

The Althing

Note well all those reading these Pages, for herein are contained important changes to the Policies of the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands! All should review carefully the words herein, and if you have Comment, contact the Scheneshale, THL Hilda Hugelma, forthwith.

The next few months promise to be Exciting ones, and full of events both joyous and studious. The Haroest Barony Meeting with PIE is here already, the Rapier and Costuming Academy is nigh, and both the BMDL and Kingdom Twelfth Nights follow. Much information on all these events is in these pages.

The series of articles on the Tenth-Century Byzantine Field Armies as written by Dani of the Seven Wells concludes in this issue, with the grateful thanks of the Chronicler.

Please note that all of the illustrations within these pages are of cooking and such activities, in honor of feasts past and to come this season.



Manufacture of oil

Being written and printed by the Chronicler, Elss of Augsburg, wishing to record and proclaim the events and activities relating to the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, both past and to come, in the start of this Month of November, in the cold north of the Barony, far above the Three Rivers.

November a.s. xlvi

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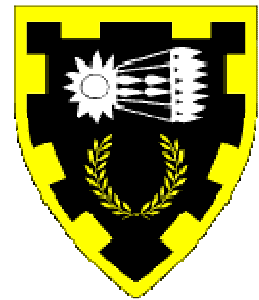
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Vacant

Baronial Signet

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Arianna of Wynthrope

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Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi

Precedence Editor (Deputy to Comet Pursuivant)

Pavel Dudoladov

Youth Fighting Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Arianna of Wynthrope

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Thorfinna hrogn Josepsdottir

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Disclaimer

This is the Althing, a publication of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. Opinions are those of the authors and may not reflect or imply the view of the Althing or any member of its staff. Content is used with permission.

Publication

The Althing is published every month except August, with an Arts and Sciences issue published once a year. If you'd like to join the Althing mailing list and receive your newsletter by e-mail, 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 with an address to have a paper copy mailed to you at 412-366-5844. If you would prefer to write, the address is on the outside cover.

Submissions

Any gentle wishing to submit articles, artwork, poetry, etc, to the Althing is invited to do so. Please send your work to the chronicler. All material in the Althing is copyrighted to the individual contributors. The chronicler reserves the right to edit, refuse, or reprint any submissions. The submission deadline for the Althing is the first Wednesday of the month.

Baronial Discussion E-List

Need more info on an upcoming baronial event? Just want to chat? To subscribe to the barony emailing list, go to <http://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-bmdl>, and follow the instructions on the page.

Art Work

Cover Art and Interior Pages: Medieval Life and People CD-ROM and Book Dover Publications ©2007.

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

Greetings from the Baron and Baroness!

Unto the populace do Liam and Constance send warm greetings! The harvest has come and gone and we all will have the long winter's night to reflect on the past year and prepare for the spring. We will have time to rest and work on Arts and Sciences projects in preparation for Ice Dragon. We have a challenge that we will set forth for members of the barony entering the Ice Dragon A&S competitions this year, details will come next month at the Fencing and Costuming event. We also hope that you are working on A&S Projects for 12th Night as we will hold our Arts and Sciences Championship there. All of those who have not yet attained the rank of Laurel will be welcome to enter your best Arts and Sciences Project. We would ask that the Laurels of the Barony help us as judges for the event.

We also look with great hope towards the spring and War Practice. Syr Bear has challenged our rights to this land and we will meet him on the battle field to assure him once and for all that we hold the King's Lands within this Barony, and that right shall never be challenged again. We ask that all fighters attend practices regularly to prepare for this battle. Baron Shiro has assured me that we will continue to train for this battle at weekly practices.

Finally, We have a need for Comet tokens to give out as awards for those deserving. We would like a great variety of these tokens to give out. If you are artistically inclined and can donate some of these tokens for us and your fellow nobles it would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events

In service to the dream,

Liam and Constance

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



Important Dates Coming Up!

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

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

Heavy Fighting and Youth Fighting Move Indoors – November 13, 2011

Sunday, November 13th, the new location for fighting will again be Pittsburgh Chinese Church, [8711 Old Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237](http://www.pittsburghchinesechurch.org/).

Thrown Weapons Last Practice – December 13, 2011

Archery Last Practice – December 20, 2011

Barony Officers Meeting – December 7, 2011

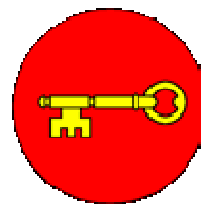
Wednesday, December 7th, location TBA

January Barony Meeting – January 14, 2012

Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration at the Lodge in North Park., thrown weapons and archery starting at 11am, barony meeting at 2pm, fighter practice at 2:30pm, plus bring a pie to share and enter into the pie contest!

From the Seneschale:

The Chill November winds begin to blow, and as war fades in our memories, we turn our minds to more peaceful pursuits. Enjoy this fall and winter my friends, and I'll echo the challenge put forth by the Kingdom A&S Minister: Try something new! Never brewed before? Go to Brewers' Guild Meeting. Had a hankering to tootle, but too shy? Drop by Consort practice and try the recorder. Positing painting in pleasing patterns? Try the Wednesday Scriptoriums. A full list of regular A&S Meetings can be found online here: <http://www.debatablelands.org/meetings.html#ans>. Don't forget, if you have the urge to bash someone over the (helmeted) head with a stick, we have outlets for that, too! <http://www.debatablelands.org/meetings.html#martial>



We had a wonderful Fall Fighting Schola this year, and many thanks go to Lady Cynewyn for organizing it. Also to her teachers: herself, King Isenwulf, Baron Shiro, and Lord Bors. Thanks, too, go to Sigrith for her unwavering support of the Schola Series. Congratulations and thanks go to our October autocrats and their staffs. Vivant to THLord Fintan for Archers to the Wald and His Excellency Baron Liam for Agincourt. A wonderful time was had by all!

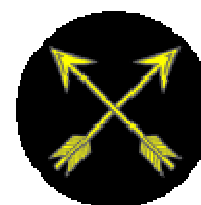
We have a couple of events coming up that promise to be exceptional: Rapier and Costuming Academy on December 3rd, BMDL 12th Night on January 14th, and Steltonwald 12th Night on January 28th. Check out the Kingdom Calendar for our neighbors' events as well. Also, we currently have no bids for any spring or summer events. If anyone is interested in running an event this spring or summer, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Barony Meeting on Sunday, November 6th, at the Castle Harvest Revel. Bring PIE, for there is much GLORY to be gleaned! More info later in this fine publication. As always, I welcome and encourage all comments. I'm available in person, by phone, by email, and on Facebook. Feedback is one of the best ways we have to make the most of this glorious community that we share.

In Levitate et Caritate, Hilda, Seneschale

From the Captain of Archers

The outdoor archery season is winding down to a close and soon your option will be with the Steltonwald at their archery practices at the Beaver Valley Archery Club. See their webpage for details.



There are just a few Barony Archery items left.

Archery practice will be held at the Castle on November 6th, starting at the usual 11:00 and continuing until the start of the Barony meeting. This is our traditional start of shooting rounds for the Gwyntarian Winter Challenge for which our Barony and our Kingdom have been one of the most active participants. Our archers have also been among the most successful.

Sunday, November 20th will be our last outdoor practice of the year.

Make plans for what needs to be fixed or replaced of your gear over the winter. I have the equipment to help anyone to make or repair their arrows or to make or repair their strings.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the site clean-up.

It's been a wonderful year for archery in the Barony.

In service to the Barony-Marche, Urho Waltterinen, Per valde mustache adveho valde officium

Greetings to all Youth Fighters and Their Parents!

Congratulations to Eiiden, who was proclaimed Aethelmearc Youth Combat Champion by King Isenwulf and Queen Rosalinda last weekend! And to Robert, who won the tourney! In addition, Black Jack and Eiiden both received Purple Comets from the Baron and Baroness for their fighting, and Eiiden and Kenneth received tokens in recognition of their courtesy in the list. It was a great day for all of our youth fighters!

Next weekend, November 6th, youth fighter practice will be held at Byron & Ariella's Castle in Wexford, in conjunction with the November Barony meeting. In addition to the usual Sunday martial activities, there will be a pie contest and the opportunity to fling pumpkins from the battlements! For more information, see the barony website here:

<http://www.debatablelands.org/meetings/barony.html> The weather forecast for this weekend is good - sunny with a high of 58.

Also, remember that **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS WEEKEND**. Set your clocks **BACK** one hour Saturday night! Otherwise you're likely to arrive at the meeting an hour early, and more importantly, you'll miss that opportunity to sleep in an extra hour Sunday morning!

On November 13th, youth practices will move to the Pittsburgh Chinese Church in the North Hills at 8711 Old Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 and continue there until spring. Go to this link for a map:

[http://maps.google.com/maps?q=+8711Old+Perry+Highway,+Pittsburgh,+Pennsylvania+15237](http://maps.google.com/maps?q=+8711Old+Perry+Highway,+Pittsburgh,+Pennsylvania+15237&hl=en&sl=40.590558,-)

[80.075119&sspn=0.006469,0.013797&vpsrc=0&hnear=8711+Old+Perry+Hwy,+Pittsburgh,+Pennsylvania+15237&t=m&z=16](http://maps.google.com/maps?q=+8711Old+Perry+Highway,+Pittsburgh,+Pennsylvania+15237&hl=en&sl=40.590558,-80.075119&sspn=0.006469,0.013797&vpsrc=0&hnear=8711+Old+Perry+Hwy,+Pittsburgh,+Pennsylvania+15237&t=m&z=16)

I hope to see you all on Sunday!

Arianna

Greetings to the Thrown Weapons Community!

I know I speak for all of the Barony's thrown weapons marshals when I say how sad I am that the close of the throwing season is upon us. There will be thrown weapons at 11 AM this Sunday, November 6th, at the Harvest Revels with PIE. There will be one more day of throwing at the Washington Boulevard site (weather and ground conditions permitting) at 11 AM on Sunday, November 13th. Then it will be time to pack away our gear until spring.



Those of you who attend either of these practices will see some of the newly painted targets and refurbished stands that were spruced up through the kindness and organization of Master Alaric MacConnal. Cathain Duggan, Thorfinna hrogn Josepsdottir, Alaric, and I were quite snug in his garage, and painted and repaired and replaced parts for quite a while. Many thanks!

Finally, congratulations to THLord Kieran MacRae, who became Their Excellencies' Thrown Weapons Champion at Archers to the Wald! Vivat!

In service,

Elss

Thrown Weapons Marshal

Barony Meeting and Harvest Revels -- with PIE!

Join us on Sunday, November 6th, for our annual Harvest Revel Barony Meeting! Come on down to Byron and Ariella's Castle ([755 Stonegate Dr, Wexford, PA 15090](#)) for fighting, arching, throwing, pumpkin-flinging, and PIE!!

Regular Martial practices will run from 11am – 5pm (Archery, Fencing, and Thrown Weapons start at 11am. Heavy and Youth Fighting start after announcements, around 2:15pm). There will be a short break at 2pm in the Great Hall for Barony Meeting announcements. And sometime during the afternoon... pumpkin-flinging! Yes, we fling, we toss, we chuck our pumpkins off of the castle ramparts to the ground below. Splat! (no rotten ones, because... ew) It is a sight to see!

In addition, Baroness Constance will be holding her Baroness' Bower in the library — a cozy place to spend time with the Baroness and work on A&S projects, have conversation, snacks, and good fun!

And what is a Harvest Revel without PIE!? We'll be hosting our Third Annual Pie-Baking contest, winners by populace vote. Contest starts around noonish and ends around 3ish, or whenever we're really full. Same rules as last year, but with new categories: PIE, "pie", and Pye. Here are the rules:

There will be three winners, one for each category. Bring on your best!

- ❖ PIE — best traditional Harvest Pie. Regular pies with crusts and harvest-style fillings (pumpkin, apple, etc).
- ❖ "pie" — best non-traditional pie. Use your imagination! As long as you can justify your entry as a Harvest "Pie", you can enter it. Pumpkin roll? A spatially-challenged pie! Apple bars? Crust-less mini-pies!
- ❖ Pye — best Period Pie. Any kind, but it must be period. You have to name your source on the index card, but full documentation isn't necessary. Just entering this category wins you kudos.

Winners will be chosen by popular vote, so bring enough, or cut it small! Write the name of the pie, the category, and your name on an index card when you enter it. Everyone at the meeting gets three markers, one for each category. They vote by placing their markers at their favorite pies.

In case of a tie, an expert panel of judges will decide the winners.

Prizes will be bragging rights for an entire year! And the adulation of the populace! GLORY! (Plus maybe some other goodie I can drum up.)

No Officers' Meeting is currently planned. Doesn't conflict with Steelers game. No garb. Contact the Seneschale if you have any questions.



Great Drinkers
of the North

Proposed Changes to the Policies of the Barony

These policy changes were reviewed by the Officers of the Debatable Lands on October 5, 2011. Please read the changes. If you have any comments on the changes, contact the Seneschale by December 4, 2011. A writable Word document is available upon request. The policy changes will be voted on at the December 7th Officers' Meeting, which is, as always, open to all gentles.

Note: The proposed changes are in red to make it easier for those reading this online. For those reading this document in black and white, changes to the text are noted using brackets [], *italics*, and ~~strikethrough~~ text.

POLICIES of the BARONY-MARCHE OF THE DEBATABLE LANDS

- *Policies*
 - **[renumbered only]** The Barony's policies must be published in the Althing in full at least once every two years and published online at least once a year. When published in the Althing, they supersede all former Baronial policies. Changes or additions to these policies become official upon their publication in the Althing. Baronial policy is subordinate to Kingdom Law & Policy, Corpora, and civil law. It may not contradict them and need not duplicate them.
 - **[MOVE ONLY, no wording change]** *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, and in the previous Althing. In this circumstance, the agenda shall be published via print or electronic media for the populace at least 48 hours before the meeting.*
- Officers
 - 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 non-dormant subsidiary groups, the Captain of Archers, the Marshal of Fence, the Chirurgeon Liaison, and the Webminister. These officers constitute the financial committee of the Barony for the purpose of setting financial policy and approving financial activities.
 - 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. **[New]** *No present or proxied individual may cast more than one vote.*

- 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 in the Althing 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. **[Moved]** *Subsidiary groups are not required to follow this policy in choosing their seneschals and officers.*
- **[Changed]** If an Office becomes vacant *midterm*, the Emergency Deputy will *temporarily assume take-over* the duties of the office, ~~and solicit letters of intent for a successor.~~ *The Emergency Deputy may choose serve out the Officer's term, or solicit letters of intent for a successor. If they choose to serve of the term, they must be ratified by the Officers at the next Officers' meeting. Subsidiary groups are not required to follow this policy in choosing their seneschals and officers.*
- **[renumbered and changed]** A two-thirds majority of Baronial Officers may petition his/her Kingdom Superior to remove any Officer, ~~or person in a Baronial position,~~ though a proposal to do so must appear on the officers' meeting agenda, ~~and the Officer must be informed of the proposal in writing, and in the previous Althing.~~ In this circumstance, the agenda shall be published via print or electronic media for the populace at least 48 hours before the meeting. If an Officer is absent and not represented at three consecutive Officers' meetings, ~~his/her Kingdom Superior may be petitioned by the Officers to have him/her removed and does not respond to inquiries within a reasonable time, they will be considered to have resigned.~~
- **[MOVED only, not deleted]** ~~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.~~

[MOVED only, not deleted] ~~III-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, and in the previous Althing. In this circumstance, the agenda shall be published via print or electronic media for the populace at least 48 hours before the meeting.~~

- **[NEW] Positions and Deputies**
 - *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.*
 - *In addition to applicable Kingdom reporting requirements: the Baronial Signet reports to the Baron/es; Martial Specialist Baronial Positions report to the Knight Marshal; deputies report to their Officer in charge, and all other Baronial Positions report to the Seneschal.*
 - *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.*
 - *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.*
- **General Financial**
 - 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.
 - **[MOVE ONLY, no wording change]** *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.*

- **[MOVE ONLY, no wording change]** *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.*
- **[NEW SECTION] Events**
 - **[MOVED & changed]** Event bids ~~may~~ **must** be submitted by ~~any~~ **a** member of the BMDL who wishes to autocrat an event. Event bids must also 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 ~~the following:~~ *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). Ideal event bids should include resumes for the autocrat and head cook, list of site facilities, full list of staff, and an event announcement (including directions) that conforms to the guidelines set forth by the Kingdom Chronicler.*
 - **[Renumbered only]** 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 [MOVED only, not deleted]** ~~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.~~
- **[MOVE ONLY, no wording change]** *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.*
- **[MOVE ONLY, no wording change]** *The Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands does not serve alcoholic beverages.*

- **Baronial Property [NEW SECTION]**

- **[NEW]** *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.*
- **[MOVE ONLY, no wording change]** *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.*
- **[NEW]** *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.*
- **[NEW]** *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.*
- **[MOVE ONLY, no wording change]** *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.*

- **Baronial Succession**

- **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.
- **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.

- **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 appear on the officers' meeting agenda (via print or electronic media) and in the previous issue of the Althing. If the motion passes, the result will be announced at the next Barony meeting and in the next issue of the Althing. 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.
- **The Vicar:** If a Vicar is appointed, the Vicar may not give Baronial Awards but may otherwise preside over Baronial Courts and functions.
- **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, ~~or~~ 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. ~~Notification of the upcoming election and these policies will be printed in the first Althing following the appointment of the selection committee.~~ The Committee members will elect a Chairman from among their members by simple majority vote.
- *Notification of the upcoming election and these policies will be published in the first Althing following the appointment of the selection committee.*
- **The Selection Process**
 - **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.
 - **Timing of the Selection Process:**
 - Announcement of upcoming election
 - Approximately one month later, nominations*
 - Approximately one month later, acceptance of nominations
 - Two months later, ballots counted

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

- **The Nominating Meeting:** A Nominating meeting will be held as part of a general Barony meeting one month after the announcement of the election appears in the Althing and is made at a general Barony meeting. 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.
- **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 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).
 - 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.
 - **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:
 - 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.

- A valid ballot will include an unambiguous and legible ranking of listed candidates as directed in section ~~V.F.VII.G~~.4.a., including UA or blank responses. Invalid ballots will not be counted.
- Any candidate receiving "unacceptable" (UA) votes from more than 33% of the valid ballots shall be eliminated from consideration.
- 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.
- 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 Æthelmarc shall be asked to choose between them.
- General Summary of Tallying. The voters rank candidates from most favorite to least favorite. Take the ballots and you 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.

- The Petition: The Chair of the Selection Committee will produce a petition in accordance with Kingdom law.
- Special Elections
 - If an existing solo Baron/ess desires to take a consort, a vote on the Baron/ess's chosen consort will be held at the general Barony meeting scheduled for approximately one month after an announcement of the vote appears in the Althing and is made at a general Barony meeting. Should the consort be accepted by the populace, a petition will be prepared as in ~~V.F.VII.G.5.~~ above.
 - If one member of a couple serving jointly as Baron and Baroness resigns, is removed or is unable to serve, the remaining Baron/ess may continue in the position alone if s/he desires, providing s/he passes a vote of confidence from the Barony. This vote will take place at the general Barony meeting scheduled to occur at least one month after an announcement of the vote appears in the Althing and is given at a general Barony meeting, and not more than 6 months after the vacancy occurs.
 - 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.
- ~~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.~~ [MOVED only]
- ~~The Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands does not serve alcoholic beverages.~~ [MOVED only]
- ~~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. [MOVED only]~~

- ~~• 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. [MOVED only]~~

[SEE Section V.A above. This section was moved and changed] Event Bid Policy

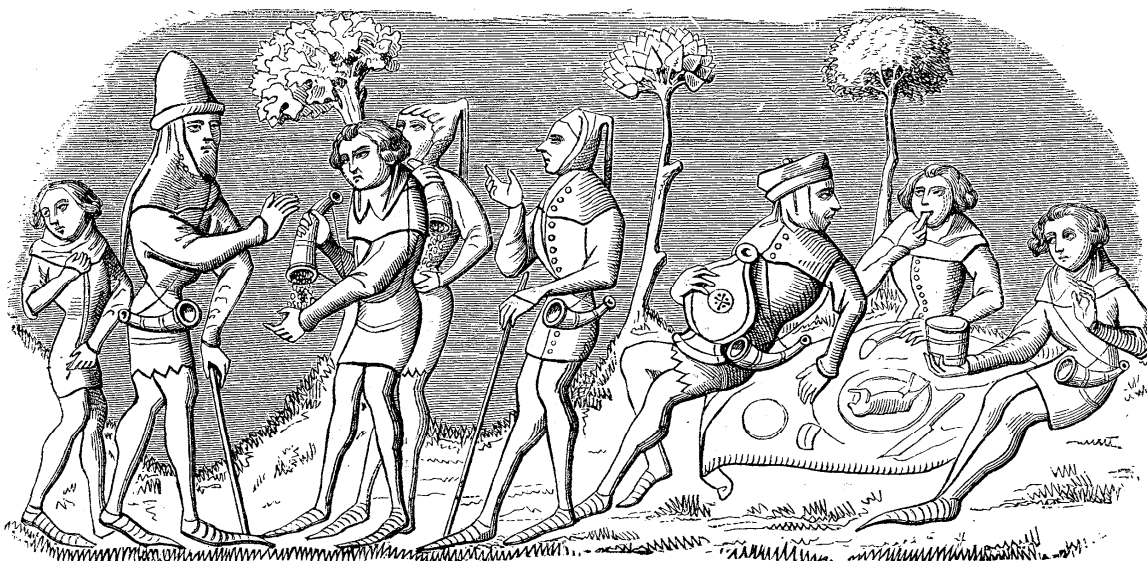
~~Event bids may be submitted by any member of the BMDL who wishes to autocrat an event. Event bids must also be submitted by members of other local groups who want the BMDL to sponsor their event. Event bids must be presented at a Baronial Officers' meeting (or, in special cases, at a regular Barony 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 the following:~~

~~Completed Event Bid form (available to download from Baronial website) or equivalent.~~

~~Proof of SCA membership for the Autoocrat. This must prove membership at the time of the event; if the proposed Autoocrat's membership expires prior to the event, he or she must renew promptly and show proof of renewal to the Seneschal as soon as feasible.~~

~~Ideal event bids should also include the following:~~

- ~~• Resumes for the Autoocrat and Head Cook~~
- ~~• List of facilities available at the site (classrooms, fighting areas, extra rooms, etc.)~~
- ~~• Proposed event announcement including directions that conform to the guidelines set forth by the Kingdom Chronicler.~~
- ~~• Full list of sub-autoocrats and their assistants.~~



Hunting Meal

BMDL Court Report -- Archers to the Wald

Here begins the report of the court of Their Excellencies Liam and Constance, Baron and Baroness of the Debatable Lands at Archers to the Wald in the Canton of Steltonwald, October 1 AS 46, Lord Jorundr hinn Rotinn reporting herald.

Their Excellencies asked for the attendance of Maestra Gianna di Aurelio, who ran an tournament to choose her successor as Baronial Archery Champion. Gianna talked of the fierce competition which ended with a shootout between Lord Robert MacEwin of Thornhill and Master Jacopo di Niccolo. Master Jacopo was the victor in the end, and he was invited to join Maestra Gianna in court, Gianna told of the tradition that all outgoing champions add one of their bolts or arrows to the champions quiver, which Gianna did. Their Excellencies thanked Gianna for her service and told Jacopo of the faith they had in his service. Scroll by the scribes of the Debatable Lands.

Their Excellencies then called for Lord Jorundr hinn Rotinn. Who explained that he ran a tournament as well that day to determine his successor as Baronial Thrown Weapons Champion. The finals of the tournament came down to a showdown between Master Jacopo di Niccolo and Lord Robert MacEwin of Thornhill, and just to keep it different THLord Kieran MacRae. In the end THLord Kieran MacRae was the victor, and he was asked to appear before Their Excellencies. Lord Jorundr explained that the regalia of the Thrown Weapons Champion had not made the trip to Archers to the Wald, and thus could not change hands that day and in its place handed over an IOU. Their Excellencies thanked Lord Jorundr for his service and the tournament of the day, and asked THLord Kieran MacRae to join them. Scroll by the scribes of the Debatable Lands.

Their Excellencies further had Lord Robert MacEwin of Thornhill show himself before them. Their Excellencies remarked on how often they had heard Lord Robert's name that day and said how much it pleased them that this was so, they then asked if Lord Robert had anything to say, to which Lord Robert replied that he in fact did. That day Lord Robert had also held a tournament to determine his successor as Youth Archery Champion, he told of the trials between himself and Elizabeth Wilbur who was called to join him. Their Excellencies then said how pleased they were at the proficiency of their youth archers and talked of how the Debatable Lands was large enough to house two champions, and thus they made Lord Robert MacEwin of Thornhill and Elizabeth Wilbur co-champions. Their Excellencies then asked Lord Robert to take his place in their retinue, and asked that Elizabeth stay for but a moment more. It had come to Their Excellencies attention that Elizabeth had recently attained a royal round average between 60 and 80, which qualified her to display the badge of her rank as a Bowman, which They presented to her. Their Excellencies then asked Elizabeth to join their retinue.

Their Excellencies then asked that Lady Madeleine de l'Este come before them. They talked of how they had heard much about Lady Madeleine's skill at costuming, and could see Themselves how fine the Lady Madeleine's garments were, and thus did they induct her into the Order of the Blue-Silver Comet. Scroll illuminated by THL Odrianna vander Brugghe and calligraphed by THL Kieran MacRae. The Scroll case so recently returned by the Lady Madeleine was returned to her so that she might safely transport and store her scroll until alternate arrangements could be made.

Their Excellencies expressed their pleasure at the attendance of the event and Their own enjoyment of the day despite the weather's best attempts to alter matters. Their Excellencies then promised that they would return to the Canton of Steltonwald in the future and would endeavor to visit more than once a year.

There being no further business court was closed.

Knife Handles



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

Fielding – and feeding – a 25,000-man expeditionary army was difficult. This was to Byzantium's advantage when it was on the defensive: The frontiers towards the Balkans and towards the Middle East were mountainous, and most of the Byzantine standing army, typically around a quarter million soldiers, was used to fortify the approaches. (The provinces were divided into military districts – themes – whose soldiers, especially cavalry, received land for military service.) It was difficult for enemies to get large armies through those mountains, so warfare was more often a matter of large-scale raiding than of pitched battles between armies.

The nature of the terrain meant that food and supplies had to be carried by the army on mule back. Tenth-century Byzantium was able to supply large armies in the field, but this was a logistical feat at the limits of medieval organization. The manuals gloss over the baggage train, with brief instructions that it should be in the center of the infantry formation (or at the back of the cavalry formation, with escorts), but the train must have been enormous.

(Tenth-century manuals call for a mule for every two soldiers. Other sources call for a mule for every sixteen soldiers, with wagons following more slowly. Some rough computations may be instructive: Oxen can live on fodder (in the right season), but they move slowly, and pull a cart that requires a reasonable road or path. A horse or mule can carry 200 pounds, and requires about 5 pounds of grain and 15 pounds of fodder per day. Heavy warhorses required triple rations of grain, and soldiers required about 3 pounds of grain a day. Byzantine doctrine calls for the army to carry 24 days' food, but it works out that – in the absence of forage – an army with one mule for every two people can carry enough food for about half that time.)

The Byzantine system was adaptable to expeditionary armies. The army would go through the frontier provinces and levy food and supplies from the inhabitants – in exchange for IOUs. The recipients of the IOUs then got to try to collect reimbursements (or at least tax relief) from corrupt officials.

References:

McGeer, Eric, "Sowing the Dragon's Teeth", *Dumbarton Oaks*, 1995. This is the main source, containing two treatises in Greek and in translation, as well as notes. The treatises are the *Praecepta militaria*, by Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas (c. 965) and the *Taktika*, by Nikephoros Ouranos (c. 1000).

Haldon, John, "Warfare, State and Society in the Byzantine World, 565-1204", University of Birmingham, 1999. Haldon also wrote a short, popularized book titled "Byzantium at War, AD 600-1453", Routledge, London, 2002.

Hyland, Ann, "The Medieval Warhorse", Combined Books, 1996.

Note of Thanks

We are indebted to Dani of the Seven Wells for allowing this reprint of his four-part article on tenth-century Byzantium field armies in the Althing.

Sincerely, Elss, Chronicler

Rapier and Costuming Academy

Pittsburgh Chinese Church

December 3, 2011

The Barony-Marche of the Debatable lands invites one and all to escape the winter weather and join us for a day dedicated to the arts of Rapier and Costuming on December 3, 2011, at the Pittsburgh Chinese Church, [8711 Old Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237](#). The site opens at 10 am and classes shall begin at 11 am. The skilled hands of Master Creator Twinedragon shall prepare a hearty repast available throughout the day. The site shall close at 10 pm.

Mistress Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi (lefkowitzga at earthlink.net, 412-361-0718) is our costuming class coordinator and Mistress Irene von Schmetterling (rapierlady at earthlink.net, 412-951-9880) is our rapier class coordinator. A host of teachers are being recruited from both within Æthelmarc and beyond to enlighten and inspire us.

Other questions about the event can be directed to the autocrat, Lord Pavel Dudoladov (Paul Warlop, 338 S. Atlantic Ave Apt. 3 Pittsburgh PA 15224, 412-848-6327, trumpetmaker at gmail.com). Reservations can be sent to Master Alaric MacConnal (Robert Smith, 1194 Firwood Drive Pittsburgh PA 15243, alaric at pobox.com).

Fees for the day shall be \$13 for gentles aged 18 years and older and those aged 6 to 17 shall pay a discounted fee of \$7. For those paying at the door, the fees shall increase to \$15 for those 18 and older and \$8 for those aged 6 to 17. There is no fee for gentles age 5 and under. All fees include admittance to the day's activities as well as the all-day sideboard. Please make checks payable to "SCA Inc — BMDL." The non-member surcharge of \$5 must be collected, and may be either included with reservations or paid at the door. As always, the only reservation is a paid reservation.

Directions From the North: Follow I-79 South to Exit 73, PA-910 Wexford. Turn left onto PA-910 E. Wexford/Bayne Road. Follow briefly (~0.2 miles) and turn right onto Brandt School Road. Brandt School Road changes names to W. Ingomar Road. After following both for approximately 3 miles, stay straight to go onto Highland Road.

** Follow ~0.7 miles, and then turn left to stay on Highland Road. Follow Highland for ~1.2 miles and turn left into the parking lot, just before Highland Road runs into Old Perry Highway.

Directions From the South: Follow I-79 North to Exit 68, Mt. Nebo Road. Turn right off the ramp onto Mt. Nebo and follow approximately 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Arndt Road. In less than a mile, you will turn left onto Reis Run Road. All of these follow the Yellow Belt and you might see small signs with a yellow dot. Follow Reis Run for approximately 2.4 miles and turn right onto Highland Road. Continue from ** above.

Directions From the East: Take best route towards Pittsburgh, and get into Route 376 West. Follow Route 376 to Exit 72B, Blvd of the Allies. Follow Blvd of the Allies almost 1 mile, and get into the right-hand lane following the signs for I-579 North (Veteran's Bridge). Cross over the Veteran's Bridge and merge left onto I-279 North. Follow approximately 2.7 miles and take Exit 4, McKnight Road. Take the McKnight Road ramp. Follow McKnight 1.5 miles to the West View/Millvale turnoff. Follow the road to the right at the fork to get onto Babcock Blvd. Again go approximately 2.7 miles and turn left onto Three Degree Road. There will be signs for the Green Belt (a large green dot). Continue to follow Green Belt signs and take the first right onto Perry Highway/Rt-19. Follow approximately 1.2 miles. Just after Montclair Ave, you will turn left at Old Perry Highway. The site is the building just beyond the fork of Highland Rd. and Old Perry Highway. Take the left fork onto Highland Rd, and parking will be the 2nd and 3rd driveway to your right.

BMDL Twelfth Night - January 14, 2012

The Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands is pleased to announce that Twelfth Night Festivities will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the Lodge in North Park, (no street number) Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. The site will open at 10 AM and close at 10 PM, so that all may have enough time to enjoy the day.

The populace will be happy to note that this is a FREE event -- there is no charge at the door and no non-member surcharge! No reservations are required. Because it is also a potluck dinner, each person is requested to bring a dish to share.

The autocrat for this event is Lady Elss of Augsburg (Rocky Hayeslip); all inquiries may be directed to the autocrat at [elss_of_augsburg at yahoo.com](mailto:elss_of_augsburg@yahoo.com) or to Rocky Hayeslip, 221 Pine Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or by cell at 724.759.3333.

Please note that many, many activities are being planned for adults and children. More information and directions will be available in the December and January Althings.

Mark your calendars now for the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the Lodge at North Park.



Interior of a Kitchen

Æthelmearc Kingdom Twelfth Night

The Shire of Sylvan Glen is honored and excited to extend an invitation, on behalf of our Sylvan Monarchs, Isenwulf & Rosalinda, to all who see these words to come join them in the annual celebration of Æthelmearc's Kingdom Twelfth Night. Festivities will begin on Friday, January 6, 2012, at 4 pm, and end on Saturday, January 7, at 9pm, 2012.

The theme for these festivities will be "Eat, Drink, and Be Merry". The doors will open at 4pm on Friday evening and those who arrive early will be treated to a Traveler's Repast, organized by Lord Angellino the Bookmaker. The hall will remain open for socializing until 10pm. We will open the hall again at 8am on Saturday morning. Activities will include an A&S display of works in progress, silent auction, classes, children's corner, dancing, and music. A day board Saturday is included and is organized by Lord Petr Kotok. Feast will be prepared by Gillian de Lundy at an additional cost. The hall will close for the evening at 9pm.

The event will be held at the Rodeway Inn, 94 McMillan Court, Martinsburg, WV 25401 (304.263.8811). The hotel is holding a block of rooms at \$49 per night plus tax for one king or two doubles. Be sure to tell them you are with the Society for Creative Anachronism when booking. The site is damp, but all alcohol must be carried discreetly to and kept in the rooms we are renting for the duration of the event.

The cost for the event is:

- ❖ \$12.00 per adult
- ❖ \$5.00 for ages 13 to 17
- ❖ \$2.00 for ages 6 to 12
- ❖ Ages 5 and under will attend as guests of the shire.
- ❖ The family cap is \$25.

The \$5.00 non-member surcharge will be charged at the door and collected from anyone who does not have proof of membership.

A sumptuous feast will be available for an additional cost of:

- ❖ \$8.00 for all persons ages 13 and up
- ❖ \$4.00 for ages 6 to 12
- ❖ Ages 5 and under will eat as guests of the shire.

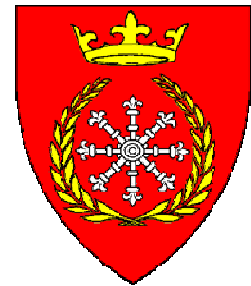
Feast is limited to 80 but there are plenty of tables for off-board. The head cook is Gillian de Lundy (813.789.9681). Any dietary restrictions or questions should be directed to her.

Make checks payable to "SCA-WV Inc. Shire of Sylvan Glen". Reservations may be sent to Arianna dal Vallone at 604 Foxcroft Avenue, Apt. 3B, Martinsburg, WV 25401. Please include the SCA and modern names for everyone, including children 5 and under, for planning purposes. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

The autocrat is Ylaire Saint Claire (Jennifer LaFaber, 3391 Winchester Avenue, Martinsburg, WV 25405, (304.951.5694) or kaegwyn at yahoo.com). Questions, concerns, and requests should be sent to her. The deputy autocrat is Euriol of Lothian (euriol at yahoo.com).

Directions:

Take your best route to Interstate 81 in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Take exit 16 in Martinsburg, headed east on State Route 9 (Edwin Miller Boulevard). The Rodeway Inn is on the right.



THE CANTON OF STELTONWALD OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

(Beaver County)

Seneschal

Lady Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
Muirgheall at gmail.com

Knight Marshal

Lord Marcus du Coeur
marcussmoot.jr at gmail.com

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Maestro Jacopo di Niccolo
joc4a_s at yahoo.com

Exchequer

THLady Ysabell Graver

Captain of Archers

Maestro Jacopo di Niccolo
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

Castelain

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr
david_black42 at yahoo.com

Web Mistress

Maestra Gianna di Aurelio
giannadiaurelio at comcast.net

Canton Meeting

Third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Beaver County Courthouse
madeleinedlest at yahoo.com

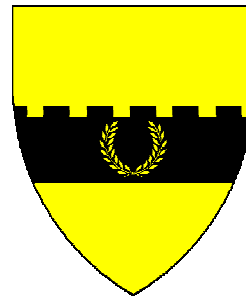
Archery

Wednesdays, 6 PM - 9 PM,
except the third Wednesday of any month
Beaver Valley Archery Club
Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

Fight practice

Every Tuesday, 5 pm, at the Hopewell
Township Community Park, Pavilion 4
Contact THL Robert Marston
kardasl+@pitt.edu

<http://www.steltonwald.org/>



THE COLLEGE OF COUR D'OR

The College of Cour d'Or is currently dormant. For information regarding local colleges and Universities, contact the Baronial College Liaison

College Liason

Rosalia Iuliana Andrerre

CMU Rooms Reservationist

Margaret Makafee

Elsa of Augsburg
c/o Rocky Hayeslip
221 Pine Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

The Althing is the newsletter of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands.

November Issue AS XLVI (2011) Vol. 34. No. 6

FIRST CLASS MAIL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Sign up on the Althing mailing list to have the Althing emailed to you every month at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmdl_althing/.

Download or read the Althing online every month at <http://www.debatablelands.org/althing/>.

Subscribe to the Barony mailing list at <http://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-bmdl>.

Find the Barony home page at <http://www.debatablelands.org/>.

College student? Join the SCA-medieval-interest@googlegroups.com mailing list for announcements of campus and local activities.

Need a ride? <http://groups.google.com/group/bmdlrideboard> is the Google group for ride sharing to events and practices.