

Regia Anglorum in North America

A Statement of Intent

Regia Anglorum attempts to recreate a cross section of life in and around the Islands of Britain around the turn of the millennium. Originally, our self-imposed brief covered the years from 950 to 1066, but as the society has evolved, our interests have expanded to encompass life in that area from the reign of Alfred the Great to that of King Richard the Lionheart - 850 to 1150. That said, the bulk of our work still falls within our primary period of interest.

In Britain, Regia Datelines each and every one of its public events, setting a Date in history for the reconstruction many months ahead of the show. Closer to the event, a Kit Guideline is issued and in this way, members know what kit and equipment to make and bring with them on any occasion. These Kit Guidelines are generated by the society's Authenticity Officer and a generic set are available from our website.

Between March and October, the society meets at public events at least once a month in the UK. Sufficient numbers are always present to ensure a continuing flow and cross-fertilization of ideas and current knowledge in order to keep our representation of the past both fresh and accurate. Aside from the Kit Guidelines, peer group pressure quickly weeds out the unlikely and – occasionally – the downright wrong!

In North America the case is different. The great distances that separate people and the smaller numbers of members make meetings less common and we are concerned that single opinion growing in isolation may lead to the unusual becoming normal. We are resolved that we should make a statement of intent in the hope of avoiding any issues of that kind. We feel it is especially important for Group Leaders to encourage discretion in interpretation, reserving the more uncommon clothing and equipment for the rare occasions where they are valid as just one image amongst many.

Since 1986, our basic tenet has been authenticity and to this end we will not portray any image, support any ideal, or make any item of kit that we cannot provenance from contemporary sources. This sometimes requires us to re-evaluate how we look or how we make or wear certain items, and to alter them or our habits to hone the image we depict.

We recommend you read and become reasonably familiar with the various Regia documents available on the Internet from the Regia Websites and in hardcopy from the UK upon request. The Code of Law, the Master-at-Arms regulations, Member's Handbook fascicules and other similar publications are intended as an aid to your re-creation of history and to give a clear guideline for all reconstructed artifacts. We expect you to be willing to actively support the aims and ideals of our organization when you become a member.

And finally, please remember you are not alone but a part of a greater body of fellow members and that you are encouraged to make full use of the e-lists or to contact the respective officers privately where we will be willing to offer support and guidance in response to your questions.
