

# Official Newsletter for the Barony of Shadowed Stars



Constellation Region of the Middle Kingdom

## THE SHADOW PRESS

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Winter Edition 2019



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## A LETTER FROM OUR BARON Ulrich Halfdon Ulfsson

Hails!

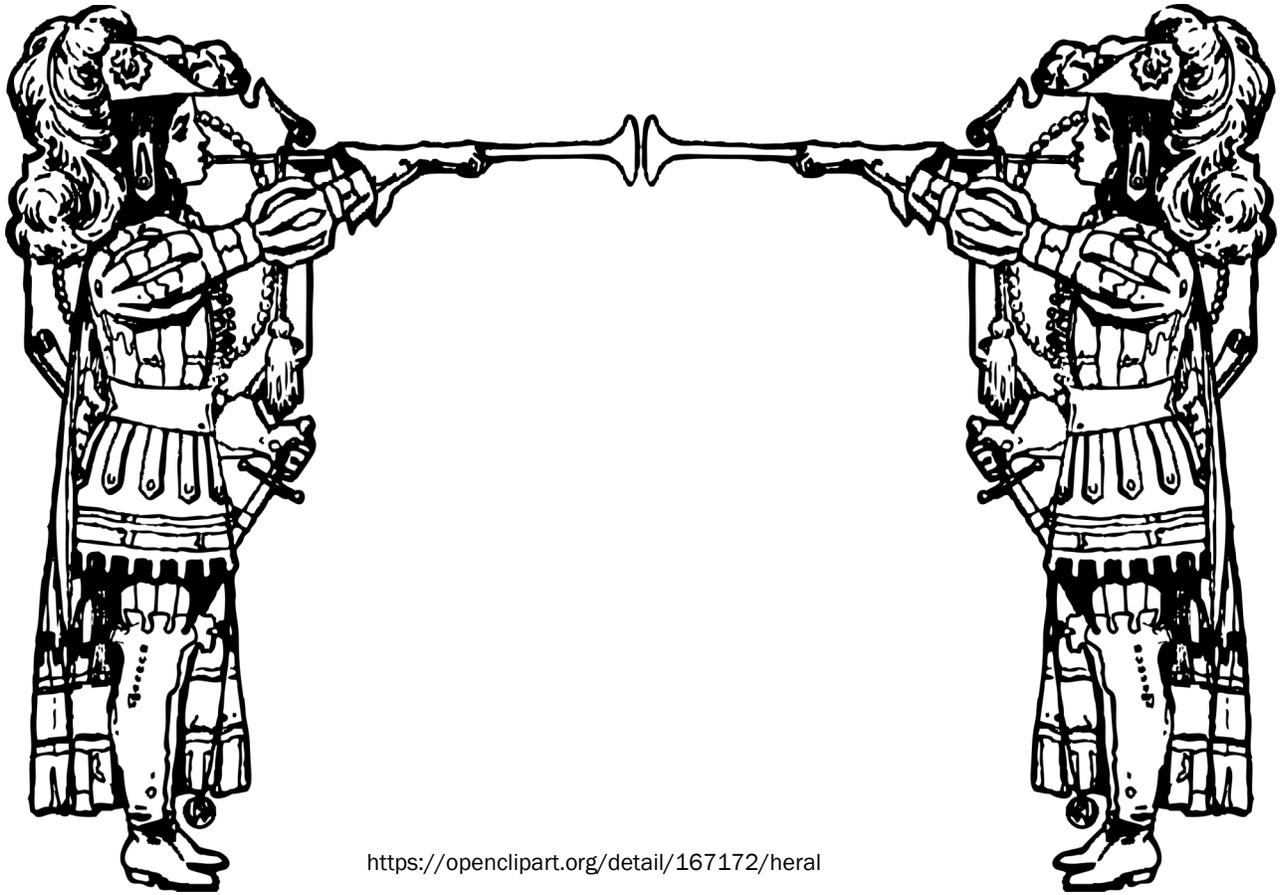
The harvest is in, the leaves have fallen, and the seasons have changed. On this quiet autumn night, I send greetings and wishes for happy holidays to everyone. As the nights have grown longer, we turn our attention to our families and hearths settling in for the long winter nights. I look forward to enjoying a relaxing 12th night in the new year and will be having a Baronial Court to recognize Barony members that have gone above and beyond in service to the dream. We have a good day of classes, friend, and comradery to look forward to followed by what surely will be another fine feast to celebrate another successful year.

I am very pleased that our Barony has, once again, been chosen to host spring Coronation for our great Kingdom. This is a great honor for us and I hope so see many Baronial members volunteering to make it a great day for everyone attending. I have absolute confidence that will again show the Kingdom the quality of our great Barony.

Please watch in the coming months as we will have a Baronial champions day at one of our martial practices to determine the next heavy and rapier champion for the Barony and will decide the thrown weapons and archery champion at Coronation in the spring. So, enjoy a well-earned harvest and rest beside your warm hearths. I will see you all at 12th Night, until then I will simply wish you all the happiest of holidays and most joyous and prosperous new year.

Yours in Service,

Ulrich



<https://openclipart.org/detail/167172/heral>

## BARONIAL CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

January 2019

Weekly Activities

Sundays: Sunday Fighter Practice, and Fencing Practice

Mondays: Monday Sewing Nights

12th Night: Saturday/ January 5th

Business Meeting: Monday January 28th

March 2019

Weekly Activities

Sundays: Sunday Fighter Practice, and Fencing Practice

Business Meeting: Monday/ March 25th

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February 2019

Weekly Activities

Sundays: Sunday Fighter Practice, and Fencing Practice

Mondays: Monday Sewing Nights

Business Meeting: Monday February 25th

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.

## Falconry

MSAS  
 Lord  
 Gwydion  
 Glyndwr

Photo Credit  
 Gwydion  
 Glyndwr



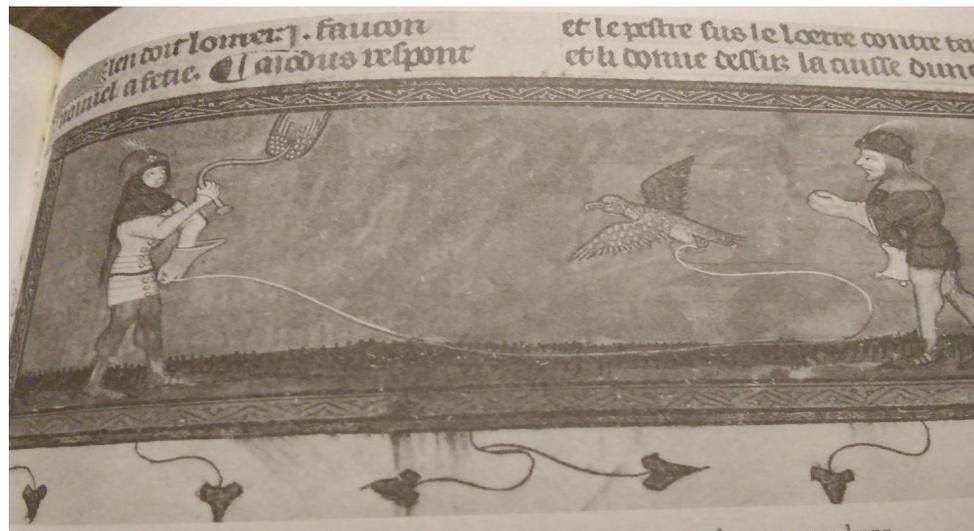
I am a General Class falconer and have been a falconer for 5 years. I currently have a Coopers Hawk named Abigail. Coops are part of a group of hawks called Accipiters. These hawks are distinguished by short, broad wings and relatively long legs, and long tail feathers adapted for fast flight in wooded country. They are a new world raptor, with a sparrowhawk being the most similar European equivalent. Coops are pretty common, but rarely seen cause they live most of their lives in deep woods or thick brushy areas. Most of my friends say Coops are crazy cause they run into too many trees while

hunting. Coops usually have whats called a butchers block. A nesting pair will have a stump nearby their nest that they use to pluck all the feathers off their prey before feeding it to the babies.

My plan for hunting her is to hunt her on pigeons. I got her from another falconer that found her in his pigeon coop. It's a pretty good indication that she is already interested in pigeons. She has already been flying to the glove and to the lure. The lure can be anything that the bird associates with a large amount of food. If ever in a sticky situation the lure can be used to get them out of it. The use of lures can be seen in period manuscripts.

*Arts and Sciences are those skills, crafts, and technologies that were practiced within the time period and the cultures covered by the SEA.*

*Examples: Beekeeping, Sewing, Coining, Cooking, Historical Martial Arts, Blacksmithing, Weaving, Brewing, Jewelry Making, Woodworking, Painting, Calligraphy, Illumination, Papermaking, Embroidery, Shoemaking, Tent design and creation, Research, Music, Perfumery, Hair Braiding, Fabric Stamping, Swordsmithing, Book Binding, Falconry, and ETC.*



To be continued.....

\*Photo of manuscript: The art of Medieval Hunting: The hound and the Hawk

## Simple Heat Treating

Sir Marcus Von Westphal, Laurel

A Tool's World

One thing that seems to be consistent across many art forms in reenactment is the need to make your own specialized tools. Often these tools require the use of steel, but there can be a lot of misunderstanding or misconceptions about the proper way to heat-treat the steel used. I would like to present a very basic guide to understanding the process of heat-treating steel and some simple methods to reliably heat treat steel in your own shop.

### Equipment Required

**A heat source** – You will need something to get the metal you are heat-treating up to at least a red-orange heat. Depending on the size of what you are heat treating this is easily done with a propane or acetylene torch. When using a torch it helps to back the piece with a firebrick. This will reflect the otherwise wasted heat back onto the piece and make your torch more effective. You can purchase an inexpensive firebrick at the hardware store for about \$2-\$3. They are usually located where the wood burning stove equipment is.

**Quench Medium** – The quench medium is the liquid that you will plunge the hot metal into for cooling. For simple 10XX or W series steels water works well for everything else, it is best to use warm oil. The most effective and locally available quench oil is canola cooking oil. It provides a safe and effective oil quench for most oil-hardening steels. Do not use any type of motor or transmission oil. In addition to not being very effective, they can also contain additives that are harmful. Commercial quench oils can be purchased online from a number of suppliers. (See below)

**Magnet** – In order for steel to harden properly, it must be heated to its critical temperature. Without the use of a controlled heat environment, the easiest way to determine this is to test the magnetic attraction of the metal. When steels reaches critical temperature, it will become non-magnetic. I use one of the inexpensive magnetic pickup sticks you can buy at the hardware or auto parts store but really, any rare earth type magnet will work as long as the hot steel does not melt it.

### Process

The heat-treating process consists of three basic steps; Normalizing, Hardening and Tempering. In order to effectively heat treat steel, each step must be completed.

#### Step 1, Normalizing:

Normalizing is the process of 'resetting' the steel to prepare it for hardening. This step relieves any stresses introduced into the metal from forging or machining and refines the grain structure of the steel.

To normalize, heat the piece to a non-magnetic state and then allow it to air cool to a black color. Repeat this process 1-2 times.

#### Step 2, Hardening:

Hardening is the process of taking a soft steel alloy and making it very hard but brittle.

To harden, heat the piece to a non-magnetic state and quench in either water or heated oil depending on the steel type. When quenching you will want to agitate the piece up and down gently to help promote a uniform quench. Continue to agitate the piece in the quench medium for at least 15 seconds or until all the bubbling has stopped.

#### Step 3, Tempering:

Hardened steel is too brittle to use in the as quenched state; tempering is the process of drawing some of the brittleness out of the hardened steel making it slightly softer but tougher and more usable. By controlling the temperature at

which you temper, you can control the working properties of the steel from very hard, but brittle to softer and more spring like.

To temper most common steels, heat the hardened steel to between 350F – 550F. 350F-450F will provide a piece that is very hard but more prone to chipping or fracturing, 450F-550F will provide a piece that is more spring like and flexible but softer and more easily bent or deformed. Your kitchen oven will work well for this. Preheat the oven and place the item in center of the oven for 30-60 minutes to ensure a thorough temper.

You can also temper with a torch or forge. To do this you will need to first file or sand a section so that you can see shiny metal. Once you have an area shiny, carefully heat it and watch the oxidation colors. It will start as light straw/yellow and then progress through yellows, browns and into purples, violets, and blues. The temper is determined by color. A light straw or yellow will be close to 350F and deep blue will be close to 550F. Be careful heat will build quickly and it is easy to over-shoot the desired temper. If that happens, you can start over with normalizing and do the whole process again.

### Tips

Heat the steel slowly to avoid overheating and check often with a magnet, the critical temperature is lower than you might think.

Avoid working in bright light. This will let you see the color of the steel better.

Warm quench oil and water to at least 120F. This will make it more effective.

When quenching a blade plunge it in point first and avoid making any side-to-side motion. You can draw the blade up and down to agitate. This will help prevent warping.

Prepare your tempering oven ahead of time and temper immediately after quenching. Delaying the temper cycle could cause fracturing.

If you are tempering with a torch, aim for straw/brown for a punch or small working knife and violet/blue for larger blades or impact tools

If making punches, be sure to temper the striking end of the punch to at least a deep blue or dull red color. This will prevent dangerous chipping or fracturing of the tool.

### Annealing

Annealing is the process of making already hardened steel malleable again. It is very similar to normalizing but involves a much slower cool down time. To do this, heat the piece to a non-magnetic state and then cool it slowly by burying it in warm sand, pearlite or ash. Once cooled the steel will be in a softened state that can be more easily worked with tools. The steel can then be re-heat treated as above if desired.

## Suppliers

### Commercial Quench Mediums

**McMaster Carr:**

sells both an 11 second and 28 second quench oil. I would recommend the 11 second oil.

<http://www.mcmaster.com/#quenching-oil/=qlb0vy>

**Maxim Oil:**

sells small quantities of several commercial quench oils, including Parks 50 and Houghton K.  
(817) 293-4645 ask for Lee or Carla

<http://www.maximoil.com/index.html>

**USA Knifemaker:**

Small quantities of Parks 50 can be purchased here.

<https://usaknifemaker.com/parks-50-quench.html>

### Simple steel alloys

For punches or tools, I would recommend O1 or W1. For knives 1075, 1095 or 5160 are great choices.

**McMaster Carr:**

Bars: <http://www.mcmaster.com/#standard-steel-sheets/=13a5suu>

Rods: <http://www.mcmaster.com/#standard-steel-rods/=13a5sxn>

**New Jersey Steel Baron:**

A variety of steels for Bladesmithing

<http://newjerseysteelbaron.com/>

**USA knife Maker:**

A bladesmithing supply and tool store.

<http://usaknifemaker.com/>

**Admiral Steel:**

a small selection of blade steels

<http://www.admiralsteel.com/shop/>

## A Lifetime in the SCA

Mistress  
Maggie  
MacKeith

Photo Credit  
Solveig  
Sigulfsdottir



These two Pennsic pictures are about 20 years apart. Our first Pennsic together was XXV. This last one was XLVII (although that pic is from Pennsic XXIV). We have missed a few along the way, due to surgeries, family trips, etc. But we've made far more than we missed. My first Pennsic was actually XVII. Out of the 31 years in the SCA, I've likely been to 25 or so. And there are STILL things I haven't done at Pennsic!

It's my favorite event, even though it's grown into something quite different than what it was in 1988. I love watching the fighting. I love the shopping. I love the choice of classes. I love volunteering in so many different capacities. But most of all, I love seeing my best friends every day. I love staying up and laughing around a campfire with them, even if I don't stay up as late as I used to do.

Some of my favorite Pennsic moments:

- Waking up early enough to see the mist on the battlefield (we have a great view from our camp)

- Doing a cart shift for The Watch at night and seeing all the lights laid out before me from the top of Mt Eislinn

- Watching Fergus fight in the Champions' Battle

- Midrealm Court, whether long or short, with all its pageantry and pomp

- Campfires where the circle keeps expanding as more people wander in to join us

- Sitting under the big kitchen tent and laughing with people I love

- Town runs with giggles and air conditioning that I take for granted the rest of the year

- Two uninterrupted weeks with Fergus, my best friend and my favorite man in the world

In 2019, we are going to Gulf Wars together. We have rented a house about 30 minutes from site and will be sharing it with some good friends. Neither of us have ever been to Gulf Wars before, so we are looking forward to discovering it together. It's nice to think that there can still be new things to do in the SCA after 30 years.

As I begin to think about packing for Gulf Wars, I'd love to hear from some of you who've been before: what kind of garb should I plan on? What is something you've forgotten but wished you'd brought? What is something on site that I absolutely SHOULD NOT MISS? And anything else you'd like to tell me. Send me a note on Facebook or find me at 12th Night or another event. I'd love to hear your tips!

And finally, I challenge you all to do something you've never done in the SCA in the coming year. Take a little time and rediscover your passion for the Society and what brought you to this wonderful group.

With hopes for a wonderful holiday season, filled with light, love and laughter for all of you, I remain

Maggie MacKeith



Phot Credit

Leandra Corxi

Draco  
Invictus!!

Baron  
Fergus  
Mac-  
Pherson

Photo Credit:  
Fergus Mac-  
Pherson

Domesday



Draco Invictus!!

It's that time of year for Domesday Reports!! Most members don't have to deal with this, but officers at all levels do. I have recently taken over as the Regional Armored Marshal, and with the new portal, it has been especially hectic.

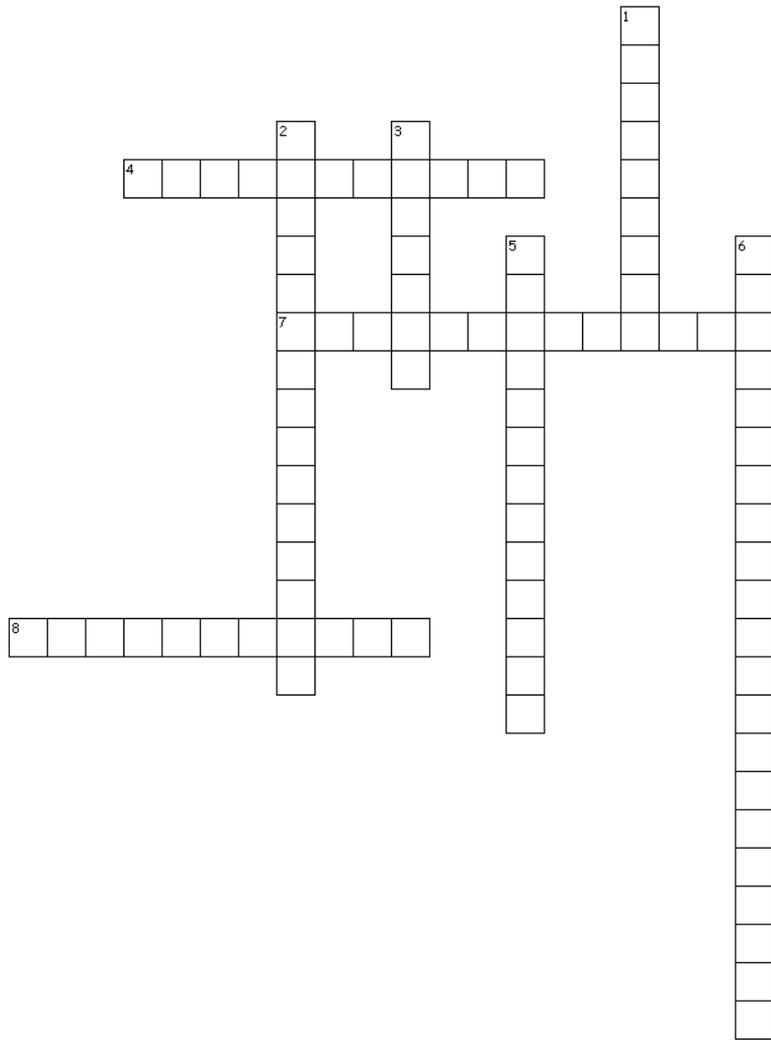
Luckily, the Exchequer Domesday isn't for another month. The portal is now our one-stop shop for many of our needs. Many are still struggling with the new portal. Multiple names, incorrect spellings, mobile phone issues, etc. As a Regional officer, I have special access and can help with some issues and questions, but major issues need to go through the web minister officers. Change is difficult and we have needed to update some of the ways we do things. Once you log in, you can update your info and post a pic of yourself. Very handy when many of us use mundane names on Facebook. Always nice to match a name to a photo. You may also limit the info others can see on your portal profile.

I encourage everyone to do this as soon as possible. Since this is where award recommendations are done now, it will be easier to locate that person needing a write up. I will have my laptop at our 12th Night celebration on January 5th. If anyone has questions or issues, come find me.

In Service, Baron Fergus MacPherson

Fun With Crosswords

Must  
Read  
Books



Across

- 4. Cooking book of manuscripts for recipes attributed to the cooks of King Henry II
- 7. French poem about courtly love, written in two parts circa 1230 and 1275
- 8. 9th century gospel

Down

- 1. German Fighting Manual
- 2. Author of Canterbury Tales
- 3. Illustrated works by Hildegard van Bingen for 26 religious visions she experienced circa 1151-1152
- 5. semi-biographic Spanish poetry from 1330 AD written by Juan Ruiz
- 6. 14th century novel Of an English Christian Mystic

Key to

Must  
Love  
Books

Across

4. FormeofCury
7. RomandelaRose
8. TheBookofKells

Down

1. Tolhoffer
2. GeoffreyChaucer
3. Scivias
5. TheBookofLove
6. TheBookofMargeryKempe

My SCA  
Start and  
What  
12th  
Night  
Means  
to Me

Lady  
Leandra  
Corzi



The SCA is many things to so many people. To some it is the escape from the mundane responsibilities that wear them down, some it is the medium that allows them to funnel their artist endeavors, and some see this as their second family. I was 20 years old when I found the SCA. I had gone to the local Ren fair that was around the corner from my grandparent's house in the 90's, and then thanks to two of my friends found myself at the Shire of Shadowed Stars 12th night in 2001. I went with one of my other friends at the time, as Baroness Aminah who had invited us, spent the day in the kitchen. In a relatively small room. The Church that we were in had a small little room that had been divided into a couple of sections so that both the heavy fighters were on the tiny stage at the end of the room, and two small lists for fencing had been set. The small sanctuary had been set up for the couple of merchants that had come along with a bean count A&S competition. Master Hroar was there with a table in the hallway next to the kitchen, with mugs and some cups. It was a small event, but in my early years in the SCA, until our 12th night was no longer an official event, this was one of my favorite events. Over the years at the church there were quite a few years, that as I had to work that day, that I would be able to come at two or three in the afternoon. One year, I remember baking we made these giant star cakes for all the tables, so that most of the day I was in the tiny basement kitchen putting them together, as Alcinda and I had baked them ahead of time so that we just had to cut and shape them.

I still love our 12th night, where it feels more like a family get together than an event. We have nibbles and chat all day. Sometimes if it is nice, we manage to get a little bit of the fighting in for the rapier and heavy crowd. There are crafts, and sorting of gold key stuffs for the next years projects, and feast feels like a big family dinner. This is one of the things that I love and adore about our group, and hope that this tradition of the group 12th night will always continue.

## BARONIAL OFFICERS

### **Seneschal**

Warder Mael Duin mac  
Gilla Ennae

### **Chatelaine**

Lady Aiofe  
inghean Eoghain

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

Lord Gwyndian Glyndwr

### **Herald**

Muirenn ingen Fáelchon Uí  
Clerigh

### **Exchequer**

Baron Fergus MacPherson

### **Knights' Marshal**

Lord Gavin Hawkerton

### **Rapier Marshal**

### **Archery Marshal**

Velos tou Patmos

### **Thrown Weapons**

#### **Marshal**

Lady Prudence of  
Colleah

### **Equestrian Marshal**

Lancer Gwendolyn of  
Shadowed Stars

### **Webminister**

Lady Prudence of Colleah

### **Chronicler**

Lady Leandra Corzi

### **Historian**

Lady Zoe Dukiana

### **Bardic Coordinator**

Lady Muirenn Ingen Fael-  
chon Ui Clerigh

### **Chief Armorer**

Lord Gian di Fauro

## 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 December 15, 2018, for inclusion in the next 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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