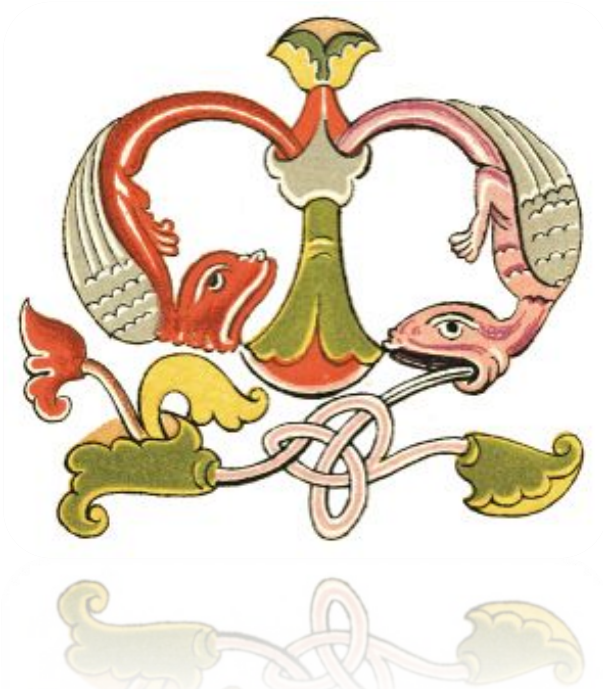


The Althing

New Year New Format!



At the start of this new mundane year, I'd like to introduce a new format for the Althing. As you can see there is a lot of room for interesting, engaging, creative content from the most amazing Barony in the Known World.

So with that said, creative geniuses... The Althing needs your content! Do you have a particular interest that you've spent a lot of time researching, but you've never quite found the appropriate showcase for your knowledge? Well here's your chance!

Send the Althing your poems, recipes, artwork, articles, funny trivia, or random bits of medieval miscellany! There's always room in the Althing to showcase your work.

Sumayya, the Chronicler

January Issue AS XLVII

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Audi doctrinam si vis vitare ruinam.

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 email, 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 to have a paper copy mailed to you.

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 submissions deadline is the 10th of every month – send your contributions to Sumayya at chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.

Art Work: Art Work in this issue is from: Dover Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Art and Ornament, CD Rom and Book, Copyright 2008

Contact Information:

Their Excellencies of the Debatable Lands

Uilliam Mac an Tsaoir
baron@debatablelands.org

Constance Glyn Dwr
baroness@debatablelands.org

Their Royal Majesties of Aethelmearc

Khalek Shurrag Od Branwen ferch Gwythyr
Ae.king@aethelmearc.org Ae.queen@aethelmearc.org

Their Royal Highnesses of Aethelmearc

Maynard von dem Steine Liadain ni Dheirdre Chaomhanaigh
Ae.prince@aethelmearc.org Ae.princess@aethelmearc.org

Officers of the Debatable Lands

Seneschale (02/14)

Hildarun Hugelmann
seneschal@debatablelands.org

Comet Pursuivant (12/14)

Jorundr hinn Rotinn
herald@debatablelands.org

Knight Marshal (10/13)

Cyneweyn Aethelweardesdohter
knightmarshal@debatablelands.org

Minister of Arts and Science (02/13)

Will Langdon of Greymorne
ansminister@debatablelands.org

Chronicler (12/14)

Sumayya al Ghaziyya
chronicler@debatablelands.org

Exchequer (06/13)

Hara of the Debatable Lands
exchequer@debatablelands.org

Chirurgion Liason

Uilliam Mac an Tsaoir
chirurgion@debatablelands.org

Steltonwald Seneschal

Muirgheal inchean Dubhghaill
Muirgheall@gmail.com

Minister of the Lists (02/14)

Katherine Sinclair
lists@debatablelands.org

Marshal of Fence (04/14)

Irene von Schmetterling
fencingmarshal@debatablelands.org

Captain of Archers (10/14)

Alaric MacConnal
archerymarshal@debatablelands.org

Chatelaine (06/14)

Anna Leigh
chatelaine@debatablelands.org

Deputy Chatelaine

Rosalia Juliana Andere

Webminister

Cai o'r Llyn
webminister@debatablelands.org

Cour d'Or Seneschal

Dormant

Baronial Positions and Deputies

College Liason

Rosalia Juliana Andere

Chancellor of Youth

Aibell ingen Chernachain

Gold Key (Loaner Gear)

Elizabeth Arrowsmythe

Iron Key (Loaner Heavy Weapons Equipment)

Sumayya al Ghaziyya

Steward

Michelina Cenomani da Trento

Recording Secretary

Vacant

Baronial Signet

Odrianna vander Brugghe

Dark Pages Editor

Arianna of Wynthrope

Historian

Ts'veen'a bas Tseepora Levi

Precedence Editor (Deputy to Comet Pursuivant)

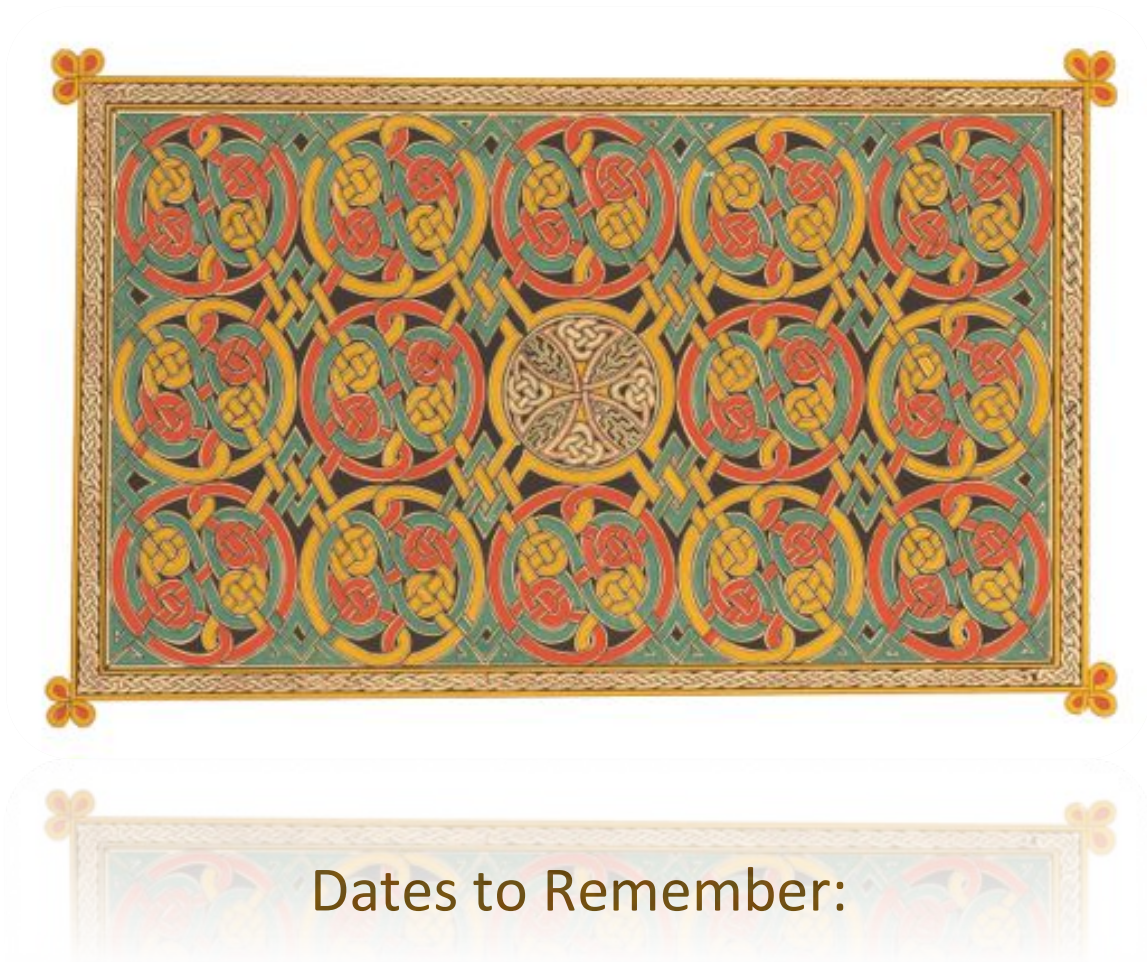
Pavel Dudolav

Youth Fighting Marshal

Arianna of Wynthrope

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Elss of Ausburg



Barony Meetings:

March Barony Meeting – Location and additional details will be released closer to the date. Theme is “Guild Hall.”

May Barony Meeting – Sunday before Memorial Day, 1 P M, to be held at the Marshal Activities site.

July Barony Meeting – 2nd or 3rd Sunday, 1 P M, to be held at the Martial Activities site.

Upcoming Events:

February 16th – College of Three Ravens, Barony of Thescore (Rochester, NY)

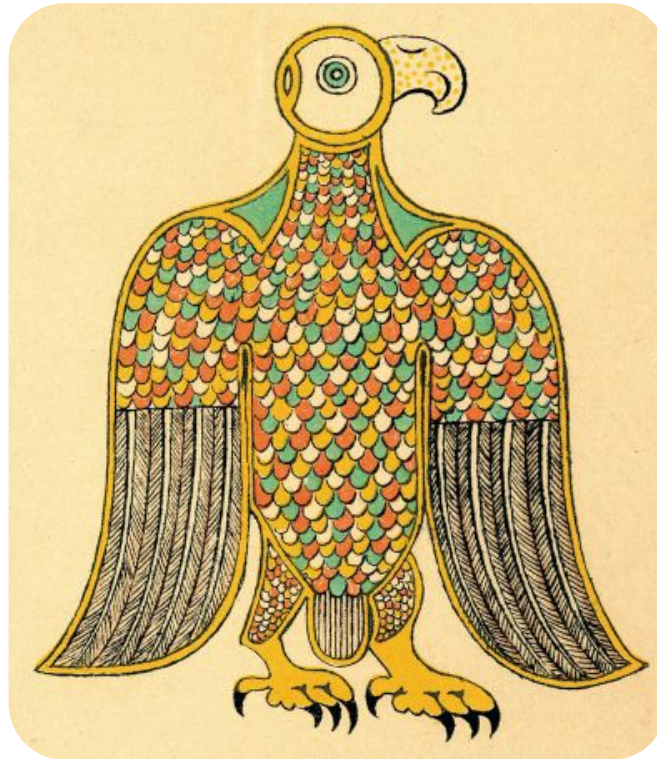
March 1st – 3rd – Tournament of the White Hart XVI, Shire of Port Oasis (Barboursville, WV)

March 2nd – Bears Event, Shire of Stormsport (Erie, PA)

March 10th – 17th – Gulf Wars XXII, Kingdom of Gleann Abhann

March 23rd – The Golden Donnan Party: A Beating Jubilee Shire of Ballachlagan (Wheeling, WV)

March 30th – Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon, Barony of Rydderich Hael (Buffalo, NY)



A Letter From the Baron and Baroness

Unto the populace do Liam and Constance send greetings;

Baronial Twelfth Night has come and gone, and we turn our sights to the spring.

At Twelfth Night we set forth a challenge to all martial combatants and those who would support them to begin to prepare. We encouraged those who were able to make the pilgrimage to Gulf Wars. We also encouraged everyone to prepare for to once again defend the lands of Aethelmearc at Pennsic in August. Thanks to Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella, the Barony will host a muster for heavy Fighters, Fencers and Youth Fighters on February 24th. We will use this day to prepare for the fights ahead.

We present another challenge to the artisan's of the barony. The Passing of the Ice Dragon will fall at the end of March. It is time to hone your skills as an artist and present works to show off to the Kingdom. Each Artisan from the barony that presents at Ice Dragon will be entered into a drawing for a prize to be presented by us at Iron Comet in April. So please get your needles sewing, your roving spun, your knitting needles knitting, your woodwork sanded, and your leather tooled. Let's show the Kingdom that this barony is the home for the arts and sciences!

We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Baron Uilliam Mac-an-tSaoir
and
Baroness Constance Glyn Dwr

From the Seneschale:

Hello Debatable Lands! It's January, and the days are finally once again lengthening. Pennsic is right around the corner! No, no, don't panic - there are lot of weeks between now and then. But I do want to remind you who are requesting vacation time from work that Pennsic's one week earlier this year. See PennsicWar.org for details.

And between now and then? The triumphant return of the Iron Comet Challenge on April 13th! It's going to be a great event. Come out and compete, or play, or watch to see who will emerge victorious as the Iron Comet Champion - the gentle who has mastered fighting, fencing, thrown weapons, archery, and the gentle arts - the best of the best! It will be very exciting. Watch these pages and our website for more information.

Also between now and then is March Barony Meeting. I'm still looking for ideas as to date and theme. It's a great time to gather and socialize, so what kind of thing would you like to have? Speaking of gatherings... muster, muster, muster! In addition to martial musters coming up, there are some plans in the works for an A&S muster, too, courtesy of Their Excellencies. They'll tell you more about it soon.

I'd also like to thank the autocrat of our 12th Night, Lady Elss, and her staff, for another glorious event! This year, it was a small, local affair... with 190 people! What a beautiful, perfect day, and Oh the food! I am impressed every year by you, the populace's generosity and ingenuity in bringing every kind of dish to the best potluck in the Knowne World! Thank you, too, for your generosity with the silent auction and at-door donations. I could go on about the wonderful activities and camaraderie and performances at the event, but well, you were there!

Potpourri! If you need any SCA business cards to have on hand, let me know, I have some. Remember, everyone is a chatelaine! Please support our neighbors, Gryffyn's Keep as they host Crown Tourney on May 5th. The next Officers' Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6th at 8pm at CMU in Porter Hall. Agenda will include voting on the A&S Minister. April Officers' Meeting is on April 3rd and is our annual budget meeting.

As always, please don't hesitate to come to me with any comments, suggestions or questions.

In Levitate et Caritate,
~Hilda

On November 1, 2012, the Board of Directors put the following proposed change out to the membership for comment:

Corpora IV. B. 4.

No one may take part in a Royal Lists as both competitor and prospective consort.

Due to significant lack of support for this change, the Board agreed by consensus during the Jan 9, 2013 conference call to retract this proposal.

We want to thank everyone who has taken the time to send us commentary on all proposed changes, we need that input to make the best decisions for our organization.

We would also like to remind everyone to please review the list of nominees to the Board of Directors and provide commentary regarding the people on this list. Please let us know your thoughts - we need much more input than we are currently getting.

Greetings from Langdon of Greymorne,

I have held the office of Minister of Arts and Sciences for a year and a half and my term is coming to an end. The Barony is very talented and active and the artisans are the leaders in the kingdom. It is my joy to be a part of the A&S Community.

The Office of Minister of Arts and Sciences is very important to the Society and the Barony. The SCA, our organization, receives its private non-profit educational status from the arts and teaching. The Arts in the society are the most enduring aspect of our organization as well. After the tournaments or feasts you have the scrolls and the awards and the prizes to show for the works.

The MoAS helps foster these arts and records the activities of the group members. I would like to find a member of the barony to take over the office when my term is up. As such I would like to ask for letters of intent for the Office of MoAS for Debatable Lands.

Thank you all for your consideration,

Langdon of Greymorne

MoAS Debatable Lands

The Debatable Choir is always seeking new members. We rehearse every Monday from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at a private home on the East Side of Pittsburgh, and perform at SCA events in BMDL and at Pennsic.

You don't need to have experience, sing like Hugh Jackman, or even be able to read music (though it helps). Parts are taught in rehearsals, audio files are available for you to practice with at home, and the other members of your section provide support.

Now is the perfect time to join since we will begin learning new music for our spring and summer concerts this week. You know you want to....

Email me off-list or call me at 412-367-1882 for more information.

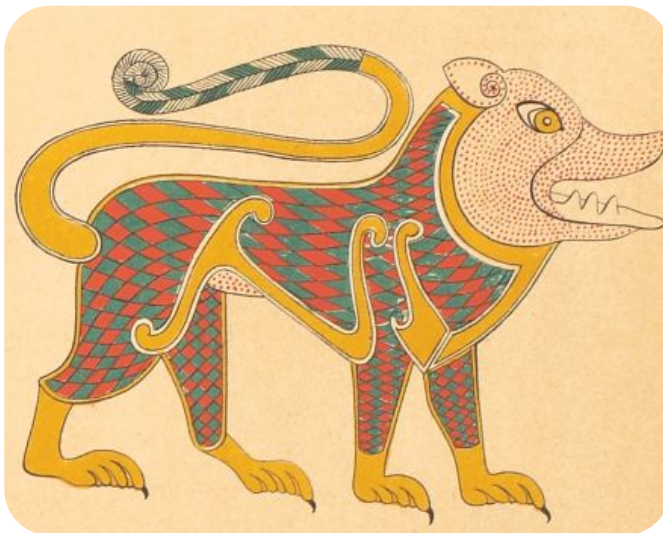
Arianna of Wynthrope
Director, Debatable Choir

From the Knight Marshal:

Greeting heavy fighters, His Excellency, Baron Liam, calls the baronial army to his side, to join the army of Aethelmearc in aiding our cousins of Trimaris in the upcoming Gulf Wars. To prepare for this great crusade, and to hone our skills in fighting as an effective army, we are gathering to practice with other units 3 times before our journey. Answer the Baron's call, sharpen your sword and string your bow, and join us for practice.

Upcoming schedule:

- Feb 3 - practice with Sunderoak and Stormsport in Butler **12 – 5 PM**, 210 B Spring St, Butler PA 16001
- Feb 10 - practice at PCC, 2 – 6 PM
- Feb 17 - practice at PCC, 2 – 6 PM
- Feb 24 - Regional Muster, **1 – 5 PM** at Marshall Elementary, 5135 Wexford Run Rd, Wexford PA 15090
- Mar 3 - practice with Sunderoak and Stormsport in Butler **12 – 5 PM**, 210 B Spring St. Butler PA 16001



Enhance Your Medieval Vocabulary!



Essoin

An excuse or exemption, especially from attending court.



Scutage

Money paid by a feudal landowner to a lord in lieu of service.



Arquebus

Early firearm consisting of a tube sealed at one end with a touch-hole. Sometimes fitted with a small bar at the sealed end which was placed against a surface.



Largesse From the Barony:

A note about Anglo-Saxon poetry. Anglo-Saxon epic poetry (like Beowulf or the Battle of Maldon) is not rhyming nor does it have specific meter. However, there are 4 primary words per line, and ideally, the first three primary words begin with the same sound, and the fourth is different.

A note about this poem. Some years ago when Duke Henri was last king, he and his queen called the army of Æthelmearc to go to the aid of the Kingdom of Trimaris in the Battle of Gulf Wars XX. This is the story of that battle (with a new stanza at the end!).

The armies of Ansteorra, and their brothers in arms,
A multitude of the mighty, made ready for battle.
Gathering their war-boards, and wearing their helms
They marched in measure, and moved into position.
The territory of Trimaris, and their chief town,
Came thoroughly under threat, and heard the thunder
Of sword on shield. "Secure your positions!
Shoulder your shield!" Henri shouted to all.
And the battle began, swords bashing
Against slender spears ready to strike.
Steadfast Henri's men stood, stout-hearted for battle,
While the enemy entered, more engaging in the fight,
Until the foemen on the field were four times
Those first on the frontlines. Then fell back
The scarlet soldiers, but the enemy saw
The glorious might of Æthelmearc.

Rough was the retreat, but ready still
To fight were the warriors of the white and red.

They fell back to the bridge of the river,
And readied their ranks. Their ring-giver fled not,
But stood fast, centering their line.

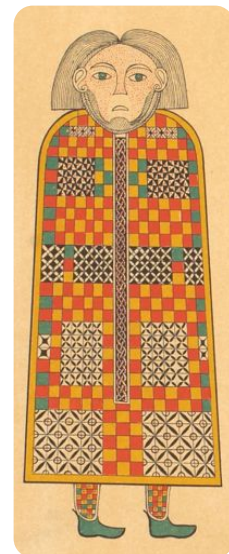
He bade his brave men bear their shields
As they all stood at the stream's edge,

Or upon the grass-strewn bridge. Glory they sought,
Put thought to hand-work and heart to fighting.
They would not take flight from the ford's neck
But fast defense make against the foemen
As long as they might wield their weapons.
The men of the black star strode into the fray,
Their spears flying. Superior in number,
They pressed forward, and pushed back
The bitter bridge-warders. Bards shall cry,
"The valiant stand of Æthelmearc."

The fight shifted to a field of grass.
The lines drew up, long were their shield-walls.
The cry of the cannon called for the fight,
The battle's beginning upon this bold field.
The armies advanced, aiming for a flank,
As the ballista bolts flew. The brave ruler
Of the escarbuncle band, eyes undimmed,
Neither failed nor faltered, but fought for glory.
Sharp-eyed, he spied a secret gap
In the lengthening line of the legion opposing.
The Sylvan liege lord leapt into the fray,
Calling his courageous comrades to follow.
The Sylvan soldiers, stout-hearted and fierce,
Followed into the fray, fealty-bound and loyal,
Onward as one, united in the war-play,
And met the enemy in a mighty clash,

With skill and strategy, they struck the shieldwall,
Felling their foe, on the field of battle,
And won the day for Æthelmearc.

Again Ansteorra advances for battle,
Seeking to sack the silver of Trimaris.
Again our allies ask for warriors,
Many and mighty, to march to their aid.
Brave and bold, our Baron Liam,
For no gain but glory, goes to the southlands
To engage the enemy and aid our cousins.
Our Baron begs the baronial army
His high-hearted hearth-companions
That fought so fiercely on the field of Pennsic,
To join in the journey, generous and noble.
War-hardened warrior, water-bearer,
Artist, archer, and axe-thrower bold,
Will you stand with Æthelmearc?



Steltonwald Twelfth Night Court Report



Report of the Court of Their Excellencies Uilliam and Constance, Baron and Baroness of the Debatable Lands, held at Steltonwald Twelfth Night, January 26 AS 47, Lord Jorundr hinn Rotinn, Comet Pursuivant, reporting herald.

Their Excellencies wished to thank the staff of the event for hosting such a nice event this day.

Their Excellencies called for Lady Marion of Blackwood, Their Excellencies had heard many good things about Lady Marion she has done much good work lately in organizing the Steltonwald sewing circle, this Their Excellencies find to be a good thing, and so they did induct her into the Order of the Gold Comet, scroll illuminated by THL Zoe Taiger with calligraphy by THL Kieran MacRae.

Their Excellencies desired Maestro Jacopo Di Niccolo to attend Them. Their Excellencies have long known of Jacopo's skills in the creation of targets for archery and his creation of excellent period arrows along with his teaching of these skills to others, for this They felt moved to add Jacopo to the roster of membership of the Order of the Blue-Silver Comet, scroll illuminated by Lady Anna Leigh and calligraphed by THL Kieran MacRae.

Their Excellencies were in possession of a piece of business from Their Sylvan Majesties Henri and Elena, and as this piece of business was unable to be given by Them directly Their Excellencies were delivering it on Their behalf. Barbara of Hydeholde had been noted for her assistance to the realm as hostess and cook, and thus did Henri and Elena King and Queen of AEthelmearc award her arms.

Their Excellencies wished all attending to eat, drink and be merry.

Court closed

The Canton of Steltonwald Officers and Meetings

Seneschal

Lady Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill

Muirgheall@gmail.com

Knight Marshal

Lord Marcus du Coeur

Marcussmoot.jr@gmail.com

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Lady Marian of Blackwood

Stellagrace75@aol.com

Exchequer

The Honorable Lady Ysabell Graver

Ysabell_graver@hotmail.com

Captain of Archers

Maestro Jacopo di Niccolo

JacopoGM@yahoo.com

Castelain

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr

David_black42@yahoo.com

Web Mistress

Lady Madeleine de l'Este

Madeleinedlest@yahoo.com

Canton Meetings:

Third Wednesday of the month at 7PM.

Beaver County Courthouse

Archery

Wednesdays, 6PM – 9 PM

Except the third Wednesday of any month

Beaver Valley Archery Club

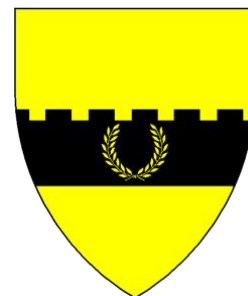
Maestro Jacopo di Niccolo

JacopoGM@yahoo.com

Fight Practice

On hiatus for the Winter

<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 Liason.

College Liaison	CMU Rooms Reservationist
Rosalia Juliana Andrere	Margaret Makafee

- 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.



Blindur er bóklaus maður.

The Althing

Sumayya al Ghaziyya

c/o Megan O'Shea

11516 Clematis Blvd

Pittsburgh, PA 15235