

THE SHADOW PRESS



Official Newsletter for the Barony of Shadowed Stars

Constellation Region of the Middle



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FROM THE BARON AND BARONESS

Greetings to the wonderful citizens of the Barony of Shadowed Stars,

As I sit here today, with less than a month left in our tenure as your Baron and Baroness, I am feeling reflective and thoughtful about the time we have spent in these roles. Between the two of us, we have over 50 years of experience in this wonderful hobby. In my 31 years, I have lived in three kingdoms, but have been in the Midrealm since 1990. It is my home, for sure. Fergus has spent his entire SCA career here in the Middle.

When I started, all those years ago, I was 16 years old and had no clue about anything. I didn't know what a pointy hat was, what peers were, or really even understand what the terms Barony and Shire meant. I still remember my first event and the young man who walked by me, pausing with a bow and said "M'lady" in greeting. I was HOOKED! Here was the realm of chivalry and honor; here were the ladies and lords of old! I've been doing this a long time and found out, back at the beginning, that service is what really called to me. I am happiest when those around me are happy. So, in my time in the Society, I have served as local officers, regional officers, Kingdom office deputy and many more roles. I have loved them all.

Fergus found his love for the SCA once we met. I can still see him, being taped into his carpet armor, getting ready to fight at the Three Rivers Festival demo at Lakeside Park. He, too, has found service to be something he enjoys. He fights, yes, but he also has served as local and regional officer and on the command staff for the army. You would be hard pressed to find him at our events when he's not working.

However, neither of us ever thought we would have the opportunity to do what we have done these last few years. To serve as the Baron and Baroness of Shadowed Stars has been the very best and brightest of our time in the SCA. If I close my eyes and think back on these last three years, there were some bumps in the road, but, more than anything, I see all of you. I see your smiling faces and hear your laughter. I see you receiving awards, working, fighting, cooking, sewing, teaching, volunteering, and, most often, having fun.

Now the time has come for us to step aside and welcome our new Baron, Sir Ulrich. We are excited for this next phase for this group. We know that Sir Ulrich will do a wonderful job and we look forward to serving him and the Barony in the coming years, as we know you will continue to do.

Thank you. Thank you all so much for trusting in us at this important time for our Barony. Thank you for giving us such a treasure trove of memories to savor. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to making sure this group thrives. Thank you for being the best part of the Barony of Shadowed Stars.

Fergus and Maggie, Baron and Baroness Shadowed Stars

DRACO INVICTUS!

As my time as Baron comes to a close, I have come to reflect on my SCA life. For a long time I was devoted to the different martial arts the Society presents. Then later branched into service, and now the Arts and Sciences. As some of you know I have dabbled in coining, but now I am looking into the scribal arts. A few weeks ago Maggie and I attended Scribin' and Imbibin', held by the Barony of Ayreton (Chicago, IL). I would like to say I spent much of the day in the tasting room, but found myself taking several of the scribing arts classes instead. Someone held an impromptu "calligraphy for beginners" class while we waited for the Diapering class (not what you might be thinking) to begin. Maggie attended a class on scripting scroll text. We sat and talked with many of our friends. At the end of the day, the Baron and Baroness of Ayreton held a bardic style court. All of the baronial awards were sung or written in poetic style. Going into it, we knew it would be light-hearted. Invited in ahead of us was Baroness Epona, Followed by Baroness Petrona. In keeping with this theme, we decided to be called in as Magona and Fergona, while someone sang "My Sherona." Truly, the SCA has something for everyone.

In Service,

Baron Fergus MacPherson

WELCOME, OUR NEW OFFICERS!

Congratulations are in order!

We have recently held elections during the March meeting for some of our offices. These newly elected members will take on their new positions on or before June 1st of this year. Please watch for these changes to be made on our website in the near future.

Exchequer - Baron Fergus MacPherson

Knight Marshal - Lord Gavin Hawkerton

Chatelaine - Lady Aoife inghean Eoghain

Rapier Marshal - Lord Rashid Al-Sanna

Webminister - Lady Prudence of Colleah

Herald - Lady Muirenn ingen Faelchaon Ui Clerigh

Thank you everyone who participated in the elections. Thank you to those who served in these offices prior, you have put a great deal of work into our Barony, your work was noticed and appreciated by all of us. We now look forward to seeing what our new officers will accomplish for the future! For the new officers! Hoobah!

BARONIAL CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

April 2018 -

21st - 3 Saints and a Tournament of Defense

*Baronial Investiture

(see NOTE below)

May 2018 -

18th-20th - This Land Is Our Land and The Animal Husbandry Symposium

(see NOTE below)

June 2018

(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 cancellations or schedule changes.

BEE KEEPING DURING THE WINTER

In the winter bees do not actually hibernate like some people might think. Instead, they basically just go dormant, meaning they are still moving and active inside the hive. They form a cluster inside the hive, then start beating their wings strongly and the heat created from their wing muscles heats the inside of the hive. The center of the cluster will sit around 90 degrees Fahrenheit and is always moving. As the bees towards the center of the cluster get too hot they move to the outside of the cluster and as the bees on the outside of the cluster get too cool, they move toward the center of the cluster. When the temperatures outside rise, the cluster expands and then as the temperatures drop the cluster contracts with the center in a different spot.

During this time, bees consume the honey that is inside the cluster's area. The cluster will not move to seek out food at all. The temperatures need to rise in order for the bees to reach more food. This means, there could be a hive full of honey and the bees might still starve to death.

When the temperatures outside the hive reach above 40 degrees Fahrenheit, the bees will do quick flights out to relieve themselves. Yes, bees poop too. Typically you will see brown streaks in snow.

Also, bees are one of the few critters that take their dead out away from the colony. In the winter though they will just clear the dead at the entrance so they can get in and out. One clue if a hive is still alive is if there are dead bees in the snow and around the entrance. Another way is to place your ear next to the entrance and tap on the side of the hive. You will hear a loud hum every time you tap on it.

Most bee suppliers want orders in by February. This makes it kind of a gamble when ordering more bees because one does not really know how many bees are needed due to not knowing how many are still alive.

Written by Lord Gwydion Glyndwr

Meet the New Kids: The Incipient Shire of Grenemere

The Incipient Shire of Grenemere is comprised of the Mercer, Auglaize and Allen Counties in Ohio. The majority of its active members live in the Celina/St. Marys area, with interested folks living in Lima, Wapakoneta, New Bremen and Coldwater.

The officers include seasoned SCA participants and folks who are newer to the Society, and the goal is to provide an outlet to the community to express creativity and share our love of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

The Seneschal is Jerusha a'Laon, known in the modern world as Jo Stomel. She and her husband, Josh (known in the SCA as Yehoshua ben Abram) moved to Celina from the Phoenix, Arizona area at the beginning of 2016. Josh is faculty at the Wright State University Lake Campus, and Jo works from home for Automated Data Processing, supporting the Small Business Services West Division. Jo has been in the SCA since starting College in 1999, and Josh has also participated on and off since 1995. Josh is also the Incipient Shire's Arts & Sciences Minister. Other Members include the Clancy Family, whose matriarch, Nan, is the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Celina (where the shire holds its meetings); the Hansels, who are long time members of the Celina/St. Mary's community, Frank Petersen (Lord Laurentius le Rous), who is our webminister, Sara Clark (Baroness Olwen of Buckland), a longtime member of the SCA and many others.

The Shire holds meetings twice a month at the First Presbyterian Church. On the first Wednesday of the Month is our business meeting, which right now is focused on getting all of the necessary pieces together in order to achieve full status. This is also an opportunity for some social time and Baroness Olwen of Buckland will occasionally bring us wonderful food to sample.

On the second Wednesday of the Month, we hold our Arts and Sciences Gathering, in which folks are welcome to teach, or failing that, we hold open Crafts night. If you are interested in coming up to teach, either during our monthly gathering or at any other time, please contact Lord Yehoshua at moas@grenemere.org.

All meetings start at 7:30pm.

Heavy and Rapier Practices occur on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6p to 9p. Starting in April, Practice will be held outdoors at Lakeshore Park in Celina, Ohio.

Current projects within the incipient Shire include our first major Demo at the Wright State University Lake Campus on April 10th. Held in conjunction with the WSU Glee Club, "A Knight in the Middle Ages" will feature both heavy and rapier fighting, dance, a sampler feast made by the incomparable Baroness Olwen of Buckland, gaming, coining, and fiber arts. The Glee Club will be singing medieval songs as well as pieces from "Spam-a-Lot". If you are interested in helping out you can sign up via this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49A9AE28AAFA7-fighteras> or you can contact Honorable Lady Jerusha via email at seneschal@grenemere.org.

For the latest updates regarding activities in the shire, please check out the following links:

Website: www.grenemere.org

FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Grenemere/>

FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/grenemere/>

We are very thankful for the support of Flaming Gryphon, Shadowed Stars, Red Spears and Middle Marches for their support and help as we work towards becoming a full-fledged shire. If you would like to help us out, consider purchasing our "Fauxpotle" Lunch at Grand Tournament on Saturday, April 14th!

Written by Lady Jerusha a'Laon

VEIL PINS MADE EASY BY LADY LEANDRA CORZI

These are a simple easy alterations to bobby pins to make a veil pin. Most of the examples in period that I have seen documentation for are of a single thicker wire with a decorative piece at the end much like a straight pin. These pins can be used to hold veils in place if you are more comfortable with using a bobby pin than with a straight pin.

Supplies and Tools

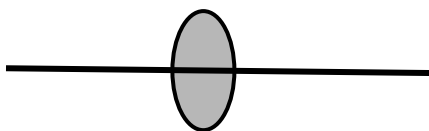
1 bobby pin

5-6 inches wire, preferably 20-24 gauge

1 bead, minimum about 6 mm diameter

Step 1

Take the bead and thread the wire through it till bead is in the middle.



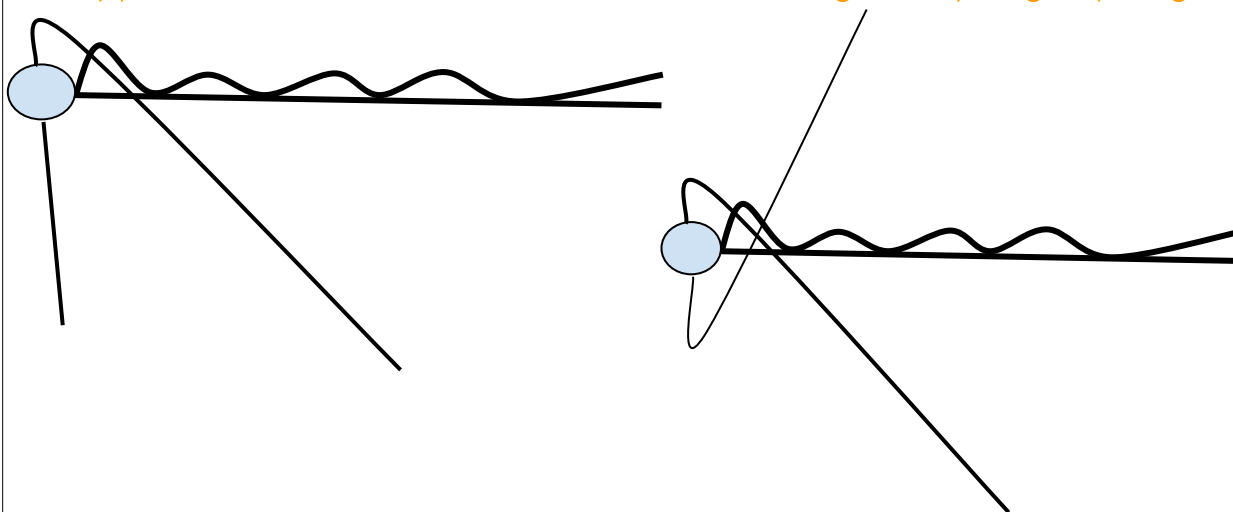
Step 2

Fold wire and bead in half.



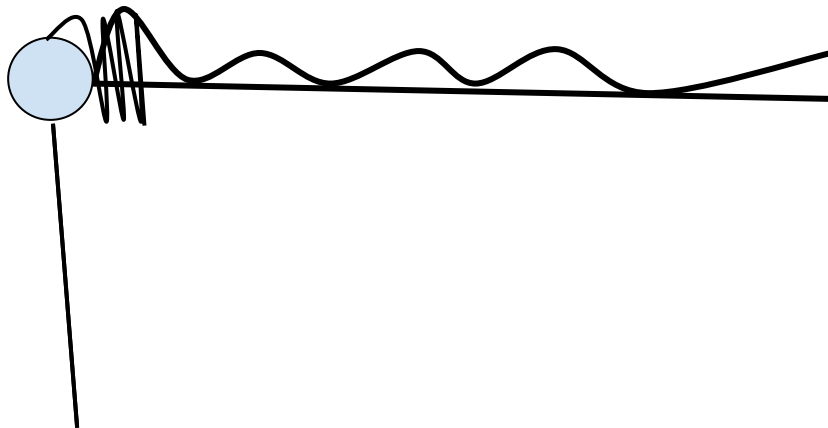
Step 3

Insert one side of the wire through the eye of the bobby pins, pulling through till bead sits on the top of the bobby pin, and then insert the other side of the wire through the eye, again pulling all the way through.



Step 4

Take the first wire, and wrap around the head of the bobby pin, and once completely wrapped around, wrap the rest of the wire in the opposite direction around the head.



Step 5.

Tuck and exposed wire ends, trim or file them so that there aren't any sharp edges.



TRAVELING SCHOLAR, AN EXPERIENCE

Late last summer during my travels, I found a missive tacked to a wall in a tavern that issued the following challenge:

“Hear ye! Hear ye! Scholars, teachers, and artisans across the Midrealm! A glove has been tossed down! A challenge has been issued!

“Lo though we know of the pentathlon competition that is readily being worked on across our known lands, Lady Sofya Chyudskya Smolyanina and I, Lady Roana Aldinoch, would take this idea one step further. It is one thing to be able to do five things from at least four of the different divisions in our Arts & Sciences competition. It is another thing entirely to be able to TEACH these things!

“Oh, but that is not all! We are not simply challenging you scholars to teach five things from four divisions. No, that would be too easy! No, we are challenging you to take your classes on the road!

“In order to achieve the title of Traveling Scholar, you must teach five classes from at least four different divisions IN FIVE DIFFERENT REGIONS! And no cheating! You must teach a different class in each region...”

This challenge was particularly interesting to me. The timeframe for the Challenge of the Traveling Scholar was designated as August of last year through July of this year. I was already committed to teaching a couple of classes in early September of last year, so I decided to commit and accept the challenge!

To be honest, I am mostly known for my work with textiles as it is both my profession and my first passion; though, I also love the technological arts and sciences, as well as studio arts. I do not generally excel in most skills that are domestic in nature, but had recently been growing more and more fascinated by the apothecary, alchemical, and herbal arts and sciences, so I knew that was the general direction I would go in my research and studies for that discipline. However, I knew from the outset of this challenge that my greatest trial would be the performing arts... but we will get to that hurdle later.

Last September, I taught two different classes related to textile arts at the Mounted War Games hosted by the Barony of Shadowed Stars in the Constellation Region. The first class is a class that I have been teaching, developing, and refining based on three years of research: “Period Sewing Tools and Kits Throughout History” (Division III Technological – Research). This two hour session taught several attendees about the development of sewing tools and how they could make their own supplies or from which merchants they could buy them! I have been working to rebuild my own sewing basket since coming here from Normandy, so I was very happy to share my knowledge on this matter. The art and technology of sewing has developed well past the days of sewing with sticks and small bird bones, but how did it develop and when were neat inventions like scissors, thimbles, thread winders, and needle books enter our lives? I shared many paintings of extant finds of sewing implements and gave detailed information about when we think they were first used en masse. I shared how the tools and technologies changed and developed, including regional differences across Europe, Russia, and portions of the Middle East and East Asia from antiquity through the Renaissance.

Also at the same event, I taught about a personal favorite hobby of mine: “Introduction to Tablet Weaving” (Division II Textiles – Weaving: Tablet). My mother taught me this craft when I was a young girl and I find it extremely cathartic, as well as an excellent way to add a special, personal flare to garments. The reason I think most people find the craft so difficult is that learning to warp the tablets can be intimidating. Learning the difference between an “S” warp and a “Z” warp, learning to read patterns, and getting used to the rhythm of which way to turn the tablets and when, if ever, to reverse the direction of the tablets’ rotation can be overwhelm-

overcome that cussing and half hour weav-

ants’ joy as of their hard Several months challenge to gion to cele- I had been to was happy to taught the once again and



Picture by Baroness Maggie MacKieth

” class (Division III Technological – Skeletal Materials). I taught participants how to process bones from animals in order to prepare them for making implements with them, then taught them how to pierce a hole in the end of the bone blank with their dagger and then slowly carve and polish the bone into a useable sewing needle. One participant diverged slightly and even created a bone stylus so that could pursue another project of writing impressions on birch bark – which was exciting to learn about, too!

ing to teach oneself. So, in order to help others learning hurdle, we spent an hour-and-a-half dis- practicing warping the tablets, then spent the last ing in the weft and enjoying watching the partici- their patterns “came to life” before their eyes after all work!

later, I traveled further than any other event in this reach the Shire of Wurm Wald in the Midlands Re- brate the Festival of Maidens in January of this year. this event once before and absolutely loved it, so I contribute in my own way by teaching two classes. I “Period Sewing Tools and Kits Throughout History” then hosted a “Make and Take: Bone Sewing Needle” class (Division III Technological – Skeletal Materials). I taught participants how to process bones from animals in order to prepare them for making implements with them, then taught them how to pierce a hole in the end of the bone blank with their dagger and then slowly carve and polish the bone into a useable sewing needle. One participant diverged slightly and even created a bone stylus so that could pursue another project of writing impressions on birch bark – which was exciting to learn about, too!

The following month, I traveled to the Canton of Three Hills in the Pentamere Region to teach “Cooking with Herbs and Spices in Period Recipes” (Division V Domestic – Herbcraft and Apothecary) at the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre event. This class was the first one in which I really had to push myself outside of any knowledge that I had before entering the society. To be honest, I’m generally not very accomplished in the kitchen and tend to be personally intimidated by experimenting with herbs and spices. To be honest, I didn’t even know the difference between an herb and a spice before I began researching things for this course. I centered my focus on Poudre Forte and Poudre Douce seasoning blends and what most cooks put in their own blends. I reviewed 16 different manuscripts on cooking and seasons, compiled the most common seasons used and seasoning blend combinations and then worked with participants to help them create their own seasoning blend based off one of my two favorite recipes. I was excited when several people poked their heads into our class space to say, “Oh my! What smells so good over here?!?” I also have to admit that I was both excited and nervous when I realized that not only was a Laurel taking my class, but also the princess of another kingdom! To see their excitement at my new passion was really reinvigorating and reassuring.

TRAVELING SCHOLAR, AN EXPERIENCE

About six weeks later, I would be teaching yet another brand-new class on another brand new topic to me – but a topic that I had long Scholar, had just nervous search more new to remind-First, class newer to



(Picture by Baroness Maggie MacKieth)

and various techniques than I am, so I do have information to impart to have a tendency to forget that because I don't know everything on a doesn't mean I don't know anything at all. Secondly, if I hadn't have ted to this I'm fairly sure months to as much as I tice. Partici- ways wanted and Ceilidh Region to am... so I *do* because I thing at all;



(Picture by Baroness Maggie MacKieth)

so I *do* have information to impart to them. I have a tendency to forget that because I don't know everything on a subject doesn't mean I don't know anything at all; and to papermaking, its history, and various techniques than I am... so I *do* have information to impart to them. I have a tendency to forget that because I don't know everything on a subject doesn't mean I don't know anything at all; and r to papermaking, its history, and various techniques than I am... so I *do* have information to impart to them. I have a tendency to forget that because I don't know everything on a subject doesn't mean I don't know anything at all; and “Period Paper Making” (Division IV Studio – Paper Making) with great success and excitement from the participants!

been fascinated with. As soon as I undertook the Challenge of the Traveling I started reading about and researching the craft of paper making – a craft that been introduced in my lifetime in France and Normandy. I was extremely about teaching this hand-on class, as I felt like I still needed to do more re- and practice the myself. I felt woe- paper making, but I ing myself two the people attend- would likely be paper making, its his-

chal- it would

years before I ever got around to pushing myself in this field to learn already have and to actually start putting my knowledge into prac- ticipating in this challenge pushed me to prioritize things that I've al- to do and learn. So, at the end of March, I went to the Keep Calm On event hosted by the Marche of Norborough in the South Oaken teach to papermaking, its history, and various techniques than I have information to impart to them. I have a tendency to forget that don't know everything on a subject doesn't mean I don't know any- and to papermaking, its history, and various techniques than I am...



(Picture by Baroness Maggie MacKieth)

craft fully kept things. ing my much tory, them. I subject commit- lence,

have been many

There were four months left in the challenge period; I had taught four classes from four different divisions in four different regions. One division was left – and it was my biggest hurdle to overcome. I have long admired and been overwhelmed about the idea of participating in the performance arts within the society. I enjoy singing and can carry a tune well enough, but I haven't played an instrument in more years than I care to admit, and am terribly uncoordinated and not the least bit graceful. Additionally, since I had never actually performed anything within the society, I would have felt like a fraud trying to teach others to do something that I had never done myself.

I spoke often with a mentor of mine about how I could teach a class within this division when it finally occurred to me... I couldn't possibly be the only person who also felt uncertain about how to get started in the performance arts. What if I were to interview as many performers as I could to get their input on how to get started, tips on preparing a performance, and how to develop and grow.

More than a dozen performers responded to my call for help and from those discussions, I prepared the class "Spinning Our Tales: We Can All Be Bards" (Division I Performance – Miscellaneous Performance Arts OR Bardic Recitation), which I then taught at Baron Wars hosted by the Canton of the Marche of the Marshes in the North Oaken Region in June. I was pleasantly surprised when more than a dozen participants showed up excited and not the least bit daunted by the fact that I was also just getting involved in the performance arts, but wanted to share the wisdom of others that was helping me feel more comfortable about getting started!

Within ten months, I had completed the Challenge of the Traveling Scholar, visiting all five regions within the Middle Kingdom, traveling 1,132 miles and teaching for twelve hours. Also within that time period, I traveled to the Kingdom of An Tir and taught my "Period Sewing Tools and Kits Throughout History" class at the Acorn War hosted by Shire of Mountain Edge. I also taught at the Martial Royal University of the Midrealm (RUM) hosted by the Barony of the Flame in the South Oaken Region and offered the following two classes: "Weaving Belts, Garters, and Decorative Trim: Introduction to Tablet Weaving" and "How to Make an Arming Cap." These two trips, though they didn't count towards the challenge, added another 5,104 miles traveled to teach and another six hours of teaching.

The experience was amazing! I met so many people, saw so many sites, and had so many experiences that I never would have had if I had not pushed myself to do this challenge. Additionally, I learned so much about different subject matters and about the society itself. The challenge is now over, however, Their Royal Majesties have recently issued a similar challenge – to go on a pilgrimage to each of the five regions and to visit another kingdom during their reign (they recommend Gulf Wars). If you haven't already considered going on this pilgrimage, I highly recommend you do so. I only hope your pilgrimage is rewarding as mine was.

Written by Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch and pictures provided by Baroness Maggie MacKieth (March 2017 Keep Calm and Ceilidh On)

YOUR BARONY NEEDS YOU TO WRITE!

I would like to take the time to encourage you to write for our newsletter. You are who makes up the populace of our Shadowed Stars. Please, take the time to write something for the newsletter so that you can shine like the star that you are!

There is no age limit, as long as you can speak in a language and someone, if not you, can write what you are saying then please share your words! Your barony would love to read them!

Please do note on the last page that there is a due date. This date is so that we can publish before the end of the quarter. Our barony must publish once per quarter in order to meet criteria as a barony. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, Lady Zilia degli Giudici, Chronicler. I do look forward to hearing from you and I am excited to read what you will write or perhaps have already written.

Lastly, we are now holding a drawing for those who submit articles to our newsletter. This is how it works: If you submit an article by the date it is due I will put your name in the drawing 2 times, one for submitting and the other for submitting on time. I will also grant you extra entries if you submit early and the number of entries will be based on how early you submit. So, don't delay, submit today!

BARONIAL OFFICERS

Seneschal

Sir Ulrich

*Halfdan Ulfsson with (acting)
Seneschal Lady Aveline de
Ceresbroch*

Chatelaine

*Warder Mael Duin mac
Gilla Ennae*

Minister of A&S

Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

Herald

*Lady Muirenn Ingen Faelchon
Ui Clerigh*

Exchequer

Lord Gavin Hawkerton

Knights' Marshal

Baron Fergus McPherson

Rapier Marshal

Lord Rashid Al-Sanna

Archery Marshal

Lord Velos tou Patmos

Thrown Weapons Marshal

Lady Prudence of Colleah

Equestrian Marshal

*Lancer Gwendolyn of
Shadowed Stars*

Webminister

Lady Prudence of Colleah

Chronicler

Lady Zilia degli Giudici

Historian

Lady Zoe Dukiana

Chief Armorer

Lord Gian di Fauro

Bardic Coordinator

*Lady Muirenn Ingen Faelchon Ui
Clerigh*

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!



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ **Submit by June 20, for inclusion in the next quarter's 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.
- ◇ **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.

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