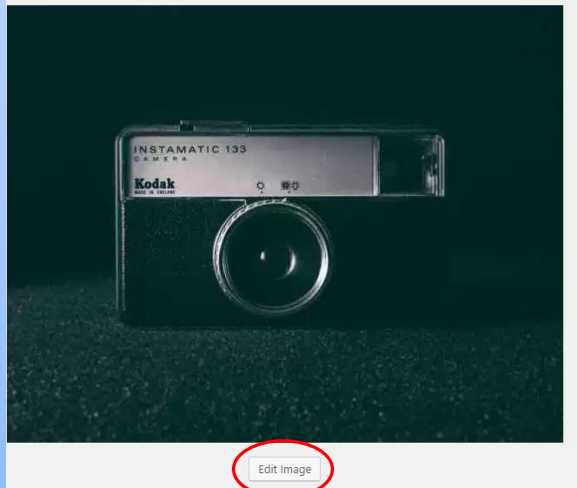
Washed out, showing lots of lint



Center in focus,
front and back blurry

Photo Editing in Wordpress

Scaling, cropping, and rotating is possible within Wordpress itself



Other Photo Editing Tools

GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP) www.gimp.org - FREE!

Adobe tools are expensive

- Photoshop (\$120+/yr) - overkill for this application
 - Quick selection tool great for cutting out from background
- Lightroom (\$150)- great for editing lots of pictures quickly
- Photoshop Elements (\$70) - relatively inexpensive
- Adobe has discounted student/teacher editions - need a student/teacher ID (middle/high school or college) or report card



Other options include Corel PaintShop Pro (\$28), Affinity Photo (\$50).

Also possible to edit pictures in Powerpoint or Publisher.

The Windows Snipping Tool can also be very useful.

Adding Pictures to your Website

Add text to describe what the picture is and to focus attention on your intended detail

Make it clear if part of the picture is other people's work

Longsword Postas

Fiore's longswordostas describe sword positions. These poses are generally more during a fight and can be executed with a wide variety of foot positions and weight. One particular pose is shown when the posta is described, but alternative poses are frequently used during plays that use the posta. Think of theostas as zones rather than poses to be meticulously duplicated.

One way to drill your understanding of theostas is to use our [Longsword Posta cards](#). The illustrations are from the [Getty museum's copy](#) of Fiore's book.

Tutta Porta di Ferro/Full Iron Gate



Tapestry



It is going to take me some time to get this section organized. I just wanted to get pictures up as I get occasional emails on this project. I seem to be stuck on the of embroidery. It is not busy enough and I cannot get the side panels on the tapestry to look right. Once I get past that hurdle, I have to figure out how to stabilize the project and a spot to hang it in my home. No point in putting my SCA story on a and putting it in a trunk.

Building the Machine

A Machine in Five Marks: Being a brief history of the development of Llwyd's Machine



Llwyd and his Mk I and Mk V versions of the Machine

Laying out your Website


Watch how you direct the viewers' eyes



Laying out your Website



Watch how you direct the viewers' eyes

The top-left corner of the slide features a series of overlapping, angled rectangular shapes. These shapes are colored in shades of dark blue, medium blue, and black, creating a modern, architectural feel. They appear to be part of a larger structure, possibly representing a camera's internal components or a stylized frame.

Basic Photo Exposure Theory

Advanced Topic

Not for Beginners

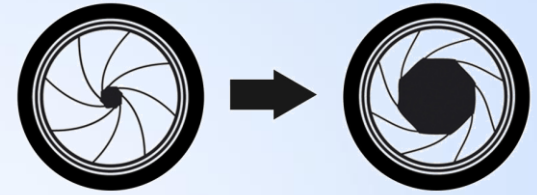
- This section is for cameras that are \$150 or more
- More expensive models will have more controls
- Cell phones generally do not have the controls mentioned

Shutter Speed



- How long is the camera absorbing the light for your picture?
- Longer shutter time needed for low light (e.g. evening court)
- Short shutter time appropriate for bright light
- Affects blur
- Use a tripod if longer than $\frac{1}{50}$ th of a second to avoid blur from hand shake
- Use “sports mode” or manual shutter speed setting to capture high speed movement

Aperture/"f-stop"



How much light the lens is letting into the camera

Affects depth-of-field

"Portrait mode" creates low depth of field to emphasize the subject and blur the background

Low f-stop (e.g. $f/3.5$) = open aperture = brighter picture = low depth of field

High f-stop (e.g. $f/18$) = small aperture = darker picture = high depth of field

Available apertures vary with the camera and lens. More flexibility is more expensive.

Depth of Field Example

- Foreground is in focus, background is not. Very low f-stop used (f/2.2) on my SLR



ISO

“Film speed”

Controls graininess/noise of picture

High ISO (e.g. 1600) = bright picture, more noise

Low ISO (e.g. 100) = dark picture, less noise

Use High ISO in low light to allow no-flash pictures

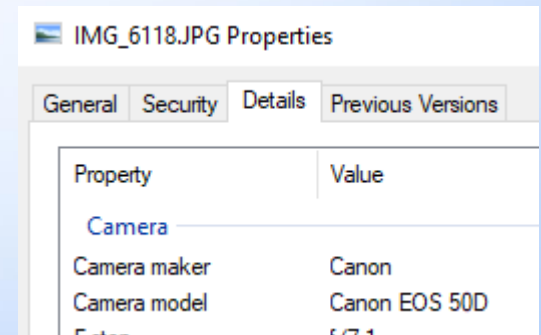
Use Low ISO in bright light to reduce noise

Slow Shutter Speed Example



F-stop	f/5.6
Exposure time	1/30 sec.
ISO speed	ISO-1600

All of these settings are stored in the picture file itself. They are called the “EXIF” data and can be viewed by selecting image properties in Windows.



Picture from evening court is blurry due to movement and slow shutter speed (1/30sec). It is also a little noisy due to high ISO (1600) setting. The fairly low aperture (f/5.6) produces low depth of field - people behind the subject are out of focus - which is ok.

High Shutter Speed Example



Camera maker	Canon
Camera model	Canon EOS 50D
F-stop	f/7.1
Exposure time	1/200 sec.
ISO speed	ISO-100

The high shutter speed (1/200 sec) stops the high speed fight with no blurring. The low ISO (100) is used for full daylight and results in no noise. The medium aperture (f/7.1) gives good depth of field with the observer in focus and the distant truck being a little blurry.

Challenging Movement in Low Light



Camera maker	Canon
Camera model	Canon EOS 80D
F-stop	f/4
Exposure time	1/50 sec.
ISO speed	ISO-2000

High speed movement in challenging indoor light conditions require high ISO (1000 or 2000), low apertures (f/3.5 or f/4) and relatively slow shutter speeds (1/40 or 1/50 sec). Panning the camera to follow the action can sometimes produce good shots, but does not help when subjects are moving toward you.

Lesson: shoot lots of pictures and only post the ones that work out.

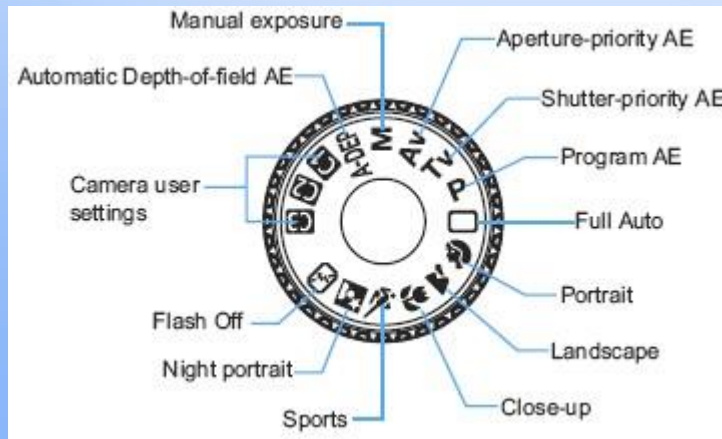


Camera maker	Canon
Camera model	Canon EOS 80D
F-stop	f/3.5
Exposure time	1/40 sec.
ISO speed	ISO-1000

Combining the Settings

- Full Auto shots will set all 3 variables to a good combination
- Camera assisted shots (Aperture or Shutter priority) will allow you to set one variable manually and automatically set the other 2.
- Alternate modes (Sports, Portrait, Landscape, etc.) will bias the variables to produce a different automatic result.
- Full manual - you set all three.

Canon dial



Nikon dial

Let's go take some Pictures

- If possible use your own camera or cell phone
- Pictures that we take will be posted on a public Google photo album at
 - <http://class1.baronllwyd.org> for 1/25/18 Tir-y-Don class
 - <http://class2.baronllwyd.org> for 2/3/18 University class