



The Althing

A quarterly publication of the
Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands
in the
Kingdom of Æthelmearc

Located in these modern times in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

Upcoming and Recurring Events

Business Meetings

First Wednesday of even months, 8pm

Ace Axe Throwing, 145 E 8th Ave, Homestead, PA

Baronial Twelfth Night

1/25/2025, Allison Park, PA

Winter Martial Practices

Sundays 11am-2pm

Ace Axe Throwing, 145 E 8th Ave, Homestead, PA

Debatable Lands Choir Practice

Tuesdays 7-8:30pm

Contact Arianna Wythrop for details

Letter from the Chronicler

Greetings and salutations,

As 2024 comes to a close, I want to share a couple of thoughts about the officer role I currently fulfill.

Being responsible for a group's newsletter used to be a rather different beast. The newsletter was the primary way that information about events was shared across the kingdom. I recall thumbing through the latest issue to decide which events I'd be attending that month and needing to bring my copy with me on the drive as this predated GPS directions and frequently they would include those extra details of directions that don't show up on maps and make navigation through a campsite somewhat tricky. And of course there were all the logistics (and cost!) of printing and maintaining address lists and such.

I still do receive the Kingdom newsletter in paper form, but it's not the necessity that it used to be as so much of our information is available online these days. Our own Baronial newsletter is now a digital-only publication, and the event announcements and court reports are all available on our website and email list in addition to further information being available on Facebook and Discord. We even have a new Instagram account for Arts and Science projects to be shared. There are lots of wonderful things going on that I'd love to share and publish in this newsletter, but I need some help to do so as my time has become rather more limited than it was when I first took on this position.

Being Chronicler is a lovely, low-key way to become involved with your local group. The time commitment isn't outrageous, the logistics are much simpler than they used to be, and you get to be "in the room where it happens". Also, it is one of the required positions for us to maintain our Baronial status. No Chronicler, no Barony. Being the deputy to the Chronicler is even less taxing and would come with my unending gratitude and an easy transition to Chronicler in early 2026 when my term concludes as I am unable to fulfill a third consecutive term.



As Chronicler, you get complete creative control over the layout and you can set your own publication schedule as long as you publish at least four times a year. What I'm looking for in a Deputy at the moment is someone to help track and collect content as it's published on our various outlets and throw it into a shared drive. I currently use InDesign, but I'll be happy to help transition the newsletter to another layout app for the next Chronicler.

Since modern life has kept me from attending many events, I am most easily contacted over email (chronicler@debatablelands.org or silencethebard@gmail.com) or ping me on Facebook (search for Silence de Cherbourg, I have it set as an alternate name). I'm on the Baronial discord but I'm afraid I don't check it very often.

In Service and Song,
Silence de Cherbourg
Chronicler

Court Report: Agincourt XVI

October 25, AS 59 (2024)

The report of the Court of Praetoria Aurelia Argentina Prima, ninth Baronage of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held on the 26th day of October Anno Societatis 59 at Agincourt, as recorded by Gwendolyn the Graceful, Brehyres, Meistr-y-gân, Comet Pursuivant..

Her Excellency thanked everyone for attending and shared greetings from Her Excellency, Baronessa Violeta, who was sad to be unable to attend.

Her Excellency invited Baroness Vika Viborgskaya, the Event Steward, to address the populace. Baroness Vika thanked all who had assisted, and Their Majesties for attending.

Her Excellency then sought Ivor Ioan O'r Llyn. Praising his skill upon the range, she was pleased to award him a Hematite Comet. Scroll illumination by Mistress Arianna of Wynthrope, Calligraphy by Mistress Graidhne ni Ruaidh, and words by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

Her Excellency next wished to speak to Oyama-Shō hachi-i Michiharu. With consideration for his prowess in many martial pursuits, she was well pleased to award him a Hematite Comet. Scroll illumination by Mistress Arianna of Wynthrope, Calligraphy by Mistress Graidhne ni Ruaidh, and words by Baron Alaric MacConnal.

Her Excellency then requested to be joined by all the Marshalls and Ministers of the List who had staffed the various ranges, tournaments, and list fields that day. In appreciation, she presented them all with coins.

There being no further business, the Court of Her Excellency was closed.

Recipe: Muhammara

Every year, the Debatable Lands has a Harvest Revel in the autumn during which there is traditionally some sort of pie or cookie competition (in which the definition of 'pie' is used very loosely). This year, Their Excellencies deemed the competition to be types of spreads, and The Althing is pleased to share two of the contributions here. The Baroness's Choice is on the following page, and below, we have a recipe from Yakub al-Musafir which was particularly well received.

Muhammara

Halve 4 red bell peppers and remove innards
Roast bell peppers at 450. (Skins darken and fall in)
Let cool and remove skins

In a food processor, combine:

1 cup walnuts (I added a bit more for a firmer consistency... 1.5 cups?)
2 tablespoons pomegranate syrup
2 tablespoons paprika (I added 1 teaspoon of smoked paprika)
and those cooled roasted red peppers.

Process until processed to your liking.

Mix in a bit of olive oil, some lemon juice (i juiced 1/2 a lemon?), and salt.

-Yakub al-Musafir

Baroness's Favorite Spread: Garlic Elixir

Courtesy of Hara Shonagon Kikumatsu

1 cup peeled garlic gloves
1/4 cup fresh italian parsley (maybe more)
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 Tbsp red wine vinegar
1 tsp salt
1 tsp freshly ground pepper
1/2 extra virgin olive oil

Blend everything but the olive oil thoroughly in food processor. Stop and scrape the sides a couple times. Then while running slowly add in the olive oil. Stop and scrape the sides a few times.

About the garlic: This recipe is intended to use up old garlic that is a bit old for cooking. I'd say at least 6 months old. However, I didn't have any old garlic. In fact, I'd ordered 5 types of garlic planting stock for my garden and it arrived in early October. It was probably only 3 months since it was harvested. Furthermore, it wasn't your typical grocery store garlic, which is usually California early or California late softneck garlic. I used about 1 head each of Metechi, German Red, Ukranian Red, Siberian hardneck variety, and 1 head of Polish softneck. I buy my planting stock from Territorial Seed Company:

<https://territorialseed.com/pages/garlic-potatoes>

I usually plant 2 or 3 cloves of each variety and eat the rest. However, it is hard to eat it all before it starts to get old, so I make things that use a lot of garlic.

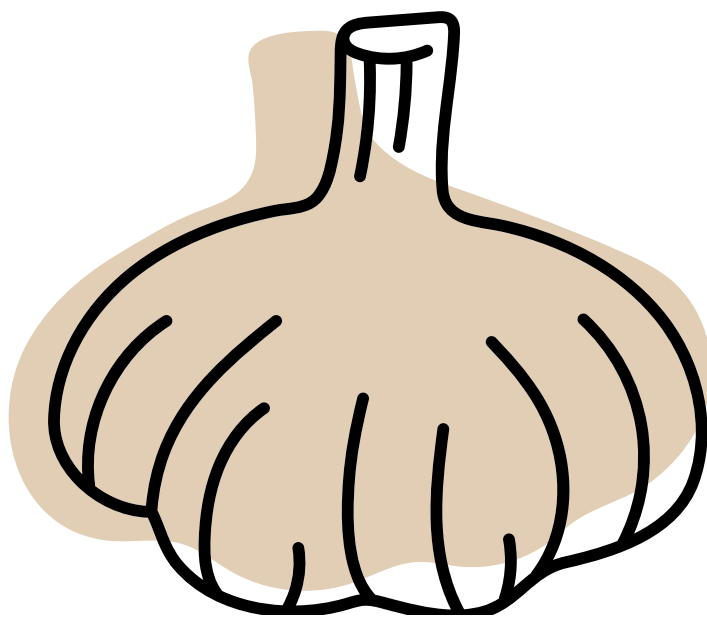


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Their Excellencies of the Debatable Lands

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Praetoria Aurelia Argentia Prima
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* - second term; cannot renew

Baronial Positions and Deputies

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PUBLICATION

The Althing is generally published quarterly with content that has been submitted to the Chronicler officer and select content from Stófréttir. The Althing is available for free on the Barony website, www.debatablelands.org. Paper copies are available for those without Internet access. Please contact the Chronicler to have a paper copy mailed to you. Image of Halley's Comet from the Bayeux Tapestry from Wikipedia Commons and is in the public domain.

SUBMISSIONS

Any gentle wishing to submit articles, artwork, poetry, etc. to the Althing is invited to do so. Please send your work to the Chronicler. All material in the Althing is copyrighted to the individual contributors. The Chronicler reserves the right to edit, refuse, or reprint any submissions. The Althing's submission deadline is generally the 15th of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December). Send your contributions to chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.