



The Nottingham Quill

VOLUME 39

ISSUE 5

MAY, A.S. LI

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His Excellency currently works third shift and Her
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Please time any phone calls accordingly.



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Unto Our Beloved Populace of Nottingham Coill does Lucien and Brig, Baron and Baronage send Greetings!

WOW! What an incredible month April has been! From the Coronation of our Monarchs, Dietrich and Thora, to a very windy Blades and Bows, to the return of the Dragon at Tourney of the Dragon!

April kicked off with a Coronation to remember. The sky wept as Christoph and Adelhait stepped down as the Monarchs, and just as quickly, the sun did show its face as Dietrich and Thora ascended upon the Thrones of Atlantia. Vivant and Skal to Their Royal Majesties Atlantia! During the day's activities, no less than four of Nottingham Coill's fighters entered the various list fields to test themselves, and our friends in honorable combat. Two of the Coill's own also entered into A&S competitions! Our fair Barony was well and truly represented on this day!

Foul zephyrs traveled from Gulf Wars and tested Our Lands and People at Blades and Bows, but we did stand and show that mere wind cannot deter us from what we set our minds to! Many wonderful classes were taught, from our own populace, to friends who traveled from afar. We thank the Autocrat and staff for an incredible day of classes, combat, A&S, and comradery!

Finally, not one, but TWO Dragons did return to the Canton of St. Georges. Many stalwart warriors did take up arms to slay these most skilled creatures. Let it be said that when the Call to Arms is sounded, that we do not fail to stand and fight! The A&S competitions at Tourney of the Dragon filled our hearts with joy to see such talent, skill, and imagination at all of the entries. A very special Thank You to Mistress Diedre and all of the Entrants of the Dirty Half-Dozen Largess Competition. The artistry, skill and generosity of Our Baronage is something we cannot say thank you enough for. Truly, Blessed are These Lands.

While there are no events in Nottingham Coill in the Month of May, we highly encourage all to travel to Atlantia's Crown Tourney, Spring Fling for Siege II, Hawkwood's Baronial Birthday, On Target, Garden of Thyme, and Ruby Joust.

Finally, we are looking at perhaps the first weekend in June (June 4th) for a Baronial Meeting/A&S/Fighter Practice in the Canton of Cyddlain Downs. We will work with our Baronial Seneschal to confirm the date and with the Good Gentles of Cyddlain Downs for a site.

With Love to all,

*Lucien and Brig,
Baron and Baroness*

From the Seneschal's Pen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SCA! As of May 1, we are in Anno Societatis (A.S.) 51 . . . and still going strong.

This month's edition of The Quill is brought to you by the various officers of our marvelous barony. Most of you have at least a passing idea of who does what to keep our chapters running. But do you really know what it takes to be an Exchequer, Chronicler, Chatelain, or Seneschal, just to name a few? I can't speak about all these offices, but I can offer some insights about being a Seneschal.

In plain English, the Seneschal is the chapter president. The Baron and Baroness are the ceremonial representatives of the King and Queen. But the Seneschal is the administrative and legal representative. That's why the Seneschal must be an SCA member and of legal age: we have to be able to sign contracts or checks, and be legally responsible for what goes on in our chapter. The Seneschal is one of two mandatory positions in a chapter; the Exchequer is the other one. There also must be a third officer (Herald, Marshal, or Minister of Arts & Sciences), but these two are required.

What does it take to be an effective Seneschal? (And no, I'm not claiming to hold any or all of these qualities. Nor do I anticipate that each Seneschal will hold all of these qualities. But I can dream, can't I?)

-- You should be organized: regardless of whether you're the canton, baronial, or kingdom seneschal, there WILL be paperwork and email. You need to be able to keep track of what's going on in your group and (if you're the Baronial Seneschal) among the cantons in your group. Whether it's hardcopy paperwork or electronic messages, you must be able to store and retrieve this information when needed. And you also have to be able to submit reports accurately and on time.

-- You must be accessible: by mail, electronic means, and telephone. When issues or questions arise, people must be able to reach you. Yes, we all have 'real lives' that get in the way of spending as much time as we'd like in the Middle Ages, and sometimes we have to be off-

line. But if there is a real need, you or a designated deputy must be there to do what's needed.

-- You should have an open mind: genuinely willing to listen to differing opinions and giving them fair consideration. It's quite possible that someone else has a valid point of view, even if it doesn't agree with your own. And maybe someone else has an idea or piece of information that you haven't thought of yet. Learn from the people you're working with.

-- You must have a closed mouth: many times you'll become privy to information that is not for public dissemination, or perhaps not at that time. Maybe someone is being considered for an award and your opinion has been sought. You wouldn't want to spoil the surprise by letting the proverbial cat out of the bag. And if there's an individual causing difficulties in your chapter, your Baron and Baroness or your next-level officer (e.g. Baronial or Kingdom Seneschal) may bring you into discussions. Sharing what you've been told could be extremely hurtful to other people, and brand you as a gossip or untrustworthy person. Definitely not a good thing.

-- You should be able to lead a meeting competently and firmly, without being dictatorial. Most meetings I've attended have been fairly low-key: a line-by-line knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order is not at all necessary. But you should be able to recognize when a discussion is getting off track and either get it back on track or bring it to a close.

-- You should support the SCA both at meetings and events as well as outside them. It does not speak well for you or the organization if you're all smiles and glad-handing when you're in garb but talking ill of your chapter (or the barony or kingdom or SCA as a whole) when you're away from an event. You may just have soured a prospective newcomer who was considering joining us.

-- You should be able to encourage others to step up and try an office. Every one of us came into the SCA without ever having done so. Yes, you may have been a treasurer or president for an organization in the modern world. But the world of the SCA is a bit different. We learned from others; now it's up to us to help others to learn. Sooner or

later we're going to want to either move up or step back, and we can't do so without someone else to take our place. Perhaps take on a person as a deputy, to help him or her get more experience before committing to the full job.

-- You should recognize talent and potential in others and encourage it. This is an extension of the previous item, but it includes spotting qualities that the others might not even have given themselves credit for. And it may mean suggesting that they try their hands at being an Exchequer or Marshal or something other than being the Seneschal.

-- Have fun! And realize that serving as a Seneschal will help you develop skills that absolutely will carry over into the modern world . . . and it looks great on a resume'.

To wrap up this month's column, Vivant to those of our barony who received awards and recognitions recently. At Gulf Wars XXV, Lord Diederich von Basel received the barony's Order of the Sword Knot, Lady Birna Isleifsdottir received the Baron's Award of Excellence, and Count Randal Sinclair Hawkins received the King's Award of Excellence. At Tourney of the Dragon, Lady Iollann of Glencairn received a rare double-header: both the Coral Branch AND the Opal from His Majesty Dietrich. Lady Marie Helene of the New Forest received an Award of the Fountain for her cooking. Lord Wilhelm Leopard der Schwarze received a Grant of Arms primarily for his long-standing work as a Marshal. Lady Birna Isleifsdottir and Lord Dreux d'Anjou both received a Silver Nautilus for their exceptional work in the Arts & Sciences. There were other baronial awards bestowed at Tourney of the Dragon, but they have not yet been posted to Atlantia's Order of Precedence page. So I'll report on them next month.

Finally, here's what's coming up in the area in the near future. Spring Fling for Siege (hosted by the Shire of Border Vale Keep, May 13-15.)

Yours in service to The Dream and the barony,
Dame Morwenna Trevethan
Baronial Seneschal

A Coille's Marshall

Getting myself to start writing is always a problem; my tendency is to start writing anything, no matter how unrelated it is to the subject I plan to write about. While this is a valid writing technique, one is supposed to eventually get rid of these first few lines, which I have not done this time to defy all convention. I am actually writing the position of baronial knight's marshal.

When it comes to being a marshal for Atlantia, it was a simple decision. I like to make sure that people who want to fight have the capability to do so and since a marshal is needed, I fulfill that role. So as soon as I settled into this kingdom, I went about doing so. Then the canton knight's marshal wanted to step down, so I was asked to take the position. I figured I couldn't do too much harm, so I agreed. Now things get a bit fuzzy, but it wasn't too long after that when I was asked to be the baronial knight's marshal. I was like, "Whoa, wait up now, can I be both?" I was told, "Yeah, verily." (Of course, no one spoke to me that way.) The position is mostly about keeping track of the marshals in the barony, and keeping up with the baronial waiver report. Of the two, one is really easy as we rarely hold any baronial practices making the waiver report simple; the other I need to do a better job of, so I will use this venue to correct that.

I would like to be e-mailed the names of any active marshals of all disciplines that make up our barony. Just send your name (SCA, modern), discipline(s), and canton to graffalke11@gmail.com . I have a good handle on armored marshals, but I have no idea the numbers of rapier, target archery, combat archery, thrown weapons, and any youth marshals we may have in this barony. Should I ever decide to step down from being a baronial knight's marshal, I would want to leave my successor with something more than I had.

Well, that felt slightly rambily so that is a sign I should wrap this article up. Baronial knight's marshal is a great, easy going office and if there is a marshal of any discipline that would want to be a deputy of this office, I would be more than happy to accept. I have one at the moment, Alasdair o Cuinn, but more would be great. As a final thought, I would like to remind the populace that you do not need to be an armored marshal to be a group's knight's marshal (or a deputy of one). Any discipline is welcome.

So long and happy enabling!

*Lansherr Wilhelm der Schwartz Leopard
Baronial Knight's Marshal*

Tourney of the Dragon

A note from Her Excellency:

At Tourney of the Dragon, there was more than a little bit of Magic in the air. I saw deeds of arms and works of art wondrous to behold. I witnessed service for service's sake, and children growing up in the tall shadows of incredible influence. I watched, overjoyed as this Barony and Her splendid people threw its arms open wide to welcome one of the largest groups of newcomers that I have seen in many a year. Not just to welcome them, but to make it known that they were already amongst friends.

Court was a long one, because there are so many here deserving of recognition for long years of dedication. The love of what we do in the SCA shines bright in the eyes of the people of Nottingham Coill. So much that but must occasionally fall as tears of joy.

A most delicious feast was enjoyed by all and we were so very well entertained! It pleases Me greatly that the Bardic Arts thrive again in Our Barony!

For those who have played this game for years, and those who have only been in for a little while.... I know in my heart that all of your actions have helped to build a moment for someone. A moment that they will still recall in twenty years' time when they still love the SCA and its people as much as they went away loving you all from Tourney of the Dragon. I have always been proud of this Barony, but I am proud beyond measure of all of you. VIVAT!

Baroness Brig ingen Erennaigh

Upcoming Events in the Kingdom

May 2016

6-8	<u>Atlantian Spring Crown Tournament</u> (R)	Sacred Stone	Randleman, NC
13-15	<u>Hawkwood Baronial Birthday: For Love and Friendship</u> (R)	Hawkwood	Arden, NC
13-15	<u>Spring Fling For Siege II</u>	Border Vale Keep	Augusta, GA
14	<u>On Target</u>	Lochmere	Annapolis, MD
20-22	<u>Garden of Thyme: Herbal Collegium</u>	Sacred Stone	Boonville, NC
27-30	<u>Ruby Joust</u> (R)	Caer Mear	Amelia, VA

June 2016

3-5	<u>Old school war practice</u> (R)	Marinus	Clarkesville, VA
10-12	<u>Summer University</u>	Atlantia	Boonville, NC
10-12	<u>Highland River Melees - Highland Games</u> (R)	Highland Foorde	Knoxville, MD
17-27	<u>SCA 50th Year Anniversary Celebration</u> (Q)	Middle	
17-19	<u>Return to Crecy III</u>	Salesberie Glen	Harmony, NC
18	<u>Stierbach Baronial Birthday</u> (K)	Stierbach	Warrenton, VA
24-26	<u>Kings Assessment</u>	Black Diamond	Amherst, VA

July 2016

1-3	<u>Trial by Fire and Lochmere Arrow</u>	Bright Hills	Glen Arm, MD
9	<u>Storvik Baronial Investiture and Novice Tournament</u> (R)	Storvik	College Park, MD
16	<u>Warrior's Games</u>	Tear-Seas Shore	Harleyville, SC
29-14	<u>Pennsic War</u> (R)	Aethelmearc	

The Back Page

As a very new member of the SCA, I am greatly honored by the trust that is being placed in me with the responsibility of this Quill by its Chronicler, Lord Malik ibn-Da'ud al-Rawandi. I want to thank everyone who has been an integral part of my journey so far and know that I plan to continue to grow and learn.

I also want to thank everyone who submitted to the Quill for this issue and previous issues, and encourage everyone to continue to send in submissions to Labyrinthineone@gmail.com

Yours in Service to the Dream,

Merewyn of Cyddlain Downs