

The Althing

Wherein all Good Gentles will find much information of an official nature, such as Court Reports, Officers' Meeting Reports, and Barony Meeting Nottes, which should be Read by all.

Also herein contained are Announcements of upcoming Events of a Joyous and Celebratory Nature, including the Investiture of the Seventh Baron and Baroness of the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands on August 27, AS 46. All are welcome and invited to attend!

A learned article from Dani of the Seven Wells seeks to Instruct those who wish to appear full of grace and gentility on the use of Table Manners, and in addition, that good gentle here begins a series of informative and enlightening articles on Tenth-Century Byzantine Field Armies, which may be of interest to those of a martial nature, who are missing Pennsic Activities.



Coronation of Charlemagne

Being written and printed by the Chronicler, Elss of Augsburg, who records and proclaims the events and activities relating to the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, both past and to come, in the rain and sun of the Barony, far above the Three Rivers.

August a.s. xlvii

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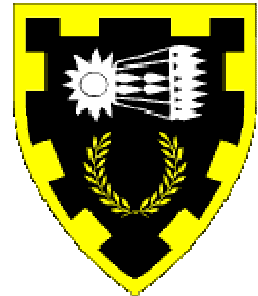
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Aibell ingen Chernachain

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Alexandra dei Campagnella

**Iron Key (Loaner Heavy
Weapons Equipment)**

Ogami Arashimoto no Shirou

Steward

Michelina Cenomani da Trento

Recording Secretary

Vacant

Baronial Signet

Kris Gilibari and Elss of Augsburg

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Arianna of Wyntrope

Historian

Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi

Precedence Editor (Deputy to Comet Pursuivant)

Pavel Dudoladov

Youth Fighting Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Arianna of Wyntrope

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Thorfinna hrogn Josepsdottir

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Disclaimer

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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

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The Althing's submissions deadline is fluid –
send your contributions to Elss at chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.

Greetings from the Baron and Baroness!

Every day must end. We have stood as your representatives for many years, but the time has come for us to begin a new phase of our SCA lives. When we were invested as Baron and Baroness of the Debatable Lands, our son Ian was 4 years old. He is now 9, and cannot remember a time when we did not sit the Baronial thrones.

Many of the Barony's populace can recall a series of Barons and Baronesses, but the members who joined the SCA during our tenure will always be special to us, because we had the honor of welcoming you into this wonderful Society.

To the many Barony members who have supported us over the years, we give our heartfelt thanks. Your hard work was always appreciated.

Our retirement is upon us. But we look forward to many fun events; we look forward to SCA interests new and old; we look forward to spending time with our friends. And you are all our friends.

In Service to the Dream,
Thomas Byron of Haverford
Ariella of Thornbury
6th Baron and Baroness of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

Greetings from the Next Baron and Baroness!

Unto the Populace of the Debatable Lands to Uilliam and Constance send greetings.

As the Fortieth Great Pennsic War ends, a peace come across the Debatable Lands and change is on the horizon. In a few short days, Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella will enter their retirement after serving this Barony for a little more than five years. The chivalry and grace that they brought to the Barony Marche will be long remembered. We would like to thank them for their dedication to the populace.

As the Barony comes to this crossroads it is a time of reflection for all of us and a good time to look on the past works of your friends and neighbors. If they have done service, arts and sciences, gained martial prowess or excelled as a youth in the Barony, consider recommending them for a baronial award.

There are many ways you can do this:

First, you can e-mail us directly at LiamandConstance (at) Gmail.com.

Second, you can use our website recommendation form:

<http://bmdlbandb.webs.com/awardrecommendation.htm>

Third, we will continue the tradition that Byron and Ariella started by having forms and an award collection box available at all baronial events and barony meetings.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Investiture on the 27th, we hope that you will come and celebrate the day with us, and remember to wear Black and Gold if you have the means!

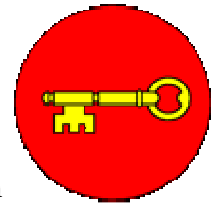
Vivat Byron and Ariella!

Vivat the Debatable Lands!!

Ad Glorium, Aethelmearc!!!

Yours in Service,
Constance and Liam

From the Seneschale:



Greetings on this fine August day! I hope it finds you well-rested, well-cleansed, and well-laundered after the labors and levity of the great Pennsic War. Thanks to all those who served the Barony during Pennsic, including Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella in their last foray as our War Baron and Baroness - we will miss you. Also the people of the Debatable Lands encampment for providing a bannered presence for our lovely lands; Mistress Arianna, THL Urho, and their staff for providing an excellent Baronial reception on the middle Sunday - much fun was had; and Lady Elss and her staff for running the Debatable Lands Thrown Weapons Tourney. Also congratulations to all Debatable Landers who received awards, both Kingdom and Baronial at the War. Vivant to you all!

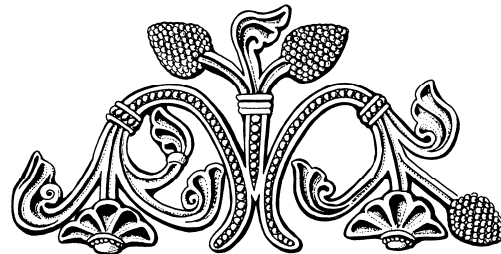
As I write this, we are a few days away from the Baronial Investiture of THL Liam and THL Constance as the new Baron and Baroness of our fair Barony. Most of participated in the election this spring. As you know, the election was held in order to let Their Royal Majesties of Aethelmearc know of the Barony's choice - it is up to Their Majesties to decide whom to invest.

We therefore have prepared, in accordance with all applicable laws and policies, a petition to Their Majesties asking them to invest Liam and Constance. I would ask that all who voted in the election and are able, please sign this petition so that it may be presented to King Christopher and Queen Morgen in Royal Court on August 27th. The petition will be available to sign:

- ❖ On Sunday, August 21st, from 11am to 1pm at Archery and TW practice (Washington Blvd site)
- ❖ On Monday, August 22nd from 7:30pm to 9pm at the Debatable Choir practice (Mistress Ts'veen's house in Stanton Heights, contact me for details)
- ❖ On Tuesday, August 23rd from 7pm to 10pm at Brewers' Guild Meeting (Brandubh and Hilda's house in the North Side, contact me for details)
- ❖ On Wednesday, August 24th, from about 6:30pm to 9pm at Steltonwald Archery practice (Beaver Valley Archery club)
- ❖ On Thursday, August 25th, by appointment. Email me if interested.
- ❖ On Saturday, August 27th, at the Baronial Investiture event, from 9am to 10am ONLY.

Looking beyond into the fall, mark your calendars for Thursday, September 8th, which is September Barony Meeting! It's at 7pm in Porter Hall 100 on CMU's campus (yup, the old Gregg Hall). We are specifically inviting newcomers (both to the SCA and to our Barony) to come out and enjoy our company. We'll have representatives from the different activities speaking, so if you've been contemplating trying something new, this is the ideal meeting for you! Please come in garb if you can. The meeting will be followed by a special Dance Practice at 8pm downstairs in Porter Hall A18A (we'll still have Gregg Hall for socializing, too!). This is also a good opportunity to meet the new Baron and Baroness if you haven't already. See you there!

In Levitate et Caritate,
~Hilda, Seneschale



Greetings from Your Friendly Local Herald:

I hope that a fun and productive Pennsic was had by all, and to that end I'd like to thank those from our Barony who aided in the running of Herald's Point at War: specifically, Dame Elsbeth Anne Roth, Lady Alana Griffin, THLady Myfanwy ferch Rhiannon, THLady Roana d'Evreux, Dame Ailis Linne, Lord Thomas Ouswood, Lady Caitriona inghean Ui Bhraonain, Bonheddwr Cinnion map Liuelin map Higuel, and, as always, much thanks to the rest of the staff who makes everything possible. If anyone has been forgotten, the fault is mine own.



For those of you who did not make it to Herald's Point at Pennsic, but are looking to choose and or submit a name or arms, there will be a heraldic consulting table at Baronial Investiture.

Yours in service,

Lord Pavel Dudoladov, Comet Pursuivant

-Павел (*Pavel*)

For the Knight Marshal:

The Knight Marshal's term of officer is up in October. Those interested in serving as Knight Marshal should send a Letter of Intent to Lord Shiro at knightmarshal@debatablelands.org and to our Seneschal at seneschal@debatablelands.org. Lord Shiro intends to renew for another two year term. However, he is looking for someone to take over responsibility for the Heavy Fighting loaner gear (Iron Key).



From the Captain of Archery:

We'll get back to scheduled archery practice at the Washington Boulevard site starting again on Sunday, August 21st at the usual 11:00 time.

As it stands right now, Sunday practices will continue weekly with the exception of the Sunday during Labor Day weekend, September 4th. I will be out of town that weekend (no, not Shoot in the Wyldwoode, although I wish could be there). So unless one of the other marshals wants to grab a stand from me, there will be no practice that day. We will discuss that this weekend.

I'm anxious to see any of the new gear that you might have been picked up. Remember that any new bows will have to be inspected.

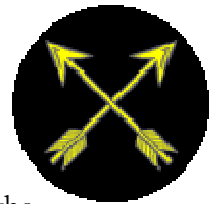
Let me know about any Pennsic archery stories.

In Service to the Barony-Marche,

Urho Waltterinen

crossbow1953@earthlink.net

Per valde mustache adveho valde officium



Greetings to all Youth Fighters and Their Parents!

The Debatable Lands Youth Fighters gained much glory at Pennsic!

Congratulations especially go to our Baronial Champion, Tiberius Aquila, who won the Division 3 Youth/Adult Tag Team Tourney in conjunction with his partner, Lord Gareth Kincaid, against fourteen other teams. Kudos also go to Gwion ab Onen, who came in third in a stiff field of 24 teams in the Division 2 portion of that same tourney, partnered with Lord Vlad of Sunderoak.

I would also like to congratulate Alethea Cowle, who was authorized to move up to Division 2 at Pennsic!

Other BMDL Youth Fighters who fought at Pennsic include Eiiden ibn Abdul Salam, Black Jack the Red, Kenneth of the Debatable Lands, Lord Robert McEwin of Thornhill, and Theo.

Thanks also to Lady Ceindrech merch Elidir, who spent a great deal of time marshalling youth combat at Pennsic.

THERE WILL BE NO BMDL PRACTICES IN AUGUST due to Pennsic and the post-Pennsic recovery and laundry weekend.

HOWEVER, on Saturday, August 27 at Baronial Investiture the BARONIAL YOUTH CHAMPION TOURNEY will be fought. See here for more details on the event:
<http://debatablelands.org/events.html>

See you at Investiture!

Arianna

Fighter Practice Social Pavilion!

To the populace of the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands does Lady Caillen and Odriana vander Brugghe bid greetings.

There will a table available for those who wish to socialize whilst the warriors of our Barony participated in martial practice. There is also a pop-up pavilion available for particularly sunny (or rainy) days so that we may be in comfort. Here is the remaining schedule for this (subject to change along with any changes in fighter practice):

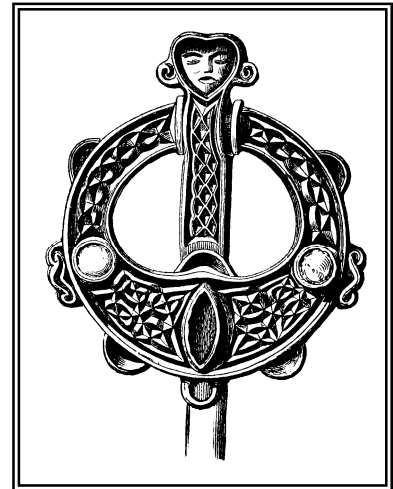
21, 28 August

4, 11, 18, 25 September

Come and enjoy the company and good fellowship.

Written this second day of July two thousand and eleven in the northern region of the most remarkable Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands in the fourth year of the reign of the Boy Mayor, Luke.

OVB



Important Dates Coming Up!

Baronial Investiture – August 27, 2011

Saturday, August 27, 2011 from 9am to 10pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. See the event notice in this issue.

September Barony Meeting and Dance Practice – September 8, 2011

Thursday, September 8th, starting at 7pm on CMU's campus in Porter Hall 100 (pending approval by CMU) -- Newcomers meeting: wear your garb if you wish and bring cool stuff to show and share!

October Officers Meeting – October 17, 2011

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 8 PM at CMU, in Porter Hall, room TBD.

November Barony Meeting and Harvest Revels with PIE! – November 6, 2011

Sunday, November 6th, thrown weapons and archery starting at 11am, barony meeting at 2pm, fighter practice at 2:30pm, plus bring a pie to share and enter into the pie contest!

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

Table Manners by Dani of the Seven Wells

The following advice is culled from a fifteenth-century French source: “S'ensuivent les Contenances de la Table”.

- ❖ When told to sit in another's house, do so at once, but take care there's nothing nasty on the seat.
- ❖ Take enough bread and wine but not too much.
- ❖ Don't eat too freely of the first dish, so as not to be able to eat others.
- ❖ Don't touch any dish first; let the host do that.
- ❖ When you've put food in your mouth, don't let it touch the dish again.
- ❖ Don't offer anyone else food that you've bitten.
- ❖ Don't stuff in your mouth what you can't eat, and then have to spit it out again.
- ❖ Take salt on your trencher. Don't dip your food in the salt-cellar.
- ❖ Mix water with strong wine, or it will muddle your wits. (To get drunk is disgraceful, and it makes your head hurt.)
- ❖ If you have a cloth, never drink out of a cup with a dirty mouth.
- ❖ If you take a sip out of a glass, drink all the wine or throw it away.
- ❖ Don't touch your nose with the hand that holds your meat.
- ❖ Don't wipe your teeth with the cloth.
- ❖ Offer no one the leavings of your soup.
- ❖ Keep the tablecloth clean, and put your leavings in a cup.
- ❖ Don't blow your nose loudly at table.

Ref: “S'ensuivent les Contenances de la Table”, MS. Bibl. Imper.1181, ol.7398, fol 1v-5.

Furnivall, Frederick J., ed., “The Babees Book”, Early English Text Society, 1868.

Report of the Meetings of the Officers of the BMDL

The Officers Meetings are held to discuss and decide upon the business matters of the Barony, and these are the minutes of the meetings held recently.

June Officers' Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2011

- ❖ Officers in attendance: Seneschale (Hilda), MOL (Aileen), Captain of Archers (Urho), MoAS (Langdon), Herald (Pavel), Chirurgion (Liam), Exchequer (Tofi), Webminister (Cai)
- ❖ Officers proxied: Chronicler (Liam for Elss), Fencing Marshal (Hilda for Fredeburg), Steltonwald Seneschale (Urho for Muirgheal), Chatelaine (Hilda for Anna Leigh).
- ❖ Officers not in attendance: Marshal of Fence (Fredeburg)
- ❖ Populace/Positions present: Alaric, Jorundr, Elizabeth Parker, Thrown Weapons Marshall (Ro)

[Minutes recorded by Jorundr]

1. Open meeting

2. Officers' Reports:

- ❖ Baron/ess: We have heirs, smooth election, looking forward to final Pennsic and always looking for suggestions for awards
- ❖ Seneschale: thanks to autocrats and those who helped at may barony meeting, especially the maypole committee. A couple local issues have occurred but are being handled. Reminder that Hilda has a personal policy of transparency when allowable. Reminder to autocrats and potential: check to see if there is anything else in the works when scheduling events. We will not discourage good event bids, though not putting in for Kingdom events for a while is desirable. For Barony Meetings, formal announcements will resume. The Dark Pages has been updated. Choir is working on Pennsic performance and CD recording
- ❖ Herald: nothing in particular to report
- ❖ Knight Marshal: youth combat marshal reports summer activity: one d1 goes to d2, one new d1 at war practice, and one new d2 at fighter practice. TW Marshal: nothing to report.
- ❖ MoAS: Report went in on time. Academy coming up shortly. Gearing up for Pennsic
- ❖ Exchequer: We have money. End of year report is in. Term is up tonight, but no letters; Tofi willing to re-up. Exchequers' meeting at War Practice: new info from kingdom about fundraisers (require permission/letting kingdom know about it). Policy suggestion remanded to policy discussion.
- ❖ Chirurgion: 2 minor injuries at Iron Comet, injuries and Shingles at War Practice
- ❖ MOL: Iron Comet tournaments went well, 7 Pearls heavy tourney at war practice

3. Event Bids: Rapier and Costuming Academy. Approved Unan. Officers requested an update at next officers' meeting due to uncertainty of site. Discussion on sideboards as opposed to feasts.

4. Past/Upcoming Event Updates: Iron Comet made money and the populace enjoyed it. The Music and Dance Collegium happened, no report yet; thanks to Cai for running the ball those queried enjoyed the event. Aecademy is still happening with a dual royal progress, schedule should be released Friday. Baronial Investiture is on track, announcement is online and will be in Althing and Aestel.

5. Exchequer Officer: no letters for exchequer, highly interested in training a deputy and turning over the office. Tofi confirmed for another 2 years.
6. Timing of next meetings: Barony meeting at martial site theme of Pennsic preparation, garb swap again, July 10 at 1 PM, donated schedules will exist. July 10 there will be a short officers meeting at 12:45. Unanimous decision for officers meeting on August 17 at 8pm. September barony meeting newcomer meeting tentatively September 8, 15 as backup, more visibility could be better.

Side bar: a directed attempt to revive Cour d'Or using a schola series focused on fighters to be held on Pitt lawns during the fall semester; should Cour d'Or revive making a regular meeting happen locally is a good idea; discussion tabled; any volunteers for this committee are good.

7. Ice Cream Social: Annaleigh and Hilda's suggestion for after the zoo demo to follow up with the interest developed at the demo, ideally between the demo and Aecademy, having round table discussions focused at newcomers, CMU Rangos ballroom 3, June 23 Thursday, FREE PARKING, there will be ice cream.

A short break occurred.

8. Business cards are ordered
9. Policy discussion: explanation of how policy changes work, request for input on what kinds of changes need to be made, reorganization of policies into a more logical order, policies on loaner equipment specifically discussed, positions are not officially defined, deputies are also not defined, there is a lack of definition on what happens when officers drop dead. the letter of intent must clearly state whether the new officer wants to finish the term or start a new term, call for letters to be placed in the next Althing, if an officer is absent without representation for 3 consecutive officer's meetings he/she will be considered to have resigned and his/her superior officer on the kingdom level will be notified. Addition of 4 V the secondary purpose of designated funds shall be the general fund unless otherwise specified. 5 E If an officer is unable or unwilling to serve as a member of the selection committee or accepts a baronial nomination...the next officer in precedence takes over. Liam has one last thing. Baronial signet position discussion remanded. Under new positions section: positions don't have term limits when a position changes hands the officers should confirm them as acceptable at the next officer's meeting, with the exception of the baronial signet.
10. Meeting closed.

July Officers' Meeting Minutes, July 10, 2011

- ❖ Officers in attendance or proxied: Baron, Seneschale, Chronicler (proxied), Herald, Knight Marshal (proxied), MoAS, Exchequer, Chirurgeon, MOL, Marshal of Fence, Archery Marshal, Chatelaine, Webminister, Steltonwald Seneschale

1. Open meeting
2. Agincourt Event bid approved.
3. Fredeburg has stepped down from being Marshal of Fence. Irene von Schmetterling has agreed to be Interim Marshal until a replacement can be found.
4. Meeting closed.

July Barony Meeting Notes, July 10, AS 46

A meeting of the Barony-March Debatable Lands was held July 10th at the Washington Boulevard Practice Area. It was well attended by the Barony's the general populace and officers. Here follows a list of relevant announcements.

The Baron, Lord Thomas Byron of Haverford, speaking for Their Excellencies wished to thank the populace for making their reign an enjoyable one, as this is Their last Barony meeting. They also would encourage people to sign up for guard duty at the Aethelmaerc Royal Encampment, Sunday August 7th (Sunday of War week), shifts start at 9am and end at 9pm. They are also looking for retainers for multiple occasions throughout War Week, if you wish to volunteer please speak to their head retainer Margery(Alfie Svoboda). Also, They invite all to attend the [Baronial Court and Reception](#) at 5:00 pm in the Aethelmaerc Royal Encampment on Sunday August 7th as well.

The Baronial Senescal, Lady Hildarun Hugelman, reminded the populace that if they wish to autocrat an event or would like to know more about autocratting she is available as a resource. Additionally, she passed on information from the most recent Curia: including the passage of the Aethelmaerc MOL Badge by the College of Herald's, the move of the Aestel from paper to electronic formats early in 2012, the switch of fencing in Aethelmaerc to heavy default. Also, there will be two camera crews at Pennsic this year, identified with banners displaying a camera, no one need feel obligated to speak to the camera crew. Additionally, the Barony would like to continue its tradition of helping AE royal set-up camp on the first Sunday of Pennsic.

The Baron Elect, Lord Liam Macan'Tsaoir, reminded all to stay well hydrated at Pennsic and included fighters particularly, who should drink at least twice as much water as they would otherwise. Additionally, he pointed out the garb and other SCA stuff swap that successfully followed the meeting.

Several other barony members pointed out that this year as always Pennsic does not run itself and relies on the chivalrous and heroic efforts of it myriad of volunteers. This said, if you enjoy Pennsic consider volunteering, suggested efforts: Troll, the Sylvan Armor Service (contact Lady Aileen ingen Proinnsias), Herald's Point, Security, Disability Services, among many others.

Lady Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill, announced that Steltonwald will be holding an Archery repair and shoot meet-up on Wednesday; she can be contacted for details.

Mistress Arianna of Wynthrope reminded all that the [Baronial Investiture](#) will be two weeks after Pennsic and that she is still looking for volunteers and ideas, please contact her if you wish to help, you can find her and many other people's contact information in the newly updated [Dark Pages](#), of which she is the editor.

Master Alastar Scott MacCrummin wished to thanks all those who have helped him with cooking in the kitchens of recent events.

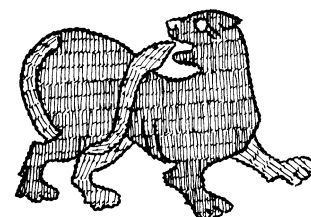
Also, Master Alaric MacConnell wished to thank all those who have helped him raise money for the American Heart Association, for which he has raised \$250 in the barony and \$550 overall.

There being no further announcements the SCA garb and accessory swap began and martial practice resumed. Overall, a good time was had by all.

In service,

Your Comet Pursuivant,

-Павел (Pavel)



BMDL Court Report of August 7, AS 46 **from the XL Great Pennsic War**

Here begins the record of the court of their Excellencies Byron and Ariella, Baron and Baroness of these Debatable Lands, on August 7th, Anno Societatis 46, at the Great Pennsic War, Lord Pavel Dudoladov, reporting herald.

Lady Sarab bint Alima was invited forth by their Excellencies. They remarked upon her unceasing service to the Barony and thus inducted her into the Order of the Comet Or.

Their Excellencies then called forward Lady Ruaidrí Mac Aoidh. They recalled her countless hours of service to the Barony and therefore announced her induction into the Order of the Comet Or.

The presence of Duke Henri d'Artois was then requested, Their Excellencies remarked on his skill on the field and his willingness to share his knowledge, and thus inducted him into the Order of the Comet Gules.

Their Excellencies next called forth Master Will Langdon of Greymorne and praised his efforts for the people of the barony, providing space in his home for armoring, and offering his skills to all those who would seek them in response to his efforts, and so they inducted him into the Order of the Comet Azure-Argent.

Master Alastar Scott MacCrummin was next called to their Excellencies' presence, where his skill and abundance of service to the Barony as a cook was described; in recognition of this service did they induct him into the Order of the Comet Or.

Finally, Lord Lothar Hugelman was summoned, and Their Excellencies recalled his almost constant presence in this Barony, in which he does not reside, and his willingness to lend a hand whenever he is present; therefore they inducted him into the Order of the Comet Vert, naming him a friend of the Barony.

Their Excellencies then proceeded to thank Mistress Arianna of Wyntrope and THLord Urho Waltterinen for their work in preparing the Baronial Reception, and instructed the populace to eat more of the delicious chicken and bread.

There being no further business the court of Their Excellencies was closed.

-Павел *(Pavel)*



Tenth-Century Byzantine Field Armies - Overview by Dani of the Seven Wells

The tenth century saw one of Byzantium's rare aggressive phases. Military doctrine was revised to support large armies capable of carrying out wars of conquest. In the latter part of that century, Byzantium expanded into lands formerly held by Moslems to the south and east, and by Bulgarians to the north and west. This article presents an overview of the units and formations prescribed in two Byzantine manuals of that time.

An idealized tenth-century expeditionary army of 25,000 soldiers consists of:

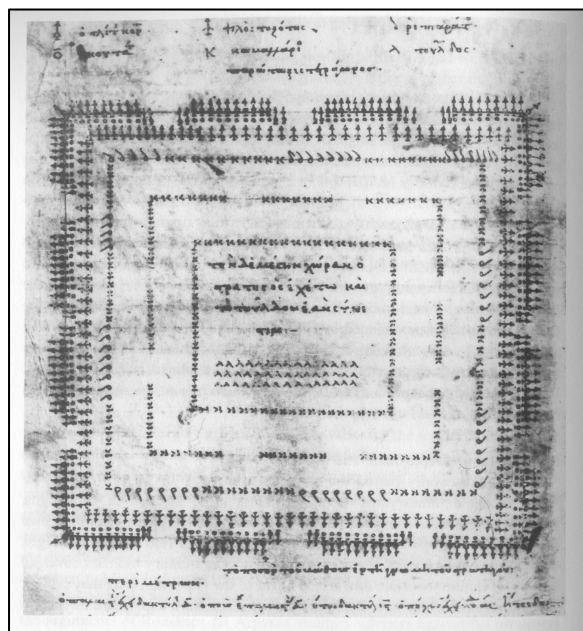
- ❖ 12000 infantry, organized into 12 taxiarchies of 1000 men each: 400 heavy infantry, 300 archers, 200 light infantry, and 100 heavy pikes (menavlotoi)
- ❖ Another 5200 heavy infantry and 1200 archers
- ❖ 500 light cavalry (prokoursatores)
- ❖ 500 heavy cavalry (kataphraktoi)
- ❖ 5500 regular cavalry, including about 2000 archers
- ❖ Supernumeraries (e.g., mule drivers, servants)

Numbers – especially those showing the army to consist primarily of infantry – may deceive: This is a medieval army (albeit a larger, better-organized, and better-trained one than most), and its striking arm is cavalry. The infantry is there to support the cavalry.

This diagram, taken from yet another tenth-century manual, shows an idealized defensive field formation.

Most of the infantry is arranged around the perimeter in twelve taxiarchies of a thousand men each. Each block is a strong defensive formation, and the gaps between the blocks are wide enough for a dozen or so horses at a time to sally out or retreat in.

The army does everything with variants of this formation: The infantry marches in this formation, fights in this formation, and camps in this formation. On the march, the infantry maintains the square and the cavalry rides alongside to guard and ahead to scout. On the field, this formation is designed to enclose the cavalry when the army is on the defensive and to allow the cavalry to ride ahead when it is on the offensive. The army camps in a variant of this formation, with two gaps left open on each side instead of three.



The basic tactic is for the army to play turtle – with infantry serving as the shell – until a good opportunity arises to win a major cavalry battle.

References: The diagram is from an 11th-century manuscript that reprints a 10th-century Byzantine military manual (*Syntaxis armatorum quadrata*). I copied it from Eric McGeer's "Sowing the Dragon's Teeth", about which more later.

Baronial Investiture

Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills

Saturday, August 27, 2011

The Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands will host the Last Court of Baron Byron and Baroness Ariella, and the Investiture and First Court of its seventh Baron and Baroness, Uilliam and Constance, on August 27, A.S. XLVI (2011), at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills, 2359 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

The incoming Baron and Baroness ask the populace to dress in Baronial colors, if it pleases you, and to generally show your Debatable Lands pride!

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 9:00 Site opens
- 10:00 Last court of Byron & Ariella,
followed by Investiture of Liam & Constance / Royal Court
- 11:30 Sideboard begins serving
- ~12:00 Byron & Ariella hold the field, followed by the Rattan bear pit tourney
Rapier Champion's Tourney begins
A & S Display opens on the theme of "Things I Made at / for Pennsic"
Children's activities begin on the 2nd floor
Scroll painting begins
- ~2:00 Youth Combat Champion's Tourney begins
- 4:20 Debatable Choir performance
- 4:30 First Court of Liam & Constance, and the Royal Court of Christopher & Morgen
- 6:00 Dancing begins
- 7:00 Sideboard closes down
- 7:30 Bardic circle begins around a bonfire if weather permits
- 9:30 Site closes

Dame Margaret Makafee will provide an all-day side-board fitting to the occasion. Those with food allergies should contact her at grm (at) andrew.cmu.edu or by phone at 412-344-4791.

The Autocrat of this event is Mistress Arianna of Wynthrope (Karen Kasper) who can be reached at arianna_wyn (at) yahoo.com or by phone at 412-367-1882.

Fees for this event are \$14 for adults, \$7 for youths aged 6-17, with children under 6 free. Send your reservations to Baron Tofi Kerthjalfadsson (Paul Placeway, 205 Lytton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213). Make checks payable to "SCA, Inc. – BMDL". You can reach Tofi by phone at (412) 621-8610 or by email at paul.placeway (at) gmail.com. Paid reservations only, please. An additional \$5 non-member surcharge will be collected at the gate from those adults who cannot show proof of SCA membership.

Directions:**From the North:**

- Take I-79 toward Pittsburgh, and take Exit 73 (Wexford/Rt. 910).
- Turn left off the ramp onto Rt. 910/Wexford-Bayne Road.
- At the second traffic light, turn right onto Brandt School Rd.
- Go 2.6 miles to the first stop sign and turn right on West Ingomar Rd.
- Go 6/10 of a mile and turn right into the site, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills.

From the South:

- Take I-79 northbound past Pittsburgh, and take exit 73 (Wexford/Rt. 910).
- Turn right off the ramp onto Rt. 910/Wexford-Bayne Road.
- At the first traffic light, turn right onto Brandt School Rd.
- Go 2.6 miles to the first stop sign and turn right on West Ingomar Rd.
- Go 6/10 of a mile and turn right into the site, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills.

From the East and West:

- Take I-76 (PA Turnpike) as if you were heading for Pennsic (toward Pittsburgh).
- At Cranberry, PA, exit onto I-79 southbound and follow the directions from the North, above.

Coming Events of Note:

Wheeling Regional Pre-Modern Symposium - October 1

This October brings an exciting opportunity for the SCA! The Shire of Ballachlagan has partnered with West Liberty University in an attempt to merge the medieval hobbyist with the medieval academic for a weekend. It is our mutual hope that we can both further our knowledge of the time periods that we all love so well.

This conference called WRPS: Wheeling Regional Pre-Modern Symposium, and is sponsored by West Liberty University. They have invited several different medievalist groups into the conference but they are putting a great emphasis on the SCA as they have entrusted three seats on their Board of Directors to the SCA.

This is an invitation from the Shire of Ballachlagan to you to join us on October 1st for a fun day of demoing. This demo's activities include: a heavy weapons tourney, a rapier tourney, archery shoots, thrown weapons, and A&S displays and classes. In addition, there will be an opportunity to listen to various people from academia who will be presenting papers. Carol Symes is the keynote speaker for the conference.

Carol Symes is a Helen Corley Petit Scholar and Associate Professor of History and Medieval Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard and became a member of Actors' Equity in 1999; she also holds a B.A. from Yale, an M.Litt from Oxford, and a Certificate in Stage Combat from the Society of British Fight Directors, earned during professional training at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Her first book, *A Common Stage: Theater and Public Life in Medieval Arras* (Cornell University Press, 2007), has been awarded the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize of the American Historical Association, the David Pinkney Prize of the Society for French Historical Studies, and the Bevington Prize of the Medieval and Renaissance

Drama Society. She has also been a Distinguished Research Visitor at the University of York and a Visiting Associate Professor of History at Harvard.

Here are some of the ways you can be involved and have a great time:

- ❖ Heralds! We need heralds to cry the events and in the List field. We want to have as much pomp and circumstance as we can! We would like to give the tournaments a feel of a Queen's Rapier tournament.
- ❖ Artisans! This demo will focus heavily on the arts. We are hoping to make these people be the bread and butter of this demo. Please come and show off your talents and your wares.
- ❖ Archers, thrown weapons experts, fighters, and fencers! We are asking everyone involved here to make every attempt to look as period as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you who are pursuing period fighting techniques and the golden thorn.
- ❖ Bardic arts! The theme for this year's WRAPS conference is performance. We would love to have any performers; musicians, puppeteers, jugglers, jonglers.....anything.
- ❖ Merchants! Anyone who sells period-like artifacts, and has a period set up. There is no merchant fee. We are still in negotiations with the university to let merchants set up the night before the conference and camp with their goods. Contact me if you need a table.
- ❖ We also invite anyone who is willing to be an extra body to serve, or to answer questions, to work the crowd. This has all the makings of a FREE event! Come and have fun! The University staff will even be attempting to make period recipes on the day of the demo.

Please feel free to contact the autocrat if you have any questions at archais@msn.com.



Rapier and Costuming Academy - December 3

The days grow ever shorter and Winter's chill draws nigh; therefore, we come together to share the light of our knowledge and fight the chill with cloth and steel.

Hone your skills at the Rapier and Costuming Academy in the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, December 3rd at the Pittsburgh Chinese Church, 8711 Old Perry Hwy, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Gentles who wish to teach should contact the Class Coordinators, Mistress Irene von Schmeterling, for fencing, and Mistress Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi, for costuming.

THE CANTON OF STELTONWALD OFFICERS AND MEETINGS
(Beaver County)

Seneschal

Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
Muirgheall at gmail.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
Beaver Valley Archery Club
Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

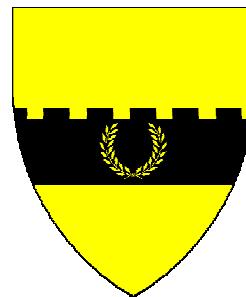
Fight practice

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.

August AS XLVI (2011) Vol. 31. No. 7

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.