

The Althing

*That warns All who read this to beware the Coming of the Ice Dragon, whose breath will Freeze any person leaving the Comfort of their Hearth,
where various and sundry Pursuits of the Arts and Sciences are the only Safe Endeavors,
and which foretells and predicts the Celebration of the Passing of the Ice Dragon,
and wherein all may find
an Announcement of an Arts and Sciences Competition to all Baronies and Shires in Sylvan Aethelmearc
and wherein a Special Challenge is made to the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands to Encourage and Support
those who wish to enter the Competition to be held at the said Celebration.*



This showeth the Bookbinders' work room.

*Being written and printed by the Chronicler, Elss of Augsburg, having the honor of serving the great Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands and who wishes to record and proclaim the events and activities relating to the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, both past and to come,
in this Month of October, in the northern lands of the Barony, far above the Three Rivers.*

The illustrations herein depict people in the Pursuit of the Arts and the Sciences, in keeping with the Ice Dragon details that are thus provided, in an effort to Encourage all the populace to Challenge the Dragon.

October as xlv

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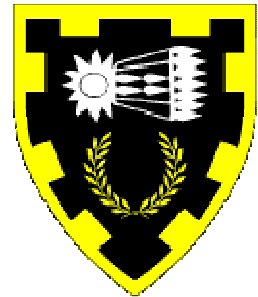
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Chancellor of Youth

Aibell ingen Chernachain

Gold Key (Loaner Garb)

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Steward

Michelina Cenomani da Trento

Recording Secretary

Vacant

Baronial Signet

Aidan ni Leir

Dark Pages Editor

Arianna of Wynthrope

Historian

Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi

Precedence Editor (Deputy to Comet Pursuivant)

Pavel Dudoladov

Youth Fighting Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Ceindrech merch Elidir

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Thorfinna hrogn Josepsdottir

Contents

Baronial Contacts	2
Letters from the Barony Officers	4
Fall Schola Information.....	8
Awards of the BMDL.....	9
November Barony Meeting Announcement - IMPORTANT!.....	10
Important Dates	12
The Ice Dragon!	13
Article: English Land Tenure: Customary Rents.....	17
BMDL Court Report.....	18
Coming Events.....	20
Steltonwald and Cour d'Or Contacts	Inside Back Cover

Disclaimer

This is the Althing, a publication of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. Opinions are those of the authors and may not reflect or imply the view of the Althing or any member of its staff. Content is used with permission.

Publication

The Althing is published every month except August, with an Arts and Sciences issue published once a year. If you'd like to join the Althing mailing list and receive your newsletter by e-mail, you can do so here: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmdl_althing/ or it is available for free on the Barony web site www.debatablelands.org. Paper copies are available for those without Internet access. Please contact the chronicler with an address to have a paper copy mailed to you at 412-366-5844. If you would prefer to write, the address is on the outside cover.

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 submission deadline for the Althing is the first Wednesday of the month.

Baronial Discussion E-List

Need more info on an upcoming baronial event? Just want to chat? To subscribe to the barony emailing list, go to <http://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-bmdl>, and follow the instructions on the page.

Art Work

Cover Art and Interior Pages: Medieval Life and People CD-ROM and Book Dover Publications ©2007.

The Althing's submissions deadline is fluid – send your contributions to Elss at chronicler@debatablelands.org.

Greetings from the Baron and Baroness!

Unto all Good Gentles of our Fair Barony Marche of Debatable Lands do Byron and Ariella send Fond Greetings!

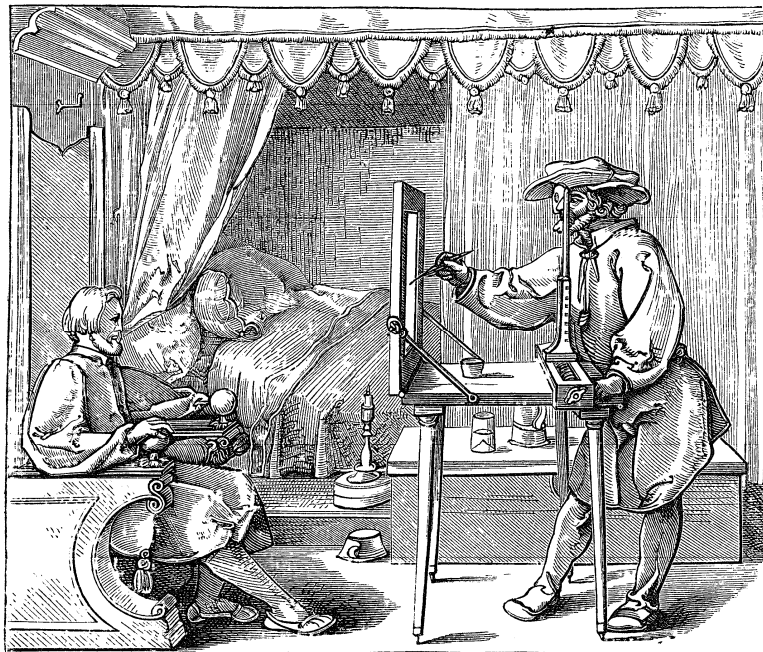
It was with great pride that we enjoyed a very fine Archers to the Wald event this last Saturday. Clearly, events in our Barony display the service, culinary skills, martial skills, and courtesy of our members. Vivant to our incoming champions in Youth Archery, Robert, in Adult Archery, Gianna, and in Thrown Weapons, Jorundr! Thanks to our outgoing champions, Joshua, Urho, and Robert le Bakere, for their service in the past year, and for the scrolls which Urho requested and Odriana's Scribal group provided. Thank you again to our retainers and all those who helped make that a wonderful event.

Looking ahead, we will be attending Crown Tournament, leaving our staunch Seneschal to host the Board of Directors. We look forward to Agincourt, and we plan to hold court there as well as select a Baronial Youth fighting champion. Ariella will attend Mistress Ts'veen's Sewing Circle on October 30th; thanks to her for hosting. Finally, we are excited about pie, pumpkin-throwing, weapon throwing, and the Gwyntarion Winter Challenge Inauguration at our Barony meeting at our house Sunday November 7th!

Please see the brief discussion of our award structure elsewhere in this Althing. We will try to have a wooden box and cards for those who might give us recommendations in this way rather than email. With greater knowledge of the awards and a more convenient, visible way of recommending others, we hope to have award recommendations from many! We hope you continue to enjoy yourself within the Society and find the courteous companionship that makes us all the richer.

Written this seventh day of October,

Ariella and Byron



Instruments of mathematical precision for executing portraits

From the Seneschale:

The air turns chill, the leaves turn from verdant hues to an autumn rainbow, and our thoughts begin to shift from outside activities in. Now is the charmed, relaxing time when all our activities flourish, the weather being not too hot, and Pennsic and Ice Dragon not yet looming too close. Enjoy the autumn, my friends!

The arts abound, with all our normal meetings, THL Odriana's Ice Dragon Challenge, and our Fall Schola Sessions (beginner classes). Information about these can be found in this fine publication, and also on our website at www.debatablelands.org. Thanks to all those facilitating these activities!

And a few more thanks:

- ❖ Thanks to Elss, Odriana, Katheryn, and Evan for cleaning out and organizing the larder for our Steward, Michelina.
- ❖ Thanks to Jorundr for all the many hours he spent creating a Baronial Order of Precedence database and for the data entry, and also to Pavel for consulting.
- ❖ Thanks to our recent autocrats, Ts'vee'a, Gabriel, Fintan, and Gianna, for putting on wonderful events. The SCA would not exist without people like you.
- ❖ Thanks to all those who came out to the September Barony Meeting to talk to the new folks and dance, especially: Cai, our dancemaster; Myfanwy, who brought her spinning wheel and marzipan fruit; and Nika, who dragged out many, many pounds of really cool books.



And some congratulations are in order:

- ❖ Vivant! To all those Barony members that shot for Kingdom Archery Champs, especially Master Alaric, who very nearly made the final four, Mistress Arianna, who made the final four, and THL Brandubh, who won.
- ❖ Vivant! To those Debatable Lands Fencers who fought in the Queen's Rapier Championship tourney: Duchess Elena, Sir Graedwyn, Don Christian, Don Clewin, and Dona Fredeburg. They all fought valiantly and well.
- ❖ Vivant! To those Debatable Landers fighting in Crown Tourney: Baroness Ariella, fighting for Baron Byron; Duke Christopher and Duchess Morgen (fighting for each other); Duke Henri and Comtesse Elena (fighting for each other); Sir Koredono, fighting for Mistress Giulietta; and Don Clewin, fighting for Freifrau Fredeburg.
- ❖ Vivant! To those participating in all the Baronial Championships, whether a competitor, marshal, herald, or MOL.

Also look for announcements about the October 16th Board of Directors meeting, new VIP Passes from Corporate for new folks, the Fall Schola Session schedule, and an announcement about the November Barony meeting. There will be a short Officers' Meeting after announcements at the Barony Meeting.

In Levitate et Caritate,

Hilda, Seneschale

Greetings from Elss, who is the Chronicler:

It has been almost two years since I accepted the honor of being the Chronicler of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, and undertook the responsibility of publishing the Althing, the newsletter of BMDL.

Many people have helped me greatly in my endeavors: my fellow Officers, who send me articles to publish, the writers and artists of the Barony who permit me to publish their works, those gentles who hold meetings or classes or workshops and give me information to list, and others who have encouraged me along the way. Thank you, all.

Thank you especially to Cai o'r Llyn, intrepid webminister, who reliably posts the Althing on its own web page every month, and who, two years ago, set up the Althing email list for me. If you would like the Althing delivered to your inbox, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmdl_althing/.

Recently, the Althing contained the results of the survey that many of you responded to about the Althing itself. Many of the respondents took the time to add individual comments and suggestions, which demonstrated to me that there are people who think about the newsletter, and who have thoughts about how it should be done.

Anyone with creative and exciting ideas for the Althing is welcome to submit a letter to apply for the position of Chronicler. It is a wonderful job, and a wonderful opportunity to serve the Barony, to bring news and information to all, and to showcase the achievements of the artisans and scientists of the Barony. Send your emails to chronicler@debatablelands.org and seneschal@debatablelands.org stating your intent and qualifications. All applications will be given a speedy and fair review.

In service --

Elss of Augsburg

Chronicler of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

From the Captain of Archers:

We can look ahead now to next spring for some events that will have archery components.

The Canton of Westland More will be having their annual Spring Thing event on Saturday, June 4th. The event this time is titled "Spring Thing: Men in Kilts... a Highland fling." If it's like previous years, there will also be fighting, fencing, and thrown weapons.

I've run archery tournaments for them the last three years and will be doing so again.

Put it on your schedule and come on out and meet our fellow Aethelmearcians to the south.

In Service to the Barony-Marche,

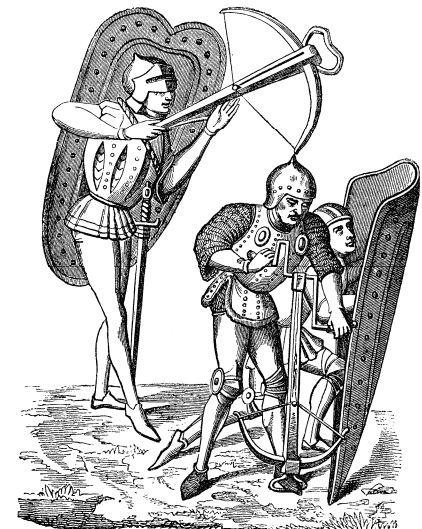
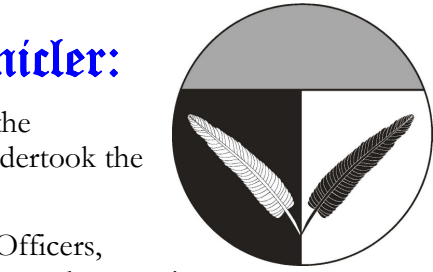
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Per valde mustache adveho valde officium



Crossbow men protected by shield bearers

Greetings from your Rapier Marshal!

Outdoor practice is still being held in good weather on Sundays from 11-3 PM. Good weather generally means above 50 degrees and not raining. Please join the BMDL fencing list for updates on practice. Currently we do not have a location for an indoor winter practice. For those seeking alternate practices, there are several in the area, including Vulkansmede on Thursday evenings and Ballachlagan on Sundays.

For information about Ballachlagan's practice, visit <http://ballachlagan.org/>. For information about Vulkansmede's practice, visit <http://www.vulkansmede.com/>. For other practices, visit <http://marshal.aethelmearc.org/practice/rapier.htm>

- Fredeburg

From the Baronial Signet, Greetings

While it's been a pleasure and an honor to hold this position for the last four and some years, it's time to retire. I plan to do so, as of Baronial Twelfth Night.

If you are interested in the position, please send a letter to the Baron and Baroness, the seneschal, and me stating your intention and qualifications by 15 November (e-mail addresses below). This will allow sufficient time to choose a successor and make an orderly transfer of the office.

You absolutely do not need to be a calligrapher or illuminator to perform the duties of this position, since this is basically an administrative job. It involves receiving assignments from the Baron and Baroness, distributing them to willing scribes, ensuring scroll delivery, and maintaining records. Therefore, you will need to be discreet and organized, and have access to e-mail. The administrative functions of the job take a few hours a month (less if there is not an event); any time spent on art is up to you.

If you need any additional information to make a decision, please contact me.

-Aidan ni Leir

Send your letter to:

baron@debatablelands.org

seneschal@debatablelands.org

baroness@debatablelands.org

signet@debatablelands.org



German alchemist in his workshop

The Directors Are Coming to da 'Burgh

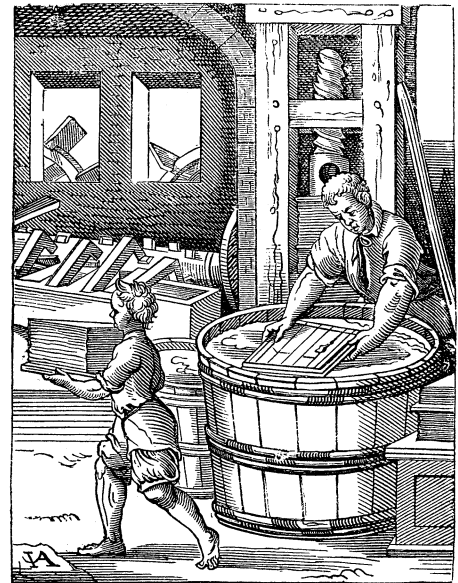
The Directors and Corporate Staff would like to extend a cordial invitation for all to attend the Fourth Quarter Meeting of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. to be held in the Kingdom of Æthelmearc.

Saturday, October 16, 2010,
9:00 a.m.
Embassy Suites
Pittsburgh International Airport,
500 Cherrington Parkway
Coraopolis, PA 15108.
(412) 269-9070.

The Society is growing everyday. The Directors and the Corporate Staff would love to meet you and get your ideas and input on what direction the SCA should take. We hope to see you there!

Please note: this meeting is a modern business meeting, and modern clothing is appropriate.

Questions? Contact ea @ sca.org



Paper maker

Event Note:

October 16, 2010 Fall Crown Tournament, Shire of Blackwater (Allegany, NY)

Fall Schola Session:

Our Fall Schola Session is a series of Arts, Sciences, and SCA Culture beginner-level classes aimed specifically at newer folks, and folks that have not tried the activity before. They are Tuesday Nights from 7-9pm, until Nov 16th. Please come to CMU's campus, Porter Hall A19 (entrance on Frew St, across Flagstaff Hill from Phipps Conservatory). Contact the Seneschale with questions. Read more at <http://www.debatablelands.org/fall-schola.html>.

Upcoming classes include:

- ❖ An Evening of Fiber Arts (10/19)
- ❖ Double Feature - Building a Persona / Basics of Heraldry (10/26)
- ❖ Period Games and Gaming (11/2)
- ❖ Calligraphy and Illumination (11/9)
- ❖ Feasts and Feasting (11/16)

Awards of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

Each Baron and Baroness decide what award structure they want to use and what each award means. We, Byron and Ariella, chose a fairly traditional structure so the awards would be familiar to most people. We continued the tradition that a person could receive an award more than once (which is not true of many Kingdom awards).

Anyone living in our Barony and our Canton of Steltonwald can receive these awards; anyone who resides outside our Borders is only eligible for a Comet Vert (green) for being a Friend of the Barony, someone who plays with us a lot and contributes much to our Barony.

- ❖ The Comet Or (gold) is for service contributions.
- ❖ The Comet Gules (red) is for martial prowess and/or contributions
- ❖ The Comet Azure-Argent (blue-silver) is for Arts and Sciences contributions.
- ❖ The Comet Purpure (purple) is for any youth who contributes significantly to the Barony.

The way we have interpreted the awards has been to look for contributions to the Barony over time. That is, someone who has a really intense six months and does really well in one of the above areas will likely be watched for continued contributions. Someone who just plays SCA at Pennsic is wonderful, but we want to see other involvement throughout the year. Someone who works or contributes much, but the effort mostly goes toward Kingdom-level activities is less likely to receive a Baronial award for that work. There is obviously a lot of overlap, both in type of award a gentle deserves and Barony/Kingdom contribution. We have given out more Azure-Argent comets than any other color, then Or, and only a few have been Vert, Gules, and Purpure.

If you have any questions about the current awards we use, please ask us!

Yours,

Byron and Ariella



Bernard Abbazia, astronomer to the king

Here is the schedule for thrown weapons:

October 10 th	Regular practice
October 17 th	Regular practice
October 24 th	Regular practice
October 31 st	Halloween Fling Fest!!!

Practices usually start around 11 AM (SCA time, of course) and continue until they are done or the marshals have to leave, but never any earlier than 1 PM. Please note that these practices are social gatherings as much as martial activities. All are invited to bring a chair, sit and relax, chat, work on a project, or just enjoy the fine weather and the fighting.

November Meeting and Harvest Rebel!



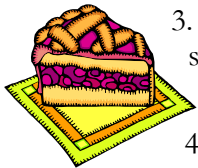
November Barony Meeting will be a Harvest Revel in fine style! Come on down to the Baron and Baroness's Castle on Sunday, November 7th, in Wexford for fighting, fencing, shooting, throwing, pumpkin-flinging, and PIE!!



Archery and Thrown Weapons will begin at 11am and end at 1:15pm-ish. They will be followed by a few short announcements to the assembled at 1:30pm, and a brief Officers Meeting. Fighting and fencing will be beginning after that, around 2pm. And then... pumpkin-flinging! Oh yes, we will be tossing our pumpkins off of the ramparts to the ground below. Yay! Smash! (No rotten ones, please - it was kinda icky last year.)

And what is a Harvest Revel without PIE! We'll be hosting our Second Annual Pie-Baking contest, winners by populace vote. Same rules as last year, but with an added category: Best Period Pie! Here are the rules:

1. There will be three winners, one for best Fall Vegetable Pie (pumpkin/squash/sweet potato/etc), one for best Fall Fruit Pie (apple/pear/etc), and one for best Period Pie, any filling (must name your source, but full documentation isn't necessary). Bring on your best again!
2. Winners will be chosen by popular vote, so bring enough, or cut it small! Everyone at the meeting gets three markers, one for vegetable, one for fruit, and one for Period Pie. They vote by placing their markers at their favorite pies.



3. As long as you can justify your entry as a "Harvest Pie", you can enter it. Pumpkin roll? A spatially-challenged pie! Apple bars? Crust-less mini-pies! My favorite last year was "Procrastinated Pie" by Pavel - a bag of apples!

4. In case of a tie, an expert panel of judges will decide the winners.

5. Prizes will be bragging rights for an entire year! And the adulation of the populace! GLORY! (Plus maybe some other goody I can drum up.)

There is no Steelers' Game that day. Let me know if you have any questions!

In Levitate et Caritate,
~Hilda, Seneschale



VIP PASSES

Exciting news! Beginning in October 2010 the SCA will test a newcomer recruitment initiative that will run until July 1, 2011. During this time the SCA will include a VIP Pass in the envelopes containing membership cards sent out to the first 6,000 participants who renew their memberships. This benefit of membership allows a renewing SCA member to give a VIP Pass to a single newcomer.

The holder of the VIP Pass is exempt from paying the Non-Member Surcharge (NMS) for their first three events they attend while exploring the SCA. The VIP Pass is not a free admission to an SCA event; it simply excuses the Pass holder from paying the NMS.

At the third event, these passes will be collected by "Gate" personnel and sent on to the SCA NMS deputy. The SCA will then follow up with these newcomers with membership literature. Instructions for handling the VIP Pass at "Troll"/"Gate" can be found at both the Society Exchequer and Corporate Treasurer websites at <http://www.sca.org/officers/exchequer/> and <http://www.sca.org/officers/treasurer/>.

To validate the Pass, the newcomer must fill it out, sign and date it at Gate at the first event they attend. Passes are good until redeemed fully at a total of three events. Each pass can be used only by the single newcomer whose name is put on it at the time of the first use. Passes are not transferable. All VIP Passes expire on July 1, 2011.

The VIP Pass is meant for use only by first time newcomers, not for folks who are current or past members of the SCA. The VIP Pass is NOT valid for the following Inter-Kingdom events: Pennsic War, Gulf Wars, Estrella War, Lilies War and Great Western War. At these events, newcomers must still pay the NMS.

As the Society is based on the concepts of honor and Chivalry, it is assumed that the good gentles using the VIP Pass will not seek to abuse the hospitality of the SCA. Any person abusing the system will be subject to sanctions.

If you have additional questions please email chatelaine@sca.org or exchequer@sca.org. Comments are strongly encouraged and can be sent to:

SCA Inc.
Box 360789
Milpitas, CA 95036

You may also email comments@lists.sca.org.

Important Dates Coming Up!

SCA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 16, 2010 in Coraopolis.

Agincourt V

Saturday, October 23, 2010 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills (2359 W Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237-1625), including Barony Youth Combat Champs!

November Barony Meeting and Harvest Revel

Sunday, November 7, 2010, from 11 AM until 5 PM at the Baron and Baroness' Castle; thrown weapons and archery practices both start at 11 AM, heavy fighting and fencing will start around 2 PM, then pumpkin tossing and pie eating!

December BMDL Officers Meeting

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 from 8 PM - 10 PM, CMU Campus, Porter Hall, Room A19, open to the populace and all are invited to attend, as always.

BMDL 12th Night

Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge in North Park, Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. The site will open at 10 AM and close at 10 PM.

The calendar on our website has been updated: <http://www.debatablelands.org/calendar.html>.

Please let the seneschale or web minister know of any changes, additions or deletions.

News of the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration:

There will be a Very Special Auction at Twelfth Night this year! At last year's Twelfth Night celebration, there was such joy and laughter and dancing and gaiety that many people went home and left things behind! Despite efforts to find the homes of these abandoned treasures, many of them are still pining away in my basement, homeless still. In addition, many similar treasures were recently unearthed in an archeological dig into the Baronial Larder. Thus, there will be an Auction of Lost Treasures held at Twelfth Night -- all items will go to good homes that day!

What would a Twelfth Night Holiday be without a Gift Exchange? Not nearly as much fun! So, yes, this year there will be a gift exchange, which will have two categories, one for Adults and one for Children! Gifts should be approximately \$10 in cost, and you have plenty of time to search the stores and EBay for that (Perfect? Wacky? Amusing? Obscure? Weird?) gift.

Previously announced activities for Twelfth Night:

- ❖ A&S: All gentles are invited to display their most recent work and their first, or, if that's not available, the earliest work that they have.
- ❖ A&S: There will also be display space for people to show off what they are currently working on. This can be anything from a newly completed item to the next project in your queue.

The Ice Dragon Cometh!

Note from the Chronicler: The Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon celebrates that time of year when the cold bonds of winter are beginning to break, and the breath of the Ice Dragon no longer freezes the marrow of your bones! The centerpiece of the Festival is an Arts and Sciences competition open to all; in addition to entering in one or more categories, a person can submit a special type of entry into five different categories -- this is the feat known as Entering the Pent!



Greetings from Vivianne de Castel d'Avignon, Pentathlon Coordinator for This Year's Ice Dragon

Some view the Ice Dragon A&S competition, hosted by the Rhydderich Hael, as the big scary monster the name implies ... but it doesn't have to be. Many have conquered that fear. The key is in realizing that Ice Dragon is a quest that should be undertaken, not an enemy to be defeated.

To start you on your quest, I am pleased to be able to share with you some of the basic information as well as some new and exciting changes in the works for the competition this year.

Ice Dragon will take place in the Rhydderich Hael (Buffalo, NY) on March 26, 2011.

Entrants of all levels of skill and experience are welcome and encouraged to enter the A&S competition. Classes to assist entrants and judges/potential judges are being planned, articles are being written, web pages are being developed. If you have questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to ask someone A friend, a mentor or your local A&S officer are great people to start with, but many people, including the Kingdom A&S minister, Baroness Elisabeth, and myself are also willing and available to field your questions.

At the conclusion of this missive is a list of the main categories for the competition and the sub-categories within them. There are a few changes from last year, so please take a minute to look them over.... and be aware that things may be shifted to accommodate entrant or judging necessity.

After much discussion and consideration, I am pleased to announce a completely new category for this year - "ANIMAL ARTS". It will encompass tools of the trade or accessories made for the use of animals (equestrian, beekeeping, hunting, farming, fishing, and so on).

Entries in any category must have been completed within the past year. They may have been previously entered in a display or other competition, but winners of any Kingdom's A&S competition are not eligible to participate. No kits please.

You may cross enter any single item in a maximum of two main categories. You may have only two entries in any main category. Entry by proxy will be allowed.

Another change for this year is that entrants will get to choose the depth of the commentary they receive. As an option to the traditional Ice Dragon critique, a light colored pastel paper will be available for those who wish to receive light comments.

There will be space at the top of each commentary sheet for entrants to leave a note for the judges. They may ask a question about a problem they encountered, request sources for information or materials or even let the judges know it's their first time entering an A&S competition. It will not be

required to leave any message in this area but it is hoped that entrants will choose to communicate with the judges in this way. The judges will use the information to better tailor their comments to the artisan.

More details will follow, but this should help those who are anxious to get started on their entries. If you have specific questions now, wish to volunteer to judge or help with the administration of the competition, please feel free to contact me directly.

Regards,

Yvianne

yvianne(at)zoominternet(dot)net

Categories for Ice Dragon 2011

ACCESSORIES

Acc1: Textile

Acc2: Non-textile

ANIMAL ARTS

BEVERAGES

Bev1: Beer & Ale

Bev2: Wine & Mead

Bev3: Cordials

Bev4: Other (including non-alcoholic)

CERAMICS AND GLASS

C-G1: Pottery

C-G2: Glasswork

C-G3: Stained glass

CLOTHING

Clo1: Pre 14th century

Clo2: Post 14th century

CULINARY

Cul1: Main dish

Cul2: Side dish

Cul3: Sweets/ subtleties

CURIOSA (entries in this category must be approved by Pent coordinator)

FIBER ARTS:

Fib1: Spinning

Fib2: Weaving

Fib3: Dyeing

Fib4: Knitting, netting, nalbinding, ...

Fib5: Other (felting, etc)

HERALDIC DISPLAY

HOUSEHOLD ARTS

LEATHERWORKING

LITERARY ARTS

Lit1: Research paper

Lit2: Musical arrange.& composition

Lit3: Poetry & prose

METAL WORKING

Met1: Armor

Met2: Domestic

Met3: Jewelry

NEEDLEWORK

PERFORMANCE ARTS - MUSICAL

Perm1: Instrumental

Perm2: Vocal

PERFORMANCE ARTS - NON-MUSICAL

Perf1: Physical (dance, juggling etc)

Perf2: Storytelling

SCRIBAL ARTS

Scr1: Calligraphy

Scr2: Illumination

STUDIO ARTS

Stu1: Drawing & Printmaking

Stu2: Painting

Stu3: Bookmaking

TOYS

WOODWORKING

Wod1: Construction

Wod2: Embellishment

Wod3: Turning

YOUTH ENTRIES

You1: Ages 3-11

You2: Ages 12-17

A Challenge to the Artisans and Scientists of the Kingdom of AEthelmearc!

Greetings from THLady Katla, Arts and Sciences Officer for the Shire of Sunderoak --

Pray hear my words and know them to be true. From the largest baronies to the smallest canton, the Kingdom of AEthelmearc has the most talented artisans in the Knowne World! The Shire of Sunderoak would like to challenge all groups, all artisans, of all levels to enter Ice Dragon!

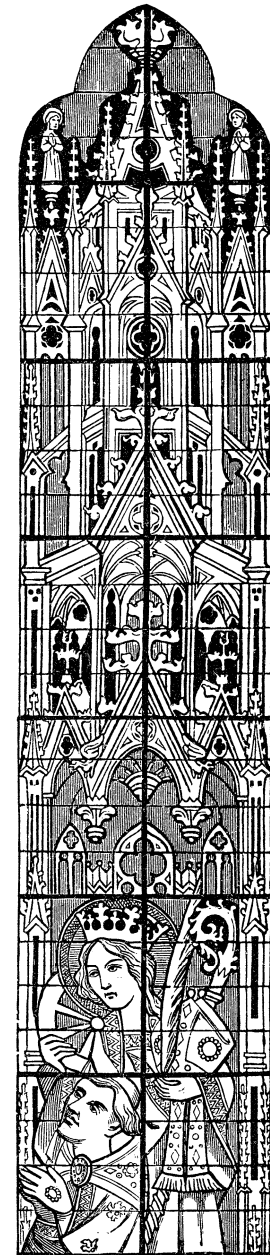
Here is your chance to show and share your art with others. Are you new to the SCA? Great! Please come and share with us what has inspired your love of an art or a science! Have you been a member for (mumble, mumble) years? Try something new! Something old! Show us what you've got! No art is too grand or too modest to take part in this grand display of artistic endeavor.

Are you afraid of competition, not sure how to get started or what to prepare for? There is ample help to make entering Ice Dragon not so scary. Visit the Kingdom A&S website, <http://www.aeans.org/>, and the Ice Dragon website, <http://www.ice-dragon.info/>, for information on entering, documentation, research and more!

How does this challenge work? Unlike Ice Dragon this is not open to individual's only official SCA groups. It will also not be judged on scores. The winning group will be the one with the most participation. If your shire has five members and all five enter – you have 100% participation, if you have 100 members and only five enter.....well, you won't win the competition, but there are no real losers in this endeavor either.

Besides bragging rights - what do you get if your group rises to the top? The members of the Shire of Sunderoak have "agreed" to toil and sweat whilst they make a heraldic silk banner for the winning barony, shire or canton. To sweeten the pot, there has also been an anonymous \$50 donation to fund a post competition celebration.

I have seen much skill among the artisans of this Great Kingdom and know there are many more with hidden talents – please join us and share with us the wonders of your knowledge and skill! Let us help inspire each other to greater levels!



Fragment of a stained glass window presented to the cathedral of Evreux by the Bishop Guillaume de Cantiers

Consider the gauntlet thrown;
I look forward to seeing you at Ice Dragon!

Katla

A Challenge to Artisans and Scientists of the BMDL!

To the Artisans and Scientists of the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands does Edelachtbaar Vrouwe Odriana vander Brugghe bid greetings.

As you have already read, THL Katla has challenged all groups in AEthelmearc to participate in Ice Dragon and has offered a prize for the area with the highest percentage of participation.

While we are all well acquainted with the heightened state of talent in the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands, the Kingdom should be reminded of it. I make the personal challenge to every Artisan and Scientist in the Barony to enter at least one item in the Pentathlon at Ice Dragon.

To provide as much support as possible to those who wish to participate in the challenge there will be a series of classes to gear up for Ice Dragon that will cover topics such as; research, documentation, rubrics, and judging. There will also be at least two workshops where those participants that would like to may get together and work on their entries.

Everyone that takes up this challenge will receive:

- ❖ A token of appreciation
- ❖ Public acknowledgement of their participation (in the Althing)

All novice entrants will receive the above *and* a personal token of appreciation from me.

If you choose to enter the Pentathlon itself - five entries in five different categories - you will receive a Prize of Great Niftiness to be Named Later as well as the token and public acknowledgement.

To qualify for the challenge, the artisan must have "Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands", "BMDL", or "Debatable Lands" listed as their group name when registering their entry for the Pent.

The Pentathlon entrant from the BMDL that has the highest score will also receive the newly-created Klauwaards [pron. Klaw-vay-ards] Prize, a \$75 cash prize. The prize is named after a coalition of patricians and master artisans that existed in Flanders during the late 13th/early 14th century.

The official list of Barony participants and the determination of the high score will be taken directly from the listing of entries/entrants at Ice Dragon.

There will also be cookies at the Barony Meeting following Ice Dragon as my thanks to all of the Artisans and Scientists who participated, their families, and their friends who supported the entrants.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at jenn.strobel@gmail.com or in person at these events: Agincourt, BMDL Twelfth Night, and Kingdom Twelfth Night.

Written this twenty eighth day of September in the year two thousand and ten in the center of the most remarkable Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands, at the confluence of the Three Rivers, on the day dedicated to the many cultural contributions of William Cardille, our beloved Chilly Billy.

OVb



**Carpenter's apprentice
working on a trial piece**

English Land Tenure: Customary Rents

This is the fifth in a series of short articles on land tenure, written by Master Dani of the Seven Wells. The first four articles appeared in the August and September 2010 Althings.

The Normans freed the slaves. We are not told that they were grateful. The slaves became serfs – given tenancy of small plots of land and expected to do much the same work they had done before. Many previously-free small holders and even lesser gentry also became serfs. (The Normans were great levelers.) What a serf paid in exchange for the use of the land varied widely from place to place and time to time. It also depended on your Lord: As a rule of thumb, the king's serfs were best off and the church's serfs were worst off. Typical payment included:

Rent. The serf owed a cash rent. An average rent for a virgate-holding serf in the late thirteenth century was about half a pound a year, at a time when a day's wage was about a penny. Rents were regressive, with virgate holders paying about half as much per acre as quarter-virgate holders, on the average, and serfs paying about twice as much per acre as freeholders.

Gersuma. The serf paid an entry fee when taking over a holding. (This is similar in spirit to the “key money” that is paid to acquire an apartment in places where rents have been controlled for a long time.) Rents tended to be stable, but gersuma tended to reflect a market sensibility of peasants' demand for land¹.

Tithes. The church got one tenth of the crop off the top. When reading records of the time, note that the yields they report are often yields after tithes.

Labor. A serf might owe as much as half his work time. The requirement was particularly heavy at harvest time – precisely when the serf most needed to be seeing to his own harvest. It is worth noting that, while the serf owed a certain amount of labor, he wasn't required to show up personally. That is, he could hire or appoint a substitute. It is also worth noting that most tenures allowed the lord to require cash in lieu of labor, at the lord's choice. The lord often so chose.

Court fines. Justice was considered a valuable franchise. If you ran the local court, you collected all the fines – and made sure that there were all sorts of occasions for fines. (One of the defining characteristics of serfdom was that serfs had no recourse to royal courts, and freeholders did.) Courts also collected the fines for permission to leave the manor. You also got to pay court costs if you wished to take another serf to court or to register a contract. In the larger holdings, courts were a major source of revenue.

Miscellaneous – but adding up to a lot: Carting services. Charges for use of the mill. Obligation to sell produce to the lord at a special price. Petty rents for use of the woods or marsh or bog. Heriot – the serf's best animal, payable to the lord on the serf's death. Merchet – a ‘fine’ payable for permission to marry off a daughter. Leyrwite – a fine for fornication. Special assessments at the lord's need.

On the average, the goods and services and non-rent cash payments were worth about as much as the rent itself.

Reference: Raftis, J.A., “Tenure and Mobility”, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Toronto, 1964.

¹ Unlike continental peasants, English peasants weren't strongly attached to particular plots of land. There was an active market in land, peasant were reasonably mobile, and most serfs did not farm the land their great grandfathers had farmed.

Court Report of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, October 2nd, A.S. 45

Report of the Court of Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella Baron and Baroness of The Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held at Archers to the Wald in the Canton of Steltonwald on the 2nd day of October Anno Societatis xlv, Lord Jorundr hinn Rotinn, deputy to the Comet Pursuivant, with the assistance of THLord Cadell Blaidd du.

Their Excellencies called Joshua of the Debatable Lands into their presence. They thanked him for his service over the past year as Baronial Youth Archery Champion, but the time had come for him to relinquish his position. Their Excellencies asked if there had been a tournament to decide his successor, Joshua answered in the affirmative, and said that the winner of the tournament was Robert of the Debatable Lands. Their Excellencies called Robert into their presence, and thanked him for his participation and commended his skill with the bow. Joshua placed his arrow into the baronial quiver with those of his predecessors, and the regalia was passed to Robert. Joshua was given a plate of Baronial Brownies as a token of thanks for his service over the past year and Robert was invited to join Their Excellencies in his rightful place behind their thrones.

Their Excellencies summoned Urho Waltterinen before them. His service as Archery Champion over the past year was commended and the results of the tournament to choose his successor were asked. Urho responded that Maestra Gianna di Aurelio won the day. Maestra Gianna was invited into Their Excellencies' presence. Urho placed his arrow into the baronial quiver and passed the sign of championship to Maestra Gianna. Urho was given some Baronial Brownies as a token for his service and support during his tenure as champion and Maestra Gianna was invited to take her place behind Their Excellencies' thrones.

His Excellency then explained that the Thrown Weapons championship had also been held that day, however, since the current champion, Lord Robert Bakere was unable to attend the event to run the tournament himself, a marshal of the barony had developed a tournament to be run in his absence, which was run by His Excellency himself. The winner was Lord Jorundr hinn Rotinn, the developer of said tournament and who some inherent bias was casually suggested, who was asked to come out from behind Their Excellencies to stand before them, when he was bestowed the regalia of the baronial champion and was instructed to take his place as herald back.

Their Excellencies then invited Lady Muirgheal inghean Dubghhail into their presence. Muirgheal explained that she has been running Steltonwald's archery practices and that many gentles had earned ranks according to the system of scoring established in Æthelmearc. She called Marina Martinez, Khalick, Goraidh Stillagr, Zsolt-Patrick Geibel, Allexius of Ballachlagan, and Cailin, and Their Excellencies gave them a badge showing that they had attained the rank of Archer. She then called Bataar Sogdo and Stacy Delp, who were given badges showing their rank as Marksmen. She further called Donnan the Solitary, Alaric MacConnal, Ruland Burckhart, and Robert of the Debatable Lands who were given badges showing that they had achieved the rank of Bowmen.

Their Excellencies summoned Ian of the Debatable Lands, Robert of the Debatable Lands, Libby, and Elss of Augsburg to appear before them. His Excellency then explained that these throwers had all increased their rank to become Verfurs in the thrown weapons ranking system and were given badges to display, showing that this was the case.

Their Excellencies called Brianna of Steltonwald who was commended for her skill in calligraphy and illumination, and so they awarded her with a Comet Azure-Argent. Scroll by the hand of Maestra Gianna di Aurelio.

Their Excellencies then called Kenneth of the Debatable Lands into their presence. He was commended for his skill in thrown weapons and on the lists of the youth fighting as well as his service to the society. For this they inducted him into the Order of the Purple Comet. Scroll by Countess Aidan ni Lier.

Their Excellencies summoned Robert of the Debatable Lands yet again, noting that his continued appearance before them speaks volumes for his involvement and skill in archery, thrown weapons, youth fighting and serving the society, and thus he was awarded a Purple Comet. Scroll by Countess Aidan ni Lier.

Their Excellencies then thanked the autocrat and his staff for putting on such a wonderful event and the cook for the great lunch and forthcoming feast.

Court Closed.

During Feast a Group of Gentles came to Their Excellencies begging permission to hold an order of business in their presence.

Their Excellencies called Laochlain Silverwolf, Gwillm or Afonydd Tair, and Derek the Archer to come before them. The three of them explained the tradition of the Scarlet Guard to take students who they would mentor and teach all they know about archery. They said that the three of them would like to jointly take a student, one by the name of Katheryn Täntzel. After she had been asked if she would be willing to enter into this relationship, members of the populace felt moved to offer council. Fintan na Coiled offered simple words to Katheryn to be careful and think hard before she accepted this position. Elss of Augsburg also spoke words of caution. Brad Boda then spoke that the three men in question are among the most skillful that he knows and the relationship is likely to be a good one. After some contemplation, Katheryn accepts this unique master-student relationship as it is a great opportunity. His Excellency asks if there is a token of this relationship, Derek affirms and explains that students of the Scarlet Guard carry a solid red tassel, except Derek declared that just this wasn't enough for a student of his so he showed that his student's tassel holds a secret, a small tasting cup was secreted among the strands for after a hard day on the range. Katheryn however, was cautioned not to partake while she was on the range and wait until she was done for the day.

Court was closed and the populace was invited to return to their dinners.



iJugglers performing in public

Agincourt, October 23, 2010, Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands

“For now sits expectation in the air
and hides a sword from hilts unto the point
with crowns imperial, crowns and coronets” -Henry V, 2. Prologue

Noble populace take heed of an impending battle upon the Debatable Lands. Heroes shall be made and honor shall rule the field! We welcome one and all to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills (2359 W Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237-1625) for a day of fighting, feasting and revelry. The day's events will include a combat archery challenge, melee fighting, fencing, an arts and sciences display and a grand feast to finish the evening.

Your Autocrats for the event Lord Liam MacanTsaoir (medicmacintyre1521 9 {at} yahoo.com) and THL Constance Glyn Dwr guarantee a day not to be missed. Lady Elss of Augsburg will prepare a superb lunch for all who attend. A special Children's Lunch will also be prepared. Lady Odrianna vander Brugghe has plans for a grand feast. Reservations may be mailed to THL Hildarun Hugelman (Krista Cogan 3815 Baytree Street, Pittsburgh PA 15214).

Fees as follows:

Adults Off Board: \$11, On Board: \$19

Teens aged 13-17 Off Board: \$10, On Board: \$18

Kids aged 6-12 Off Board: \$6, On Board: \$14

Babes ages 0-5 \$0, \$0

BMDL Twelfth Night, January 15, 2011 Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands

Rejoice in the Holiday Season at the celebration of Twelfth Night in the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands!

All are Welcome for this day of Fun, Frivolity and Food! There will be music and song, gift giving and getting, accompanied by the good food of a potluck dinner and the company of good friends!

The Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands is pleased to announce that Twelfth Night Festivities will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge in North Park, (no street number) Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. The site will open at 10 AM and close at 10 PM, so that all may have enough time to enjoy the day.

The populace will be happy to note that this is a FREE event -- there is no charge at the door and no non-member surcharge! No reservations are required. Because it is also a potluck dinner, each person is requested to bring a dish to share.

The autocrat for this event is Lady Elss of Augsburg (Rocky Hayeslip); all inquiries may be directed to the autocrat at elss_of_augsburg at yahoo.com or to Rocky Hayeslip, 221 Pine Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or by cell at 724.759.3333.

Please note that many, many activities are being planned for adults and children. Information and directions will be available in the November and December Althings. Mark your calendars now for the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge at North Park.

THE CANTON OF STELTONWALD OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

(Beaver County)

Seneschal

Lady Madeleine de l'Este
madeleinedlest at yahoo.com

Knight Marshal

THL Robert Marston
kardasl+@pitt.edu

Exchequer

Baron Master Geoffrey fitz David
chinaex at ccia.com

Captain of Archers

Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

Castelain

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr
david_black42 at yahoo.com

Web Minister

Maestra Gianna di Aurelio
giannadiaurelio at comcast.net

Minister of Youth

Tomasia da Collina Ventuso

Canton Meeting

Third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Beaver County Courthouse
madeleinedlest at yahoo.com

Archery

Wednesdays, 6 PM - 9 PM,
except the third Wednesday of any month
Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
Beaver Valley Archery Club
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

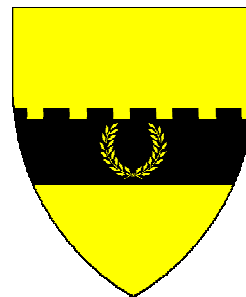
Fight practice

Every Tuesday, 6pm, at the Economy Grange
Contact THL Robert Marston

Sewing

Aoibheil of Dun Holen

<http://www.steltonwald.org/>



THE COLLEGE OF COUR D'OR

The College of Cour d'Or is currently dormant. For information regarding local colleges and Universities, contact the Baronial College Liaison

College Liason

Rosalia Iuliana Andreere

CMU Rooms Reservationist

Margaret Makafee

Elss of Augsburg
c/o Rocky Hayeslip
221 Pine Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

The Althing is the newsletter of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Sign up on the Althing mailing list to have the Althing emailed to you every month at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmdl_althing/.

Download or read the Althing online every month at <http://www.debatablelands.org/althing/>.

Subscribe to the Barony mailing list at <http://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-bmdl>.

Find the Barony home page at <http://www.debatablelands.org/>.

College student? Join the SCA-medieval-interest@googlegroups.com mailing list for announcements of campus and local activities.

Need a ride? <http://groups.google.com/group/bmdlrideboard> is the Google group for ride sharing to events and practices.