

The Althing



As the content of the Althing shifts from calendar and time-oriented content to non-schedule dependent articles and information we will be shifting to a bi-monthly newsletter. Is there any content that you would like to see? Please let me know, email me at: chronicler@debatablelands.org.

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Audi doctrinam si vis vitare ruinam.

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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 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.

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Aibell ingen Chernachain

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Elizabeth Arrowsmythe

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Sumayya al Ghaziyya

Steward

Michelina Cenomani da Trento

Baronial Signet

Odrianna vander Brugghe

Dark Pages Editor

Arianna of Wynthrope

Historian

Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi

Youth Fighting Marshal

Arianna of Wynthrope

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Elss of Ausburg



Dates to Remember:

Barony Meetings:

General Barony meetings are held bimonthly on the odd numbered months. Our next Barony Meeting will be in March.

Upcoming Events:

February 8 – Feast of the Seven Deadly Sins: The Windmill of Cloth of Gold – Barony of Delftwood

February 15 – A Kingdom for a Stage – Barony-Marche of Debatable Lands

February 22 – 12th Night at Kings Crossing – Shire of King's Crossing

February 22 – College of Three Ravens – Barony of Thescore

March 1 – Feast of the Bears – Shire of Stormsport

March 1 – Abhainn Ciach Ghlais 25th Anniversary – Shire of Abhainn Ciach Ghlais

March 7-9 – 17th Annual Tournament of the White Hart – Shire of Port Oasis

March 9-16 – Gulf Wars XXIII – Kingdom of Gleann Abhann

March 22 – Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon – Barony of Rhydderich Hael

March 29 – Donnan Party – A Day of Beatings – Shire of Ballachlagan

October Weekly Meetings:

For Contact Information please refer to the calendar on the debatablelands.org site.

Sunday, February 2

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice
- 4:00pm - Basketweaving

Monday, February 3

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 5

- 6:30pm – Scriptorium
- 8:00pm – Officer’s Meeting

Sunday, February 9

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, February 10

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 11

- 6:30pm – Basketweaving

Saturday, February 15

- Kingdom for a Stage Event

Sunday, February 16

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, February 17

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 20

- 6:30pm – Basketweaving

Sunday, February 23

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, February 24

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 25

- 7:00pm - Brewers' Guild Meeting

Thursday, February 27

- 7:30pm - Debatable Consort Practice
- 8:00pm – Dance Practice

Sunday, March 2

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice
- 4:00pm - Basketweaving

Monday, March 3

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 5

- 6:30pm – Scriptorium

Saturday, March 8

- Cooking for Crowds

Sunday, March 9

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice
- 4:00pm - Basketweaving

Monday, March 10

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 11

- 6:30pm – Basketweaving

Sunday, March 16

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, March 17

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 20

- 6:30pm – Basketweaving

Sunday, March 23

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, March 24

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 25

- 7:00pm – Brewers Guild Meeting

Thursday, March 27

- 7:30pm - Debatable Consort Practice
- 8:00pm – Dance Practice

Sunday, March 30

- 2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice
- 2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, March 31

- 7:00pm - Heavy Fighter Clinic
- 7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal



A Letter From the Baron and Baroness

Unto the Populace of the Barony Marche do Liam and Constance send greetings;

We hope you all enjoyed Twelfth Night Celebrations in January. At BMDL 12th Night, we had the pleasure of choosing three new Baronial Champions. Congratulations to; Lady Sumayya al Ghaziyya our new arts and sciences champion, Lady Bugga Bilibit and Master William Montegilt, our new bardic champions and Abatissa of Banbury our new brewing champion.

We are looking forward to welcoming Their Majesties for their Bardic Championship at "A Kingdom for a Stage". We hope to see many of you there!

For those who plan to camp with the Barony at Pennsic, Pre-registration is open, You can register under "Debatable Lands", Please e-mail Baron (at)debatablelands.org if you plan to camp with us.

In service to the dream,
Baroness Constance and Baron Liam
Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands

From the Seneschale:

"There is an end to everything, to good things as well."

I hope that everyone's holidays have been bright and beautiful, and you all are thoroughly enjoying this 12th Night season. Thank you to THL Elss and her staff for running our Baronial 12th Night, and to Lady Theresa and her staff for Steltonwald 12th Night. Thank you, too, to Baron Liam and his staff for a wonderful Agincourt event, as usual. And also to those who pitched in to make the Barony Meeting and Harvest Revel the best meeting of the year!

Now, some business: Elsewhere in the Althing, you'll find a proposed policy change. This change will be on the agenda for the February Officers' Meeting on Feb 5th at 8pm. Please send any comments to me at seneschal@debatablelands.org by Feb 4th. Baronial Policy can be found at http://www.debatablelands.org/policy/bmdl_police_s_2012-02.pdf. Also, it's been pointed out that the Knight Marshal of the Barony can be any warranted marshal, regardless of the type of warrant (archery, rapier, etc.) that the Knight Marshal holds. This means that, if the Knight Marshal is not the Rattan marshal, then the Rattan Marshal is not an officer. The Officers of the Barony are interested in your thoughts on creating the Rattan Marshal as a separate Officer. We don't have a proposed policy change at this time, but we will be discussing it during February's Officers' Meeting. As a reminder, all gentles are welcome at Officers' Meetings – we'd love to see you there!

Also at February Officers' Meeting: My time has come to step down from being the Barony's Seneschale. If you are interested in being Seneschal when I step down, please send a letter of intent to me and to Their Excellencies Liam and Constance by Feb 4th. Email is fine. So... that means this will be my last Althing letter as Seneschale, and I'd like to thank some folks!

Thank you to all the Officers, Postion-holders, and Deputies that I've had the privilege of working with during my tenure. You are what makes the Barony run. If I've missed someone, know that though my memory failed me, I am grateful nonetheless. Thank you to Liam, Constance, Byron, Ariella, Tofi, Hara, Pavel, Jorundr, Shiro, Cynewyn, Ishiyama, Langdon, Bugga, Pavla, Elss, Sumayya, Ceindrech, Katherine Sinclair, Aileen, Alonzio, Clewin, Irene, Fredeburg, Urho, Alaric, Anna Leigh, Broom, Cai, Muirgheal, Bovi, Madeleine, Rosalia, FIORA, Aibell, Elizabeth Arrowsmyth, Elizabeth Parker, Michelina, Arianna, Ts'veen'a, Odriana, Aiden, Kris, Roana, Morgen, Alexandra, and Thorfinna. Thank you also to those in the Seneschalate that have supported me, especially: Cori, William, Alessandra, Alexandra, and Tigernach. Thank you to those who have autocratted and staffed our events – it's been a pleasure working with you all!

I'd also like to thank everyone who's lent an ear and a shoulder when I needed it – you know who you are – you've kept me sane during some challenging times. Thank you to my boys, Otto and Carl, who

share their Mama with meetings. Thank you especially to my friend and mentor, Ts'veen'a, for your guidance and wisdom. And let me say thank you most to my Lord, Brandubh, who is my rock, and my sanity – I couldn't have done it without you.

Last but not least, thank you to everyone in the Barony. Being your Seneschale was the most rewarding thing that I've done in the SCA. I am most grateful and humbled to have known, worked with, talked with, and partied with each one of you. It has been my joy, my pleasure, and my honor to have served you thus. I have every faith that my successor will do an excellent job, and I look forward to whatever is the next step in my SCA life. Like everything I've tried in this wonderful hobby of ours, I know it will be awesome. My personal motto is *Levitare et Caritate*. It means "with levity and affection". And so I leave you with this: It's been a helluva lot fun, and I love you all.

In Levitate et Caritate
~Hilda, Seneschale

Proposed Policy Change:

The Officers propose the following change to policy, section II.B. A vote on this proposed policy change is on the agenda of February Officers' Meeting on Feb 5th. Please send any comments on this proposed change to the Seneschale at seneschal@debatablelands.org before Feb 4th, 2013. Current policy is found at http://www.debatablelands.org/policy/bmdl_policies_2012-02.pdf.

Current: Unless otherwise stated, decisions of the officers are by consensus of the people attending a scheduled officers meeting at which a majority of the Officers are present. Officers may be represented by proxy. Only the members of the Financial Committee may vote on financial decisions. Any Officer may call for an Officer Only vote, in which case each Office gets one vote, with a simple majority of the votes cast deciding the issue.

Proposed: Unless otherwise stated, decisions of the officers are by consensus of the people attending a scheduled officers meeting at which a majority of the Officers are present. *An individual may cast only one vote.* Officers may be represented by proxy. Only the members of the Financial Committee may vote on financial decisions. Any Officer may call for an Officer Only vote, *in which case each Office gets one vote*, with a simple majority of the votes cast deciding the issue.

From the Minister of Arts and Sciences:

Greetings BMDL, from your Arts and Sciences Minister.

Sunday A&S practices have been continuing at the Environmental Charter School. We have a nice spot in which to work with good lighting and plenty of chairs. There is even an electrical outlet, though please bring an extension cord if you want to use it

as it is 5 feet up the wall. Every day there is a fight practice at ECS, we can have A&S there, so come visit and work with us.

If you don't have any banners, keep your eyes peeled for a banner workshop some time in the next few months. We'll have heralds, stitchers, and painters on hand to help with each step of creating your banner. We're actually going to start working on these at the practice right after 12th Night, so don't wait to get started.

Finally (for this report) I have a big stack of car magnets that I am selling as a fund raiser for the barony. They are 4.5 inch circular magnets bearing the Baronial populace badge. They have enough surface area to even stick to some stainless steel refrigerators. They cost \$3 each or \$10 for 4 magnets. Two dollars of every 3 is going to the Barony.

See you at practice. Make this year the year you make more nice stuff!

Ishiyama Gen'tarou Yori'ie roku-i

From the Knight Marshal:

Greetings,
Heavy Fighter practice has been continuing at our new winter site at the Pittsburgh Environmental Charter School. I would like to thank THL Rosalia for her help securing the site.

We have added a monthly tournament to the heavy practices. This gives fighters a chance to see how several different tournaments are run. So far we have fought a Round Robin (everyone fights each other at least once), a Viking Holmganger, fighters fight in a square and can lose if they step out of the square, our January tourney was a Draw a Weapon tourney, here fighters selected a card for what weapon they would fight with. The winners are listed below.

November - Holmganger: Count Isenwulf
December - Round Robin: Count Isenwulf
January - Draw Your Weapon Sir Maghnus

In February, we will again fight the Holmganger.

Sincerely,
Baron Uilliam Mac-an-tSaoir

From the Captain of the Archers:

Greetings All,

It has been over a year since I took over as Captain of Archers for the Debatable Lands (and just over half way through my term of office). As such, I want to check in with *you*, the archers and populace of the Barony, to get your opinion on how I have been doing. Are there things you'd like to see with respect to archery? How is the level of communication about practices and archery-related activities (too much, to little, about right)?

I look forward to hearing your opinions ... please

come and find me to chat or send email to
archerymarshal@debatablelands.org.

On to news and happenings in the archery community:

Eight archers from the Debatable Lands made the long trek to Delftwood for A Shoot in the Wildewoode. If you have the chance, this event is definitely worth attending! Vivant to our new archery champions ... Ichikiero Osoroshi and Carl Brandubhson! Both of these gentles bested their opponents in fun and challenging tournaments at Archers to the Wald.

The outdoor archery season is coming to a close (or has closed already, depending on when this letter is published). The last outdoor practice at the Washington Blvd Martial Activities Site is scheduled for November 24th, weather permitting. We'll resume outdoor practices in the Spring.

Indoor practices in Steltonwald are on most Wednesday evenings, consult the Steltonwald calendar (<http://steltonwald.org/calendar.shtml>) for practice times.

In Service,

Alaric
 Captain of Archers

Largess From the Barony:

W.W.W. (Websites We're Watching)

Ooh! Ooh! Pick me, Mr. Kotter, pick me!

Folks, have I got the website for you this month! www.Medievalists.net, for all your kooky and serious medieval light reading. And it either has them in highly-readable webpage, or links to super-cool PDFs for download, to read on your iThings during your commute (assuming there's no driver's wheel in front of you then). Some snippets from pages:

"Leyrwrite was a fine for fornication levied on the bondwomen of many English manors...[Leyrwrite was directed especially at the poor and more at bastardy than fornication] and, most of all, the significance of its focus on women (leyrwrite served as one means of regulating poor women and their families).

Too socially charged for you? How about a murder mystery, worthy of any modern author's attempts:

"It was perhaps the worst maritime disaster of the Middle Ages, not just because it cost 300 lives, but because one of them was the heir to the Anglo-Norman Empire. One scholar has a theory that the sinking of the White Ship on the night of November 25, 1120 was not a tragic accident, rather a case of mass murder.

OK, there's actually too much cool on this website, so here's some randomly grabbed titles to titillate the budding or blooming researcher in you:

- [Medieval Pet Names](#)
- [Castle for Sale](#)
- [Ten Beautiful Medieval Maps](#)
- [Was the White Ship disaster mass murder?](#)
- [Bread in the Middle Ages](#)
- [Did people in the Middle Ages take baths?](#)
- [Sex in the Middle Ages](#)
- [Death on the Dorset Ridgeway: a Viking Murder Mystery](#)
- [The Bayeux Tapestry](#)
- [Here comes the Hun again...](#)
- [Perceptions of insanity in medieval England](#)
- [Fasting Girls: Then and Now](#)
- [Medieval Graffiti project wins national archaeology award](#)

Honestly, if these don't inspire you to "do a little research" (fun reading), and maybe afterwards even do a little more (seriously: the White Ship's loss was a tragically cool story in medieval history), ... well, there's always next month, I guess.

I promised you cool websites in this column; I deliver!

Contributed by Master Emrys Eustace

Haiku's from the Sidewalk Sake Symposium

Haiku Evenings at Pennsic

Pink Clouds Overhead
 Swallows fly over the trees
 Light is gone too soon

Gwen

Night falls stars come out
 Some drink all write poetry
 Look up Stars Delight

Hara

A note from the Chronicler:

Please see the following articles contributed by

Meesteres Odriana vander Burgghe and Mistress Arianna of Wyntrope respectively.

Enhance Your Medieval Vocabulary!



Garderobe

A toilet in a castle



Achievement

A full display of an entire coat of arms



Mutage

A toll to pay for upkeep of the town wall paid by visitors

A Brief History of...Beets

-Meesteres Odriana vander Brugghe

The beet (*Beta Vulgaris*) is made up of two parts, a fleshy edible root with edible leaves. The beet began as a green, leafy vegetable in the Mediterranean that was then introduced to the Near East, India, and China by 850 CE¹ that was similar to modern swiss chard (a close relation to



Figure 1
Photo: University of Maryland

beets). There is some disagreement as to when the beet's edible root was developed which is either extremely early (approximately 300 BC²) or near the middle of the 16th century where a beet with a turniplike (fleshy, edible) root was "first described as a food plant in Germany in 1558 and was a rarity at the time."³ This broad

disparity may not be as contradictory as it

may seem at first blush. Edible roots vary in

size and what may be described here is a transition between an edible root system (Figure 1) to what resembles a root vegetable (Figure 2).



Figure 2
Photo: farmsharemania.com

Early mentions of the beet appear in Rome where the beet is described as being exclusively for plebeians, however, the Roman elite (patricians) did not reject beets, they elevated the ingredient by its preparation⁴. This did not remove the association between the beet and plebeians. In Petronius' *Satyricon* the inclusion of beets at dinner are used to define the character of Trimalchio, who is a "freedman who has, through hard work, attained power and

¹ R.H.M. Langer, and G.D. Hill, *Agricultural Plants*, 2nd Ed., (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1991), 197-199.

² Melitta Weiss Adamson, *Food in Medieval Times*, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 9.

³ Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, *Vegetables: Beets*, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/vegetabletravelers/beets.html>.

⁴ Jean-Louis Flanderin, and Massimo Montanari, *Food: A Culinary History*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), chap. 11.

wealth”⁵, however, in the case of Trimalchio, money doesn’t buy class: “Let’s see, for the first course..chicken livers cooked well done, beet, of course,..”⁶

Another mention of beets that is of interest is during the 13th century when a German writer refers to beets using the word “acelga”⁷ which is modernly the Spanish for Swiss Chard, also called “leaf beet”, a variety of *beta vulgaris* that only produces edible leaves and the modern equivalent to medieval beets.



Figure 3
Photo: godecooking.com

There is a color plate in an illuminated version of the *Tacuinum Sanitatis* (Figure 3)⁸ showing only the greens of the beet, rather than the root. This lends additional credence to the ingredient being considered to be the leaves of the plant rather than the roots during the 14th century. It is also consistent with the preparation of “pot herbs” and “wortes” that is seen in a number of contemporary primary sources where greens are cooked in broth and seasoned in such a way to make them more palatable.

While there are more ingredients used in later recipes than in the earlier, Roman recipes, the treatment is not much different. The primary focus is to bring flavor to the greens, while mitigating their bitterness. As we move forward in time and read the recipes including beets in “Das Kochbuch der Sabina Welserin” (1553) and the “Good Huswives Handemaide” (1588), there is less focus on the beet as the central ingredient and it is included as part of a greater recipe.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Titus Petronius, *The Satyricon*, Vol. 2, <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5219-h.htm>

⁷ Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Vegetables: Beets, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/vegetabletravelers/beets.html>.

⁸ Ibn Botlân, *The Medieval Health Handbook: Tacuinum Sanitatis*, (New York: George Braziller, 1976), Color Plate IV.

Just post-1600 there is a specific reference to the beet root in the 1633 edition of Gerard's Herbal:

"...but what might be made of the red and beautifull root (which is to be preferred before the leaves, as well in beautie as in goodnesse) I refer unto the curious and cunning cooke, who no doubt when hee had the view thereof, and is assured that it is both good and wholesome, will make thereof many and divers dishes, both faire and good."⁹

This reference to beet root as being something that needed to have a creative cook to think up dishes for it, combined with the previously mentioned statement that in 1558 people were aware of the beet root being edible, but it not being a common thing to do leads me to conclude that it is unlikely that beet root is an appropriate interpretation for the use of "beet" in known primary source cookbooks produced before 1600.

If you are using beets as part of a feast menu, you can use the following to substitute for beet greens: swiss chard or adult spinach (baby spinach is too delicate and provides a different flavor profile). To estimate how much to purchase you have to keep in mind how much the greens will wither while cooking. Generally speaking you need about 5 pounds of greens per 10-15 people, which means approximately 50 lbs of greens per 100 people.

For a timeline, complete recipes, and the full reference listing, please go to <http://jennstrobel.com/wp/a-brief-history-of-beets/>.

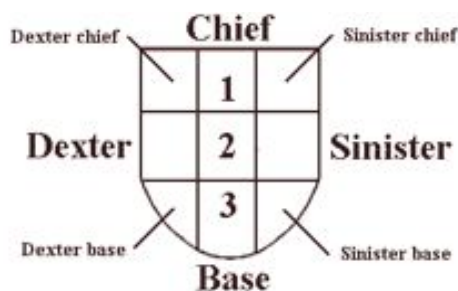
⁹ Stephan's Florilegium, MSG-Beets, <http://www.florilegium.org/?http%3A//www.florilegium.org/files/FOOD-VEGETABLES/beets-msg.html>

Heraldry Basics

A heraldic device (or coat of arms if the owner has an Award of Arms or higher) is used to graphically identify a person, group, or household, and their possessions. It is also system for describing how the elements of a device are laid out on the shield.

The Shield

The shield in heraldry is divided into 9 areas. Their names are based on their locations on the field, in medieval French. Why French? Because when heraldic rules were first codified, French was the language not only of France, but also of the English nobility (remember those pesky Norman conquerors?).



If you know French, you may be puzzled to find that *dexter* (right) is on the *left* of the shield as you look at it. That's because the positions are named based on the point of view of a person holding the shield in battle, standing *behind* the shield.

Blazon and Emblazon

The *blazon* of a device is its heraldic description. The *emblazon* is a picture of the device.

Blazon	Emblazon
<i>Sable, a comet argent and in base a laurel wreath Or, a bordure embattled Or.</i>	

Tinctures

The colors used in heraldry are called *tinctures*. Tinctures are further divided into *colors* and *metals*. Tincture names are in medieval French, just like the areas of the shield. Those Norman conquerors again...

Colors:*Azure* (blue)*Gules* (red)*Vert* (green)*Sable* (black)*Purpure* (purple)**Metals:***Argent* (silver or white)*Or* (gold or yellow)

The distinction between metals and furs is important because of the following rule for ensuring contrast in heraldic design:

Never put a color on a color or a metal on a metal.

This means you can't have a yellow sun on a white background or a black dragon on a blue background. Heraldry needed to be instantly recognizable across a battlefield, and designs with color on color or metal on metal don't have enough contrast to fulfill that requirement. Modern corporate logos often follow this rule, for the same reason – high contrast is easily recognizable.

Furs

Furs are geometric patterns that use one color and one metal, and are designed to mimic actual furs. They can be used as backgrounds and considered somewhat “neutral” rather than either a color or a metal. Some of the most common furs are:

Ermine

(argent with sable tails)

*Counter-ermine*

(sable with argent tails)

*Erminois*

(Or with sable tails)

*Pean*

(sable with Or tails)



Vair (interlocking bell-shapes alternating a color and a metal, usually azure and argent, meant to simulate squirrel furs sewn together)

**Proper**

Natural objects that are depicted in the colors they have in nature are referred to as *proper*. For instance, an oak tree *proper* has a brown trunk and green leaves. A lion *proper* is depicted in its natural brown fur, even though brown wasn't used as a heraldic color in medieval heraldry.

**Counterchanged**

When a field is divided and objects placed on the field have the opposite colors of the background – for example, as shown here, the *sable* castle is on the *Or* part of the background and vice-versa – the objects are called *counterchanged*.



Fields and Charges

The *field* is the background of the heraldic design.

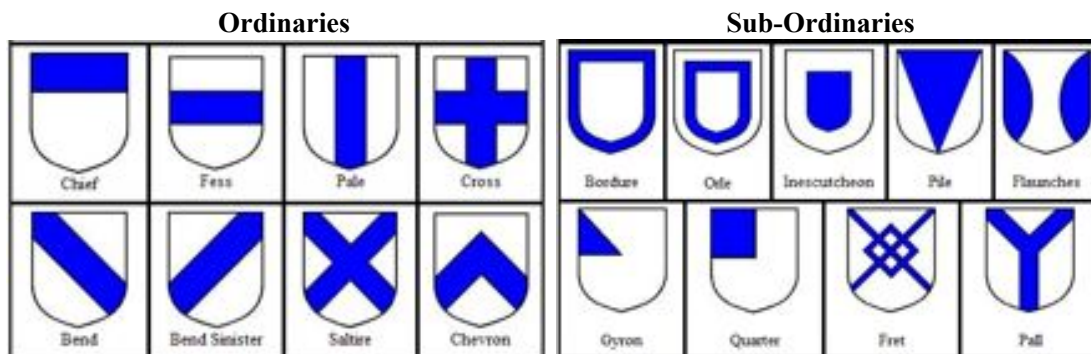
The field can be a solid color or metal, or it can be a pattern like a fur, or it can be divided up in various ways.

A *charge* is any object or shape placed on the shield. Heraldic devices can have multiple charges on them. For example, the arms of Æthelmearc have a red (gules) field with three charges on it: the gold (Or) laurel wreath, the gold (Or) crown, and the white (argent) escarbuncle (the snowflake shape in the middle).



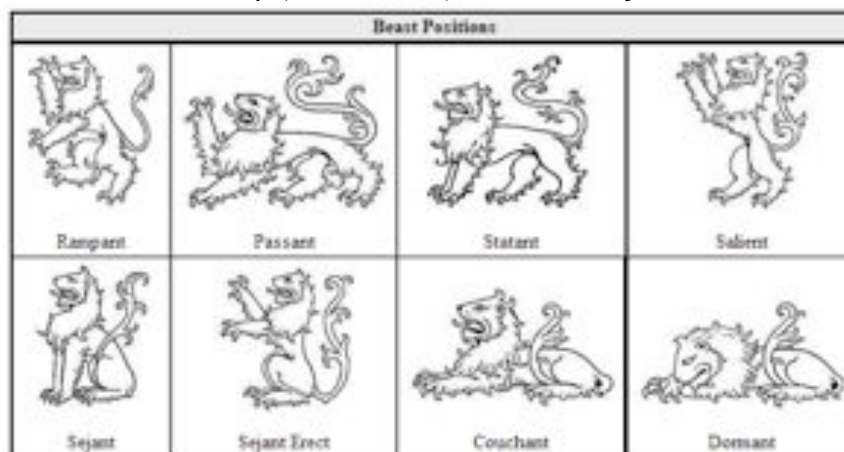
Standard Charges, called *Ordinaries*

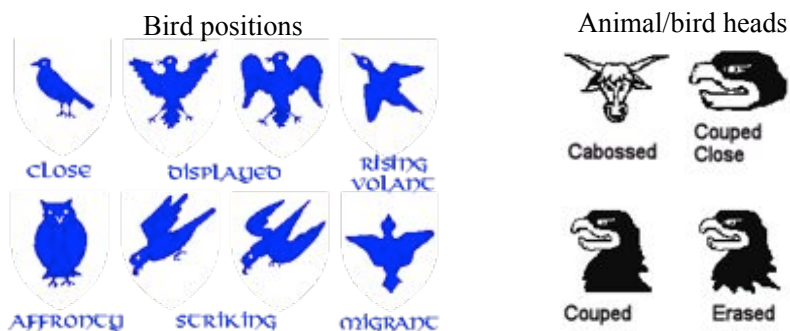
One set of charges is so commonly used in heraldry that they are called *Ordinaries*. These are just shapes placed on top of the shield. There are also *sub-ordinaries*, which are slightly less common than ordinaries.



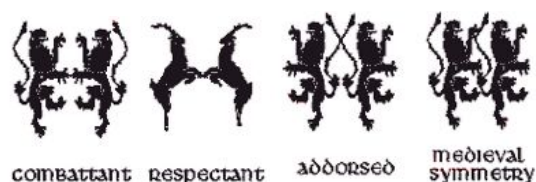
Animals

Animals are a common charge. Heraldic animals have standard names for various poses, some of which are specific to certain types of animals. By default, animals face to dexter. Animals facing to sinister are said to be *contourny* (turned around), or sometimes just *sinister*.



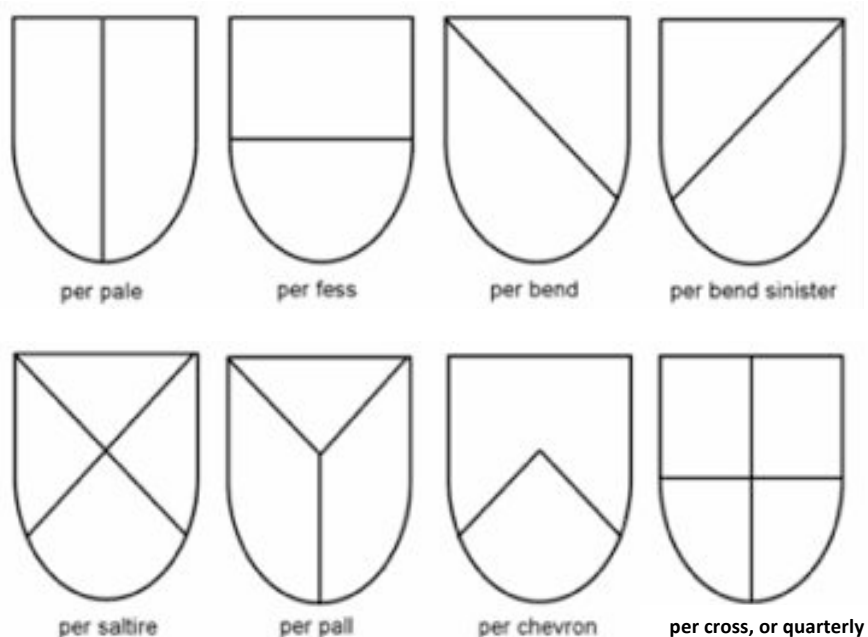


In addition, multiple animals placed together on a device have some default names for their positions relative to each other:



Field Divisions

Fields can be divided in standard ways that relate to the ordinaries shown above. When you divide a shield by one of these ordinaries, you say that it is divided *per* the ordinary name.

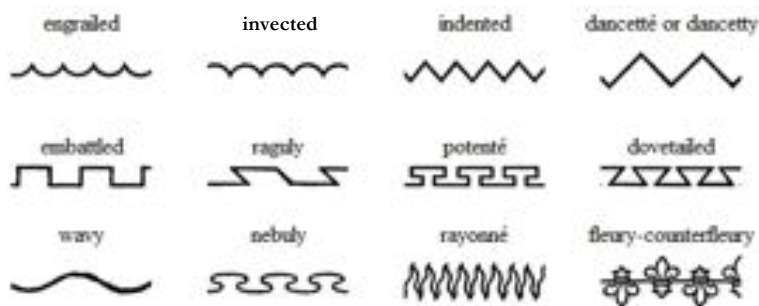


Shields are blazoned starting with the field divisions, if any, then the field colors beginning in the *dexter chief*, or top right (remember that's actually the left as you look at the shield). So the shield at the near right is *Per fess argent and sable* (divided horizontally, white on top, black on the bottom), while the one on the far right is *Per pale, vert and Or* (divided vertically, green on the left, yellow on the right). If these shields had charges, the charges would be described after the field.



Lines of partition

The dividing lines between regions of the shield, or the edges of a charge, don't have to be straight. Some of the standard decorative lines of partition are shown below.



The arms of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, shown above, have a sub-ordinary, the *bordure*, with its line of partition *embattled*.

Layering vs. Divisions

Charges are placed *on top* of the field or other charges, and must obey the “no color on color or metal on metal” rule.

Divisions of the field are not considered layers, but rather side-by-side portions of the background, so the “no color on color or metal on metal” rule does not apply. You can have a field that is divided by two colors or two metals without breaking the rule.



OK, because these are field divisions:



Per pale



Per bend



Per bend sinister



Not OK, because these are charges *on top* of a field and break the “no color on color or metal on metal” rule:



An pile azure



A fess sable



A chief Or

Court Report:

Here begins the report of the court of Their Excellencies Liam and Constance, Baron and Baroness of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, at the Agincourt event November 2 AS 48. Jorundr hinn Rotinn, Comet Pursuivant, reporting herald.

Their Excellencies invited Their noble cousins Ichijo and Cerrdwan, Baron and Baroness of the Barony of Blackstone Mountain, into Their court. They wished to express Their apologies for not being able to attend Blackstone's investiture, yet wished to offer Their well wishes and to reaffirm the friendship between the baronies.

Their Excellencies desired the presence of Lady Fiora d'Artusio. Lady Fiora has proven to be very deadly on the fencing lists, for this Their Excellencies were pleased to award her a Red Comet. The scroll was illuminated by Raven Whitehart with calligraphy by Kieran MacRae.

Their Excellencies noticed an individual who was attempting to escape from Their court. This caught Their notice so They ordered Don William Parris into Their presence. Will has been quite active in the barony, and the newly reforming College of Cour d'Or, as well as elsewhere in the kingdom teaching new fencers and being a marshal. As there is something They can do about this Liam and Constance awarded Will a Gold Comet. The scroll is a work by Aiden ni Leir.

Their Excellencies wished to recognize Master Alaric, Master Urho, Mistress Irene, Countess Rosalinda, Baron Dur, THL Elss of Augsburg, THL Ishiyama, Lord David Chadwyck, Luke Abercrombie, Katheryn Tantzel, Rivka bat Daniyal, Lady Aemelia Soteria, Lady Bugga, Vryce Hough, Tim Snyder, Melodia Beaupel, David Beichner for coming out early before practice on October 28 to clean up our practice location so that our good relationship with the city can continue

and we can leave the space better than we got it.

Their Excellencies wished to commend THL Elss of Augsburg who was head cook this day for a wonderful lunch. Elss wished to thank the following individuals for all the help they provided this day: Tigrines, Elsa, Anna, Erik, Raven, Abatissa, Elizabeth Arrowsmith, Violante, Zoe and Katla.

There was a tournament held this day to determine the new champion of youth combat for the barony. Mistress Arianna of Winthrope was the marshal for this day. There were 9 fighters in attendance, with 2 first time authorizations, all showed great chivalry in their actions and fighting this day. One fighter showed exceptional chivalry in all his fights this day, for which Mistress Arianna as well as Their Excellencies wished recognize him, and this fighter was Erique, who fought in his first tournament this day. There was also a victor this day, Lord Robert of Thornhill proved to have the swiftest blade and strongest arm, and so prevailed against all who faced him, and was declared champion. Jimmy also showed great skill and he was made the youth combat champion's second so that he can fulfill the duties of the office should Robert be unavailable.

There were two who answered a call that Their Excellencies made to the barony's artisans when they found Their coffers of award medallions empty. THL Zoe Akropolitina and Fa Ren Zhang Ming Li answered this call with many hand cast pewter medallions displaying all the different awards of the barony. These artistic endeavors pleased Their Excellencies and so They awarded Zoe and Ming Blue-Silver Comets. Zoe's scroll by Lady Anna Leigh, and

Ming's scroll illuminated by Odriana vander Brugghe with calligraphy by Kieran MacRae.

Their Excellencies understand that many hands are involved in making our society work smoothly. They glimpsed one hard at work whose actions have long supported this barony. Lady Abatissa of Banbury was invited into court as she has long spent her time retaining, coordinating food service at baronial events, and lending a hand everywhere it is needed. For this reason Their Excellencies awarded her a Gold Comet. Scroll by Aidan ni Leir.

Their Excellencies wished to publicly thank Lord Tigrines for his donation of a helm to the youth fighters so that one of the fighters could continue fighting as there was no helm that would fit him.

Their Excellencies wished to thank all who donated to the Paladin's Pantry which They would be delivering to the food bank on behalf of the barony.

His Excellency wished to thank Sarab for making the site tokens for the day.

There was an Arts and Sciences display this day featuring leatherworking as its theme. The entries were few yet mighty featuring work by the hands of Ishiyama, Sumayya, and Rua.

Court Closed.

Here contains the report of the court of Her Excellency Constance, Baroness of the Debatable Lands, at the Steltonwald Costuming Symposium, in the Canton of Steltonwald, 16 November AS 48. Jorundr hinn Rotinn, Comet Pursuivant, reporting.

Her Excellency wished one who had traveled far to attend Her. Thus Baroness Katryne of Bakestonden was called forward. Their Excellencies have seen much of Kate, though she lives in

the Rhydderich Hael, she has taught classes, worked troll and promoted public safety at events in the barony for a long time. These actions pleased Her Excellency so Kate was awarded a Cometus Amicus. Scroll by Arianna of Wynthrope.

Court closed.

Meeting Minutes:

October Officers Meeting – 10/2/13

- Officers Attending: Baron (Liam); Seneschale (Hilda); Herald (Jorundr); MoAS (Ishiyama); Chronicler (Sumayya, via Google Plus Hangout); Exchequer (Hara); Surgeon (Liam); Chatelaine (Anna Leigh);

- Officers Proxied: Knight Marshal (Hilda for Cynewyn); Marshal of Fence (Hilda for Irene); Steltonwald Seneschale (Muirgeal for Bovi); Capt of Archers (Ishiyama for Alaric); MOL (Koredono for Katherine)

- Officers not present: Webminister (Broom), but report was sent.

- Other Gentles attending: Fiora (incipient Cour d'Or Seneschal); Koredono; Bugga. Via Google Plus Hangout: Arianna, Shiro (partial), and Maghnus (partial). Also, Sumayya, as noted above.

Minutes recorded by Hilda

1. Open Meeting

2. June and August Officers' Meeting Minutes Approved unan.

3. Officers' Reports

- Baron/ess: Champs Event was good, and thanks to Sumayya, the autocrat. Fighting and fencing was great. Youth fighting will now happen at Agincourt. We're picking archery, youth archery, and TW champs this weekend at Archers to the Wald. Need awards recommendations.

- Seneschale: September Barony meeting went well, with about 27 gentles attending, and several new people. We had a big roundtable where we introduced the officers and guild heads present throughout the meeting, interspersed with chatting about our current SCA projects. It was well-received. Hilda commends Baron Byron, Baroness Ariella and all their staff for a successful Siege of Harlech event. Hilda commends Lady Sumayya and her

staff for a successful Baronial Champs and Post Pennsic Picnic event, and furthermore as a first-time autocrat. If anyone is considering putting in a bid for spring/summer events, please let Hilda know. Hilda is calling for letters of intent for Baronial Seneschal, as her term is up in February, and she will not be renewing.

- Herald: there was a Court at the past two events, and there will be one at Archers

- Knight Marshal: term is up today

- MoAS: we've had some class activity: Hara taught kumihimo at Cour d'Or, Elizabeth Arrowsmyth taught basketmaking. We had a good showing at the arts display at Coronation. My report went in on time – it was a good report.

- Chronicler: Thank you for sending things into the Althing. Please send more. We are in desperate need of content – pictures, recipes, anything. No feedback on the bi-monthly issues proposal.

- Exchequer: Siege of Harlech made \$87.94 (food came in under budget) plus \$84 in donations. \$85 in donations for Baronial Champs, and the site was only \$100. Bank account is completely switched over.

- Surgeon: Liam's drop-dead deputy is Lady Ceindrich. We have one new warranted surgeon in the barony, Melodia. We have several more who are interested, and Liam is teaching a class on it soon.

- Chatelaine: The month has been quiet. Titus has worked with 2 of the new fighters. Anna Leigh is looking for a deputy and a replacement, since her term is up in June.

- MoL: tournaments happened, paperwork was handed in. Thanks to Hara for helping.

- Marshal of Fence: no report

- Captain of Archers: no report

- Webminister: Broom is doing stuff, will remember to put the Althing on the website in a timely fashion.

- Steltonwald Seneschal: Archers to the Wald is happening Saturday. Sideboard is an all day feast. Baronial archery, TW and youth archery champs will be held there. Nov 16th will be Costuming Symposium. Jan 25th is Steltonwald 12th Night. Lady Theresa is autocratting both. We'll have a new Knight Marshal in November, likely Duke Eli, but we

could get more letters.

- Cour d'Or Seneschale: We have people attending regularly. Julia is officially a member and will be an A&S Minister. Will Parris is the Knight Marshal. The College is likely getting some funding for the mundane group at CMU. Fiora will be bringing some to Archers to the Wald. Many also have been coming to Sunday practices and enjoying it. Fiora will be teaching a student-taught class at CMU on Capoferro, for credit at CMU. She's hoping it will encourage more people to join. Hara's class was enjoyed, and Hara offered to teach again. Cour d'Or would love to hold a demo during an evening in October. We're hoping to paint the fence.

4. Next Meetings/Gatherings

- Harvest Revel and Barony Meeting Nov 10th – Castle in Wexford. Pie contest categories will be Traditional, Period, and possibly Gluten-Free. Schedule forthcoming.

- Officers Meeting Dec 4th A18B 8pm.

- Jan Barony Meeting will be at 12th Night on Jan 18th.

- March Barony Meeting theme will be Barony/Cour d'Or mixer. Other ideas include Mardi Gras, and tourneys. Also something arts related like music, dance and/or scribal.

5. Event Bids:

- Debatable Lands 40th Birthday, date July 19th, 2014. Clarification of some fees (see Seneschal's copy). Bid passed.

6. Event Updates:

- Agincourt: Will be happening Nov 2nd. However, the site canceled on us due to a mail snafu. Liam found a new site: The Museum at South Park Fairground, and the adjacent field. The bad news is that we can't have archery or thrown weapons. Unfortunate, but it's better than canceling. Liam is checking with the county to see if we can do combat archery. The old site cost \$450, and the new site costs \$222.50. We will not be changing the fees, since it's too late.

- The Kingdom for a Stage. Feb 15th. Site change on that. It's now the North Park Lodge. The old site cost was \$400, the new one is \$200. Vote to change the break even from 80 to 40 gentles. Passed. Unan. Liam notes that there will not be Baronial Court that day, but will be Kingdom Court, as it is the Kingdom Bardic Champs.

7. Vote on Knight Marshal. Some discussion. One letter received from Baron Liam. Liam's letter is accepted. Liam is now Knight Marshal (term to end Oct 2015) and officially drops dead as Chirurgeon, and Lady Ceindrich is interim Chirurgeon for the rest of the Chirurgeon's term.

8. Meeting closed. Beer ensued.

Meeting note: We experimented with allowing people to attend via Google Plus Hangouts. The Officers thank Fiora for her technical assistants. Hilda asked those who participated in the meeting, virtually and in person, to give her feedback on this by email. Those attending virtually were allowed to participate fully.

November Officers Meeting – 11/10/13

- Hilda requests reimbursement for Insurance and late fees to obtain named insurance from SCA, Inc, for Agincourt in the amount of \$200. Officers approved unanimously. It was noted by Hara that, even with this expense, the event made nearly \$800 profit.

December Officers Meeting – 12/4/13

- Officers Attending: Baron (Liam); Seneschale (Hilda); Herald (Jorundr); MoAS (Ishiyama); Exchequer (Hara); Chirurgeon (Ceindrich); Chatelaine (Anna Leigh); Capt of Archers (Alaric); Knight Marshal (Liam); Webminister (Broom); Marshal of Fence (Irene)

- Officers Proxied: Steltonwald Seneschale (Muirgheal for Bovi); MOL (Hilda for Katherine); Chronicler (Liam for Sumayya)

- Other Gentles attending: Titus, Muirgheal

Minutes recorded by Hilda

1. Open Meeting

2. October and November Officers' Meeting Minutes Approved unan.

3. Officers' Reports

- Baron/ess: Signet has been assigned scrolls for 12th Night and Steltonwald 12th Night. There have been 99 awards since the beginning of their term. The Baron and Baroness from Blackstone visited at Agincourt and look forward to visiting more.
- Seneschale:
 - Countess Elena is interested in putting in a bid for Heralds and Scribes. As a first time autocrat in the Barony she needs a mentor, and has asked if Gabrielle de Winter is appropriate. We normally ask that the mentor be a member of the Barony, but Gabby has autocratted a Heralds and Scribes recently and is

close to the Barony. Hilda asks the officers if they're OK with Gabby as a mentor. The Officers were fine with that. [Post meeting note: Elena will not be submitting the bid. ~Hilda]

- Hilda commends the autocrats, cooks and staff of Archers to the Wald, the Costuming Symposium, and Agincourt.

- Hilda notes that the Barony doesn't sponsor any kind of safety classes or seminars outside of events. Though individuals may use casual e-lists and social media to let people know of them, the Barony doesn't sponsor them, or request or require anyone attend.

- Hilda's term of office is up in Feb, and she will be stepping down then. Letters of intent may be sent to Hilda and the Baron and Baroness; email is fine.

- Herald: the OP has been updated. If anyone sees issues, let Jorundr know. The Officers commend the Herald and Webminister for their efforts with the OP. There were a couple of Courts, and reports were sent on time, plus they're on the website.

- Knight Marshal: We've had good practices lately. This weekend was good practice, and armor repair went well. Starting at the new practice site this Sunday, Dec 8th.

- MoAS: Quarterly report went in on time. Not a lot of people replied when Ishiyama asked for A&S activity info on the elist. A&S Practice is happening at the same time as fighter practices, and will move to the new location as well.

- Chronicler: no report

- Exchequer: Agincourt made about \$798 profit. The Exchequer also commends the event staff on their tenacity with the site issues for the event. We still need the larder and Iron Key and others' inventory.

- Chirurgeon: Hilda welcomes Ceindrich to the Officers. She says she will fill out the rest of Liam's term, to end June 2014. No other report.

- Chatelaine: no report

- MoL: Katherine's term is up in February and I will be putting in a call for letters in the Dec/Jan Althing. I'm happy to remain in the position at the officers' discretion.

- Marshal of Fence: Practice is mostly happening, but was canceled Thanksgiving

weekend. Several youth have been coming to practice. David Chadwyck has been running practices when Irene is not available. Practice is moving to the new site as of Dec 4th. We'll need to order new blades. We have none, since the ones we were down-checked. Money is already budgeted.

- Captain of Archers: Outdoor archery season is done. The weather was uncooperative in the last two planned practices, so they were canceled. The shooting at the Nov Barony meeting went well.

- Webminister: The OP, as previously noted, is up and running. The Herald now has proper access to the OP and his section of the website. Everything is groovy.

- Steltonwald Seneschal: The Canton has 9 or 10 new folks, including children, coming to Archery practice. Steltonwald 12th Night is Jan 25th. War Practice is May 15-18. Duke Eli is now the Canton marshal; waiting on a practice site for indoor, but there are outdoor sites available. Jorundr will marshal fencing when heavy fighting is happening.

4. Next Meetings/Gatherings

- Jan Barony Meeting will be at 12th Night on Jan 18th. Tentatively there will be an Officers' Meeting.

- Feb Officers' meeting will be Feb 5th at 8pm. Room TBD.

- March Barony Meeting theme will be Barony/Cour d'Or mixer. Other ideas include Mardi Gras, and tourneys. Also something arts related like music, dance and/or scribal.

5. Event Updates:

- The Kingdom for a Stage. Feb 15th. Site is confirmed and paid for.

6. Policies:

- Quick discussion of Baronial policy, sections II.E. No motion.
- Discussed II.A. It was pointed out that the Knight Marshal of the Barony can be any warranted marshal, regardless of the type of warrant (archery, rapier, etc.) that the Knight Marshal holds. This means that if the Knight Marshal is not the Rattan marshal, then the Rattan Marshal is not an

officer. Hilda will ask for comments from the populace about adding the Rattan Marshal to the list of officers.

- Proposed change to II.B:
- Current: Unless otherwise stated, decisions of the officers are by consensus of the people attending a scheduled officers meeting at which a majority of the Officers are present. Officers may be represented by proxy. Only the members of the Financial Committee may vote on financial decisions. Any Officer may call for an Officer Only vote, in which case each Office gets one vote, with a simple majority of the votes cast deciding the issue.
- Proposed: Unless otherwise stated, decisions of the officers are by consensus of the people attending a scheduled officers meeting at which a majority of the Officers are present. An individual may cast only one vote. Officers may be represented by proxy. Only the members of the Financial Committee may vote on financial decisions. Any Officer may call for an Officer Only vote, in which case each Office gets one vote, with a simple majority of the votes cast deciding the issue.

7. Meeting closed. Beer ensued.

Announcement Regarding the Society Chirurgeonate Request for Comments:

The SCA Board of Directors seeks commentary on a proposal to eliminate the official Office of the Chirurgeonate, and the associated changes to Corpora necessary to accomplish this action.

The Office of the Society Chirurgeon has been providing exemplary service to the Society since 1986. The Society and Board of Directors are tremendously grateful for the sterling service the Office of the Society Chirurgeon has provided over the years, and hope to continue to allow licensed first aid providers to provide such service, while needing to take into account the realities of the climate in which the SCA currently operates.

The Board of Directors has been advised by its outside counsel, as well as by its insurance company, that having officers of the Corporation acting as emergency services providers and warranting them as official Chirurgeons represents an unacceptable assumption of liability by the Corporation for the actions of these individuals. The SCA can allow individual medical professionals to provide emergency care under their own licenses and the various Good Samaritan laws. Such services can also be provided by professional emergency services organizations and companies that provide such services. However, having corporate officers and warranted officials do so represents an unacceptable risk according to both our outside counsel and our insurance company.

Acting upon the recommendations of our professional advisors, the Board of Directors of the SCA, Inc. seeks commentary regarding a proposal to eliminate the Office of the Society Chirurgeon, the Kingdom and local Chirurgeons, and all associated Deputies and warranted Chirurgeons as of a future date. All Society Chirurgeonate activities and warrants of office would cease at that time. Any emergency services at SCA activities would thereafter only be performed by Good Samaritans under their own licenses, or by professionals or professional organizations specifically hired or called by event staff to provide such services.

Individuals with appropriate emergency care related licenses or those acting under the general Good Samaritan laws that might be applicable are, of course, free to provide emergency care at SCA activities under the terms of their licenses and applicable state and local laws. However, they would be doing so as volunteers and would not be warranted by the SCA nor hold an SCA office related to the provision of emergency care services. Similarly, professional emergency care organizations (e.g., municipal, non-profit or for-profit ambulance providers) that are not affiliated with or part of the SCA or any SCA organization, might provide emergency care services at SCA events (particularly larger SCA wars) through arranged voluntary or for-hire agreements with event staff. Licensed individuals would still be able to provide significant service to their local groups, Kingdoms, and the Society by offering to provide any emergency services under their own licenses (and would thus be worthy of any and all appropriate awards) — but would no longer be providing such services through an official Society Chirurgeonate.

The SCA would no longer maintain an Office of the Society Chirurgeon, Kingdom or local Chirurgeons, or warrant any Chirurgeons or Chirurgeonate activity. However, individuals are still encouraged to meet and pursue any and all SCA-related interests on their own. People are, of course, free to pursue and provide emergency care at SCA activities as licensed medical practitioners under the licensing laws of their state or any Good Samaritan laws that might be applicable. Any such unofficial organizations, communications, or provision of emergency care related services would not be sponsored or overseen by the SCA, Inc. or any of its groups.

The SCA would no longer have Corporate, Kingdom, or local Chirurgeon officers or warranted Chirurgeons, so any and all class material taught on any related subjects would be developed and provided by SCA members individually and based on their own accreditation, licenses, and experience. Because the SCA, Inc., does not endorse or supply the content of any classes taught at SCA activities (other than those being taught by Officers in support of their Office), individual members are free to teach classes on any material that might be related to unofficial first aid activities, but would be doing so strictly as individuals with no official sanction or involvement of SCA, Inc. As individuals, such service could also be considered worthy of any and all appropriate awards, although there would be no relationship to an official Society Chirurgeonate.

The Board of Directors seeks comments on the matter through 03/18/2014, which can be directed to comments@sca.org. Additionally, we invite all those interested to send their comments to the Society Chirurgeon (chirurgeon@sca.org). The Board of Directors invites the populace to take advantage of the range of our communication outlets -- including email lists, social media venues, and public meetings -- to discuss the issue, but would simply like to remind everybody that courtesy and the presumption of honor are core values of the Society, and apply equally in on line venues as they do at SCA events. Additionally, the Board of Directors will be holding a public meeting at Gulf Wars, where these interested in discussing this issue are welcome to hear what the Board has to say and share their feedback.

Comments are strongly encouraged and can be sent to:

SCA Inc.

Box 360789

Milpitas, CA 95036

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

This announcement is an official informational release by the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. Permission is granted to reproduce this announcement in its entirety in newsletters, websites and electronic mailing lists.

The Canton of Steltonwald Officers and Meetings

Seneschal

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr

David_black42@yahoo.com

Knight Marshal

Lord Marcus du Coeur

Marcussmoot.jr@gmail.com

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Lady Marian of Blackwood

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Exchequer

The Honorable Lady Ysabell Graver

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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
Fiora d'Artusio	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