

The Nottinghill Quill

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COVER PHOTO BY MI'LORD DUNCAN MACMICHAEL

BARONIAL AND CANTON SILK
BANNER AT WAR OF THE WINGS 2018

SILK BANNERS CREATED BY MISTRESS BRIG INGEN ERENNAIGH



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A Note from Their Excellencies...



Photo credit: Mistress Etain of Sutherland

Greetings to Our incredible populace! In this coming month we will finally see the SCA opening. Some practices have already started back, albeit slowly and We certainly hope that with the possibility of events now on the horizon things will start to happen and we can start seeing each other again in person.

We enjoyed being entertained in the Great Bardic War, especially those who put on that Scottish Play in a most able fashion. Atlantia's bards were so noble, so sterling that Atlantia and the East did indeed win! We're not saying the contributions of a certain Lady M swung the tide but..... In addition to

Baroness Machteld, quite a few members of the populace participated in the Bardic: Caera of Novgorod, Master Hagar the Black, Lady Ceciliana and last but not least, Vani Ka Bhediya. Vani is a newcomer, so We are doubly pleased to acknowledge her participation as both a singer and a volunteer. We are looking forward to seeing her and her family in person soon.

The last weekend of this month will be, at long last, Coronation of a new King and Queen! We hope that each canton in the Barony will hold some manner of small gathering in which we honor the great service of Theiroutgoing Majesties Anton and Luned, who steered the kingdom through an incredibly tumultuous time, and celebrate the coronation of Their Highnesses, Eckhart and Jane! We are trying to plan something as well, but We are waiting to see if the Kingdom will issue new guidelines as that would impact what We can and cannot do. We ask that everyone stay nimble and ready to adjust plans as new guidance comes down.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at events soon!

Delia, Baroness Elphin, Baron

From the Seneschal's Pen...



Photo credit: Lord Patris de Terra Lepori

Holy smokes, it's June already? You know what that means? EVENTS! Yes, we can start having events again. Under strict guidelines, still, but we can finally start getting together again. This is great news! I know Ritterwald is already planning an event for September, Yule Toy Tourney planning is going along, and we need to start thinking about Baronial Birthday next year.

So, what's going on in the Barony? Well, the Populace meeting from May got bumped to June 7. Hopefully you can make it (Monday night, 7pm, Zoom) as we've got a fair amount of stuff to talk about.

One big thing coming up is the Polling of Confidence. Their Excellencies have expressed Their desire to stay on as Baron and Baroness for an additional

2 year term so there will be a Polling of Confidence to get the Populace's feedback on this. Make sure your membership is current in the SCA ASAP, because you only get a vote if you are a registered member. Polling letters will be going out July 31, and are due to Their Majesties by August 21.

There's been some concern about some posts on social media of late, so I took the time to reach out to Lady Mizuno, the Kingdom Social Media Deputy, to get some clarifications on things. The Baronial FB page is considered official, so we can't advertise non-official, non-SCA activities. As I understood it, we can't say "Hey, the Pumpkintown Renaissance Festival is open every 3rd weekend of 2025.", but we could say "Hey, the Pumpkintown Renaissance Festival is going on. Let's go there in garb one weekend". Things like displays, museum events, etc. are considered historical activities, so those can be talked about. It's confusing, I know. Rest assured that the Social Media Deputies and the page admins are doing the best they can.

Regarding merchants, we *are* allowed to talk about merchants, and post links to where we just bought this cool widget. The merchants themselves can't post advertising on our page. So, there were a couple of posts recently that were removed a week or so ago that, after discussion and closer examination of the social media rules, could probably have been left up with minor editing. Apologies to those whose posts were removed, but it's a learning experience for all of us.

While we're talking about social media, after discussion with Their Excellencies and the Kingdom Social Media Deputy, it has been decided that we should have a Baronial Social Media Deputy. See the article in this month's Quill about the position if you are interested.

How are you doing? Still hanging in there? It's been a tough year+ for all of us. The mental fatigue especially. I hope you're in a good place, and that it's getting better for you. I strongly believe we are on the other side of this

pandemic and heading back to normality. We've made it this far; we can go a little farther. I'm really looking forward to seeing all of you in person once again REAL soon.

Remember, if you need anything, anything at all, reach out to me, to Their Excellencies, to anybody in the Barony. We are all in this together, and we are here for each other.

Take care, and I'll see you soon!

Be well.

-Cían

Baronial Job Opening - Social Media Deputy

....by Maister Cian mac Cellacháin hUí Dublaich

The Barony of Nottinghill 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 no later than June 30, 2021.

WAR!! What is it good for? Absolutely everything.

...by Barones Machteld Cleine

At least that would be my conclusion from Bardic War. Now let's be clear. I didn't start this war. As I said two Quills ago, I was merely an innocent bystander, who heeded the call of our general. This may or may not have involved an invasion and some sound, discrete advice, but that's all. Any rumors that I kidnapped an Aethelmarc bard are grossly exaggerated. They followed me home! It happens!

Our Barony was well represented: Lady Caera of Novgrod, Master Hagar the Black, Lady Caeciliana, Vani ka Bhediya and myself participated as performers. The war was too large to keep track of what exactly everyone did, but I know classes were taught, classes were taken, encouragement was given, volunteer work was done as moderators and editors and so much more.

After all our efforts, we won the war, but I think most people who participated won. While there's no substitution for a live audience, bardic lends itself pretty well to an online medium. We all have zoom fatigue, we all want to go back to campfires and hugs, but something about this 'war' energized me, and I have heard the same from others.

I think part of that was the scale, the fact that we were doing something not as a substitution of what we were missing, but as something completely new that we wouldn't have been able to accomplish without the previous twelve months of inching towards online competence! And part of that was bards being bards. There's both a healthy reverence for the act of performing and the effort it takes, and an equally healthy sense for the absurd.

I hope that other bards write about their experience, but I want to tell you a bit about my road through the war. Atlantia was... extremely organized right off the bat, which meant that before all the details of the war or even the dates of the war were known, you could indicate your interest. Considering the fun I had with our little 'raid into a Midrealm bardic, I was all for it! A bit later I filled out a form that detailed what you would be willing to take on. I checked some boxes and waited.

When the official war point list came out, I had been assigned Renaissance Theater. And all of a sudden it was time to make decisions. I could do a monologue of course, but I had the feeling that that's what most people would be doing and I looked for more of a challenge. Maybe a scene. Maybe something more.

In the end I looked up Lord Owyn de Wolfe because we had worked together. First idea was to do any renaissance theater that wasn't Shakespeare because everyone would do Shakespeare. It's well known and it's an easy intro without too much exposition needed. In the end however, we circled back to Shakespeare for exactly those reasons. And then he had a crazy idea: he was working on a cut from Macbeth, centered around lady Macbeth? Could we do this? Could we actually do an entire (very condensed) play?

Lady Macbeth is a bucket list role on most theater cards. She defies stereotypes and there's so much meat to that part. We decided to go for it. Owyn would direct. I would be 'Lady M'. If necessary, we could always reduce it to a scene or something. And we were looking at maybe adding Manus Macdhai and Sophia the Orange to the roster to help with other roles that could allow us to fill out the story some more.

We worked on the cut and somehow, through an administrative detail, I became coordinator for the war point for our alliance. Which meant reaching out to other players under the alliance. That's how I met new friends... one of

them being Lady Ewa of Coppertree from Aethelmarc. Atlantia having assigned people early meant that we were quite far on the path of what we wanted to do and when we explained it, people were enthusiastic! Unfortunately, by the rules of the war we needed two different performances per alliance which meant we couldn't 'absorb' all the players in one production, but I had the chance to work with Lord Jotun-Eirikr Bjarnason, also from Aethelmarc, in coordinating our pieces. But Lady Ewa was quickly taken in on our production (because that's what it was by now) and proved invaluable. Not in the least because with three 'extra' players we now could do witches!

Working with a talented group with an array of really talented people is always a privilege. Add a really interesting project, a time crunch and a chance to show off (we are performers after all) and we managed to make a 35 minute performance of Macbeth happen. In the middle of it all we were trying to work with the staff of the bardic war to ensure that all of our actors had zoom hosting access because we tried to take advantage of the technology where we could to make things smoother. Since I am somewhat insane, I also decided last minute that I needed to do the 'optional' documentation. Starting with an easy doc, I ended up with four pages. The problem with documentation for me is that I really want to share WHY this is all so interesting. And if I can just add that author's quote and this person's ideas...

In the end it all came together because a lot of people helped. A call out on the baronial page got me jewelry from Baroness Delia Flammen and Master Vortigern. They helped in 'setting the persona' (and will be returned after the recording which starts next week). Lady Marguerite de Vienna spent weeks helping me try and perfect my zoom face with the right make-up. My husband, Willem van Antwerpen, made sure the home was empty for recording the day of and endured lots of murderous mutterings in the lead up). Lord Merovech made an 'emergency omg I need a dress' outfit for Lady M, and other people

listened to a lot of moaning and asking for advice about the piece or talked me through stage fright.

Performance day for me was a cloud of cold medicine (yay, timing) nerves and anticipation. But the performance went well and the recording will be available in a few weeks' time for you all to enjoy.

I loved bardic war. I loved performing in it, talking about it, playing in it... oh and... playing with it. War is over. Time to start learning new... skills.

https://www.facebook.com/91800522/videos/931157606449/

Tanka Battle! A Japanese Poetry Competition

...by By Lady Mizuno Sakami and Lady Ceara of Novgorod

In Japan, composing poetry has always been a mark of sophistication. In the courts of nobility, poetry competitions were quite common and gave courtiers a chance to show off their wit and education. In fact, the quality of a courtier's poems could affect their social standing.

Most people today are familiar with the haiku, an unrhymed 3 line poem of 17 syllables, in a pattern of 5-7-5. Unfortunately, the haiku emerged as the dominant form of poetry in the Edo era (1603-1867), putting it just outside the the SCA period. Luckily for us Tanka, from which the Haiku evolved, is not too dissimilar. The Tanka is also a poem that relies on syllable count rather than a rhyme scheme, however the Tanka is longer, with 5 lines in a 5-7-5-7-7 pattern totaling 31 syllables.

Tanka were the predominant form of Japanese poetry from the 10th century until the 17th century. In the Tale of Gengi, often considered to be the first "novel", author Murasaki Shikibu included over 700 tanka as part of the story. Some of the Tanka were original poems she composed, and others were famous poems that the reading audience would have recognized, much like authors including song lyrics in their works today. In fact, Tanka were so commonplace, often they were exchanged as letters rather than simple prose.

Games involving poetry were also very popular. In one game famous poems were broken into two parts, and each half written on a shell. The shells were then mixed up, and players had to match the two halves of the poem. Another game involved all players writing a Tanka on a common theme, and then reciting it to the assembled room. Today we propose a new game.

We are challenging the entire populace of Nottinghill Quill to a Tanka Battle. The rules are simple:

- 1. The theme of the "Battle" is Praise/Complement
- 2. Tankas will be written and sent to the Quill each month. They may be a Challenge to another in the Barony or a Response to a previous challenge.
- 3. If you are challenging another member of the Barony specifically, you must name that person in the Tanka.

For example Lady Ceara has sent this challenge:
Lark voiced soft singing
Yet raptor cry pray attend
Skillful wit and word
From King's court to small solar
Mizuno, you bring delight.

- Ceara of Novgorod, May 2021

Let the challenges begin!

This Month in Plague History: June 1348

...By m'lord Willem van Antwerpen

June 1348

In June of 1348, the Black Death reaches England for the first time. The first known case in England was a sailor from Gascony in southwestern France - which was ruled by the English monarchs at the time and a major trading partner - who arrived in the port of Melcombe (now known as Weymouth) in Dorset. The plague will initially strike southwestern England, Bristol being the first major city to fall victim.

The plague will reach London by the Fall and will cover the entire country by the end of 1348. Precise death counts are difficult to come by, but historians now estimate that 40-60 percent of the population died from the plague. England was emerging as a major European power at the time of the Black Death's arrival in Western Europe. In 1346, King Edward III won major military victories against the French at Crécy and against the Scots at Neville's Cross, followed by the fall of Calais in 1347. However, the plague will put a temporary halt to the campaigning of the Hundred Years War. On the whole, though, the English government manages the disruptions better than the French, which will lead to a string of English victories when campaigning resumes in the 1350s, including the capture of King John of France at Poitiers.

However, closer to home, the high mortality rate of the plague leads to a shortage of domestic labor in England. King Edward tries to manage the upward pressure in wages by issuing the Ordinance of Labourers in 1349, fixing wages at pre-plague levels. The increased bargaining power of the peasants will be difficult to overcome, though, and labor discontent will result in the Peasant's Revolt of 1381.

Upcoming Events in the Kingdom

June - 2021

06-04 - 06-06: Known World Colegio de Iberia II (Virtual): (Lochac)

06-05 - 06-05: Storvík Novice and Unbelt Tournament : Upper Marlboro, MD

(Storvík)

06-12 - 06-12: Online Summer University of Atlantia / Known World Sciences

Symposium: of Atlantia NC (Atlantia)

06-26 - 06-26 : <u>Coronation</u> :Atlantia NC (Atlantia)

06-26 - 06-26: Marinus/Tir-y-Don Coronation Celebration: Virginia Beach

VA (Marinus)

06-26 - 06-26: Barony of Lochmere Fencing Celebration In Honor of

<u>Coronation</u>: Jessup MD (Lochmere)

06-26 - 06-26: Bright Hills Celebrates the Crowning of Our New

Monarchs :Glen Arm MD (Bright Hills)

July - 2021

07-09 - 07-10: King's Assessment (Virtual): And Links on the site VA (Black

Diamond)

07-10 - 07-10: Warriors' Games : Harleyville SC (Tear-Seas Shore)

07-17 - 07-17: <u>St Paddy's Day Blood Bath in July</u>: Vienna VA (Ponte Alto)

August - 2021

08-07 - 08-07 : <u>Stierbach Baronial Birthday XXIII</u> :Spotsylvania VA

(Stierbach)

08-14 - 08-14: Queen's Rapier Tourney :Richlands NC (Raven's Cove)

September - 2021

09-11 - 09-11: Not Quite Quarterly Braggin Rights Tourney: Aiken SC

(Ritterwald)

09-11 - 09-12: Known World Symposium of the Americas : Chesapeake VA

(Marinus)

09-18 - 09-18: Atlantía University TBD: (Atlantía)

09-24 - 09-26: Battle on the Bay : Upper Marlboro MD (Storvík)

October - 2021

10-01 - 10-03: Trial by Fire and Royal Archer :Glem Arm MD (Bright Hills)

10-09 - 10-10: The Wild Hunt :Triangle VA (Ponte Alto)

10-10 - 10-17: <u>War of the Wings XV</u>: Boonville NC (Atlantia)

10-22 - 10-24: Revenge of the Stitch VII : Chestertown Road MD (Spiaggia

Levantina)

November - 2021

11-06 - 11-06 : <u>Fall Crown Tourney (TBD)</u> : (Atlantia) 11-20 - 11-20 : <u>Holiday Faire</u> :Manassas VA (Stierbach)

December - 2021

12-04 - 12-04 : <u>Unevent (TBD)</u> : (Atlantía)

January - 2022

01-08 - 01-08 : <u>Atlantían 12th Night (TBD)</u> : (Atlantía) 01-29 - 01-29 : <u>Mídwínter's 2022</u> :Lothían MD (Lochmere)

February - 2022

02-05 - 02-05: Atlantia University TBD: (Atlantia)

March - 2022

03-05 - 03-05: Kingdom Arts & Science Festival (TBD): (Atlantia)

Apríl - 2022

04-01 - 04-01: <u>Spring Coronation (TBD)</u>: (Atlantia)

04-15 - 04-17: Night Under a Faie Moon : Annapolis MD (Lochmere)

The Back Page...



Photo credit: Barones Machteld Cleine

Hello everyone! I'm sure everyone is VERY excited about events starting back up now that its June. I'm pretty excited myself! What are/have you been doing to prep for the reopening of our Kingdom? Have you been repairing armor? Making new garb? Honing new skills of all sorts? We'd love to hear about it!

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@nottinghillcoill.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