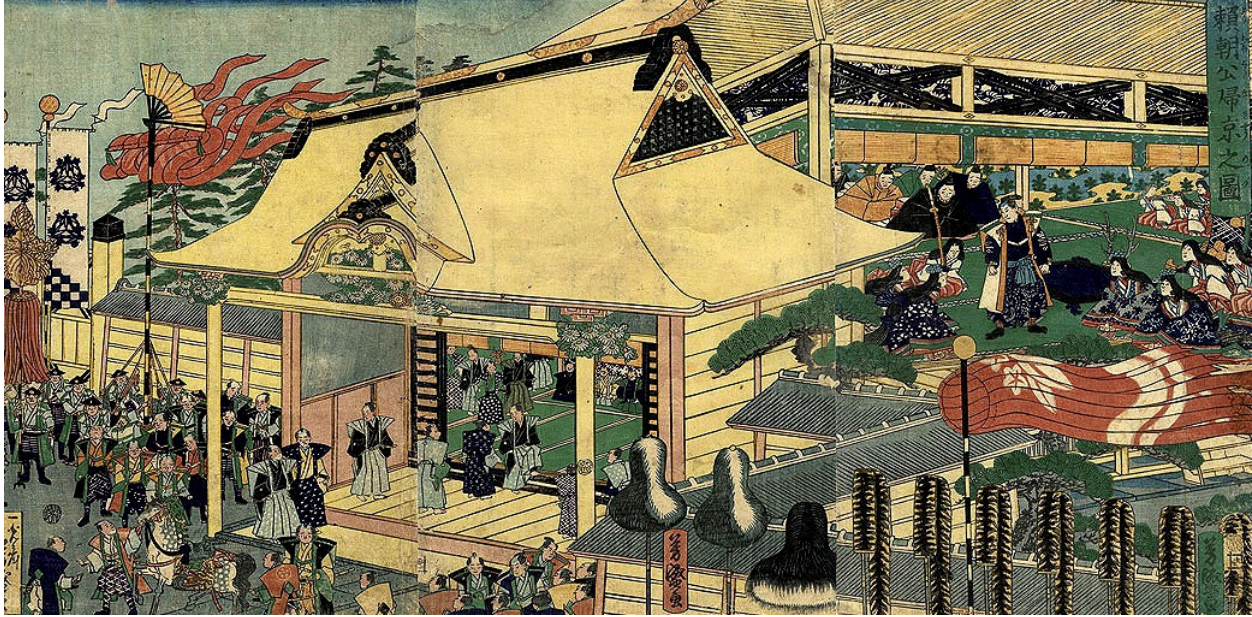


THE ALTHING



April/May

AS XLVII (2015) Vol. 38, No. 2

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 generally 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 Fuji at chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.

Art Work: All art work from Viking Designs CD-ROM and Book, Dover Publications ©2002 or available on the public domain.

Their Excellencies of the Debatable Lands

Uilliam Mac an Tsaoir
baron@debatablelands.org

Constance Glyn Dwr
baroness@debatablelands.org

Their Royal Majesties of Aethelmearc

Timothy of Arindale
Ae.king@aethelmearc.org

Gabrielle van Nijenrode
Ae.queen@aethelmearc.org

Their Royal Highnesses of Aethelmearc

Magnus Tindal
Ae.prince@aethelmearc.org

Etain ingen Dalaig
Ae.princess@aethelmearc.org

Officers of the Debatable Lands

Seneschale (02/16)

Alaric MacConnal
seneschal@debatablelands.org

Comet Pursuivant (12/14)

Jorundr hinn Rotinn
herald@debatablelands.org

Knight Marshal (10/15)

Uilliam Mac an Tsaoir
knightmarshal@debatablelands.org

Minister of Arts and Science (02/17)

Janos Messzaros
ansminister@debatablelands.org

Chronicler (12/16)

Fuji'na no Takako
chronicler@debatablelands.org

Exchequer (06/13)

Hara Kikumatsu
exchequer@debatablelands.org

Chirurgeon Liason (06/14)

Ceindrech verch Elidir
chirurgeon@debatablelands.org

Steltonwald Seneschal

Bovi Farmaor
Seneschale@steltonwald.org

Minister of the Lists (02/14)

Elizabeth Arrowsmythe
lists@debatablelands.org

Marshal of Fence (04/14)

Jorundr hinn Rotinn
fencingmarshal@debatablelands.org

Captain of Archers (10/14)

Brandubh O'Donnghaile
archerymarshal@debatablelands.org

Chatelaine (06/14)

Edana the Red
chatelaine@debatablelands.org

Webminister (4/2015)

Emrys Eustace
webminister@debatablelands.org

Baronial Positions and Deputies

College Liason

Fiora d'Artusio

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

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

From the Seneschale:

Greetings All!

The spring season has finally come upon us and this means that our outdoor practices have moved to the Washington Boulevard site after a long cold winter. Come on out and try your hand at archery, fencing, heavy combat or throwing. It's a great way to spend time with friends and practice your skills.

The May Barony meeting will be on Sunday, May 10th at 1:30pm at the martial activities site. And speaking of the May meeting ... this month features Guild Wars? What are Guild Wars, you ask? It is the opportunity for members of the barony (either organized groups or a set of individuals) to sponsor a team to compete for bragging rights (and the glorious prize of glory). Are you interested? If so, it is not too late to start recruiting your teams (heavy combat, fencing, archery, thrown weapons, and youth combat). An individual may represent multiple teams but can only compete in each weapons form once. So Joe the Fencer can compete as a fencer for one team and as an archer for another team (or even for the same team).

We will also have an Officers' Meeting following the May Barony Meeting to discuss some upcoming event bids.

Many thanks to all of you who came out for the practice attended by the reporter and photographer from the Tribune Review. I was unable to attend but saw the online pictures. You guys are awesome!

At the April 1st Officers' Meeting the Officers approved policy changes. See elsewhere in this issue for the updated policies.

It is great to be back in Barony after a long visit to the distant lands of Drachenwald. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event or practice. As always, if you need something or just want to talk, I am here to help.

In Service,

Alaric

Guild Wars – The Fantastic Fiber Five!

On Sunday May 10th the martial activities took an arts and sciences bent with the return of Guild Wars! Four intrepid teams competed for the Glorious Prize of Glory in the areas of Archery, Thrown Weapons, Heavy Combat, Fencing, and Youth Combat. After all the competitions were completed we were faced with a tie! The heads of the two guilds, Janos (Cooks Guild) and Rowena (Fiber Guild) broke the tie with a round of Rock, Scissors, Paper, with Scissors being the winning choice.

The prize was distributed to the team members and populace. Listed below are the teams that competed and the scores:

Debatable Choir: Robert (Heavy), Muirgheal (Fencing), Arianna (Archery), Melodia (Thrown Weapons), Carl (Youth), Score: 11.5

Scribal Guild: Kieran (Heavy), Rivka (Fencing), Kathryn (Archery), Maija (Thrown Weapons), Patrick (Youth), Score: 7.5

Cooks Guild: Koredono (Heavy), Markus (Fencing), Yoshi (Archery), Kane (Thrown Weapons), Otto (Youth), Score: 15.5

Fiber Guild: Jussie (Heavy), Gwion (Fencing), Rivka (Archery), Libby (Thrown Weapons), Aidan (Youth), Score: 15.5

Everyone had a good time and there is already talk of a repeat for next year with the Fiber Guild to provide a prize for next years' edition. It's never too early to plan ... lets go for even more teams next year!

Finally, thank you to everyone who ran a competition: Liam (Heavy), Jorundr (Fencing), Alaric (Archery), Kane (Thrown Weapons), and Arianna (Youth). And also to those who helped out, participated, and watched.

Scarlet Guard Challenge – Yoshi Triumphs

The archery portion of Guild Wars also served as a tournament for selecting an archer to represent the Barony at the Hornwood Guard Inn. This challenge was set down by the Scarlet Guard and presented to every group in the kingdom. After ten rounds of a challenging competition I am pleased to announce that the winner is Yoshi, who narrowly beat out Ichikiero.

I hope many of you will make the journey to support Yoshi as he faces champions from around the Kingdom. The Hornwood Guard Inn is on the weekend of June 12th - June 14th and the announcement can be found here (<http://www.aethelmearc.org/eventinfo.php?event=1037>).

From the Baronial Exchequer.

Citizens of the Debatable Lands,

My term for exchequer will be over at the August 12th officers meeting. If you wish to help run business end of the Barony, this is a good opportunity. Should you wish to know more about the responsibilities, please contact me at the "exchequer" address at debatablelands.org. If you are interested in holding the office, please send a letter to both "seneschal" and "exchequer" addresses for debatablelands.org describing your intent and any experience that you may have. Also you should also attend the officer's meeting to make a statement for a vote.

I thank the Barony for the opportunity I have had to serve in this position.

In Service,

Hara Kikumatsu

**Please see the end of the Althing to see the newly
approved policies as of 5/14/2015**

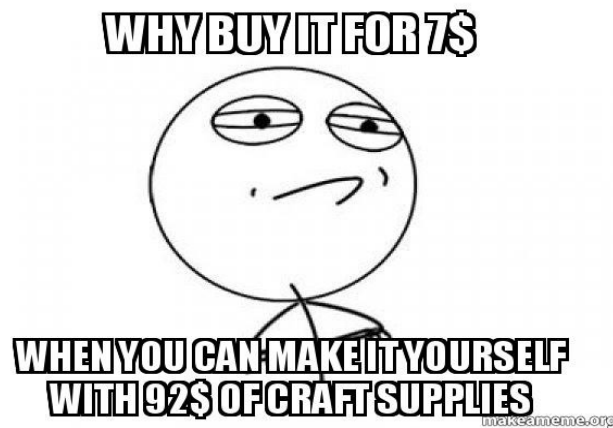
To Cobble or Not to Cobble: A Cautionary Tale

By Kristina Kaufman/Ashling Na Ngleanntan

So your persona is in place. You've nailed down your favorite time period and found some styles that work for you. Your persona is starting to need its own closet, with one notable gaping hole: the shoe rack would be all but bare. For many of us, the five-foot-rule, pass-in-a-pinch, nondescript boot or sandal is the beginning and end of our "period" footwear arsenal. Unfortunately, reasonably priced period shoes are almost nonexistent.

If you're a compulsive crafter like many Scadians, it will occur to you at this point that maybe you should try making your own. After all, you think prophetically, how hard could it be? Well, I'm here to tell you, shoemaking can be extremely difficult and frustrating, but it can also be quite rewarding. What follows are a few factoids I wish I had known before I took my first crack at cobbling.

Especially the first time, making your own shoes will not be any less expensive.



One of the primary reasons that we reenactors start making our own gear is to avoid that nasty retail markup. In the case of shoes, you will quickly begin to see why they are generally so expensive. First, unless you happen to be sitting on a pile of leatherworking gear, you will need to purchase several somewhat specialized tools, depending on what style of shoe you hope to make. As is the case in many other areas, earlier period styles, such as Viking turnshoes, employ less complex techniques and require fewer tools than later period shoes with blocked soles, such as the popular 14th century styles featuring Poulaine tips. Either way, expect to spend at least fifty or sixty dollars on tools alone before you ever sit down at a bench.



Of course, if you decide to continue making shoes after your first pair, provided you take good care of your tools, they will last a very long time. Additionally, the same set of tools can be used to try a number of other projects, such as belt purses, vambraces, cuff bracelets, and countless other accessories that are generously marked up in stores. You may need a new specialized tool every now and then, but your core collection will serve you well for many uses.

Medieval folk had very tough feet.

Many people are surprised to find that, if they follow medieval leather shoe patterns precisely, the soles are very thin, or even nonexistent in the case of very early period styles. Welted soles, or soles affixed to the shoe upper with a thin strip called a welt, allowing for more substantial sole designs, did not appear until about 1500 A.D.. Prior to that, a single thin piece of leather, sometimes textured or abraded for traction, was used as a sole, if anything at all. Many earlier period shoes have no differentiated soles at all. Unfortunately, this means that you will feel every rock and pebble through your new shoes unless you take a little anachronistic liberty. Many shoemakers use nonslip rubber soling material to finish off their work. This can be purchased in sheets, cut to size, and affixed with adhesive. You may also want to consider purchasing some nice insoles, as arch support is a very modern consideration in footwear.



If you still choose to maintain accuracy over comfort in your design, bear in mind that unless you use fairly thick leather, which will be a bit more difficult to work with, you will find yourself walking through the soles of your shoes more quickly than you might expect. For this reason, despite the increased difficulty, if you hope to make completely period shoes, you will need to use thicker, heavier leather. This leads me to my next point...

Shoemaking involves relatively difficult, advanced leatherworking.

If you have never worked with leather before, I would strongly advise against choosing shoes as your first project. Many of you reading this article are no doubt thinking, "She doesn't mean me. I'm an excellent seamstress, crafter, artist, etc..." I thought the same thing when I picked up my first pack of leather scraps and cheap wooden mallet. I had been sewing and crafting for years. I could draft patterns and hand stitch like a pro. *What could go wrong?* I thought. Three weeks and a hundred dollars later, as I inspected my first finished pair of "shoes," wondering vaguely if I knew anyone with badly deformed feet of two wildly different sizes who might want them, I thought back to my earlier overconfidence with chagrin. I should have believed what many friends had tried to tell me; shoes are expensive for a reason. They are difficult, painstaking, time consuming, and frustrating.

Still have your heart set? Consider trying a simpler project like a belt pouch first. It will give you a chance to get comfortable with punching, stitching, and turning leather. It will also give you an impression of how precise and unforgiving leather patterns can be. Better to have a belt pouch that doesn't quite lie flat than a pair of shoes that twist in two different directions.

In addition, don't underestimate the importance of thorough research. At the end of this article, I've included a short list of resources that I found especially helpful. There's no such thing as too much information. Read books, check out websites, and if you can, take a class.

Putting needle to leather is the very last step in a long, careful process.

The most common mistake people make when first attempting shoes or any other project is to jump ahead. My first really successful pair of shoes involved three duct tape patterns, two fabric mockups, two vinyl mockups, and extensive marking and fitting in between steps. Of course, now that the pattern is complete, I can skip all those steps on future pairs. As is the case with most arts and crafts, the first time will be the most aggravating and lengthy. However, if you make it through the steep learning curve and initial investment, you'll be rewarded with a skill set that can enrich all aspects of your reenactment experience.

If you've made it this far into the article and still want to make some shoes, I applaud you! The difficulty of the work and the usefulness of the product make shoemaking a very satisfying accomplishment. It's no secret that great shoes can make an outfit, and the same is true for garb. Well-made, accurate looking shoes provide the finishing touch to a rich, well rounded persona, to say nothing of how jealous all your friends will be of your new, hard-won skill. And now we come to the final and most inevitable caveat...

Everyone, and I mean everyone, will want you to make shoes for them.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. Very few people have mastered shoemaking, making it an extremely valuable skill set. Remember this when deciding on a price for your services. No one who has ever learned a new skill will expect you to work for free. Think back on the time and money you spent to get started. Always consider the cost of replacing what you will use on the project, and the wear and tear on your tools and fingers. Remember that your time has value, and that your skill is both unusual and essential. And most importantly, if you want to say no, be kind, be polite, but be firm. If you're not sure you'll have the time or energy to finish a project, you'll be left with an incomplete project, wasted time and materials, and a disappointed friend. It's OK to tell someone to figure it out for themselves... after all, you did!

A Few Helpful Resources

The Art of Hand Sewing Leather by Al Stohlman

Leatherwork Manual by Al Stohlman, A. D. Patten and J. A. Wilson

The Making of Medieval Shoes According to Methods from the Turn of the 14th Century by Lord Maximilian von Brandenburg (A class taught at Kingdom Arts and Sciences AS XXXVII, available for download online)

Shoes and Pattens: Medieval Finds from Excavations in London by Francis Grew and Margrethe de Neergaard



Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, Office of the Seneschal



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	04-Feb-2015 8:00pm	Minutes Recorded By:	Alaric MacConnal
---------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------

Attendance

Officer	Name	Present	Proxied	Report	Notes
Baron	Uilliam (Shawn MacIntyre)	X			
Baroness	Constance (Sunshine MacIntyre)				
Seneschal	Alaric (Robert Smith)	X		X	
Exchequer	Hara (Sharon Booth)	X			
Knight Marshal	Uilliam (Shawn MacIntyre)	X			
Minister of Arts & Sciences	Ishiyama (Elliott Evans)	X			
Herald	Jorundr (Timothy Cogan)		X		Proxied by Ishiyama
Chronicler	Fuji (Heather Makar)	X			
Chatelaine	Edana (Brie Montgomery)	X			
Mistress of Lists	Elizabeth (Elizabeth Hogue)	X			
Chirurgion Liaison	Ceindrech (Kate Neely)		X		Proxied by Alaric
Webminister	Emrys (Joe Marfice)	X			Proxied by Hilda
Steltonwald Seneschal	Bovi (David Black)				
Cour d'Or Seneschal	Fiora (Whitney Schoenthal)				

* Place an "X" in the column if present, proxied or report sent. Note proxy in notes column.

Other Gentles Attending in Person	Other Gentles Attending Remotely
Isabel, Kameshima, Hilda, Elss, Langdon	

Agenda

1. Open Meeting	Meeting opened.
2. Approve Minutes	December 2014 Meeting Motion approved.
3. Officer Reports	
Baron & Baroness	Things are going well. Newcomers meeting is this weekend. Two pieces of business at Seven Deadlies court. Looking forward to Kingdom for a Stage and hope to see more event bids.
Seneschal	Both the Debatable Lands and Steltonwald Twelfth Nights went well. Welcome to Fuji at her first meeting. Kingdom Seneschal will be conducting policy reviews over the course of the next few months. I haven't heard yet when ours will be done.
Exchequer	Year end report is done. Down about \$1000 from last year. There are mitigating circumstances including a profitable "free" event (12 th Night) which made almost \$300. Steltonwald donated \$600. Seneschal and Exchequer approved up to \$75 for the upcoming newcomers meeting.
Knight Marshal	Practice continue on Sundays (weather permitting). Some newcomers have shown up and will be showing up to the newcomers meeting next week. 12 fencers from Black Talon showed up to practice last month.
Minister of Arts &	A&S Practices have been going well and have been increasing slightly. Term is



Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, Office of the Seneschal



Sciences	up this evening. First Quarterly Report is due March 1 st . Lady Hara is our new Arts and Sciences champion.
Herald	Nothing to report.
Chronicler	Needs more content for the Althing.
Chatelaine	Newcomers meeting this Sunday in conjunction with the martial practices. Theme is Garb and Persona. Estimate around 12 people to show up.
Mistress of Lists	Nothing to report.
Chirurgion Liaison	Nothing to report.
Webminister	Nothing to report.
Steltonwald Seneschal	No Report
Cour d'Or Seneschal	No Report

4. Next Meetings / Gatherings

March Barony Meeting	TBD
April Officers Meeting	Wednesday, April 1 st at 8pm. CMU Campus – TBD
May Barony Meeting	Sunday in May in conjunction with the Martial Activities.

5. Upcoming Events (New and Approved)

Kingdom for a Stage	Good reports of an Ealdormere invasion (and other out-of-kingdom folks from the Mid and Atlantia). Heraldry "Best Brag" contest added.
Iron Comet	The original proposed date was taken when Crown moved. Bid approved for August 29 th (with backup of August 22 nd). Adult On-Board \$20, Off-Board, \$10, Family Cap \$30. 12 Comps. Site TBD.
Crown Tourney	The event is officially Region 1. Event Bid to be presented April 1 st .

6. Past Events (Since Last Officer's Meeting)

Twelfth Night	The event went well and made money (~\$300). Event to be autocratted by Erlandr hinn Raudi next year.
---------------	---

7. Other Business

Officer Terms	Minister of Arts & Sciences (Baron Janos is our new A&S Minister with term ending February 2017).
Policy Changes	The proposed policy changes have been sent to the Chronicler and Web Minister for publication and request for comments. Once they're online an announcement will go to the email list.
Online Presence	Information needs to be posted to the Debatable Lands website. Chronicler and Web Minister to work on a proposal to improve use of online presence.

8. Close Meeting

Meeting closed. Beer ensued.

Dates to Remember:

Barony Meetings:

Wed, Jun 03: Officers Meeting

The June Officers Meeting will be held in the McKenna Room of the University Center on CMU Campus, starting at 8 pm. Parking is in the Forbes Avenue garage and the room is on the Second Floor.

Here's a link for Google Maps:<https://www.google.com/maps/place/5032+Forbes+Ave,+Carnegie+Mellon+University,+Pittsburgh,+PA+15213/@40.44341,-79.9421174,18z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x8834f222017e56e9:0x8688701fc4057b75>

Sun, Jul 12: Barony Business Meeting

The July business meeting will be on Sunday, July 12th at 1:00 pm, at the Washington Blvd. Martial Activities site. In addition to the meeting will be the Pre-Pennsic garb swap. Bring your no-longer-wanted garb and other useful objects for others to fill out their Pennsic inventory. Newer members will have first pick, but everybody will have a chance to find something new-to-you. There is no charge, but if you find something, please consider making a donation to the fund raising bucket.

Here's a link for Google Maps:<https://www.google.com/maps/place/1499+Washington+Blvd,+Pittsburgh,+PA+15206/@40.4829649,-79.9080193,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x8834ed777e133ff7:0xa287c3e8b3cd7b7c?hl=en>

Upcoming Events:

May 22-25 – Wars of the Roses - Kingdom of the East (Pattersonville, NY)

May 23 - Defenders of Sylvan Glen - Shire of Sylvan Glen (Falling Waters, WV)

May 23 - Rhydderich Hael Baronial Champs 2015 - Barony of Rhydderich Hael (Akron, NY)

May 29-31 - Melee Madness - Barony of Endless Hills (Meshoppen, PA)

May 29-31 - Thescore Baronial Champs - Barony of Thescore (Bergen)

June 5-7 - Myrkfaileen Summer War Practice - Dominion of Myrkfaelinn (Trumansburg, NY)

June 6 - Brass Ring Thing - Canton of Beau Fleuve (North Tonawanda, NY)

June 12-14 - Hornwood-Guard Inn Archery Festival III - Shire of Hornwood (brockway, pa)

June 13 - A Midsummer Night's Dream - Canton of Steltonwald (Coraopolis. PA)

June 13 - Tournament of the Windmill : World at War, Hellenistic Edition - Barony of Delftwood (Cleveland, NY)

June 19-21 - AEthelwald Proving Grounds II - Shire of Sunderoak (Portersville Pa)

June 19-21 - A Day of Tournaments - Shire of Port Oasis (Huntington, WV)

June 21 - Lake Augusta Renaissance Festival Event & Demo - Shire of Abhainn Ciach Ghlais (Sunbury, PA)

June 26-28 - Pax Interruptus XXXIX - Barony of Thescore (Caledonia, NY)

June 26-28 - Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium - Kingdom of Ealdormere (Mississauga, ON)

July 4 - Spring 2015 Æthelmearc Æcademy & War College - Shire of Stormsport (Albion PA)

July 17-19 - St. Swithin's Bog Throwback Three Day - Barony of St. Swithin's Bog (Summerhill, PA)

July 24-Aug 9 - 44th Pennsic War (PLEASE NOTE! Deadlines: Mail in - May 25; On-line pre-paid - June 17; On-line unpaid - July 10)

August 9 - Iron Comet 2015 - Barony-Marche of Debatable Lands (Beaver Falls, PA)

May/June Weekly Meetings:

Tuesday, May 19

6:00pm - Cour d'Or Fencing Practice

Thursday, May 21

7:00pm - BMDL Fiber Guild Meeting

Sunday, May 24

11:00am - BMDL Archery Practice

11:00am - BMDL Thrown Weapons Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

7:00pm - BMDL Cooks Guild Meeting

Monday, May 25

7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 26

6:00pm - Cour d'Or Fencing Practice

Wednesday, May 27

6:00pm - Scriptorium - Class

Thursday, May 28

7:30pm - Debatable Consort Practice

8:00pm - Dance Practice

Sunday, May 31

11:00am - BMDL Archery Practice

11:00am - BMDL Thrown Weapons Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, June 1

7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, June 2

6:00pm - Cour d'Or Fencing Practice

Wednesday, June 3

8:00pm - Officers Meeting

Friday, June 5

OOB: Northern Oaken War Maneuvers

Saturday, June 6

OOB: Northern Oaken War Maneuvers

Sunday, June 7

OOB: Northern Oaken War Maneuvers

11:00am - BMDL Archery Practice

11:00am - BMDL Thrown Weapons Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, June 8

7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, June 9

6:00pm - Cour d'Or Fencing Practice

Wednesday, June 10

6:00pm - Scriptorium

Sunday, June 14

11:00am - BMDL Archery Practice

11:00am - BMDL Thrown Weapons Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, June 15

7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, June 16

6:00pm - Cour d'Or Fencing Practice

Sunday, June 21

11:00am - BMDL Archery Practice

11:00am - BMDL Thrown Weapons Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, June 22

7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, June 23

6:00pm - Cour d'Or Fencing Practice

Wednesday, June 24

6:00pm - Scriptorium - Class

Thursday, June 25

7:30pm - Debatable Consort Practice

8:00pm - Dance Practice

Sunday, June 28

11:00am - BMDL Archery Practice

11:00am - BMDL Thrown Weapons Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fencing Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Fighter Practice

2:00pm - BMDL Youth Combat Practice

Monday, June 29

7:30pm - Debatable Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, June 30

6:00pm - Cour d'Or Fencing Practice

The Canton of Steltonwald Officers and Meetings

Seneschal

Lord Bóvi Farmaður

David_black42@yahoo.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 Farmaður

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.
- While not official, there is valuable information to be had on various BMDL Facebook groups, such as [The BMDL Ride Board](#), [Debatable Lands group](#), and [the SCA group](#).

The Althing

Fuji'na no Takako

c/o Heather L. Makar

1609 Boundary St.

Aliquippa PA 15001

These policies were approved by the Officers of the Debatable Lands on April 1, 2015 (really!!) and became effective on May 15, 2015 upon publication in the Althing.

POLICIES of the BARONY-MARCHE OF THE DEBATABLE LANDS

I. Policies

- A. The Barony's policies must be maintained on the Baronial website. Changes or additions to these policies become official when published and supersede all former Baronial policies. Baronial policy is subordinate to Kingdom Law & Policy, Corpora, and civil law. It may not contradict them and need not duplicate them.
- B. Baronial policies may be created or changed by the Officers. Proposed additions or changes to Baronial policies must appear on the agenda of the Officers' meeting at which they are ratified. In this circumstance the proposed changes shall be published and the agenda shall be announced to the populace on the Baronial email list at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- C. Within these policies, published means posted on the Baronial website with notification sent to the Baronial email list.

II. Officers

- A. The Officers of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands are those required by Kingdom Law, the office of the Baron/ess, the Seneschals of the Barony's nondormant subsidiary groups, the Chirurgion Liaison, and the Webminister. These officers, excluding the office of the Baron/ess, constitute the financial committee of the Barony for the purpose of setting financial policy and approving financial activities. No present or proxied individual may have more than one vote on the financial committee.
- B. 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.

- C. Officers serve for a term of twenty-four months from the Officers' meeting at which their appointment was approved. Notification of an Officer's intent to renew or resign must be published at least two months before the end of the Officer's term. This notification must solicit letters of intent for a successor. Letters of intent must be sent to the Officer in question, as well as the Baronial Seneschal; if the office is the seneschalate, a letter must also be sent to the Baron/ess. Whether an officer decides to serve another term or a successor takes the office, either choice must be ratified by the officers. If no acceptable candidates are set forward, the Office shall remain vacant if allowed by Kingdom Law. Subsidiary groups are not required to follow this policy in choosing their seneschals and officers.
- D. If an Office becomes vacant midterm, the Emergency Deputy will temporarily assume the duties of the office. The Emergency Deputy may choose to serve out the Officer's term, or solicit letters of intent for a successor. If they choose to serve out the term, they must be ratified by the Officers at the next Officers' meeting.
- E. A two-thirds majority of Baronial Officers may petition his/her Kingdom Superior to remove any Officer, though a proposal to do so must appear on the officers' meeting agenda, and the Officer must be informed of the proposal in writing. In this circumstance, the agenda shall be published at least 48 hours before the meeting. If an Officer is absent and not represented at three consecutive Officers' meetings, and does not respond to inquiries within a reasonable time, they will be considered to have resigned.

III. Positions and Deputies

- A. Officers may create or dissolve Baronial Positions as needed by majority vote at Officers' meeting. Each Officer may create deputies as needed, and report the appointment at the next Officers' meeting.
- B. In addition to applicable Kingdom reporting requirements: the Baronial Signet reports to the Baron/ess; Martial Specialist Baronial Positions report to the Knight Marshal; the Steward reports to the Exchequer; deputies report to their Officer in charge; and all other Baronial Positions report to the Seneschal.

- C. Positions and Deputies do not have term limits. When a position holder or deputy wishes to step down, they are responsible for recommending a replacement to the Officer to which the position/deputy reports, and that Officer appoints a replacement if needed. New Position holders must be ratified by the Officers at the next Officers' meeting.
- D. Unless prohibited by Kingdom Law or Policy, Position holders may be removed by a majority vote of the Officers. A proposal to do so must appear on the officers' meeting agenda, and the Position holder must be informed of the proposal in writing. Unless prohibited by Kingdom Law or Policy, deputies may be removed by their Officer in charge, and the removal must be reported at the next Officers' meeting. If Kingdom Law or Policy requires that a Position holder or Deputy only be removed by a Kingdom official, then the Baronial Officer in charge of that Position or Deputy may petition the Kingdom official for removal. Position holders or Deputies that fail to report or respond to inquiries for 6 months will be considered to have resigned.

IV. General Financial

- A. Expenditures greater than \$75 must be approved by a simple majority of the Financial Committee. Expenditures of \$75 or under may be authorized jointly by the Baronial Seneschal and Exchequer. Such expenditures must be reported at the following officers meeting. The Seneschal and Exchequer must be represented at any meeting of the financial committee.
- B. The Barony reserves the right to accept or refuse any donation. Non-monetary donations (e.g.: equipment, supplies, items for resale) with a value over \$100 require the approval of the Exchequer, who will issue the receipt. The donor is solely responsible for setting the value of the donation. No non-monetary item should be accepted prior to seeing the item.
- C. Event refunds requested before the event report is completed will be considered but not guaranteed. Refunds requested after the event report is completed will not be issued.

V. Events

- A. Event bids must be submitted by a member of the BMDL who wishes to autocrat an event. Event bids must be submitted by members of other local groups who want the BMDL to sponsor their event. Event bids must be presented at a Baronial Officers' meeting (or, in special cases, at a regular Barony meeting, by pre-arrangement with the Seneschal) in order to be approved. Ideally, all event bids should be submitted six to twelve months in advance. All event bids must include a completed Baronial event bid form (or equivalent) and proof of SCA membership for the autocrat (must prove membership at the time of the proposed event).
- B. Officers will not approve expenditures for proposed events unless they are presented with a written event bid which contains, at a minimum, the names of the autocrat and the head cook, a site, a date, a break-even analysis, and a budget (if Baronial funds are to be used). The event budget shall include estimates for income and for expenses by category based upon expected attendance, rates charged and any free admissions. After-budget expenditures are to be approved or disapproved at the Financial Committee's discretion. If an event bid is declined at the Kingdom or Society level, the event bid is void.
- C. The autocrat of an event may require any person behaving disruptively to leave the event. If a minor is behaving disruptively at an event, the autocrat may require the adult(s) responsible for that minor to leave the event as well. It is the responsibility of the autocrat of any event for which the Nonmember Surcharge must be collected to determine the means of collection.
- D. The Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands does not serve alcoholic beverages.

VI. Baronial Property

- A. Baronial property includes any physical Item that was bought by or was donated to the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, including but not limited to Gold Key, Iron Key, other loaner gear, regalia, and larder items. Baronial Property does not include items held by non-dormant subsidiary groups.
- B. Anyone that holds, stores, or maintains Baronial property, not to include files, must inventory it at least once per calendar year. The report should be given to the Chamberlain or Exchequer during the first two weeks of November. The report shall contain at the minimum: the name of the item(s), quantity on hand, a

statement about the condition of the item(s) and location of where the item(s) are stored.

- C. If a holder of Baronial property does not hold a Baronial Office or Position, he or she will provide full mundane and SCA name, and full contact information to the Chamberlain or Exchequer.
- D. Loaner gear (Gold Key, Iron Key, etc) is generally meant to be loaned out and returned within the same day, at a Baronial meeting, practice, or event. However, the holder of loaner gear may, at their sole discretion, choose to loan items out for a longer period of time. In that case, the holder will record the borrower's full mundane and SCA names, full contact information, and date of return.
- E. Whenever an Office or baronial position changes hands, the outgoing Officer is responsible for transferring all files and baronial property related to the office to his or her successor in a timely fashion. An inventory report must be filed with the Chamberlain or Exchequer at this time so the change of property can be verified. In the event of a vacant office, the Officers shall determine which Barony member shall temporarily take possession of the files and property of the vacant Office.

VII. Baronial Succession

- A. Requirements of office: The territorial Baron and/or Baroness (hereafter referred to as Baron/ess) must meet the requirements stated in Corpora and Kingdom Law, be 18 years of age or older as of the day the votes are to be tallied, and must be a resident in the territory of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands. The Office of Baron/ess of the Debatable Lands is not subject to a term limit.
- B. When Selection of a New Baron/ess Will Occur: Selection will take place when a Baron/ess is removed, expresses a desire to retire, or wishes to take a consort.
- C. Removal of a Baron/ess: A majority of the Barony's Officers may call for the removal of the Baron or Baroness. The motion must be published at least 48 hours prior to the officers' meeting where the motion is to be voted on and must appear on the officers' meeting agenda. If the motion passes, the result will be announced at the next Barony meeting and published to the populace. At the

Barony meeting after that, those attending the meeting will decide, by majority vote, whether to petition the Crown for the removal of the Baron or Baroness.

- D. The Vicar: If a Vicar is appointed, the Vicar may not give Baronial Awards but may otherwise preside over Baronial Courts and functions.
- E. The Selection Committee: The Selection Committee is responsible for overseeing the election process. The selection committee consists of the Baron/ess (if there is one), the Vicar (if there is one), and enough officers in officer precedence order to bring the total to 5 with the Baron and/or Baroness together counting as one seat. If a member of the committee accepts a baronial nomination, if their term is over and they are not planning to renew before the election process is over, or if they directly or indirectly resign from the committee, then they are replaced by the next officer in officer precedence order. The Committee members will elect a Chairman from among their members by simple majority vote.
- F. Notification of the upcoming election and these policies will be published no later than one month following the appointment of the selection committee.
- G. The Selection Process
 - 1. Eligible Voters: Any person residing in the zip codes of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands who is 17 years of age or older (as of the day the votes are to be tallied) and is on the corporate membership list may vote. Under exceptional circumstances, the Selection Committee may consider a written request for a ballot from a person who would not otherwise receive one. Such a request must be received by the Chair of the Selection Committee by the date of the Nominating Meeting.
 - 2. Timing of the Selection Process:
 - a. Announcement of upcoming election
 - b. Approximately one month later, nominations*
 - c. Approximately one month later, acceptance of nominations
 - d. Two months later, ballots counted

*Note: Additional general Barony meetings may be called to facilitate the timing of this process.

3. The Nominating Meeting: A Nominating meeting will be held as part of a general Barony meeting within two months after the announcement of the election appears as outlined in VII.F. Candidates will be nominated by petition of the populace, either in writing or by voice at the nominating meeting. Written nominations must be received by the Chair of the Selection Committee at or before the nomination meeting. The Chair of the Selection Committee must notify candidates within one week of the nominations. To be considered, candidates must accept nominations in writing to the Chair of the Selection Committee within one month of the nominating meeting. Individuals or couples may be nominated, but no individual can occur on the ballot more than once.
4. The Voting: A written ballot with the list of all candidates (a candidate pair is considered to be "a candidate" in this document) will be distributed by mail to all eligible voters. Each ballot shall be numbered and a record kept of the total number of ballots mailed, but no record shall be kept of which numbers were mailed to which voters. Voting will be as follows:
 - a. A group status poll will appear on the election ballots; voters will mark their preferred option. Voters will mark those candidates they consider unacceptable as "UA". All other candidates are to be ranked in order of preference, with "1" being the voter's first choice, "2" the second choice, and so on. Any candidate may be left blank (unranked).
 - b. Voters will have until the beginning of the next general barony meeting at least one month after the ballots were mailed to vote. Voters may return their ballots by mail or in person to the Chair of the Selection Committee. Voters shall not be required to write their names on the ballots. The Chair of the Selection Committee will hold the ballots unopened until the Committee meets to count the ballots.
 - c. Tallying the ballots: The Selection Committee will meet during the general barony meeting of the voting deadline to open and count the

ballots. Only ballots that remain unopened until tallying begins will be valid. Ballots will be tallied in the following sequence:

- i. Ballot numbers will be checked off on the master list. If any duplicate ballot numbers or numbers which are not on the list of those mailed are found, those ballots will be discarded. The group status poll will be counted first. If a majority of the voters choose not to remain a Barony, then the Baronial election process will be terminated and the election ballots will not be tallied.
- ii. A valid ballot will include an unambiguous and legible ranking of listed candidates as directed in section VII.G.4.a., including UA or blank responses. Invalid ballots will not be counted.
- iii. Any candidate receiving "unacceptable" (UA) votes from more than 33% of the valid ballots shall be eliminated from consideration.
- iv. The Selection committee shall tally each ballot as a single vote for the highest-ranked active candidate on the ballot. If any candidate has a majority (more than 50%) of the received ballots, that candidate shall be declared the winner. Otherwise, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated from consideration, and the votes for that candidate will be redistributed to the highest-ranked active candidate on each ballot. (Any ballot that does not include a numeric rank for any active candidate will not be considered a "received ballot" for the purpose of calculating the number of votes needed for majority.) Repeat this sequence until a majority candidate is found. The majority candidate will be declared the winner.
- v. If there is a tie between two (or more) active candidates for the fewest votes in a round, all tied candidates will be eliminated from consideration. If there is a tie between the final two (or more) active candidates, the candidate with the

fewest number of unacceptable (UA) votes on ALL valid ballots (not just those that have ranked an active candidate) will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, all tied candidates will be presented to the Crown as acceptable, and the Crown of Æthelmearc shall be asked to choose between them.

- vi. General Summary of Tallying. The voters rank candidates from most favorite to least favorite. Take the ballots and make a pile for each candidate, based on just the first-place votes (ignoring all the other rankings on the ballots). Then eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and re-distribute those ballots to the other piles, using the second-place votes. Keep eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes until one candidate is left. This is a summary only; actual tallying process will follow steps i – v.
- 5. The Petition: The Chair of the Selection Committee will produce a petition in accordance with Kingdom law.
 - 6. Special Elections
 - a. If an existing solo Baron/ess desires to take a consort, a vote on the Baron/ess's chosen consort will be held. The announcement of the vote shall be published within one month. The vote shall be held at the scheduled General Barony meeting within two months after the announcement of the vote is published. Should the consort be accepted by the populace, a petition will be prepared as in VII.G.5. above.
 - b. If one member of a couple serving jointly as Baron and Baroness resigns, is removed or is unable to serve, the remaining Baron/ess must announce their desire to continue within 6 months from the date of vacancy. S/he must then pass a vote of confidence from the Barony. The announcement of the vote shall be published within one month. The vote shall be held at the scheduled General Barony meeting within two months after the announcement of the vote is published.

- c. In either case, written ballots will be distributed, collected and counted by the Selection Committee at the Barony meeting, with the results to be announced that night. The proposal will be decided by majority vote of those attending the meeting, plus proxies. Written proxy ballots will be permitted.