



The Nottingham Quill

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JULY, A.S. LI

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IN THIS ISSUE...

2.... Table of Contents

3.... Regnum

4... A Note from Their
Excellencies

6.... From The Seneschal's Pen

9.... Featured Article:

Incorporating Poetry in Scrolls

13.... Backlog Scroll Competition

14.... Dear Delia

14.... Kingdom Schedule of
Events

17.... The Back Page



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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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A Note from Their Excellencies...

Warmest greetings (seriously! It's hot out there) to Our wonderful populace!

Wow what a month June has been! We've have visitors from afar, demos, University, an event in nearby lands and a guild meeting.

We travelled North to help Our friends in Sacred Stone with a Demo at Con Carolinas. We braved the heat and still had a great time sharing the wonders of the SCA with those in attendance.

Countess Elana from Aethelmearc was welcomed to a melee fighter practice by the good folks of Cyddlain Downs two weekends in a row while she was visiting Nottingham Coill. Friendships were formed, skills tested, and bonds strengthened between Our lands.

Many fun and informative classes were on offer at Summer University, and We braved brutal heat to improve existing skill sets and add new ones. We enjoyed lounging underneath the Baronial Day shade and sharing lunch with many members of the populace. Discovering that Cotton Candy Grapes are a thing made suffering the heat worth it!

Baroness Brig Returned to Crecy and enjoyed the hospitality of our friends in Salesberie Glen. Here she bore witness to many feats of martial prowess and was much impressed.

The Southern Clothiers Guild held a meeting where it was brought up about possible Baronial Guard Livery (more to come on that).

His Excellency would like to have a conversation with all Seneschals of

the Barony regarding an idea for a series of events.

We would remind and implore Our populace to please stay hydrated. If you are attending Summer events and participating in martial activities, please work on your endurance in the heat and drink water as much as possible before the event. And don't forget your sunscreen!

We look forward to seeing all of you at events as always!

Baron Lucien de La Rochelle and Baroness Brig ingen Erennaigh

From the Seneschal's Pen

The SCA 50-Year event has come and gone, and what an event it was! There were attendees from every state (not just the Lower 48), plus Korea, Sweden, England, Canada, and Australia, just to mention a few. Six of the founds were present: participants in the backyard gathering that grew to become today's SCA. Seeing and meeting them was rather like having George Washington show up to your American history class. At the opening ceremonies, Mistress Diana Listmaker (modernly Diana Paxson) processed in with the other founders. Everyone in the populace spontaneously got to their feet and started clapping and chanting 'Diana, Diana, Diana'. What a tribute to her. She then read the text of the original, still-preserved, invitation to that first gathering. Magic was coming to life.

Atlantia did itself proud in the Hall of History, where each kingdom (including baby Avacal) had an area to display and talk about its history, its people, and its accomplishments. Kudos to the team that put together the music and video of Atlantia! If jewelry happened to be your thing, it was amazing to see 20 display cases each with the historical crowns of their Kings and Queens. One kingdom's representative (unfortunately I can't recall which of the early kingdoms it was) told me that, thanks to this effort, they'd discovered an early set of crowns that was made of . . . cast iron. Ouch!

As a Chirurgeon, another fascination for me was seeing the large display of arms and armor, including the earliest, infamous, Freon can helmets. Someone even had loaned what obviously had started out as a 5-gallon pail . . . that now was severely dented and had a large hold in the top of the 'helmet'. It's no wonder that we've moved away from these to sturdier, safer, versions, and better armor. (No more moving van pads.)

Classes; Arts & Sciences displays and teach-ins; armored, rapier, and equestrian competitions; so much to see and do and so little time to do it all.

Looking back can be fun, but time doesn't stand still. And neither can we. The event that's on the minds of many of us (including me) starts in just a few weeks: Pennsic. However, there still are many, more local, events to consider: Midsummer Novice Picnic (hosted by the Barony of Hawkwood, July 9); Warriors Games (hosted by the Hidden Mountain Canton of Tear-Seas Shore, July 16); Moorhaven Collegium (hosted by the Hidden Mountain Canton of Moorhaven, August 13); Flight of the Falcon (hosted by the Sacred Stone Canton of Aire Faucon, August 20, an excellent event to attend if you're new or comparatively new to the SCA); Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday (hosted by the Barony of Sacred Stone, September 9-11); Silver Chalice (hosted by the Barony of Hidden Mountain, September 17); and Southern War Practice (hosted by the Canton of Ritterwald, September 23-25).

A little further in the future, I am pleased to thank Baron Geldamar and Mistress Etain for their bid (which has been accepted) to host Yule Toy Tourney this year. I've seen the preliminary plans and it's going to be fun and festive!

In other news, after quite a few years of faithful service behind the scenes, our Baronial Webminister, Lady Anna Charles, has decided to step down. Her successor will be Master Gavin Reynes, otherwise known as the Founding Baron of Nottingham Coill. His very competent deputy will be Lord Marius Agorius Donatus Minius Germanicus, also known as Maximus.

Next month's (August's) Quill will be the primary responsibility of the Canton of Cyddlan Downs. Let's try to improve each edition over the previous one. (Please??)

Finally, as I enjoy doing, here's a Vivant to the barony's members who have received awards recently. At Tourney of the Dragon, Lady Kaete MacDavid, Lord Jon Bjarnarson, Lady Reynsa Kyferin, Lady Albree de Greene, and Lord Alasdair O Cuinn all received the Award of the Golden Cord; Lord Dreux d'Anjou received the Baroness' Award of

Courtesy; Lady Birna Isleifsdottir and Lord Carrick Mac Manus both received the Baron's Award of Excellence; Lady Machteld Cleine was inducted into the Order of the Gordian Knot; Lady Meadhbh inghean Thaidhg ui Domhnaill (also known as Lady Mizuno Sakami) was inducted into the Order of the Pewter Spoon; and Mistress Deirdre Morgan was inducted into the Order of the Coill's Guiding Beacon. At Hawkwood Baronial Birthday, our former Chronicler Lord Malik ibn Da'vd Al-rawandi (formerly Tristan the Wanderer, who now resides in Hawkwood) received the Award of the Opal; Lord Diederich von Basel was made a Companion of the Silver Osprey; and Dame Morwenna Trevethan received the Baron's Award of Excellence and was made an honorary citizen of the Barony of Hawkwood. Lots of good things being done by our populace. Keep up the excellent work!

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

Incorporating Poetry in Scrolls

Instructor: Estienne Le Mons d'Anjou, Poeta Atlantiae

Introduction

Adding poetry to scrolls is a wonderful way to personalize your work for the recipient, increase the memorability of the scroll reading, and add a bit of period flair to a scroll. While it is not always the easiest thing to do, you can often make a poem that is more accurate to the award or order than the suggested scroll text.

In addition, heralds love to read something new that is tailored for vocalization. It really gives them the chance to shine. I often make reference to a 'reading sheet'. This is a sheet that contains the scroll text in a plain font (like Arial, Verdana, or Times New Roman) and any notes that will make reading the text easier (like pronunciations). If you provide your heralds with a reading sheet, they may hug you inordinately. You've been warned...

Brevity

One of the most important parts of incorporating poetry into a scroll text is to keep the verse to a manageable level. Remember, not only does the text have to be put onto the scroll by a calligrapher (sometimes with very limited space), but the herald in court has to read the entire scroll as well. A scroll text isn't really the place for an epic poem, but you may be able to take elements utilized in an epic poem and put it into a shorter version.

Poetry in a scroll text is really like rapier fighting. You want to be fluid and graceful and strike with rapidity and speed. The reading of the text should not take more than a couple minutes.

Alliteration and Meter

Alliteration is the repetition of the first sound or the same letter in a group of words or poetic lines. Alliteration is very useful as a means of grabbing the attention of the listener and can also be used as a way to insert humor into an otherwise completely serious piece of work. The use of this poetic tool is also extremely old and seen throughout our period.

Unfortunately, alliteration can cause some difficulty for performance. Unless the herald is clearly heard and enunciates the words properly, the tool can lose its effectiveness. In order to understand the difficulties of alliteration for a herald, I suggest practicing alliteration yourself to understand the pitfalls. This includes reading your own work aloud to see where you stumble. If you stumble and you **wrote** the verse, you might consider revising it to make it easier for someone who may be reading it on the fly.

PRACTICE PIECES (In ascending difficulty)

Easy: *Fee, Fie, Foe, Fum.*

Moderately Easy: *Lovely Ladies Looked Lively in Linen.*

Average: *Six Snakes Sell Sodas and Shells.*

Difficult: *Scratch, Scrunch, Scribble, Scrub, Shrub.*

Extremely Difficult: The Sixth Sick Sheikh's Sixth Sheep's Sick. ²

If your poem that you have incorporated has a specific meter, it's a good idea to have some note of it on a reading sheet for the herald, otherwise the meter may be completely missed. With a reading sheet, the herald can have notes of how the verse should be performed and can decide from that if they can perform the meter. Meter is really the rhythm of the verse and, while it may work for the poet and may work on paper, it may not work from the mouth of the herald. If a herald decides not to use the meter as written, this is their option and not something the wordsmith should take to heart.

With meters that are not written in feet, like drottkvaett which depends on having stressed syllables, but not in specific feet, you may need to designate which syllables are stressed in your reading sheet. This can be easily done simply by making them **bold** and explaining you're the meter in an introduction.

Tailor Your Selection – Awardee and Awardee (Do Your Homework)

If you know who the scroll is for beforehand, you may be able to tailor the scroll text to their persona. If you do not know who the scroll is for, but at least know who is giving the scroll, that still gives you the opportunity to use an appropriate style based on the giver's persona rather than the recipient.

For example, if you know that the king presenting the award has a French persona and the queen is Irish, you might consider mixing the Ballad & Ballade styles to come up with a style that fits both personas. Always remember that these forms are there for your use, not your restriction. Use them as you will and throw out what parts of them you don't like (or don't fit what you're doing).

There are many appropriate styles to our time period, but there are also several that are not. Many of the styles that are appropriate to our time period do not conform to the necessity of brevity needed for scroll text, but you can alter them to make them fit your needs. For example, while a sestina is a 39-line poem, there's nothing that says you can't take the form and condense it into 1/3rd that size. While it may not be a "true sestina" to the purists, it can still carry the feel and design of the original.

Here's a list of appropriate styles (and what culture they originate from):

- Acrostic – Very widespread (Biblical – modern)
- Anglo-Saxon Verse – English (7th – 9th centuries)
 - Eduard Sievers ¹ noted five distinct alliterative patterns in Anglo-Saxon Verse, but we do not have an explicit system or poetic rules on the verse of the ancient Anglo-Saxons. All known information about the poetry is based on modern analysis.
- Awdl – Welsh (6th century, 12th – 13th centuries)
- Ballad – Irish & English (13th century – modern)
- Ballade – French (14th – 15th centuries, revived in modern)
- Carmen figuratum – Greek (but spread throughout Europe)(300 BC – modern)
- Chansons de Geste – French (11th – 12th centuries)
- Chaucerian Roundel – English (14th – 15th centuries)
- Englynion – Welsh (6th – 12th centuries)
- Jintishi – Chinese (8th century – modern)
- Kyrielle – French (11th – 14th centuries)
- La Cuaderna Via – Spanish (13th century)
- Minnesinger Poetry – German (12th – 13th centuries)

- Ode – Greek (spread widely) (Ancient Greek – modern)
- Old Norse (Skaldic) Poetry – Norse (8th – 13th centuries)
 - Fornyrðislag, Ljóðahátt, Dróttkvætt, Hrynhenda, Málahátt & others
- Ottava Rima – Italian (15th century – modern)
- Petrarchan Sonnet – Italian (12th century – modern)
- Qasida & Ghazal – Arabia & Persia (5th century – modern)
- Rhymed Couplet – English (most common form in period) (10th century – modern)
- Rime Royal – English (12th century)
- Rondeau – French (12th – 15th centuries)
- Rondel – French (14th – 15th centuries)
- Ruba'i & Masnavi – Persian (5th century – modern)
- Sequences – European (8th – 15th centuries)
- Sestina – French (but spread rapidly in Europe) (12th century – modern)
- Shakespearean Sonnet – English (16th century – modern)
- Sijo – Korean (11th century – modern)
- Tanka – Japanese (10th – 16th century)
- Terza Rima – Italian (12th century – modern)
- Triolet – French (11th – 15th centuries)
- Villancico - Spanish (15th century – modern)
- Villanelle - French (16th century – modern)

Knowing the non-period forms is almost more important. For example, if the individual receiving the award is Japanese and well-versed in the history of their culture in period, they may not want a haiku but could greatly appreciate a tanka. Some forms that people may think of as period and appropriate but are not include:

- Canzone (debateable)
- Cinquain
- Gogyōka
- Haiku (as a stand-alone form, can be used in period as an introduction to another poem)
- Limerick
- Pantoum

Scroll Sections

Another major consideration for penning a scroll is that you have to include specific wording and sections for the scroll itself. Know where you can take license and where you can't. Also know what you have to include and what can be left out.

1. The first section of a scroll is the Address. This is where you get the attention of the populace and give greetings. You can use poetic license with this section as long as it still grabs attention and shows respect.
2. The next part of a scroll is the Intitulation. In a scroll, it is important to know who is awarding the award. This part cannot be left out and should be near the beginning, but you can change the order if necessary for the wordsmithing. You can also combine this with the Address, making it easier to give verse.
3. The fun part is the Notification and Exposition. This is where you can really put in some creativity and have some very beautiful verse. The notification gives the recipient's name and the exposition tells why they are receiving the award. This is your chance to sing the

praises of an individual and really embellish your wordsmithing. Flourish is appreciated here.

4. You would end your scroll text with the Corroboration and Date. This gives the crown or coronet a place to sign. Again, you can use this section to give a little more flourish to the text.
5. There are other sections that are specific to the Awarding or Granting of Arms.
 - a. The Disposition gives the recipient the right to arms and can be included in the verse if you want.
 - b. The Blazon and Emblazon both show and tell the device being given. **Note:** *You do **not** have poetic license in this section.* The wording should be exactly as passed by society.
 - c. Sometimes a Triton's Affirmation will be included at the end of the wording to attest that the arms have been passed by the College of Arms.
 - d. **SPECIAL NOTE:** *Only use the word "**grant**" if the recipient is being awarded a Grant of Arms.*

Final Notes

When you write scroll text, you are putting words to the good deeds that have been done and shaping the mood of the recipient. Your words could live on for decades in their scroll, framed on their wall for all to see. You never know the impact you can have on someone with just a few words, so make all of your words count.

Poetry is supposed to move people, bring forth emotions, and inspire others. Regardless of style, model, structure, rhyme scheme, or any other outside variable, try to use your wordsmithing to make yourself and others feel strong emotions and embody those emotions in your verse.

Here's the most important consideration though.... Be sure that you, the recipient, the herald, the awarder, and the audience all **HAVE FUN!**

References

¹*An Old English Grammar*, translated and edited by Albert S. Cook (1885)

²Guinness World Records. (2011). *Guinness World Records*. Retrieved from <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/>

Backlog Scroll Competition

A note from Her Excellency, Baroness Brig ingen Erennaigh

Greetings unto the worthy populace of the Barony of Nottingham Coill,

The competition that is being held at Pennsic for backlog scrolls has made me think. I know.... Always a dangerous past time for me! It seems that there are a number of good people in the Barony who have never gotten scrolls for awards they have received. Well, the Barony just happens to have a terrific group of people who can help you with that! The Nottingham Coill Scribes Guild is at your service! If you still have a scroll on the Kingdom Backlog and it has not already been assigned to a scribe, please contact myself or Lady Milicent Shively with your SCA name and the award. The Guild will do all we can to get your document out of the backlog and into your hands! Have you hugged a scribe today?!?!?

Dear Delia...

by Merewyn Scharp, Baronial Chronicler

Good gentles of our fair and beautiful Barony,

Have you ever had a question burning in your mind that you always wanted an answer to, but were afraid to ask?

Need advice on how to approach that special certain someone that you see at events weaving meticulously or courageously marshalling the heavy fighters?

Wonder what color and style of trim would look best with that awesome Viking apron dress or tunic that you've been slaving over?

The Quill has the solution for you!

Please send your questions addressed to Dear Delia at the email address pslice1@sc.rr.com by July 20 to be answered and published in the next issue of the Quill. If you'd prefer to remain anonymous, please indicate as much in your correspondence and your wishes will be honored.

Upcoming Events in the Kingdom

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,H)	Storvik	College Park, MD
9	<u>Midsummer Novice Picnic</u>	Hawkwood	Sylva, NC
16	<u>Warrior's Games</u>	Tear-Seas Shore	Harleyville, SC
29-14	<u>Pennsic War</u> (R,H)	Aethelmearc	

August 2016

13	<u>Moorhaven Collegium</u>	Moorhaven	Myrtle Beach, SC
20	<u>Flight of the Falcon: Return to Bosworth Field</u>	Aire Faucon	Dallas, NC
26-28	<u>Peasants Revolt</u>	Cathanar	Blounts Creek, NC

September 2016

1-5	<u>Hastilude at the Hollow IV</u>	Black Diamond	Raphine, VA
2-4	<u>Raven's Cove Baronial Birthday</u> (H)	Raven's Cove	Richlands, NC
2-5	<u>Battle on the Bay</u> (R)	Storvik	Upper Marlboro, MD
9-11	<u>The Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday</u> (R,H)	Sacred Stone	Boonville, NC
9-11	<u>Fiber, Foliage, Forging, and Fermentation</u>	Yarnvid	Louisa, VA
17	<u>Silver Chalice</u>	Hidden Mountain	N. Myrtle Beach, SC
17	<u>Fall University</u>	Dun Carraig	Lexington Park, MD

23-25	<u>Southern War Practice VIII</u>	<i>Ritterwald</i>	<i>New Ellenton, SC</i>
23-25	<u>Clash with Bacchus...gods and mortals</u>	<i>Black Diamond</i>	<i>Big Island, VA</i>
30-2	<u>Atlantian Fall Coronation 2016 (R,H)</u>	<i>Atlantia</i>	<i>Lanexa, VA</i>

The Back Page

Just a few brief words from your Baronial Chronicler...

Please don't be shy about submitting articles/artwork/stories or anything you can imagine to the Quill! Only a Release Form is needed, which I would be more than glad to provide.

I want to again thank all the good gentles of Nottingham Coill for bearing with me as I learn to fulfill this new role. I especially enjoyed the suggestions and recommendations made at our last local business meeting for Cyddlan Downs! All suggestions are welcome and can be sent to the address below!

Many thanks to everyone who submitted to the Quill for this issue and previous issues, and please continue to send in submissions to Labyrinthineone@gmail.com

Yours in Service to the Dream,

Merewyn Scharp