

Welcome to “Dissecting larp”!

Larp needs understanding. Understanding requires knowledge. Finding knowledge involves digging into the murky material and getting your hands dirty. Finding understanding requires the will to dissect your own knowledge.

Nearly all writers on larp are avid larpers them selves. This makes the process of finding understanding a lot more difficult than most people outside the field would think. Larp can at its best be intensely emotional and inspirational, even a defining element of ones life. At its worst larp is just boring. Getting to understand larp demands that the writer is willing to cast aside the fondness they feel for their subject, to evaluate the failures and boring bits. You cannot dissect without taking your subject apart.

This is the dissection, here are their findings.

This is the internet publication of third regular edition of proceedings for Knutepunkt 05, the annual Scandinavian Congress on Larp. It is our hope that this book will help cement the tradition of an annual book comprising articles on larp. The two proceeding works, “As Larp Grows Up” and “Beyond Role and Play” set the standard for the series. Hopefully, we have not put them to shame.

This year, we have tried to develop a review process. With the broadening and deepening of the field, it has become increasingly clear that reviewing all incoming articles would be too much for a small editorial staff. Thus, we decided to let qualified larp writers do the review for us. We have called the process “peer review”, though it has not followed the strictest of scientific standards. Firstly, there exists no set criteria as to what makes one an expert on larp matters, nor does anyone hold a doctorate in larp. We have elected to let the writers them selves be each others peers, holding to what academic standard there is. Secondly, the reviewing itself has been fairly informal. The process has largely been an amicable process between writer and reviewer. Larp theory is after all a young discipline, and we have seen no need for imposing rigorous rules for the process.

Unfortunately the reviewing process did not work out as well as hoped in the published version of the book. We have tried to put this right in the internet publication. Also, a number of the authors have taken the opportunity to make minor improvements or changes to their articles.

Still, we are proud of what we have achieved and hope that you will enjoy reading the multitude of perspectives dissecting larp.

Some words of thanks:

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