

On April 15, 2017, we will have our own kind of celebration for "tax day" by holding a pas (passage) at arms in the style of the late fourteenth century.

On some occasions, when a siege was undertaken during the Hundred Years' War, the long periods of relative inactivity would be broken up with spontaneous or agreed to passages at arms. A barrier or fence would be built outside of one of the castle gates. The defenders would come out, usually bearing spears, and the attackers would assault their position.

At the pas d'armes once held by the Company of Saint George, a small number of defenders would hold the field against all comers. The pas d'armes is a challenge tournament; ours will be held this year to celebrate Sam Fishburne's temporary presence on the island, on the day taxes are due. On this day, the French soldiers have come to collect the taxes from their English counterparts. It won't end well...

We will hold five passes, situating our pas d'armes within the context of the Hundred Years War. The defenders (the English) will be the senior combatants: Scolaro, Scolaro Maggiore or higher. The attackers will be all of the junior combatants.

**OPENING:** To set the stage, all combatants will compete using sword in one hand (defenders) or sword and buckler (attackers, in recognition of their lesser experience). The fight will be to "first blood," meaning any strike counts as a hit including double strikes, HOWEVER, being struck on a non-armoured location counts DOUBLE. We will fight to five good strikes. The defenders will cry "Saint George!" as their rally and the attackers "Saint Denis!"

**First Pass:** Will begin with a CHALLENGE PASS. The French will hold the castle, and, one by one, they will be challenged by their English counterparts within the list, using the sword in two hands, fighting to a count of three good blows. There will be no abrazzare in this pass UNLESS one is facing Sam or Andrew, who have to demonstrate integration of the stretto into their sparring.

**INTERMEZZO:** A group encounter OVER THE BARRIER, with spears! Only spears allowed (excepting physical injury)

**Second Pass:** Another CHALLENGE PASS, but this time with sword, or spear, OVER THE BARRIERS. The defenders don't wish to come out.

**INTERMEZZO:** A group combat, this one takes place OVER THE BARRIER, but with any single weapon (no shields)

**Third Pass:** Will take place in the open field, with any legitimate weapon (sword and buckler, spear, poleaxe, sword in one hand or in two). STRETTO ALLOWED by agreement with both combatants.

**INTERMEZZO:** Another group combat, over the barriers, with spears.

**Fourth Pass:** takes place with sword in two hands, in the field. Challenge pass.

**FINALE:** One or Two Invited Companions will hold the field, and we will feature an extended final bout with two combatants demonstrating their prowess with multiple weapons.

Afterwards, we will repair to a local eatery!