



The Nottingham Quill

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COVER PHOTO BY
BARON SVEN OLAFSSEN

YULE TOY TOURNEY 2017
1ST INTERBARONIAL SNOWBALL
FIGHT

BARON GELDAMAR TAKES A
SNOWBALL TO THE FENCING MASK
WHILE DAME MORWENNA SUPERVISES



BARONIAL REGNUM

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A Note from Their Excellencies...



Photo credit: Lord Patris de Terra Lepori

The holiday season is upon us! No matter how you celebrate it, We wish you joy and peace in the coming days.

This will certainly be a busy month. Yule Toy Tourney is only a week away and Unevent is right on top of us! We don't know about you, but We have quite a heavily scheduled weekend of meetings. Meetings are not the most fun thing in the world, but they are necessary so the hobby we love can continue to function. And We quite like that We can now attend these meetings in Our pajamas with a mug of hot tea!

We were very sad last year when Yule Toy Tourney couldn't happen- it didn't quite feel like Christmas to Us without it. Our excitement for this year is re-doubled, though, and it promises to be quite spectacular with visits from many Christmas spirits to enliven the festivities. And We most certainly hope

at least some of you have practiced your rhyming insults to pry Baroness Delia from the clutches of the Mari Llydd! And of course, there will be fighting, archery, and thrown weapons galore. Baroness Delia is sponsoring a newcomer A&S participation challenge, so if you have been playing in the SCA for less than three years please plan to make something to display. We are also delighted to be hosting Their Majesties Eckehard and Jane and Princess Adelhait for this event, so please consider retaining for our guests at some point in the weekend. Things will be a bit different because of Covid 19 protocols, so please be patient and flexible as we navigate them. And don't forget to stock up on toys!

This can be a difficult time of year for many people for many different reasons. If you are struggling, please reach out for help. This Barony's greatest treasure is its people and their culture of reaching out to help and lift up others, and for that We are very proud.

And remember, if Jack Frost tries to nip your nose, counter high and attack in his strong side, he should be open.

Elphín, Baron

Delia, Baroness

Delia, Baroness

Elphín, Baron

Baronial Progress:

December

Virtual Unevent 12/4 - 12/5

Yule Toy Tourney 12/11

From the Seneschal's Pen...



Photo credit: Lady Virginia of Wolfholt

Well, here we are. December already. The end of 2021. Know what this means? YULE TOY TOURNEY!

We are blessed to be able to have it this year, and many thanks to Lady Meadhbh and her staff for taking on this task, especially with all of the Covid rules that we have in place. This event is one of my favorites, and I'm anxiously looking forward to it. Let's see how many toys we can raise this year for Country Santa!

Some reminders of Covid rules. You MUST pre-register for the event. If you have not pre-registered, you will not be allowed on site. You MUST present proof of vaccination (a photo or scan of your card is fine) or a negative covid test from an authorized medical provider done within 72 hours of the event starting. That means the earliest you can get a negative test is 5pm on Tuesday, December 7. Any test before that is not current enough. Youth under 12 do NOT have to show proof of vaccination or negative covid test, but youth 12 and up do.

Masks MUST be worn by all individuals 3 years old and up inside, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are required outdoors for all children 3-11 and for all unvaccinated persons. Vaccinated people are not required to wear masks outdoors, but it is highly recommended. Any concentrated groups outdoors (such as a court) are required to wear masks. Masks are not required for participants in martial activities. Masks must be worn properly, covering the nose and mouth.

Folks, if you have not pre-registered for an event, or cannot/will not provide proof of vaccination or negative covid test, you WILL be turned away. Don't make us do that. Regardless of your personal beliefs on Covid and vaccinations, these are the rules set down by Society and Kingdom, and they are non-negotiable.

Ok, Brute Squad Cian rant out of the way. On to better things!

There will be a morning and an afternoon court at Yule Toy Tourney. There will also be a Baronial Populace Meeting at 3pm, 1 hour before court. I don't anticipate it lasting longer than 30 minutes, hopefully even less. If anyone has something they wish brought up or addressed, please let me know as soon as possible.

Baronial Birthday is coming up in March! It's been spiked and is on the calendar. Lady Giulia Stanizi will be autocrating her first event here in Nottingham Coill. Be on the lookout for more information on the event and activities as time grows closer. It should be a fun one!

With it being December, the holiday season is upon us. This can be a time of great joy, or a time of great sorrow. If you are having troubles this season, of any kind, please reach out for help. Emotional, mental, financial - whatever kind of help you need, let someone know. You can always get in touch with me or Their Excellencies, and if we can't help, we will find someone who will. The SCA is more than just a group of weird people dressing funny on weekends. We

are a family, a chosen family. We care about each other, and we want to be there for each other. You are not alone. You're never alone.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Yule Toy Tourney this coming weekend.

Be well.

Maistir Cian, Baronial Seneschal

Vivat, Hooray, and Congratulations!

... by Maister Cian mac Cellacháin h'Uí Dublaich

This is the letter that I enjoy writing the most for the Quill. The one where I get to list those members of the Barony who have been recognized by Their Majesties and/or Their Excellencies. With the world situation this past 18 months, these letters have been few and far in between. Even though people have been doing good work, there just haven't been many events for them to be recognized. Fortunately, things are starting back up and the good people of Nottingham Coill will be recognized for their good work, and I'll have a column to write regularly!

This month, a hearty congratulations to Baroness Machteld Cleine, who was inducted into the Order of the Pearl at Fall Coronation! We are all proud of you!

Next month, there should be a LOT more names, as Yule Toy Tourney is coming up rapidly!

Make sure to get any award recommendations you might have to Their Majesties and to Their Excellencies! They need us to be Their eyes and ears so They can know the good work that Their populace is doing!

-Cian, Seneschal

URGENT - Baronial Social Media Officer needed!

...by Maister Cian mac Cellacháin h'Uí Dublaich

Baronial Social Media Officer

The Barony of Nottinghamill Coill is looking for someone to serve as Baronial Social Media Deputy.

The Social Media deputy will be warranted as a deputy seneschal and will work closely with the Kingdom Social Media Deputy to ensure that all relevant Society Social Media Policies are followed. Persons interested in serving in this capacity will need to be familiar with the Social Media platforms that the Barony uses (currently only Facebook at this time), familiar with the Society Social Media guidelines, have tact, and be assertive in the application of their duties.

Anyone interested in this position, please send a Letter of Intent to Their Excellencies and myself as soon as possible!

Blacksmith Tools

...by Master Lucien de La Rochelle



IMAGE: Blacksmith with hammer and tongs

If the idea of picking up hot metal with a bare hand is already bringing to mind the time you touched a hot stove, then you understand why tongs are an essential part of a blacksmith shop. In a smithy, unless there is standing water on the metal, treat it as though it is hot. This is because metal can reach temperatures of up to 800 degrees before “glowing”, and temps that high will produce 2nd degree burns in as little as one second.

Now that we have the warning out of the way, let’s get talk tongs. Tongs have been in use since before written records were kept on metallurgy. Whether wooden, bamboo, or metal, tongs add a layer of protection to a dangerous craft. They can also be used to manipulate the material being forged. Tongs come in a variety of lengths, shapes, and sizes depending on their intended use. Some tongs can be used in several ways, some are for only one use, but all are important to a smith.



IMAGE: Some tongs from the author's collection. From left to right: nippers, scrolling, pick up, and flat jaw tongs

In early periods, tongs had a simple shape, as seen in the image at the top. They were used to move, hold, and manipulate the metal, but were of limited use. The flat jaw tongs in the second image hold a range of flat or rectangular material, but are limited in the same way that period tongs are limited. Anything round, or thicker than a certain amount, and the metal will move with every strike.

The scrolling tongs, are useful for making, well, scrolls at the end of a piece of steel. They are handy when speed is needed due to rapid cooling of the metal, otherwise, a smith will use his hammer and anvil to make the scrolls needed.

The pick-up tongs are useful for when a piece of metal is accidentally dropped on the ground/floor. Notice I said "when", because it IS going to happen, and will happen throughout a blacksmith's career. The first lesson a smith learns by trial and error is to NEVER try to catch a piece of steel while it is falling.

*This hurts! A lot. Don't do it. Let it fall and pick it up off of the floor.
WITH TONGS!*

The pick-up tongs are also handy for holding punches and other struck tools, as long as the tongs, or the tool, is made to work with one another.

The nippers are used for trimming small pieces of steel, such as horseshoe nails. There is evidence of nippers from the Middle Ages, but at the moment, I've not found them in ancient times.

Tongs, along the ages, began to become specialized. This occurred as smiths became specialized. A farrier's needs were different from an armorer, just as the tinsmith's needs were different than that of a toolmaker. You can see this not only in period tongs, but also in modern tongs as well.



IMAGES: Tongs from period woodcut, Mastermyr find, and illumination

Tongs will forever be in a Blacksmith's toolchest, and indispensable in the daily creations in their shop. Tongs are used to make the iron out of ore, to forge the iron into usable billets, to create beautiful works that have lasted centuries, and will continue to last for centuries more.

Our next article will concern itself with anvils, and as always...

Have fun, make stuff!

Regards,

Baron Lucien de La Rochelle, OP

Upcoming Events in the Kingdom

December - 2021

- 12-04 - 12-05 : [Unevent - Virtual](#) :Simpsonville MD (Atlantia) (Q K)
12-10 - 12-12 : [Yule Toy Tourney](#) :Pickens SC (Nottinghamhill Coill) (Q K Pr)
12-11 - 12-11 : [Dun Carraig's Baronial Birthday](#) :Waldorf MD (Dun Carraig)

January - 2022

- 01-15 - 01-15 : [Kingdom 12th Night 2022](#) :Winston-Salem NC (Atlantia) (Q K Pr)
01-29 - 01-29 : [Henry's Holiday Huzzah! - Midwinter's 2022](#) :Lothian MD (Lochmere) (Q K)
01-29 - 01-29 : [Tourney of Manannan Mac Lir XLI](#) :Harleyville SC (Tear-Sea's Shore) (Pr)

February - 2022

- 02-05 - 02-06 : [ONLINE Winter University of Atlantia](#) :Atlantia City DC (Atlantia)
02-11 - 02-13 : [47th Tournament of Ymir - Defenders of Dubhlinn](#) :Ellerbe NC (Windmasters' Hill) (Q K)
02-12 - 02-12 : [Bright Hills Baronial Birthday](#) :Manchester MD (Bright Hills)
02-19 - 02-20 : [AEdult Swim 2022](#) : (Aethelmearc) (K)
02-26 - 02-26 : [Day of Love II](#) :Virginia Beach VA (Marinus) (Q K)

March - 2022

- 03-05 - 03-05 : [Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival](#) :Mebane NC (Atlantia) (Q K Pr)
03-11 - 03-13 : [Nottinghamhill Coill Baronial Birthday XLII](#) :Bennettsville SC (Nottinghamhill Coill)
03-12 - 03-20 : [Gulf Wars XXX](#) : (Gleann Abhann) (Q K)
03-18 - 03-20 : [Raven's Cove Baronial Birthday!!](#) :Beulaville DC (Raven's Cove)
03-26 - 03-26 : [Defending the Gate 2022](#) :Spotsylvania VA (Sudentorre)

April - 2022

- 04-01 - 04-03 : [Coronation of Cuan and Adelhait](#) :Boonville NC (Atlantia) (Q K Pr P)
- 04-09 - 04-09 : [Festival of Elvegast: Journey to Avallon](#) :Hillsborough NC (Elvegast)
- 04-09 - 04-09 : [Dragon's Fire - A Celebration of St. George's Day](#) :Easley SC (Saint Georges)
- 04-15 - 04-17 : [Night Under a Faie Moon](#) :Annapolis MD (Lochmere)
- 04-22 - 04-24 : [Revenge of the Stitch VII](#) :Chestertown Road MD (Spiaggia Levantina)
- 04-22 - 04-24 : [Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday](#) :Bennettsville SC (Hidden Mountain)

May - 2022

- 05-07 - 05-07 : [Atlantian Spring Crown Tourney](#) :Leesburg VA (Stierbach) (Q K)
- 05-13 - 05-15 : [Gardens of Thyme & Oakwood](#) :Boonville NC (Middlegate)
- 05-14 - 05-14 : [Highland River Melees](#) :Frederick MD (Highland Foorde)
- 05-21 - 05-21 : [Not Quite Quarterly Braggin' Rights Tourney](#) :Aiken SC (Ritterwald)
- 05-21 - 05-21 : [On Target](#) :Annapolis MD (Lochmere)

June - 2022

- 06-23 - 06-26 : [Tournoi de la Rapiere Blade-](#) :Bryson City NC (Stormwall)

September - 2022

- 09-09 - 09-11 : [Trial by Fire and Royal Archery](#) :Glen Arm MD (Bright Hills)
- 09-16 - 09-18 : [Midnight at the Oasis](#) :Apex NC (Nimenefeld)

October - 2022

- 10-01 - 10-01 : [Fall Coronation \(TBD\)](#) : (Atlantia)
- 10-11 - 10-16 : [War of the Wings 2022 \(TBD\)](#) : (Atlantia)

November - 2022

- 11-05 - 11-05 : [Fall Crown Tourney \(TBD\)](#) : (Atlantia)

The Back Page...



Photo credit: Lord Patris de Terra Lepori

Hello everyone! I hope this issue of the Quill finds you all well and getting excited for Yule Toy Tourney next weekend! I know I'm already making my preparations which includes making sure I have garb that still fits, gathering all of my fantastic Norse accessories, putting together my bedding and toiletries...you know. The usual. What preparations are you making for the first Yule Toy Tourney in a couple of years? What is your routine preparation for any event? How would you prep a newcomer for their first event? These are all excellent ideas for an article fo the Quill! Any and all submissions are welcome and I'm happy to discuss ideas or answer questions about what kind of topics are helpful and/or appropriate.

Should you choose to submit an article or work for the Quill, please include the appropriate release form (release forms can be found here: <http://chronicler.atlantia.sca.org/Releases.php>). Please send submissions to me at (chronicler@nottinghillcoil.atlantia.sca.org). If you have any questions or need help with the forms, please let me know.

*Yours in Service to the Dream,
Lady Merewyn Scharp, Baronial Chronicler*