

# THE SHADOW PRESS

Official Newsletter for the Barony of Shadowed Stars  
Constellation Region of the Middle Kingdom



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## FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings, Baronial members!

I am very proud to be the new Seneschal for our wonderful Barony and I look forward to working with everyone to continue ensuring it's a place we are all proud to call home. I would like to thank THL Solveig for her service as Seneschal and wish her luck in her new role as Baronial Exchequer. Thank you for your dedication and service.

Recently we hosted the Coronation of Their Majesties Cameron II and Amalie II and it was a huge success. Thanks to the hard work of so many of our Baronial members the weekend went off with very little issues. The weather held out for us and Their Majesties were happy. I also received numerous compliments from other SCA members on how well the event did. Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time and effort to make such a wonderful event. Very soon we will also be hosting Mounted Wargames IV, amazing to think that this event has grown so much in such a short time. I have every confidence that following last year's event we will continue to grow on the success that we have seen with it thus far.

These last two meetings have been held at a new site on the Indiana Tech campus, thank you to Lancer Gwendolyn for securing such a great site for us. I would also like to thank Lord Gavin for all of his work making sure we had the IPFW site, I know from personal experience that it is not an easy task to make sure everything is scheduled correctly. It seems that we have a new home to conduct Baronial business and I'm eager to see where we can go from here. For those traveling to Pennsic please drive safely and I will see you all there.

Yours in Service,  
Captain Ulrich Halfdan Ulfsson

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## WELCOME OUR STAFF WRITERS!

It is with great pride that we welcome and announce the first Shadow Press Staff Writers to the newsletter!

They are: Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch (mka Tonia Brown)  
Warder Philipp Reimer von Wolfenbüttel (mka Phil Selman)  
Lady Zilia Del Giudice (mka Tanda Ameling)

Everyone please make sure you congratulate and thank each of them for contributing to the ongoing success of our Barony's publication!  
Make sure also to read their contributions!

*\*Articles written by Staff Writers are denoted with a \* in the Table of Contents above!*

## FROM THE BARON & BARONESS

Happy, tropical greetings from Baroness Maggie and Baron Fergus!

The picture we included for this newsletter was taken by Aveline (thank you!) at Simple Day. We wanted to share this one, in particular, to show you the fun we have sitting up front. Although we often miss sitting with our friends, being so close to the action means we can see and hear things that you just can't in the back. One of our favorite things about being your Baron and Baroness is the opportunity to be your advocates and help you get recognized and then be able to see that recognition happen. If you have never recommended someone for an award, please do so. There is nothing better than seeing someone you care for be recognized for their hard work, prowess or expertise.

Recently, we have traveled south to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society and had a wonderful Baronial camp, with lots of good food, good friends and laughter. Now we prepare for the trek eastward, towards our neighbor, Aethelmarc, and the crowds and battles of Pennsic War! For some of you, this will be the first time you've ever been. For some, this is but one of many. Maggie has attended all but a few years since Pennsic 17 and Fergus has been right by her side since Pennsic 25. This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> Pennsic, and promises to be one that is full of classes, fighting, throwing, shooting and FUN. We look forward to having as many of you as possible join us as we process in to Opening Ceremonies on Saturday, August 6. If you can come, meet us at Midrealm Royal no later than 5:30.



Photographer Credit: Aveline de Ceresbroch

What can you expect to find at Pennsic? Literally everything. There are a few hundred merchants, a food court full of tasty choices, Pennsic University with hundreds of classes, rapier and rattan fighting, combat archery and siege, target archery, thrown weapons, pomp and circumstance, and about 10-12 thousand people who do what we do. It's the biggest event we have and it is some of the best fun you will ever have! If you have any questions about what to expect that we didn't cover in the class on July 18<sup>th</sup>, just reach out and ask! We will make sure you are as prepared as you can be.

Shortly after we return from Pennsic, we will be hosting Mounted War Games VI presents Day of the Dragon. This event is the largest equestrian focused event in the known world (although there are more horses at Gulf Wars) and we are so excited to welcome friends from all over, including the King and Queen! We will be back at the Wells County 4-H Fairgrounds, where we were last year and where we held Coronation. There will be many opportunities to help out and make our group look good, so please plan on helping where you can.

As summer wanes into fall, we will be in attendance at: Pennsic, Mounted War Games, Harvest Days, Rose Tourney, and Fall Crown. The banners will be out and we welcome you to join us, as often as you can. For now, we continue to prepare for Pennsic, as the call of the Dragon and the drum is strong and we must away to King and Kingdom! See you soon, dear friends!

In Service to the Barony, Kingdom and Each of You, We Remain,  
Fergus and Maggie, Baron and Baroness Shadowed Stars

# DRACO INVICTUS!

by Baron Fergus MacPherson

Draco Invictus!!

Pennsic War is almost upon us, and I hope your preparations are going well. Maggie and I will be there for both weeks. This gives us a chance to participate in other aspects of Pennsic... From volunteering to classes, or just seeing the sites. The second week is focused on war.

I will be spending many hours out on the battle field, striving to bring victory to the Dragon. Others will be watching/helping from the sidelines. However, there are many ways we can all bring victory. Volunteering, Arts & Sciences, Thrown weapons, and archery have been war points for several years. Something for everyone.

Each year, Maggie and I pick a couple of security shifts.... A great way to see many of the sites around Cooper's Lake. Disability point needs volunteers to help transport people to and from their camp. I can think of worse things to do.

So if you are able to go, please think of ways you can serve the Dragon. Victory is there for all of us to claim!!!!

In Service,

Baron Fergus MacPherson

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## BARONIAL CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2016

(see NOTE below)

OCTOBER 2016

(see NOTE below)

NOVEMBER 2016

(see NOTE below)

**NOTE:**

For the times, locations, class information, and most up-to-date info on these and other Shadowed Stars activities, please visit the Baronial Calendar online at: <http://shadowedstars.midrealm.org/calendar>.

Also check recent posts on the Shadowed Stars Facebook group page for last-minute updates and possible cancelations or schedule changes.

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# SOLVEIG'S HEARTH

by THL Solveig Sigulfsdottir



Summertime is here with all her bounty. Warm Summer Greetings! Welcome to Solveig's Hearth. Have a seat and enjoy a cool drink while we enjoy a few moments together.

This year we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of the Society for Creative Anachronism. For me this culminated in the week long camping event of 50 Year held in Danville, Indiana. Several months ago I was approached to be part of the Cooking Lab. What a fabulous idea! A place where people could come and try their hands at cooking over fire. I would have the chance to finally be able to use my clay cookpots. And maybe, I could get my Viking frame built in time too.

But what if we had an oven like they did at Pennsic? We could bake bread too. Who did I know that knew how to build an oven? Our very own Aoife had participated in the class last year. Would she be up for the challenge? I asked and she said yes! I was so excited. So we started talking with Mistress Waldetrudis who was in charge of the Food Lab about having an oven. She was excited to have the addition to the Lab, so it was a go. We needed more help so the call went out. Soon we had THL Berengaria on board. Bear is an experienced oven builder and would be a great addition to our team. We were also lucky to have Lady Tegan who not only has built ovens but had over 20 years as a professional bread baker under her belt. What a team!

The next hurdle was how to get the supplies for the oven. We would need clay, straw and sand. No problem, right? Well, it turns out we needed about 500 pounds of clay. Where in the world would we get that much clay? Aoife had been digging in her yard and had accumulated about 100 pounds. Then it dawned on me; I live next door to a quarry. I'm sure they would have clay. So after a quick call to the Stone Street Quarry, I found a supplier for clay. And not just any clay, but blue clay, which is a wonderful clay to work with. My plan was to line a large bucket with a trashcan liner, fill with clay, tie up, and put into my car. How hard could that be? Well, Mother Nature decided that it should rain the few days before the event. I needed to go get the clay, even if it was wet. I can honestly say that digging wet clay and hauling it into the back of your car is a lot of work! And boy did I get dirty. My poor car and I were covered in clay. In fact, I am still finding small spots of clay a month after the event.

I eventually got the clay, a table, a heavy bale of hay, and some tools loaded into the trailer. Whew! One project packed.

Then there was the Viking frame. What is a Viking frame you ask? It is an A-frame shaped raised cooking surface. It makes it much easier to cook over an open fire since it is up off of the ground. The frame is inspired by the idea that pots and grills were hung from the center beam of long houses over a fire that would run the length of the building in the Viking age. I had been wanting one of these for a long time but wasn't sure if I could get a metal fire pan made. So, I contacted our very talented metalworker John DiFlauro. One of the best things about John is that he encourages you to learn how to make things yourself. John walked me through drilling holes and cutting boards and helped me make the frame. He then took a very ordinary piece of metal sheeting and turned it into an awesome firebox. What a genius! Project two done.

And if the Food Lab wasn't enough, I was asked by Mistress Helewyse to be part of the team that would prepare the Founders

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Solveig's Hearth - Continued from page 4)*

Feast. How exciting! I volunteered to bake bread and make cheese. I prepared four kinds of bread; plain with salt, olive, fig, and sugared focaccia. I also made a lemon set soft cheese shaped like lemons. They turned out pretty well, but I need to work on my artistic food skills.

I got to the site on Friday, unpacked and got set up. The days that followed are a blur. I had to leave site several times to go back home to work. Leaving was hard.

The highlights of cooking over an open fire:

- Being asked by Duke Cariodoc if I would like to cook in his soapstone pot. Cariodoc is not only a legend in the SCA but also in the cooking community. I got to cook in his pot using one of his recipes that he had redacted. Amazing.
- Being surrounded by people who love what I love. It is wonderful to be able to geek out about period cooking, get tips and advice from people who love your passion.
- Cooking in clay is wonderful and food tastes great.
- Making bread and PIZZA in a clay oven. Wow!
- Singing while you cook with awesome friends.
- Basting a leg of lamb with wine then drinking the leftovers with your friends.
- Learning so many new things and meeting so many new people

There were so many wonderful things that happened at 50 Year. Besides being able to cook as much as I wanted to, my favorite thing was the 50 Year tapestry. It was amazing. (Take the Tapestry Tour at: <http://carrotkhan.webs.com/>)

If you didn't get to attend 50 Year, please take a look at their Facebook page. It has hundreds of photos of the events that took place. It truly was an amazing event.

It is time to bank the fire, and retire after a long day. I hope each of you can find a passion like I have found. I hope you can kindle a fire during this warm Summer season and keep its heat close to your heart like I have.



# FENCING FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD: BECOMING A CHAMPION

by **-Shadow Press Staff Writer-** Warder Philipp Reimer von Wolfenbüttel

A few weeks ago, Ward~Don Adam Carmichael approached me about taking a place on the rapier champion's team for single combat. For those of you unfamiliar with the format of the champions war point tournament, it's really pretty simple: you get one pass—that's it. The winner wins, the loser loses, and there's often an entire war point on the line. No pressure, right? So, with all of the stress, why am I so excited? It certainly isn't because I think I'll win. I mean, I think I can win, but have to assume that I'll be up against someone as good as I am or better. No, it's because this is as close to a real duel as I'll ever get, and for a life-long fencer, that's something of a fantasy come true... albeit a somewhat morbid one.

So, how does a champion prepare for his first ultra-high-profile fight? Well, I imagine it's quite a bit like getting ready for a real duel. After the initial "holy crap, this is really happening" feeling, you go back to the basics. For me, this has been doubly necessary, because I've spent little time on rapier combat over the past year, focusing instead on cut and thrust combat. I could go into the details of the drills and exercises I've been revisiting, but the real trick is to practice (and practice, and practice) while bearing a few important things in mind.

1. Relax. Tension makes you slow, as each motion requires you to first relax any muscle you intend to move before you can apply the tension you need to move. Relaxing also means remembering to breathe, ensuring that your muscles have the fuel they need to work right and respond quickly. It's amazing how much energy is wasted on jerky, frenetic motions. I often teach that three motions done quickly but too tensely to control are slower than one deliberate and relaxed motion done right. This is the biggest reason why a giant like me appears to move quickly.
2. Keep it simple. It's easy to get wrapped up in complex tactics and over-developed strategies, but paring down the logical if-then structure of how you fight (what we call the "decision tree") will free up your ability to focus as you fight. In my case, there are really only about four ways I try to win a fight, and everything else I do is a matter of guiding the fight to one of these planned conclusions. It sounds simple enough, but this requires a lot of practice and reinforcement to become automatic. Once you've got it down, however, it's a lot easier to make every fight, regardless of the opponent, as deliberate as possible.
3. Mind your footwork. One of the biggest keys to successful combat is maintaining control of the distance between you and your opponent. If lose track of your footwork, then you can't control that distance, and if you can't control distance, then you'll spend a lot of your energy and attention reacting to your opponent, rather than proactively pursuing your tactics. What's more, there are plenty of problems that can't be solved with blade work, no matter how fast or fancy it is. If you find yourself off balance, then you'll have an awful time beating a retreat or pursuing an attack when you need to.
4. Stay patient. One of my earlier mentors, the late Doc Jock McKee, used to tell me, "Put out the fire in your own house, before you burn down your neighbor's." It took me years to get the meaning of this, but it boils down to the fact that you can't attack effectively unless you can attack from safety. It really comes down to making sure that you prioritize your defense over your offense. The key to that is patience more than caution, and it's something even the best fencers struggle with.
5. Commit. This is the biggest one for me, particularly when I'm facing someone I know, objectively, is a better fencer than I am. As important as patience and caution are, when it's time to attack, it's absolutely critical that you commit decisively to your actions. The trouble is that if you commit to the wrong action, it's likely your commitment will cost you the match. As a result, this tip is completely dependent on the others that came before it. If you relax, keep it simple, mind your footwork, and stay patient, then landing a strike is just a matter of committing at the right moment.

Sounds easy, right? I'll let you know after Pennsic.

# BEE-KEEPING, PART 2 *(continued from Spring 2016 newsletter)*

by Lord Gwydion Gwrando

I have a pretty hands-off approach to my beekeeping. Once they are set and ready to go in the spring I pop in and check on them about once a month or so. Make sure the entrance is clear, but otherwise let them do their job.

During times where there are lots of nectar is called a flow. Times when there aren't as much nectar is called a dearth. During a dearth the queen will lay less eggs since there isn't as much food coming in. Then will pick up the pace when a flow starts again.

The bottom two boxes on a hive are called the brood boxes. Brood is eggs, larvae, etc... This is their living space. When they fill these boxes up then I will put on a queen excluder. The queen excluder is a piece of like wire mesh that prevents the queen from going any higher in the hive. Then on top of that I put more boxes. These boxes are called honey supers or just "supers". These boxes are the ones that I will harvest honey from in the fall. Leaving the bees with what they have stored in the brood boxes for the winter.

There are ways for everyone to help bees out without becoming a beekeeper. Like planting bee friends plants. These are some of their favorites. Annuals: Clover, Marigolds, Asters, Sunflowers, Zinnias. Perennials: Foxglove, Hollyhocks, Clematis, Roses, Sedum. Herbs: Bee Balm, Mint, Rosemary, Sage. This is just a short list of plants, but these I think are some of the most common. And I have most of these in my gardens. Another way to help is to not use poisons on or near plants that bee may frequent. It only takes a teaspoon of roundup to wipe out an entire hive.



Queen Bee.

Photographer Credit: Lord Gwydion Gwrando



Lord Gwydion doing a hive inspection.

Photograph Owned By: Lord Gwydion Gwrando



Queen Excluder.

Photographer Credit: Lord Gwydion Gwrando

# FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH: A WORD ON JOUSTING

by Lancer Gwendolyn of Shadowed Stars



The art and spectacle of jousting is often romanticized. The sport was the entertainment and demise of kings throughout medieval Europe. Numerous articles can be found online and I will not attempt to wordsmith a parallel description. My intent is to break down the martial sport into bare bones procedure and instruction for any thrill seeker with rudimentary equestrian skills and a touch of SCA armored combat knowledge.

Jousting saw its hay-day (pun intended) from the 10-1600s throughout modern-day England, Germany and France. SCA personas from these regions and in this era are the most seamless fit for a jousting. Only trained, noble-born knights were allowed to compete in their day. However, the SCA has a different set of regulations for rising to the Order of Chivalry and earning a knighthood without any involvement of the horse. Creating a persona of nobility is the closest level of historical accuracy you should allot yourself.

The minimum requirements for armor are a helm equivalent to an armored combatant's with openings less than one inch, neck protection of a gorget or aventail, rigid chest and body protection, groin protection (the raised front part of a saddle could count here), hands covered by means of full or demi-gauntlets or vamplate on the lance, and a specialized shield, ideally with a deep curve. While horse eye and poll (top of the head) protection are still only recommended, they are slated to become required within the Middle Kingdom in the near future. Full requirements should be reviewed in the Middle Kingdom Equestrian Handbook: <http://www.midrealm.org/equestrian/resources/SCAeqhandbook10-12.pdf> The SCA foam lance is three parts: a 24-inch foam tip, socketed into a cardboard tube, typically 5-6 feet long and a wooden base or handle. The total length can be 12 feet long.

Strategically, jousting is one of the rare sports where you do not aim to defend yourself. Courage and prowess were the traditional aims of tilting. Instead, a focused jousting will concentrate solely on the slow and smooth lowering of the lance and connecting with their opponent's shield. Intimidation has always been a useful strategy. Rich nobles could spend fortunes on the best war horses, ornate armor harnesses for horse and rider in addition to ostentatious displays of heraldry on fabric barding. You may even come across historical imagery of the horses' eyes being covered and bells hanging near the head. These tactics may have theoretically counterbalanced a horse's aggressive behavior of biting as they could not hear their opponent's approach or the fear a horse experienced at the sight of an ominous shiny, rattling monster. Without sight and sound, a horse resigned to the direction of his master. Luckily, modern equestrians rely on a solid relationship of trust to overcome these fears.

As for the horse that you intend to coax into the sport, they must have a level head about the situation. The biggest mental obstacle for your equine can be charging against an oncoming horse, when their natural instinct tells them that they should be going the same direction in a herd. Some horses have no trouble while others need practice and reassurance. Calmness is key. An excitable horse is a dangerous horse for all of the ground crew around the list. Otherwise, your mount needs to be fit and sound and safely carry 20% of their body weight on their back- saddle, rider and armor included. The only other requirement is general obedience. In simplest terms, your horse's job is to stop, canter straight for 100+ feet and stop. This can be a tall order depending on the horse's mindset and the equestrian's skills. Not to mention being encumbered by the stresses of armor, limited visibility and an unwieldy weapon. As with any skill, an aspiring jousting needs lots of saddle time. I highly recommend seeking out a trainer of any modern discipline to hone your equitation skills and your horse's responsiveness. Any rider needs a strong core for balance, paired with a soft hand, leg and seat. The saddle and bridle can be modern and masked relatively simply with fabric.

(Continued on page 9)

(From the Horse's Mouth - Continued from page 8)

Before aiming a jousting lance at a person, a rider should perform *measuring passes*. Without a weapon and with a partner, the opponents will use signals to designate a speed. An arm pointed straight to the ground beside them means walk. An arm held out horizontally means trot. A bent arm held skyward means canter. I avoid using the term gallop as that refers to a full out run, which may increase your striking force but minimize the time you have to make a precise hit. Space limitations typically only allow for a collected canter. When both riders have signaled, they pantomime the lowering and raising of a lance. This helps the horse keep a calm demeanor. Once you progress through these gaits successfully, it is time to armor up and grab a lance.

The skill of lowering your lance with precision, called a *levay* takes practice. The quintain is a crucial tool in this endeavor. A shield or small, flat target, is held out at the height of a rider's shoulder. Most commonly, the quintain is a vertical upright that holds a balanced pivoting arm, which spins away in a circle when struck. Sometimes a bag of sand acts as a counterweight, which can strike the rider in the back if they do not get out of the way in time. This practice prepares a joust to balance himself while imparting a blow and bracing for the impact. There are multiple methods for performing a *levay*. The most common is to keep the lance upright, slowly bringing the tip down until the lance is fully horizontal only for a moment before striking the target. After impact, the lance, now being angled across the horse's neck should be straightened out, parallel to the tilt lane and raised upright again before coming to a stop and handing it off to the ground crew. The rider should turn his horse around into the right lane and prepare to receive the lance and signal to his opponent (raising the lance straight up) when he is ready to begin the next pass. For our left-handed equestrians, I can only offer you apologies as you will have to joust with the lance in your right hand. A lance needs to be held in the "outside hand" and cross over the horse's neck so that the rider can inflict and absorb an impact across the body. Having a lance on the "inside" of the lane does not offer a proper target as the oncoming lances would simply tangle each other and create a dangerous situation.

The jousting tilt is 100 feet long at minimum and 150-200 feet is ideal. A bout equals three passes. The highest score of three points is earned when the lance tip breaks on the shield. Two points are earned when the tip breaks on another area of the body between the shoulder and waist. One point is earned for a strike that does not break the lance tip, also called a *touch*. No one in the SCA aims to unhorse an opponent as the striking force of foam jousting is minimal. There are no points for missing your target or striking the opponent's head. Immediate disqualification results from striking the horse. As a point of honor, you should not strike an opponent who is having trouble with control of his horse or lance during a pass. Only strike when you are both ready. The number of opponents you will face depends on the tournament rules that day and the total number of competitors. The victor, naturally, has earned the most points at the end of the tournament.

Here is where I burst everyone's adrenaline bubble: you *typically* cannot feel a lance blow. The foam tip is designed to snap on impact with little force. If you are accidentally struck by the cardboard tube, it may feel like a playful shove as the tube crumples under pressure. We armor ourselves for the worst case scenario. The danger, in my experience, comes from serving as a target for a new joust, as they overcome their unskillful lance handling. This and armor failures result in injuries. Trust me.

Wooden jousting is still deemed an experimental activity and therefore rules are usurped from organizations like the International Jousting Association, found here: <http://www.ija-usa.com/equipment-specs.html>. I will not speak about an activity in which I have not participated. As a ground crew assistant, I can say that the armor and lance are heavier and the hits are minimally harder. Not to mention the expense of more thoroughly protective plate armor against potential splintering wood and the higher cost of balsa wood tips.

*Skill-at-arms*, or swordplay and lancing targeted at inanimate objects and carousel (choreographed horse ballets) eventually became favored over jousting in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Reenacting this noble sport is a gift from the SCA for which I am grateful. There is a recent surge in interest within the Middle Kingdom and I look forward to its continued popularity in years to come.



# EVENT REPORT: THE QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN

by **-Shadow Press Staff Writer-** Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

One of the first things that I heard about within the society was the “Quest for the Golden Seamstress;” in fact, I had heard about this event well before my days of even joining the society. The challenge of the Quest is posed as such: assemble a team of up to six seamsters to begin AND complete an entire set of garments for at least one person in a twenty-hour sewing session. As fate would have it, the Quest for the Golden Seamstress would also be my first event with the society in 2015, wherein I teamed up with Lady Prudence of Colleah and Lady Bezawit Etsgenet Seyon of the Barony of Shadowed Stars and Lady Brighid Bhreathnach and Lady Isobel Ballentyne of the Barony of Brendoken to form a team. Our chosen project last year was to produce a supportive underdress, kirtle, sideless surcoat, hanging pouch, fillet, barrette, and crespin for Lady Bezawit. Ultimately, our team won First Place in the Novice Division of the Middle Period (defined as 1100 to 1400 in the years of Our Lord). It was an exhilarating experience. We met and spoke with several clothing and textile Laurels, received amazing mentoring, and had a blast during our sleep-deprived day.



Photographer Owned by: Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

Lady Prudence and Lady Bezawit and I went round and round on what we should do for our project for this year's Quest for the Golden Seamstress, but try as we might, we could not find a project that inspired all three of us. After last year's challenge, I had told both ladies that – at some point in the future – I would like to try the competition alone, as a personal challenge to myself. When we realized that this event was much sooner than any of us felt comfortable in trying to plan a new project in, I asked if both ladies would mind bowing out of the event and allowing me to try my hand by myself. Both women were lovingly supportive, while also telling me that I was completely daft for trying it... but I was determined.

Ever since I joined the society, I have been dreaming about creating my own set of garb entirely by myself – from harvesting the fibers (and growing them, if possible and applicable) to spinning the fibers into threads and yarns to weaving those fibers into fabric, then hand sewing that fabric into a garment for myself – but only after hand dyeing the fabric to my desired shades. This is my dream. However, since I had neither a garden to grow flax, nor sheep of my own to shear, I decided that I would frame the scope of my own project for this year's Golden Seamstress competition to hand-sewing the entire project using only the tools, equipment, and materials that were available to me in the twelfth century of Our Lord, as my mother taught me. Though I had often hand-sewn small projects in court as gifts or mementos, I never needed to sew my own clothes before – they had always been provided to me. However, without the support and resources of my family any longer, I have begun to learn to use these skills in a much more self-sufficient way.

Soo... I set a short-term goal of patterning and sewing my own linen kirtle, silk bliaut, leather turn shoes in the Poulaine style (or as some call it today, “the Polish” or “Krakow” style), and tablet weave my own wool or silk cincture. I knew I wouldn't get all of those things done by myself in one sitting at the Golden Seamstress event, however, I hoped I would finish the kirtle and, at the very least, the entire bliaut. I brought renderings of sculptures that I had seen in my travels throughout Normandie and the surrounding duchies and counties, including portraits of two different female sculptures at the Cathedral of our Lady de Chartres in Chartres (built between 1140 – 1150 of Our Lord), a sculpture of Saint Clotilde from Notre-Dame de Corbeil in Corbeil (recently built between 1170 – 1180), a sculpture of a woman found at the Church of Saint Thibaut from Provins (built between 1160 – 1170), a sculpture of a woman at Saint Maurice Cathedral from Angers (built sometime in the last ten to fifteen years, but no earlier than 1170), and one sculpture of a man wearing a similarly-styled bliaut at the Cathedral Basilica de Saint Denis from Paris (built right around the middle of this century, from 1145 – 1150). Using these images, I would be able to demonstrate to the judges what the popular style was after which I would fashion my garb.

Incidentally, in the few months leading up to the Quest for the Golden Seamstress, I had been rebuilding my sewing kit – to reproduce exactly what I had in Normandie in the second and third quarters of the twelfth century. I brought that kit, eight yards of brightly dyed blue silk, four yards of naturally colored linen, a combination of linen, silk, and wool threads and yarns, as well as all of the courage and determination that I could muster. When I showed up to the event, several people (dressed very differently than me) came by my workspace and commented that I was missing some things that were usually used “today” for sewing. According to them, I had no sewing machine, no serger, no patterns, no stitch ripper, no measuring tape,

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*(Quest for the Golden Seamstress—Continued from page 10)*

no cutting board, and no dress form. Frankly, I had no idea what they were talking about... has someone actually machinated sewing??? That seemed dafter to me than my idea of trying this challenge alone.

After a brief welcome, the reading of the rules, and an introduction to some crucial bits of news, the competition began just two hours before midnight. I spent the first hour mentally mapping out how I would pattern the bliaut, then used a linen string to figure out how much material I needed – and in which directions – for the dress. By the second hour, I was using my charcoal marker to mark out on my silk where I would be cutting the fabric. In the third hour, I finalized cutting and pinning all of pieces for the bliaut. I had to stop a few times to sharpen my thorn pins with my whetstone, as the thorns were beginning to snag on the fine silk threads.



Photographer Credit: Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch



Photographer Credit: Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

I also had to soothe several women who began panicking when they thought the smell of my freshly burnt charcoal marker was actually something burning that they had “plugged in”. By the fourth hour, I was ready to actually pick up my bone needle and begin sewing; my bliaut was completely cut, made symmetrical, and pinned to make sure everything should fit correctly. Unfortunately, I quickly learned that the bone needle I had acquired was too wide to use. The head of the needle was nearly as wide as 5 warp strands and the thread kept popping out of the hole created by the needle. I immediately changed over to my iron needle, which has ended up being my personal favorite with which to sew large projects.

In hours five and six, I had gotten into a rhythm and was now doing decorative work with yellow silk thread (that I had previously dyed with weld) along the neckline. Although my plan was to eventually cover up this handiwork with tablet woven trim, for the purposes of the Quest for the Golden Seamstress competition I knew I wouldn't get the trim done in time so I wanted to apply just a bit of fancy needlework for the judges to view. By the end of the sixth hour, most of the participants had turned in for at least a few hours of sleep. The staff, however, was extremely hospitable and kept bringing those of us who were still awake delicious snacks every other hour. Perhaps those snacks were a little distracting or maybe it was the lack of sleep, but I realized I had sewn about two thumb-lengths of my neckline in a way that was creating an undesirable coil of the material, so in the seventh hour I used my bone awl and iron snips to remove the stitches that I did not want to keep. This process was remarkably quick and very gentle to the silk fabric, but it did mean lost time in terms of sewing that section of neckline over again. I fixed my error and by the eighth hour, my bliaut was really beginning to take shape!

I spent the ninth and tenth hours grabbing a small breakfast, attaching my sleeves to the torso of the dress, and realizing that I was definitely started to slow down. My back muscles were in spasms, my eyelids were heavy, and the yawns would not stop, so I decided to take a brief nap. I sent out some missives to friends to ask them to help wake me up in an hour or two and hoped for the best (because frankly I sleep like the dead).

I don't remember actually falling asleep. What I do remember was a man whom I had never met gently removing my partially sewn bliaut from my face and saying as delicately as possible, “Are you Aveline?” “What?” I murmured in response. “Aveline... is that your name?” he repeated. “OH! Yes! Yes, that's me! Why do you ask...?” I inquired confused. “I received a message from Lady Celestria de Cranham; she said that someone needed to wake you up.” Apparently all other efforts to rouse me had not worked; this good gentle (whose name I think was Angus) had saved me! Who knows how long I would have slept...

I was into the twelfth hour, so I started working on sewing up the hems on the long sleeves of my bliaut. Within an hour, the judges were on site and set to review our work and give us tips, guidance, and extra encouragement. Throughout hours thirteen and fourteen, several teams of judges made their rounds while we continued our work. Three judges and I had a great

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(Quest for the Golden Seamstress—Continued from page 11)



Photographer Owned by: Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

debate on how to produce the best draping and ruching for the torso of the b্লাইট in my project to replicate the look of the paintings I mentioned earlier and I'm excited to experiment with some different techniques on my next few b্লাইটs.

By hour sixteen it was clear that I would not be finishing my kirtle, so I focused all of my efforts into finishing the b্লাইট as beautifully as possible. I would simply wear a yellow kirtle that I had brought to the event beneath the new b্লাইট. I decided to try on the b্লাইট over my kirtle to see how they would fit together and realized I had made one crucial error in patterning out the torso... I had measured only my underbust and not my bust, too, so I would have to insert gussets in the armpits of the sleeves to afford me some extra space in the right places. The next three hours were spent inserting those two gussets, then gathering and flouncing the silk across the torso and the skirt portion of the b্লাইট – which was a lot more work than I expected it would be.

I finished the b্লাইট with less than a half an hour left of work time. I ran to the fitting room to put everything on and make sure nothing was left undone. Good thing, too. In my haste, I coughed and popped a seam that held some ruching and things started unraveling quickly! I ran back to my work area and grabbed a needle, then sewed myself into the b্লাইট. This was particularly difficult because the rip was on the left side and I'm right handed; I was sucking my breath in the whole time to get the seam right. I divided my hair in half and braided each side, adding on some extra hair that I acquired to make my braids even longer (as was traditionally done by my peers), then wrapped fillets of blue silk around them, crisscrossing the fillets at strategic places along my braids to hide the juxtaposition of my on hair with the extra hair added.

Ultimately, there are many things wrong with my b্লাইট and that I'll either do differently next time or I'm going to go back and fix. The judges and mentors had great questions that really made me stop and think about every single decision I made and had several suggestions I never would have thought of.

The final tally of my weekend?

- \* I'm down one thorn. It broke while pinning.
- \* I'm down one iron needle. I lost it after sewing myself into my outfit, then subsequently taking it off.
- \* I won Second Place in the Advanced Division of the Middle Period Category (1100 to 1400 in the year of Our Lord).
- \* I was awarded "Baronesses' Choice," as selected by the three Baronesses in attendance and hosting this amazing event: Baroness Isabella Pallini, Baroness Una Uilebaine, and Baroness Catherine Aimée Le Moyne.
- \* I won a handful of amazing prizes and trinkets from my two wins, but the intangible benefits of this experience were even better...

I can't wait for next year's Quest for the Golden Seamstress competition!

Who will join me this time?



# BEING JAPANESE IN THE SCA

by Lord Shimazu Mitsunaga

Greetings, Shadowed Stars!

Coming out of our fifty year celebration, I am continually amazed at the capabilities of the populace of the society. We, as a whole, produce some amazing artifacts. The armor, embroidery, banners, and just about everything imaginable on display at fifty year were beyond amazing. You all deserve an amazing round of applause for all of the hard work and dedication to our amazing hobby.

Lady Inabe and I were discussing a few things about fifty year, and one of the big items was how many Japanese persona were at the event. In the context of the entire population, we probably had only a dozen or so dedicated Japanese persona on site, but we stick out quite well. There were several notables on site, but as a Japanese persona, I immediately try and pick out the people of a like-minded persona. I spotted several people I know, and several people who were knew to me personally, but whom I had seen on social media. All in all, a very good event for those of Asiatic influence.

It has me remembering how things used to be not long ago. I have been doing Japanese research for almost twenty years now, and things weren't always easy. I was blessed by the availability of teachers and mentors that had spent their precious free time teaching new people not only WHAT things were, but WHY things were. If not for those individuals, we would not have the excellent Japanese community that we have today.

The people who had it truly rough, the "first" generation if you will, are the giants, the legends of the Japanese community. They didn't have Google, they had to look information up the hard way, in a library. Libraries are those buildings with books in them....

My first mentor was a gentleman known mundanely as Anthony Bryant, Edward of Effingham to the society. He had written a pamphlet, which ballooned into a website that even several years after his untimely passing, is still regarded as the bible for Japanese persona in the society. He managed to wrap decades of practical knowledge and armoring into a web page that was easy to follow, but detailed enough to require constant reading and study. Even now, after having combed over the information dozens of times, I still find something new or remember something I had forgotten.

I would later be introduced to several other amazing people that I consider the first generation of Japanese persona. Viscount Sir Atai Yoshina and Sir Ogami are two other people that had to blaze a trail for others to follow. The hard work and dedication of both of these men are still felt to this day. Sir Ogami founded Clan Yama Kaminari, the largest Japanese household in the society. The clan has produced amazing research and items over the years. The length and breadth of which is too large to mention here. They are another example of amazing people producing fantastic results for not just themselves, but for the Japanese community at large.

Now, the number of Japanese persona has dramatically increased. Social media, has also helped bring a niche community together to share and expand knowledge. We count among our ranks Knights, Laurels, Pelicans, Count and Countesses, and Dukes and Duchesses. I have to wonder, if in 1980 Sir Yoshina or Sir Ogami had any idea that the Japanese community would evolve into this. It has been an amazing fifty year run for the Japanese community and the Society as a whole. I wonder what the next fifty years will bring about for the society.

# THE AWE-STRUCK NEWBIE

by **-Shadow Press Staff Writer-** Lady Zilia Del Guidice

My very first event was Mounted War Games 2015. Nothing could have prepared me and my children for this very unique event no matter how hard one tried. You see, I was supposed to take my children to the big Renaissance Festival in Michigan, up by Detroit. We had gone in 2013 and we had such a wonderful time that I wanted to take them again. We had had a really hard year already with the breakup of my ex and I as well as having to relocate to Fort Wayne which, in our minds, was huge at the time. I was planning everything out and figured this would be a really great get-away for all of us. Then my car broke down and I had to shell out some cash to get it fixed. This meant that I could not afford to take us up to the Renaissance Festival because of the cost of hotel, gas, food, and entrance fees and, of course, the children were going to want souvenirs.

One day at work I was talking with a co-worker, Alan Terlep (Master Fairfax) and I expressed how disappointed I was about this. He had mentioned he had been living in Fort Wayne for quite some time now and thought he might be able to fill me in on some other things we could do. He did, in fact, know of something. He asked me, "What if you could do something much better than the Renaissance Festival in Michigan? Something that was less costly and you and the kids could participate instead of just sit by and watch." I told him that would be wonderful! So, he proceeded to explain to me what he was talking about. I was not quite sure I understood fully, but he said to come with him to a meeting and he would get me hooked up and the kids would have a great time. So, that is what I did. I went to the meeting and still confused, but trusting that Alan would not lead me astray I went with the flow and registered the kids and I to go to Mounted War Games. Hahaha, when I think back about it I still laugh because once I explained things to the kids they went around the house in these deep over tone voices saying, "MOUNTED WAR GAMES" any time one of them wanted to be silly and ask what kind of fun thing they were going to do this summer. What a bunch of weirdos. Anyway, we really had no clue what we were getting ourselves into.

Friday of Labor Day weekend rolled around and everyone was so excited that the kids woke me irritatingly early. While they bounced around getting ready for the day and the youngest getting ready for school, I started packing things into the minivan. Once we were packed and the youngest got home from school we headed out to Bluffton in hopes that we would find our way to the fairground since we had never been there before. We pulled in where we saw a big sign marked "SCA" and then we followed the road to this building that made us hesitate for a moment because there was a sign that said, "Troll". One of the kids said, "Mom you never said anything about getting eaten by a troll this is bogus!" Then, everyone started laughing. So, I parked and we waited for Alan because we had no idea what to do at that point. Once he arrived he told us we had to "troll in" at first I thought I was hearing him wrong, but nope he took us to the building called troll and we "trolled in". My heart was beating so fast with excitement as I filled out paperwork and paid fees and bought meal plan tickets and picked out garb. I was going to be camping...with my kids...what the heck was I thinking!

Once we got all of the stuff required including something called a "site token" we headed over to put up tents. This was quite the task to say the least. I think it took us about 2 hours to get this tent up that we had never used before. By the time we finally got it put up it was dark out. We were tired, frustrated and so very hungry. Alan then took us over to concession area and we were greeted by a few people. I was of course nervous and timid, but no one seemed to mind. We were given some soup to eat with bread and I have to say it was the best soup I have ever eaten. My hard to please vegetarian daughter was so happy to have a vegetarian option that she probably had 3 bowls! We were introduced to Baroness Maggie and Baron Fergus while we were sitting down eating and, they both talked to me and my children for quite some time about what it meant to be a member of the Barony and the activities we could participate in. We still did not come close to comprehending what was in store for us over the weekend. After our bellies were full and we had been welcomed and made to feel comfortable we happily headed back to our tents and it was not long before we fell asleep.



Photographer Credit: Lady Zilia Del Guidice

This was what I woke up to that Saturday morning.

I laid there in awe of the beauty for quite some time.

I was mesmerized...

...and so thankful that I had gotten to wake up to this.

I was not allowed to camp as a kid so this was a sight to remember!

*(The Awe-Struck Newbie—Continued from page 14)*

Once I was able to tear myself away from the beauty above my tent, the kids dragged me to breakfast begging me to hurry up and eat because they had already eaten. As I was sitting there, sipping my coffee my youngest whom most of you know as Bean, came running up to me and repeatedly kept asking, "Are you done yet? Are you done yet? Are you done yet?" Finally, realizing she was not getting anywhere by doing that she stopped and sat down to which I inquired why she was so excited. She was so excited because there were horses and she was told she could help with the horses if it was okay with me. I said she could and I did not see her for quite some time after that. My boys went their own way as well. As I was finishing up breakfast, I saw some people putting on some weird-looking... well, I don't know what it was they were putting on and so I just watched for a bit. Then, once they were done they pulled out... weapons! I had to close my eyes and rub them for a bit and reopen them to make sure I was seeing that correctly. Yep! I was seeing weapons! They eventually started fighting with each other, but they were talking... maybe instructing or coaching. This was so odd and so fascinating! I was still not quite sure what was going on, but I was liking it!



Shortly after, Bean came running up to me again and said I need you to come with me and she dragged me by the hand to the building where we "trolled in" and took me to the back of the building where I had to rub my eyes again because I thought they were shooting bows and arrows... not just the adults, but the kids were doing it, too! Bean took me over to this guy with long hair and a silly hat and told him I was her mother. He turned around and smiled real big and introduced himself. He began to explain to me that Bean was wanting to shoot archery, but I had to sign consent and be present... did he just say that my daughter was allowed to shoot things with sharp pointy things? That is, in fact, what he was saying and then said I was welcome to do so as well. I was slightly awe-struck and feeling like this was not really happening, but I think I was able to fill the forms out to this nice guy's satisfaction because he handed us a bow and some arrows and started showing Bean what to do.

Bean was having the time of her life! I was, too! Neither of us could hardly believe we were shooting arrows... with bows!!! We spent a couple of hours doing this until we realized we were about to miss lunch if we didn't get over to the concession area. We laughed and talked like we hadn't done in so long. Bean wanted to go back over to archery, but I told her she had to wait until after Alan's class was done.

Alan's class was quite interesting and I learned quite a bit. I noticed as he was talking that people were really listening and they liked what he was talking about. This made me take a look at what else was going on and so my oldest kid and I took another class on sewing. Then, he and I watched some more fighting before Bean pulled us away to go watch the people who were doing all kinds of amazing things on horses!

Seriously, people were lopping of fake heads and shooting arrows at targets all while riding horses! Holy Moly! These people are teaching sewing and dying and fighting and shooting archery and riding horses while fighting! Who were these people?! They were nice and talked to us as if we mattered and, wow, were they all so talented! I had no idea if I could ever be as talented at anything like what these people were doing, but I sure wanted to be a part of it anyway! Bean agreed with me and so I got my phone out and we purchased our memberships right then and there!

The rest of our day was just as eventful as the first half and we went to our tents exhausted and utterly happy. We attended the Barony court that weekend as well and it was absolutely amazing! We were given some very lovely beads just for being there, we hadn't really done anything except show up and have fun and they were giving us stuff! We did not want the weekend to end, we wanted to stay forever!

We went back to our mundane lives wishing and hoping there would be more and guess what? There is more!!!

Ever since that amazing 2015 Labor Day weekend at Mounted War Games, I have been to several events. I have made some fabulous new friends and learned so many new things that I never imagined I could learn! Bean and I attend archery practice as often as we can and we attend A&S as well. We both feel so very welcomed and wanted. I have helped at some events as well and have even entered a story I wrote in one of the Queen's challenges. We feel very much at home every time we are at an event or a practice. Our lives are much more full and rich than they ever were before and for the first time we have something to look forward to each and every day.

Right now, I am awaiting ever so patiently for Pennsic to arrive because I have a feeling things are about to get even better! I do still continue to be amazed all of the time at what people in the SCA do. I am amazed at the knowledge that is collected within the society as well as the kindness and the acceptance as well. I am truly in love with the SCA and hope that Pennsic will only make my love that much stronger.

Thank you all, I appreciate you so very much.

# A YEAR IN SERVICE

by **-Shadow Press Staff Writer-** Warder Philipp Reimer von Wolfenbüttel

I'm not quite sure how I began my year in service to the Midrealm, or whether it was ever a conscious decision at all. Somehow, it just happened, and I'm all the richer for it.

Service is a funny thing in the SCA. We simply expect anyone who's been around a while to pitch in, and the level of service varies from person to person. In my case, service began in earnest for me a few years ago, when I assumed the offices of group Rapier Marshal and Webminister. Most of that kind of service is behind the scenes, and while it's certainly important, it isn't exactly what I mean.

I'm talking about the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves volunteer work that makes events run smoothly so everyone can have a good time. Sometimes it means running the show, but other times it means giving up an hour or two of your day to step up and do a job that needs to be done. What's more, it's the sort of thing that just about anyone invested in some aspect of the SCA can do.

So, what do I mean by a year of service? In the early summer, it suddenly dawned on me that of the two dozen events I've attended in the Midrealm over the past year (starting with Pennsic 44), I've performed two or more hours of service, often several more, teaching classes, running tournaments, or simply acting as a retainer for royalty at all but one event (Kingdom Twelfth Night). While I realized this may sound boastful, the experience has been extremely humbling and educational, and I've grown an entirely new level of respect for the sheer amount of effort that goes into The Dream.

Here are some of the things I've learned. While my personal interests in fencing are pretty advanced, I decided to focus my teaching almost exclusively on basic skills in an effort to fill in the gaps many self-taught fencers are missing. I thought I'd get a lukewarm reception and a few students in each class, and I was dead wrong. My basic "5 Essentials Skills..." classes on fencing was extremely rewarding and well-attended, but I experienced a similar phenomenon when I taught an introductory leatherwork class (a subject I'm far less of an authority on) at our local Twelfth Night celebration.

The lesson I learned from these classes was incredible. No matter how advanced your grasp of a subject may be, it's the basics people are generally after. Anyone who's attained an advanced understanding of a subject had a moment when the basics clicked into place. When you share the basics of your craft in such a way that people can understand them, you just might see that moment happen for someone else, and it's amazing to witness.

If you're a marshal, then picking up a shift marshaling here or there is pretty standard, as is doing things such as inspections and authorizations. Over the years, I've noticed fencers I hold in high regard—people who LOVE to fence—willingly step out for a few hours or even a whole day just to marshal. With that in mind, I decided to spend a decent chunk of my time at Pennsic 44 marshaling, and I enjoyed the experience so much, I just kept doing that after the war.

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*(A Year in Service—Continued from page 16)*

Deliberately setting aside part of my day to marshal reminded me of when I went through my marshal training process, and the things I saw conversations I got to have were almost as rewarding as the realization that my service allowed one more person to take the field and play. The coolest part is that once I'd figured out how to stagger my time marshaling against time on the list, I quickly realized that I was getting in about as much fencing as I had before, but I was enjoying it even more.

As I eased into taking over cut-and-thrust (C&T) fencing in the Midrealm, I decided to host a series of C&T tournaments to build up interest of the activity. I anticipated this being a real challenge, but it turned out that when I contacted MiC's in advance, none of them were the least bit reluctant to let me run a tourney or C&T activities for the day. C&T tourneys basically forbidden in the Midrealm until about two years ago, and the small population has limited their appeal. Once these tourneys started showing up, attendance grew and authorizations spiked. The effect was incredible.

All told, I learned two things from promoting C&T the way I have for the past year. First, if you want to run an activity, just ask. There are few people who will be offended by your willingness to help, even if you're from another group or even region. Second, sometimes the only reason awesome activities happen is because someone volunteered out of the blue to run the show. In fact, that's probably happened more often than you'd guess.

Retaining held another valuable lesson for me. I had a couple of great opportunities to retain in the past year, once for His Royal Majesty Nikolai, and once for His Royal Highness Cameron. Both of these experiences came with charming anecdotes, one of which involved assisting Nikolai as he attempted to don a sword belt provided by Duke Palymar for the purpose of wearing Oathbinder for the day. When you consider their difference in body types and the sheer mass of the sword, you can imagine the hilarity that ensued.

The thing is, we all love the our particular bailiwicks in the SCA, but it's the anecdotes you sit around the campfire and share, and there are few better ways to collect them than by stepping off your path for a minute, and serving as a retainer is an excellent way to do that. And that's really what my year of service boils down to.

In the past year, I've spent a lot of time less focused on myself and more focused on others, and I wouldn't trade the experiences I've had for awards or glory on the list. Next time you see that call for retainers, servers, or guards, don't think of the time you'll lose doing what you love, think about the stories and experiences you'll gain.

# EVENT REPORT & PHOTO COLLECTION: AN IN-PERSONA VIEW OF SPRING CORONATION

by **-Shadow Press Staff Writer-** Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

"I began flitting about my shop, trying to straighten the remaining items for sale, greet the last few patrons with as much enthusiasm as possible, and conclude sales with at least two of those patrons, but I was decidedly distracted about the events ahead.

"Despite being raised amongst some of the most highly regarded families in northern Normandie, I had never had occasion to actually witness something like this. For Normans, an event like this usually only happened every 19 to 22 years on average... However, this land's inhabitants faithfully perform this sacred ceremony twice a year.

"My mother often told me the story of a gentlewoman who had once recounted meeting Adela, the Countess de Blois, William the Conqueror's third born child and mother of Stephen, King of England (may He rest in peace), but this... THIS story... I was certain it would be one I would tell my children and my children's children of the day I saw Their Royal Highnesses Cameron and Amalie crowned by Their Royal Majesties Nikolai and Serena. This was the first coronation I would ever have the privilege to observe.

"I was extremely eager to secure a good place to sit, so I grabbed two large wooden benches from my shop and carried both on my shoulders, trying to be careful not to break a sweat or to mess up my dress. I hoped, however, that my offer of more seating space would win me an excellent purview of the day's most important activities. My plan worked. I was directed to place the benches just along the inside of the natural aisle way that developed in anticipation of the royal's descension upon our humble square, midway down the path – it was the perfect spot.

"I sat as close to the aisle way as possible, smoothed down my dress and the plaits in my hair, and waited for the procession to begin. Moments later (I had made it perfectly on time), in processed all of the barons and baronesses of the Middle Kingdom that were in attendance for the grand day. Following Their Excellencies were Their Royal Majesties Nikolai and Serena - the only king and queen I had yet known in this new land (though they used the titles "Tsar" and "Tsarina") and the only king and queen outside of my homeland that I had had the honor to swear fealty to.

"The Herald opened court and Tsar Nikolai explained to the populace that war in the east was looming; He explained that although He was certain we would prevail, He was not certain that He was the best man to lead our kingdom during this time. Tsar Nikolai began summoning various people before Him, thanking them for their loyalty and service and releasing each person respectively from their duties. During this time, I noticed there was a small girl seated directly behind me. When I looked back, I noticed she was having a difficult time seeing over my shoulders, so I offered for her to sit beside me on the very inside of the aisle way. She happily agreed, hopped up and sat beside me, then took my hand and held it in the most loving way. I had never had occasion to meet this lovely young lady before, but as a mother of two boys, I appreciated the gesture of friendship and gave her hand a gentle squeeze.

"At one point during court, there was a small lull and the little lady stroked my long braids and played with the silk that was festively wrapped around them. She asked me why my hair was festooned as such and I explained to her that this was a custom of the noblewomen in my lands. I further pointed to all of the beautiful women in veils and wimples and explained that, although it was their people's custom to cover their heads, the popular fashion for Norman women was to forego a veil and wear our braids proudly.

"Our small personal conversation concluded and Tsar Nikolai summoned forth his son, Prince Cameron, to ask the prince whether or not he felt comfortable leading our kingdom in the war against the East. The young girl squeezed my hand excitedly as the prince rode in upon horseback and then it hit me as she looked up and whispered, "That's my Daddy!" I was sitting next to THE Lady Madeline... the soon-to-be Princess Royal! What an honor indeed!

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*(Spring Coronation—Continued from page 18)*

"Tsar Nikolai crowned Prince Cameron the newest king of the Middle Kingdom, whereupon King Cameron II summoned forth His radiant wife Amalie (who also arrived in court on the back of a beautiful steed) to crown her His queen. Lady Madeline and I looked at each other excitedly because the entire moment was simply so magical. For a moment, I, too, felt like a young girl - just so enamored and giddy about the whole experience - watching them both ride into court on horseback and watching this new king be installed as He called forth those that He would surround himself with during His reign. The whole ceremony was conducted with such reverence and dignity that, as a new citizen of the Middle Kingdom in this Known World, I have grown an entire new respect and love for this kingdom (though I sorely miss Normaundie). I had already been thoroughly impressed with the wisdom, gentle natures, and warm and welcoming spirits of Tsar Nikolai and Tsarina Serena. In watching King Cameron and Queen Amalie during this coronation, I was excited to anticipate an equally enjoyable reign under them, as well.

"The sweet Lady Madeline excused herself as she was called away by those that serve her father and mother, our new king and queen, and the ceremony came to an end quickly thereafter. I wanted to linger amongst the people assembled and revel in the experience we had all just had, but I was bound to my shop and quickly returned to my place.

"Later that evening, my friend Lady Albina Gerardi recounted a story to me and to others about King Cameron II that made me adore our new king even more. She told us how she had the privilege of retaining for His Majesty just hours after he had been crowned. While His Majesty Cameron visited with a baroness of the Middle Kingdom, an older gentleman approached His Majesty to beg a boon. The man asked the king to walk over to the man's wagon, so that the man might introduce his parents and so that the man's parents might ask of the king several questions they had regarding our society. Without a thought of Himself, the king gladly walked over to the wagon (where all of the other wagons were parked for the week's end) and stood in the lot answering questions for several minutes; the king explained how our society works, the procedure for selecting our royalty, the upcoming Crown Tournament, and a handful of other questions about the society. Lady Gerardi watched as the king not only answered all of the questions, but then posed for a portrait, as well. She was so inspired by the king, that as she recounted the events, she beamed in saying, "We are ALL Chatelaines. If a man, who is as busy as the king, allowing all of the populace to further enjoy our dream by being our king, will take time out for the public, the least the populace can do is to follow that lead. Help newcomers however you can - in whatever capacity you are able."

"When I first found myself outside of Normaundie, I must admit I was homesick and battled uncertainty as I began to navigate within this kingdom and this society. Having had occasion to observe and interact with the good people of the Middle Kingdom - and not just the populace, but those of the highest levels of nobility and esteem - I cannot speak more highly of another kingdom and its people. I am glad that this is where my ship landed and that this, for the foreseeable future, is my home.

Draco Invictus!"



Photographer Credit: Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

*(Continued on page 20)*

(Spring Coronation—Continued from page 19)



Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch (author) smooths down her plaits as she awaits the festivities.



The Baron and Baroness get ready to process down the aisle way at Spring Coronation.



Tsar Nikolai and Tsarina Serena lead the procession.



Tsarina Serena looks on at the populace.



Prince Cameron comes into court on horseback.



Prince Cameron kneels before Tsar Nikolai and Tsarina Serena as he is crowned.

(Continued on page 21)

(Spring Coronation—Continued from page 20)



Princess Amalie comes into court on horseback.



Princess Amalie dismounts her steed.



Prince Cameron and Princess Amalie make their pledge to Tsar Nikolai and Tsarina Serena



Tsar Nikolai and Tsarina Serena lead the prTsar Nikolai prepares to free a hawk with Lord Gwydion Gwrando.



Tsar Nikolai and Tsarina Serena help free a hawk with Lord Gwydion in a symbolic gesture to mark the end of their reign.

(Continued on page 22)

(Spring Coronation—Continued from page 21)



The Order of Chivalry pledge fealty to King Cameron II and Queen Amalie II.



King Cameron II admires the Kingdom Herald's new staff.



Herald Konrad Mailander, Baroness Maggie MacKeith, Baron Fergus MacPherson, and Lord Gavin Hawkerton look on and laugh at court, while Lord Gavin presents a tournament prize.

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## FROM THE HISTORIAN

### A Call for Information!

As the Historian, it is my job to gather, organize, and preserve the history of Shadowed Stars from its humble beginnings right up to the present-day. If you have any information, please contact me.

Thank you for the help,

Lady Zoe Dukiana

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## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The second annual Shadowed Stars Fiction Challenge has been canceled for 2016. Look for it in 2017!

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## BARONIAL OFFICERS

### **Seneschal**

*Captain Ulrich  
Halfdan Ulfsson*

### **Chatelaine**

*Warder Mael Duin mac  
Gilla Ennae*

### **Minister of A&S**

*Lady Leandra Corzi*

### **Herald**

*Master Alan Fairfax*

### **Exchequer**

*THL Solveig Sigulfsdottir*

### **Knights' Marshal**

*Lord Fergus McPherson*

### **Rapier Marshal**

*Lord Rashid Al-Sanna*

### **Archery Marshal**

*Lord Gnydion Gwrando*

### **Thrown Weapons Marshal**

*Lady Bezwit Estegnet Seyon*

### **Equestrian Marshal**

*Lancer Gwendolyn of  
Shadowed Stars*

### **Webminister**

*Lady Prudence of Colleah*

### **Chronicler**

*Lady Broinninn ingen  
Magnusa*

### **Dance Coordinator**

*Lady Leandra Corzi*

### **Historian**

*Lady Zoe Dukiana*

### **Chief Armorer**

*Lord Gian di Fauro*

### **List Mistress**

*Lady Zoe Dukiana*

## FROM THE CHRONICLER

### THE BARONY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- ◆ We need everyone to submit content for our newsletter! Things like: Editorials, pictures, Event Reports, Persona Bios, Artwork, and short stories up to 3,000 words for the quarterly newsletter!
- ◆ If you would like to create a regular or semi-regular column or have ideas of things we can include in future issues, please contact us at [chronicler@shadowedstars.org](mailto:chronicler@shadowedstars.org)!



### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ **Submit by November 20, 2016, for inclusion in the 4th Quarter issue.**

### RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ Release Form types:
  - \* Creative - For all articles, poems, original artwork that is not a photograph, and the like // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
  - \* Photographer - Photographs // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
  - \* Model - For the recognizable person(s) in the photograph(s) // You get signed by people in your submitted photograph, turn it in with your photo, and we keep on file.
- ◇ Model Release Forms are available for download from [midrealm.org/chronicler](http://midrealm.org/chronicler).
- ◇ **If you are unable to print needed Release Forms, please let the Chronicler know and they will be supplied for you.**
- ◆ Pictures:
  - ◇ Submit as many photos as you can of our Barony activities as well as events and happenings of the SCA groups around us!
  - ◇ Needed with Submission: Name of Event, date, location, SCA titles and names of those in the photo
  - ◇ Appropriate Model Release forms for those who are recognizable
- ◆ Images from the internet:
  - ◇ If you include an image from the internet with your submission, please make sure to include the active URL link to it.

### PUBLISHED MEETING MINUTES:

- ◆ Monthly Business Meeting and Officers Meeting minutes are being transcribed and are available for viewing after the meeting takes place.
- ◆ To view them, please access the online Files section on the Shadowed Stars Facebook group or at the links available on the Publications page at [shadowedstars.midrealm.org](http://shadowedstars.midrealm.org).

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