

The Althing



April

AS L (2016) Vol. 39, No. 5

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 other 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. Front image credit: "Spring", painting by Pieter Bruegel the Younger, Flemish, (ca. 1564 – ca. 1638)

Their Excellencies of the Debatable Lands

Baron Brandubh Ó Donnghaile
baron@debatablelands.org

Baroness Hilderun Hügelmann
baroness@debatablelands.org

Their Royal Majesties of Aethelmearc

Thomas Byron of Haverford Ariella of Thornbury
Ae.king@aethelmearc.org Ae.queen@aethelmearc.org

Their Royal Highnesses of Aethelmearc

Crown Tournament Soon Crown Tournament Soon
Ae.prince@aethelmearc.org Ae.princess@aethelmearc.org

Officers of the Debatable Lands

Seneschale

Odriana vander Brugghe
seneschal@debatablelands.org

Comet Pursuivant

Jorundr hinn Rotinn
herald@debatablelands.org

Knight Marshal

Isenwulf Thorolfssone
knightmarshal@debatablelands.org

Minister of Arts and Science (02/17)

Janos Meszaros
ansminister@debatablelands.org

Chronicler

Constance Glyn Dwr
chronicler@debateablelands.org

Exchequer (06/16)

Hara Kikumatsu
exchequer@debatablelands.org

Steltonwald Seneschal

Aidan Tigersbane
Seneschale@steltonwald.org

Minister of the Lists

Elizabeth Arrowsmythe
lists@debatablelands.org

Marshal of Fence

Jorundr hinn Rotinn
fencingmarshal@debatablelands.org

Captain of Archers (10/16)

Lady Katheryn Tantzel
archerymarshal@debatablelands.org

Chatelaine (06/16)

Edana the Red
chatelaine@debatablelands.org

Webminister (4/2017)

Ishiyama Gen'tarou Yori'ie
webminister@debateablelands.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

Rachel Dalicieux

Dark Pages Editor

Arianna of Wynthrope

Historian

Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi

Youth Fighting Marshal

Arianna of Wynthroppe

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

O'no Kuma

From the Baron and Baroness:

Hello Debatable Lands, from your Baron and Baroness!

We hope you all had a wonderful time at Investiture in February. It was a true pleasure seeing old and new friends come out and enjoy the day. Let us thank again our wonderful predecessors, Baron Liam and Baroness Constance, as well as the event steward, THL Isabel and her staff, and of course our talented retainers. The History Display at Investiture was amazing, and thank you to Mistress Ts'vee'a for creating it. If you missed it, there are pictures online (<http://debatablelands.org/history/display.php>). And the A&S Competition was absolutely superb! Our artisans truly are jewels in the Kingdom!

Congratulations to your new A&S Champion, THL Kieran McCrae! His detailed calligraphy and documentation was incredible. Also to Duchess Siobhan, who won the populace prize for her Finnish metal embroidery, and has agreed to act as THL Kieran's second. Check out the Aethelmearc Gazette article on Investiture for lots of pics. And, at 12th Night, Their Excellences Liam and Constance chose your new Bardic Champion: THL Bugga Billibit, and your new Brewing Champion, Master Bovi! Vivant to you all!

Speaking of Champions, we will be holding tournaments for both Heavy Fighting Champion and Rapier Fighting Champion at Barony Meeting on May 15th. It will be a day of celebration and excitement! As with our A&S Champion, there are no restrictions on entry. Fighters of every rank may enter for the chance at the honor of becoming your Baronial Champion. (Fighters who not members of the Barony, Canton, or College may participate in the tourney, but are not eligible to be Champion.)

Welcome to your new Seneschal, Meesteress Odriana, and thank you to Master Alaric for his years of service to the Barony. Thank you also to THL Cai for his years of service as our Dancemaster, as he begins his retirement. Vivant!

There are lots of great events coming up. On the Kingdom end, the Kingdom's A&S Faire is a unique event that will be an experience, and it's coming up April 23rd. More information can be found online (the Aethelmearc Gazette has a write-up on it, too!).

As always, our Intrepid and Industrious Canton of Steltonwald will be hosting Aethelmearc War Practice this May 19th-22nd. There's lots to see and learn and fight and do! Please help support our beloved Canton by volunteering to help. There are plenty of shifts to fill at Troll and Security, as well as marshaling and MOLing, and other opportunities. Also, by the grace of Their-Then-Majesties, we will be holding a short Baronial Court there.

Camping camping camping! You are all cordially invited to camp with the Barony-Marche at SCA 50th Year in June, and also at the great Pennsic War. If you'd like to camp with us at SCA 50th Year, please register under "Aethelmearc's Land". If you are camping with the Barony at Pennsic, please register under "Debatable Lands". You must pre-register for Pennsic in order to camp with the Barony. The Barony's camp has a shower, a pantry, a common area, and a whole lot of fun folks. It's going to be a lot of fun, and we hope to see many of you there.

Again, please do seek us out. You are our people, and forever in our hearts, but above all, we are YOURS. We are your Baron and Baroness, and we want to hear from you what you need from us – what is good, what can be better, what you're doing, what you want to be doing. We want to hear your thoughts about continuing to grow our excellent home. And please do keep writing folks in for Baronial awards!

~Baron Brandubh and Baroness Hilda

From the Seneschal:

Greetings to the Debatable Lands from Odriana vander Brugghe!

Recently I was confirmed as the new Seneschal of our amazing Barony. Thank you to our hard-working outgoing Seneschal, Master Alaric MacConnal for his years of service. I would also like to thank my incoming Deputy Seneschals, THL Isabel Fleuritan and Lord Pavel Dudoladev, for stepping up to take on that role.

As the new Seneschal, I want to say hello and invite each of you to seek me out either virtually (email is typically the best way to find me, jenn.strobel@gmail.com), by voice (my number is 412.213.8116), or in person and tell me your ideas and thoughts about our Barony. What would you like to see? How are we doing as a Barony? What could we be doing better? I promise that I will listen to you and do what I can to make your ideas happen and address your concerns to the best of my ability. I look forward to hearing from you.

The job of Seneschal is to make sure that the corporate end of the SCA runs efficiently. But, my personal goal is to make sure that everyone has what they need to make their hobby fun. This shared hobby that we have is, at its core, about having fun together and sharing our unique talents with each other. I love the Debatable Lands and want us to continue to be as amazing and enthusiastic as I know we are and to continue be such a vibrant part of our Kingdom.

To introduce myself to those who have not yet gotten to know me: I was the Baronial Signet and I am currently Clerk of the Fleur d'Æthelmearc. Previously I have served the Kingdom as Chancellor of the Æcademy and have had the pleasure of serving the Barony in several offices and positions over the years. I'm also an active scribe and cook and am presently an MOL in training. I've been active (at various levels) in the Barony since 1988.

Odriana, Seneschal



From the Thrown Weapons Marshal:

Greeting Debatable Lands from your Thrown Weapons Marshal in Charge! Pretty soon, we embark on a new season of throwing our favorite sharp pointy things. As many of you know (though some may not) our Prince has put out a call to arms to all thrown weapons enthusiasts to sharpen our knives and our axes, and more importantly, our skills. This year at Pennsic, there will be war points awarded for Thrown Weapons!! As was demonstrated at last years' war, every war point counts. These points can be the difference between winning and losing.

In support of this call to arms, I am formulating a new program/contest to help sharpen our skills. I do this, not only to support His Highness, but also out of a belief that the Debatable Lands is the home of some of the finest thrower in the Known World. This I have seen with my own eyes. I see no reason whatsoever why the Kingdom Champion should not call the BMDL home, every single year. I realize, however, the difficulty in such a task. There are many fine throwers out there.

When I went to my first Pennsic, I was a bit taken aback by the difference between what we practiced on a weekly basis, and what was facing the throwers during the Championship. There were wand targets, 4 square targets, picture targets and so forth. I had never seen, let alone thrown at such targets before. The same could be said of the Baronial Championship. It was shortly thereafter that it occurred to me that if we want to improve in such competitions, we must train for them. Throwing at a bullseye target, with its center of the round focus, does not adequately prepare someone to throw at a specific area away from that center. Aiming at a different looking target, that's not dead center, requires the use of a different part of the brain, so to speak, and also requires us to adjust how we see the targets. To retrain the hand eye coordination to the new location and tasks asked of us.

To this end, I am designing new targets, each with a different task to challenge the populous, and hopefully train the populous in how to move the eyes from target to target and get the knives and axes to go there too. To facilitate this training, I am planning on having a running competition of sorts. There will be 3 different task targets I will be bringing to our practices this year, 1 per week, on a rotating schedule. Points will be awarded based on the target, and accumulated over a period of weeks, all the way to Pennsic. The throwers with the most points will be rewarded. The hope is that we will have some fun while getting in some valuable work that will pay off down the road.

The other thing I faced for the first time at Pennsic was the enigma that is the spear. I had never thrown a spear before in my life, and attempting it in front of all those folks at Pennsic was more than a little embarrassing. That's why, when I took over the Thrown Weapons practice, I started bringing the spears. Throwing a spear is not that difficult, but it does take some practice, and practice we will. The nice thing about spears is they come in different lengths. This allows a wide range of participation. I encourage anyone who comes to throw with us to try them. You may just find a talent you never knew you had.

There are more things that I have in the works for this year. Some require a little more planning, while others require more hands on work. One thing I will say is that we are in need of Marshals in Training. I encourage anyone who thinks they might be interested in being a Marshal to contact me and we can talk about it. Here's to a great year of throwing, learning, scoring and winning. For the Barony. For Aethelmearc!

Yours in Service,
Lord Sanada Masamoto Kenshin no Kuma

From the Chatelaine:

I would like to thank the Barony for the opportunity to serve as chatelaine. My term in office ends in June 2016. Therefore I am placing a call for letters in April. The deadline for letters is Tuesday, 31 May 2016. Please send them to the Seneschal.

(Chronicler edit: You also need to send any letters of intent to the Baron and Baroness, as well as Seneschal.)

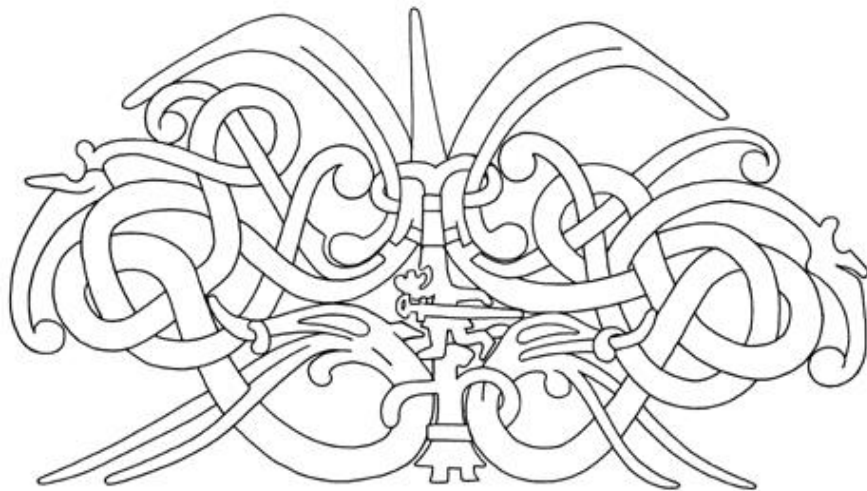
From the Signet:

Hello and greetings from THL Rachel Dalicieux, your new Baronial Signet! I am so excited to be taking over as Baronial Signet from Meestress Odrianna, and am looking forward to assisting Their Excellencies Hildarun and Brandubh in this new position.

I started out in the tiny Canton of Westland Mor and have been active in the Scribal Arts since early in my SCA career. I have had the opportunity to do many scrolls for both BMDL and St. Swithin's Bog, as well as for our Kingdom. I also served as A&S Minister and Seneschal of Westland Mor. I joined the Debatable Choir 6 years ago and since then have spent the majority of my SCA activity within the Debatable Lands.

The Debatable Lands is home to a great many talented individuals. I would like to encourage any scribes or illuminators who are not already on the BMDL Scribal list to please get in touch with me at signet@debatablelands.org or friscokitty@hotmail.com. Thank you so much to Their Excellencies for giving me this opportunity to serve.

-Rachel





afender

April 28 - May 1 -Blackstone Raid XXV (Barony of Blackstone Mountain)

May 15, 2016 1:30pm Barony Meetings (at the Washington Blvd. site)

May 19-22 War Practice (Steltonwald)

June 1 BMDL 8pm Officer's Meeting

Overview of reoccurring Meetings/Practices:

Sundays

11am Archery Practice

2pm Fighter Practice

2pm Youth Fighter Practice

Mondays (Private Residence)

7:30pm – 9:00pm Debatable Lands Choir

Tuesdays (CMU Campus)

6pm – 8pm Fencing Practice (Cour d'Or)

Wednesday (Every 3rd Wednesday of the month)

7pm – 9pm Scriptorium (Private residence)

Thursday (The last Thursday of every month)

8pm – 10pm Dance Practice

Barony Meeting

General Barony meetings are held bimonthly on the odd numbered months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)

Officers Meeting

1st Wednesday of every other month on the even numbered months; 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. (on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University).

Love's Pursuivant: A Sonnet of Heraldry

For Saint Valentine's Day

By Morien MacBain

*What herald true can blazon Love's device,
For I declare mine is no ordinary.
A heart-in-chief I assay in a trice,
But more than this, weak wit is poor contrary.*

*A Sun-In-Glory then, to cant a hint?
No fickle moon's as constant as my lover,
But what wise artisan could craft a tint
To capture light that pierces like no other?*

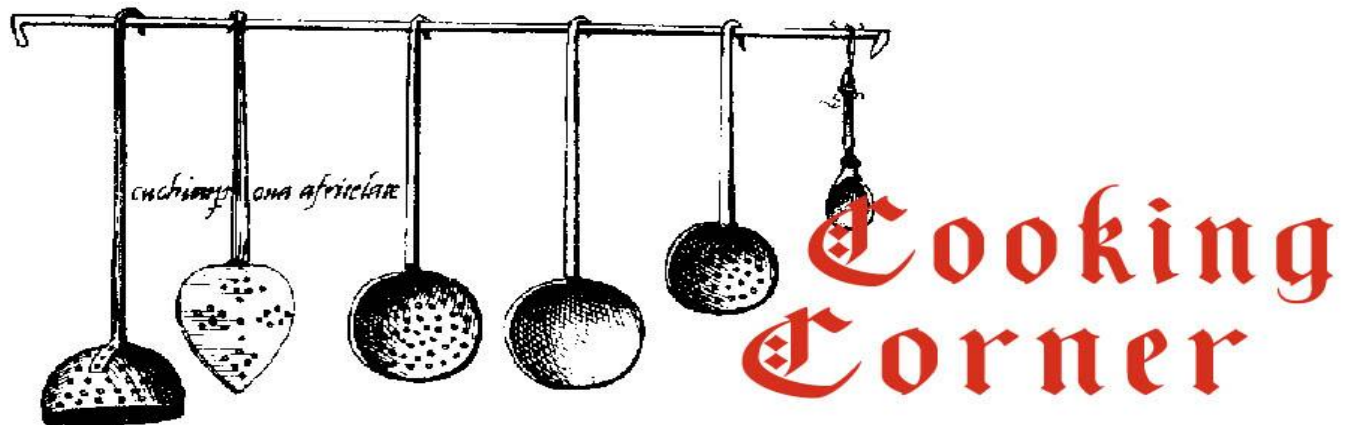
*It wants no bordure, though her face be pale;
This ever-verdant field knows no division.
Against this no pursuivant shall prevail,
Though none who gaze here e'er forget this vision.*

*As tincture then, I offer heart's blood gules,
This passions's blazon wants no meaner tools.*

I had the pleasure to write this sonnet many years ago for the dear lady who I had the honor to call my wife at that time. The sonnet form, as is well known, dates from the Renaissance, and consists of fourteen lines of iambic pentameter having the rhyme scheme ABAB CDCD EFEF GG, and often, as here, including extended metaphors of flights of imagery known as "conceits"

~Morien





An excerpt from the notes of Maester Meszaros Janos:

"... and his Excellency had asked for something simple to take with him as he reviewed the levies from the nearby towns. As usual, he was desiring the savory treats that often inflamed his blood; and as usual he expected me to come up with something that would not have him up through the night.

And so I prepared some watered wine to slake his thirst, tripling the water this time as I knew he'd want to keep his wits about him. Some hard cheese and figs were added into his scrip as well. To fill his belly though I knew we would have to resort to his favorite meat pies. Keeping them the size of his fist was the best plan, and so we did."



ENGLISH PORK PIE

From thymeandtemp.com

Prep time: 1 hour

Cook time: 2 hours 30 mins

Total time: 3 hours 30 mins

This recipe takes some time. Total cook time is 2.5 hours but you have to cool the pie to add the gelatin and then you have cool the pie in the fridge once completed overnight. Prep time for the pork mixture is approximately 20-30 minutes, pastry is 15-20 minutes,

and gelatin is maybe 15 minutes.

INGREDIENTS

- **FILLING:**
- 1.5 lbs of pork shoulder
- 1 lb of pork belly
- ½ pound of smoked bacon, sliced
- 1½ tbsp of fresh sage, chopped
- 2 tsp of fresh thyme
- 1 tsp of fresh ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp of mace
- 1 tbsp of salt (use more or less to your liking. It's a lot of meat!)
- 2 tsp of fresh cracked pepper
- **PASTRY:**
- 4¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup of lard
- 1 cup of water
- unsalted butter for lightly coating the pan
- 1 egg for coating
- **GELATIN:**
- 1 qty ¼-ounce package of Knox gelatin powder
- 1 cup of cold chicken stock for setting of gelatin powder
- 1¼ cup of chicken stock for heating

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat Oven to 350 F
2. **FILLING:**
3. In a large mixing bowl, add all three pork components, thyme, sage, nutmeg, mace, salt and pepper, and blend thoroughly. I used my hands but a wooden spoon would work just fine.
4. Place in the refrigerator until it's time to add to the pan.
5. **PASTRY:**
6. Add flour to a large mixing bowl
7. Using a sauce pan, add the water and lard, and heat slowly until melted. Bring to boil and remove from heat.
8. Slowly mix water into flour until combined, let it cool enough to touch, and then knead with your hands.
9. Remove a $\frac{1}{4}$ of the dough for the top, wrap with plastic, and set to the side.
10. Use the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ to line evenly along the sides and bottom of a springform pan. We used one that was 7 inches, lightly buttered.
11. Add pork mixture and pack rather tightly.
12. Roll out the dough reserved for the top to about a 5 mm thickness. Stretch it enough to pinch together with the sides already in the pan, then place on top of the meat.
13. Now cut away a hole or vent for steam. This is also where you will pour the gelatin.
14. **BAKING THE PIE:**
15. Place in the oven for 30 minutes at 350 degrees F
16. After 30 minutes, reduce the heat to 325 degrees F and bake for 90 minutes.
17. At 90 minutes, brush the top with beaten egg and place back in the oven for another 30 minutes.
18. Remove from the oven and allow to cool at room temperature for roughly an hour and a half. You can make the gelatin at this point.
19. **GELATIN:**
20. Add the gelatin to cold chicken stock for about 5-10 minutes, or until you can see that it's worked its magic
21. Heat the remaining chicken stock to almost a boil, remove from heat and stir in the gelatin. Set aside and allow to cool at room temperature.
22. **FINISH:**
23. When the pie has cooled, either use a funnel, or in our case, a turkey baster to add the stock in batches into the steam vent.
24. Cover the pie with plastic and place in the refrigerator overnight.

Dear Abigale

Dear Abigale is a new addition to the Althing. It will be a recurring piece. The questions can be silly, serious or somewhere in between. We encourage people to write in and ask a question, and it can be anonymous as well. We have experts on different subjects waiting for your questions! chronicler@debatablelands.org
Please put 'Dear Abigale' in the subject line.

"Dear Abigale, in an effort to gain some personal hygiene because I can't afford leeching if I get sick, I have stopped using manure for fertilizing. My food has started to taste worse. Any advice?"

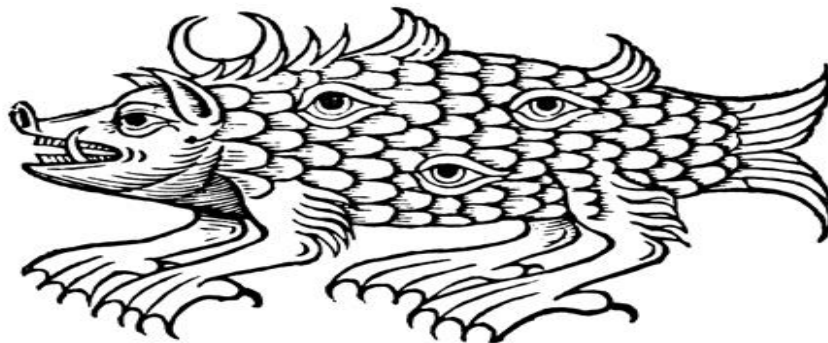
-Farmer John

Farmer John, fertilizing is incredibly important to farming. Having a good fertilized soil will result to amazing food. To help with your hygiene we suggest you keep one hand for manure, and the other for eating and shaking hands. Remember you can use food from the day before to spice up your food today.

"Dear Abigale, I'm new to the Barony and it seems confusing, all the different periods and types of garb. How do I know what's right for me?"

-New and Naked

Dear New and Naked, we understand it can be a bit overwhelming to be at an event and see the amazing and fancy garb. We would suggest talking to people whose garb you like. Ask them if it's comfortable, was it easy to make, is it versatile? They might even be able to show you how to make it! Just keep an open mind and be willing to experiment. You don't have to stick to one time period for your garb.



FENCING DEMO

at the University of Pittsburgh's

There will be
PICKLES!

Europe Day Festival - May 7th
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.



For those who aren't
attending Crown...



Contact your chatelaine, Edana the Red, Magnus bastiano de vigo, or Jorundr hinn Rotinn with inquiries.

The European Studies Center has graciously requested our present during their festival.

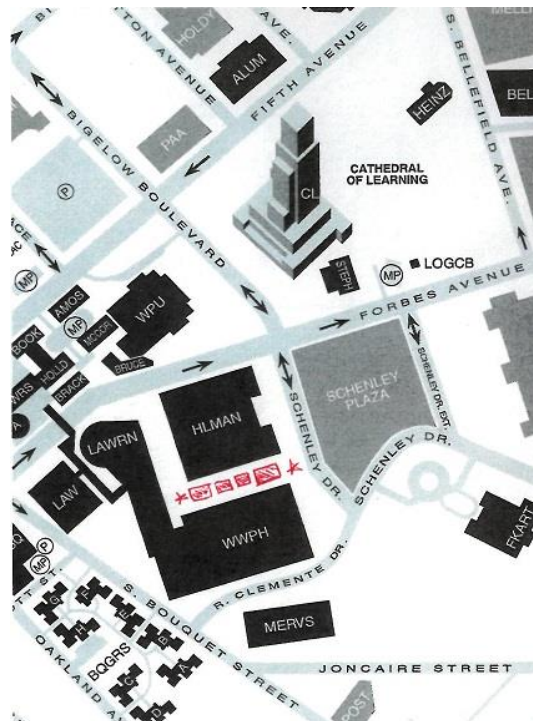
We will be mustering on the grassy area between Posvar Hall and Hillman Library.

There will be a BEAR PIT...and pick-up fights!

There will be a tent, seating and of course – pickles by request!

BUT

This is not just for fencers! Bring your crafty things and join us!



The Canton of Steltonwald Officers and Meetings

(I am aware this needs updated, as soon as Steltonwald has their web page updated I can update this list.)

Seneschal

Aidan Tigersbane

seneschale@steltonwald.org

Knight Marshal

Lord Marcus du Coeur

Marcussmoot.jr@gmail.com

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Lady Marian of Blackwood

Stellagrace75@aol.com

Exchequer

The Honorable Lady Ysabell Graver

Ysabell_graver@hotmail.com

Captain of Archers

Maestro Jacopo di Niccolo

JacopoGM@yahoo.com

Castelain

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr

David_black42@yahoo.com

Web Mistress

Lady Madeleine de l'Este

Madeleinedlest@yahoo.com

Canton Meetings:

Third Wednesday of the month at 7PM.

Beaver County Courthouse

Archery

Wednesdays, 6PM – 9 PM

Except the third Wednesday of any month

Beaver Valley Archery Club

Maestro Jacopo di Niccolo

JacopoGM@yahoo.com

Fight Practice

?

<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

Baroness Constance Glyn Dwr
c/o Sunshine MacIntyre
4464 Highridge Street
Pittsburgh PA 15214
chronicler@debateablelands.org