

Kenneth



Dragonflyre

July A.S. XXVI

Barony of Vidava
c/o Wendy Donaldson
807 Carter Street
Wichita, KS 67203

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Wichita, KS 67213



The Dragonflyre is a monthly magazine for the subscribers within the Barony of Vidava, and others by subscription for \$11.00 per year. Subscriptions for articles, poetry, letters, etc. are gladly accepted but subject to the approval of the local Barony. To contact my readers, I have which were a bad idea. Submissions should be on white paper, hand set to fit, letters and articles are gladly accepted and need not be typed.





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Chronicler: Lady Eleanor op Rhiwallon
Deputy Chronicler: Lady Gwendolynn O'Shaughnessey

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From the Baronage

To Our Dear Friends, the Populace of Votavia.

We would like to thank all those Good Gentles that made the trip to the Lilies and fought for Votavia, or supported the troops. It was fun for all present. Those persons that could not make it...well, we missed you. Our commanders, Duke Sir Gabriel, His Lordship Lawrence the Leech, and Ld. Smoot, did an inspiring job, and Ld. Bear upheld the honor of Votavian archers. A good time was had by all.

Looking ahead, Valor is coming, and preparations are being made. Lady Eleanor is planning an interesting event, and we will all need to give her our support. If we all help, it shouldn't be too taxing for anyone. Remember, we also want to have fun! It promises to be an interesting season with Interkingdom with the Outlands following so closely.

Finally, we have been following the progress of our archers with much pride. *Vivat Archers!!*

In Service to The Dream,

Baron Gawayne and Baroness Briallen

From the Chronicler

Greetings to one and all! This will be a short missive because I do not have a lot to say Chroniclerwise. The Dragonflyre really needs lots of original artwork, both for the cover and inside. I would also love to see more members of the Barony with skills that can be readily taught in the written medium using the Dragonflyre. Also, how about some period stories? Granted that such tales were rarely committed to writing, but these are the Current Middle Ages!

Finally, as you may have heard or read, My Lord husband, Galen, and have been move to Pratt, KS for job related reasons. After this move, we will still be within the territory of the Barony of Votavia. I have consulted with the Baronage, and, for now, it has been decided that I will remain as your chronicler. I would like to thank those Good Gentles who have made these first few months as Chronicler easier than it could have been: Ld. Demetrius, Ly. Annys, Ld. Friar Thomas, Ld. Galen, Fergus, and Ly. Kasimira for their numerous and excellent contributions which will eventually make it to print, and Ly. Gwendolynn for her patience and support.

In service,

Eleanor



Unto Their Excellencies Baron Gawayne ap Tristam and Baroness Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikingr, the Lords, Ladies and Good Gentles of Vatavia, doth Lady Annys de Vernun of Kettering, Caltrap Pursuivant for Vatavia, send Greetings.

The April Letter of Acceptances and Returns from Laurel King of Aras has the following action on armorial submissions from Vatavia:

Adelin Katharine Tanner - Name; registered.
Catriona de Brynton - Name and Badge for House of the Pheasant Slayer: Gules, in annulo twelve feathers, quills to center, Or, marked sable; registered.

Donatus Luxford - Name; registered.

Maureen O'Seachnasaigh - Name and Device: Sable, a chevron rompu between a decrescent, an increscent and a dragon couchant argent.

Tancos Janos - Name and Device: Perbend gules and argent, three mullets bendwise in bend counterchanged.

Our congratulations to these Good Gentles! Your submissions have passed Laurel!

The Letter of Intent, 31 May 1991, from Lord Saker to Laurel King of Aras has the following submission from Vatavia:

Galen MacDonald - Name and Device: Azure, a chevron throughout, overall a mullet of twelve points counterchanged, and in chief two mullets of three points argent.

Our congratulations to this Good Gentle! Your submission has passed Kingdoam!

I remain, in service to Vatavia, Calontir and the Dreaam, Annys de Vernun of Kettering.



Unto Their Excellencies Baron Gawayne ap Tristam and Baroness Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikingr, the Lords, Ladies and Good Gentles of Vatavia, doth Lady Annys de Vernun of Kettering, Caltrap Pursuivant for Vatavia, send Greetings and this report of the Vativian Baronial Court held the afternoon of the twenty fifth of May, AS XXVI, at Minisa Park.

The Baronial Court of Their Excellencies Baron Gawayne and Baroness Brialen was opened at about thirty minutes past the hour of four by Annys de Vernun, Caltrap Pursuivant. Lord Tancos Janos was summoned and invited those members of the populace who might be interested to join him in the establishment of an instrumental music guild in Vatavia. Lady Eleanor ap Rhiwallon presented a paper castle to Lord Frederick Parke of Alcyon, the overall winner of the day's tourney, and a copy of the Illustrated Classics Ivanhoe to Lord Sean Angus MacDuinnchinn, the winner of the Bardic Competition.

Awards for Achievement in Science were presented to Lords Thorgrim Hrothgarsson and Eirik Asvaldsson and Ladies Marie Chantal Delaire, Searlaith nic Uilliam O'Ceallaigh and Catriona de Brynton. Lady Lora Anne the Silent received the award for an Act of Dedication for making the capuchin hoods for the Baronial Guard. Lords Balroc, Big Bear of Hammerstorm and Demetrius il Condottierri were presented with awards for their Victories in Kingdoam Competitions.

For their Acts of Dedication during the Kansas Newnan Renaissance Faire, awards were presented to Ladies Anne Lockwood, Marie Chantal Delaire, Lora Anne the Silent, Lelia ni Lochtnain uf Chathail, Gwendolyn Morna O'Shaughnessey, Annys de Vernun of Kettering, Searlaith nic Uilliam O'Ceallaigh, Catriona de Brynton, Alanna of Vatavia, Eleanor ap Rhiwallon and Duchess Hwela frech Ferch Wyddel and to Lords Leonardo il Calamari, Lochinvar, Aindries ap Daffyd, Sean Angus MacDuinnchinn, Rinald il Bianco, William Fidget, Big Bear of Hammerstorm, Thorgrim Hrothgarsson and Chonrad von Ravenna.

For her service to Vatavia, Lady Ala of Featherstone was made a Companion of the Order of the Golden Heart.

There being no further business before Their Excellencies Court, it was declared closed by Lady Caltrap at about fifteen minutes after the hour of five.

Humbly I remain, in service to Vatavia, Calontir and the Dreaam,

Done by my hand this twenty seventh day of May, in the year AS XXVI (1991) while sitting at Kettering.

From the Chateleyn

Unto the populace of Vatavia.

I have finally returned from school in Chicago. I would like to thank all those people who have participated in the numerous demos and other functions that promote our Barony in its best light. I would also like to thank my deputies, Kerare and Sean, and my wife, Eleanor, for running the Chateleyn's office during my absence.

The office of the Gold Key has recently acquired about ten new tunics for use as loaner garb. Hooray! The barony can thank the T-tunic workshop sponsored by the Costumer's Guild for the donations. Lady Lelia also donated some feastgear items that were in her possession to the loaner stuff. The Gold Key is still in need of items so please continue to think in terms of donating your unwanted items. We still need accessories, pants, surcoats, feastgear, and lots of other stuff.

Lastly, I regret to say that I am being moved to Pratt, Kansas, by Southwestern Bell Telephone. Pratt is still part of Vatavia, so Eleanor and I will not be leaving the Barony. We will still participate in Baronial activities. Unfortunately, it would inconvenience the populace and especially those individuals attempting to contact the Barony for the Chateleyn to be located at such a distance. Therefore, I will be leaving the Chateleyn's office. If you are interested in becoming the Vatavia Chateleyn, please submit a letter of application to the Seneschal as soon as possible.

Thank you for all you have done for this office and Vatavia. I hope you will all be this wonderful for my successor.

In Service to The Dream,
Lord Galen MacDonald



Apologies for the following errors which occurred in the June edition:

- 1) The Baroness's phone number was incorrectly listed. See current officer's listing for the correct one.
- 2) The MoA letter was attributed to Ld. Galen instead of Ly. Searlaith in the Table of Contents. No, he has not, nor will he, usurp office.

The following article is Part One of a Two Part series
by Friar Thomas Bacon



The Organization of Crusading Armies

The Crusades were a unique event in history, having a major effect in many fields, yet leaving no major influence on the course of events. In the military field, the Crusaders brought back with them new methods of fortification, totally changing the appearance and utility of castles everywhere. Strangely enough, they left behind the lessons they learned about tactics and organization. This paper will explore what these lessons were and how they differed from standard European military thinking.

The Medieval army was composed broadly of three different groups. The first, and most important, were the knights and their retainers. The second was the common soldier, normally on foot, but, in some cases, mounted. The last was the large motley group of non-combatants that performed all the needed or desired services that an army in the field required.

This last group often made up close to half of a crusading army on the march. The usefulness of the various individuals ranged from critical to outright burden. Because of the spiritual allure of the Crusades, many old, sick and extremely poor men, women, and children would join the army, despite discouragement from military and religious leaders. Sometimes, they could be put to use as water-bearers but were more often just so much more baggage that had to be guarded. Also, among this crowd were those with critical skills, such as the siege engineers and the pyrotechnicians whose province was Greek fire. Rounding out the throng were the more routine personnel - the cooks, laundresses, physicians, and disreputable prostitutes and freebooters. The last acquired the name "Tafurs" during the First Crusade.

The clergy had an ambiguous position within the army. While canon law prohibited them from fighting, many ignored it and took up arms. Nor did they restrict themselves to non-edged weapons, so they would not "shed blood". Joinville, writing in 1250 about the Tenth Crusade, recorded an incident in which his chaplain took a spear and attacked a group of Saracens.

While providing the bulk of the fighting force, the common soldier played a minor role in combat. Lightly armored and usually armed with spears, pikes, axes, and short swords, their main purpose was to form a defensive ring from which the knights could charge out. While short bows were used, they were generally ineffective. The missile weapon of choice was the crossbow. The longbow did not enter into military use until after the main impulse of the Crusades had passed.

A common soldier of some mystery is the sergeant. He appears to be something of a cross between a knight and an ordinary soldier. His arms, armor, and training are akin to that of a knight, but without a knight's status and position.

The core of the Medieval army was, of course, the knight and his squires. Heavily armored, armed, and mounted, the knight was the Medieval equivalent of a tank, though not employed in that way. Their preferred tactics were to form a line behind the defensive shield of foot-soldiers, charge through to break up the enemy formation, then take out the enemy knights in individual combat in one swirling melee. In the Middle East, however, they had little chance to use this method.

The writers of the Middle Ages had little regard for numbers or statistics. As a result, the size of armies and casualties are rough guesswork. Numbers of knights involved can be closely approximated because their names were written down in rolls of arms for their glory, although the lesser knights tended to be left out. As for everybody else, no one really knows. This type discrepancy can be exemplified by a comparison of the reported number of Raymond of Toulouse's forces by two sources. William of Tyre, writing about the First Crusade, said the forces were 10,000 infantry and 350 knights. Raymond's chaplain numbered his forces at 12,000 infantry and 1,200 knights, 9,000 squires, and 20,000 foot-soldiers. On the whole, it seems that the ratio of knights to all other soldiers was roughly seven to one.

Casualty figures are just as unreliable, however, they do present an interesting pattern. At the battle of Dorylaeum, where the First Crusade was nearly halted, 4,000 common folk were reported killed compared to just two nobles. At the siege of Acre during the Third Crusade, 5,000 infantry were reported killed while only two nobles lost their lives.

Conditions in the Holy Land required a major rethinking of the tactics and organization for the Europeans. The Arabs' preferred weapon when mounted was the short bow. The basic tactic was the hit and run, designed to draw out the enemy so he could be destroyed piecemeal. When faced with a heavy cavalry charge, the Arabs would scatter, thus reducing its shock value and leaving the knights separated and disorganized from the main army. This also left them away from the field of battle and vulnerable to being attacked individually.

The greatest problem the Crusaders faced was a general lack of manpower. Except for the periods of the great Crusades, which tended to last only for a couple of years, all the Latin states

could muster together was a force of one to two thousand knights. These were broken into commands that were not always cooperative. The Kingdom of Jerusalem had around 600 to 700 knights. The principalities of Antioch and Tripoli had about 300 each. The great military organizations, the Templars and Hospitallers, accounted for the rest.

To marshal this large of a force required stripping all the cities and castles of their garrisons. A defeat in the field would leave the strongholds no choice but to open their gates to the victors. The crusaders tended to avoid pitched battles unless circumstances were largely in their favor. Therefore, campaigning in the Holy Lands resembled what would later be called "wars of maneuver".

Thus, the most common military action was the running battle, where the Crusaders were marched from one point to another with the Moslems, usually Turks, conducting hit and run attacks from horseback with bows. Crusader armor was generally heavy enough to withstand these attacks. The chronicles often mention how soldiers would come back looking like porcupines from all the arrows sticking out from their armor.

To help counter these tactics, the Crusaders recruited native troops, called Turcoples, who were similarly armed to act as a screening force. They were also used as a reconnaissance force.

The Crusaders quickly learned that to break ranks was fatal. Those who did were severely punished and often treated as deserters. Since the crusaders quit charging out to attack the Saracens, and the Saracens, being more lightly armored, refused to close in, warfare in the Holy Lands was merely a series of sieges with the occasional harassing attack as the Crusader armies moved from siege to siege.

Another difficulty the crusaders faced was that their force was multinational and multilingual, thus making communication and cooperation difficult. The army naturally broke itself into groups of similar cultures and nationalities, to be further subdivided by kinship or fealty. While this made for manageable tactical groups, coordination between groups was still fraught with danger. On more than one occasion would one group prevent others from exploiting a breakthrough unless they share in the glory. Cooperation between knights and foot-soldiers was often non-existent, separated by social status and viewpoint. This lack of togetherness was often the cause of much of the Crusaders' ineffectiveness.

To be continued next issue....





The Barony of Valavia invites you to
The Twelfth Tournament of
Valor



August 31 - September 2 (A.S. XXXVI)

Good Gentles all, come and join us for a weekend of fun and excitement at Camp Hiawatha (see map). Site fees for the entire weekend are:

Day trip - \$6, Camping - \$8, Cabin - \$11, A/C Cabin - \$16

Children 12 and under who are not using bed space will be admitted free. A one dollar site fee discount with proof of SCA membership. No minors will be allowed on site without parent, legal guardian, or appropriate waivers. Merchants are welcomed (No merchant fees!).

Camp Hiawatha is under new management. No pets on site.

This is absolutely positively, without a doubt, a dry site!

Saturday's activities will feature, opening court, traditional lists for the fighters, combat and IKAC archery, and the Hammerstorm sponsored axe throw. The Arts and Sciences competition will consist of the following categories: Brewing, Armoring, Leather-working, Chainmail, Ceramics/Pottery, Middle-Eastern Dance, Calligraphy and Illumination, Costuming, Poetry, and the Best-use-of-Blue-and-Gold in any one of the aforementioned mediums. The Children's A&S will be in all of the same categories (except Brewing); age groups will be 12 and younger/13 - 16yrs. Children's entries in these categories should reflect the theme of "Children and Their Tasks in the Middle Ages". There will also be a cooking competition (Contact Lt. Demetrius mka Henry Marks, 211 Frontier Mulvane, KS 67110). Entry deadline for these competitions is 12:00 noon, Saturday. A quest is planned for late afternoon. Bardic competition will be Saturday evening.

Sunday will be the day for the traditional Valor Tournaments including Valor, Guardian of Valor, and Quiver of Valor (Note: Bring all toys: knives, spears, axes, etc.). An Assassin's tourney is also planned for Sunday afternoon. Court will be at Their Majesties' pleasure.

Other than the A&S Competition for the children, their activities will include classes, storytelling, and archery. Pages interested in participating in a babysitting service should contact Ly. Kerare (316-686-8693).

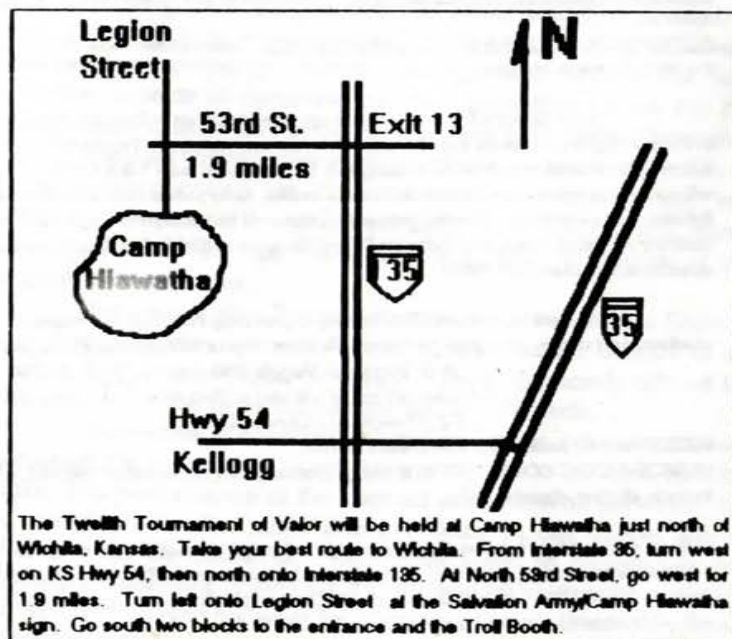
There will be no formal feast this year, however, The Blooded Axe Inn will operate throughout the weekend, providing modestly priced food and evenings of songs and stories. Please bring your own eating gear, feast gear washing will be available.

For reservation and other information, please contact

Ly. Eleanor ap Rhiwallon
c/o Wendy Donaldson
807 Carter Street
Wichita, KS 67203
(316)-264-4530

No phone calls after 10:00p.m.

(There is a phone elf to take messages.)





Come to BUSH I
(Baronial University of Scir-Havoc)
Saturday, July 13
Classes, Scout's Tourney, Court, Feast, and Revel I



The classes scheduled are:

- SCA 101:** Who we are, What we do, How and when we do it. Welcome to the SCA for newcomers.
- SCA CAMPING:** How to prepare for a camping event.
- A FOOTSTEP IN TIME: PERIOD EQUESTRIANISM.**
- INTRODUCTION TO LATE PERIOD GARB.**
- INTRODUCTION TO AUTOCRATTING:** To do more events, we need more autocrats. Come and find out how.
- FEASTOCRATTING:** How to cook for 150 of your closest friends
- NOBLESSE OBLIGE:** What it means to be a "Brass Hat" and/or a peer in the SCA.
- INTRODUCTION TO PERIOD GAMES.**
- JUDGING PERIOD FOODS:** We can always use more good judges. Find out how you can help.
- PERIOD EMBROIDERY:** What they did in period and how they did it.
- BARDIC: THE HISTORY OF CALONTIR THROUGH SONG:** Songs every Calontir citizen should know.
- INTRODUCTION TO PERIOD HERALDRY:** What we are trying to recreate.
- SHEATH YOUR WEAPON: CONSTRUCTION OF SHEATHS.**
- BARDIC: GATHERING INFORMATION FOR STORYTELLING.** Sources for good stories.
- BEGINNING INKLE OR CARD WEAVING:** Get a taste of one or both of these methods.
- INTRODUCTION TO SIMPLE EUROPEAN DANCE:** Learn some steps, then come to the revel for more practice.

For the SCOUT'S TOURNEY, you do NOT have to be an authorized scout or an authorized fighter. Anyone over the age of seven can participate. Teams will consist of 4-6 people; at least one must be a designated scout and at least 1 is a fighter. Teams will capture as many men (bits of cloth) as possible. Only scouts may find them; only fighters may carry them. Combat between groups will be done in the age old chivalric method of "Paper, Rock, and Scissors." Specific rules available that day. Urgent questions, call Drew(524-8981)

FEAST will be potluck. The Barony is providing the meal (spit-roasted chicken) and drinks. You provide items as follows: If your SCA first name begins with:

A-G: Veggie or Veggie Dish

H-S: Bread or Fruit or a Bread or Fruit dish

T-Z: Cheese or a Cheese Dish

PRIZES for best period and non-period dessert.

NOVICE BARDIC COMPETITION is being sponsored by Ld. Aindries. REVEL will include singing, dancing, etc.

A more detailed flyer (places, times, pre-registration info) is available from Ly. Saerlath, Ld. Demetrius, and Ld. Aindries. If you have questions, contact the autocrat, Ly. Saerlath, at 687-3241, evenings, before 10:00pm. A phone call may answer, but she will get back to you as soon as possible.



Persona A Different Perspective

Demetrius il Condcttiero

Her Excellency, Baroness Briallen, has requested members of the Barony of VTavia to write a description of their persona. To date I have refused as I felt that the persona of Demetrius, the Byzantine Greek was not sufficiently well-researched. On the other hand, there is an aspect of persona seldom discussed.

The "other" aspect of persona could be termed the personality versus the historical character. In my view, what I have chosen to call the personality should reflect the beliefs and opinions of the persona, the values he holds, those things which add depth and dimension to his persona and make him (or her) a credible human being.

As examples, I will briefly discuss a few of Demetrius' personality characteristics. Demetrius is a medieval SCAer. He wishes to bring back a Byzantium that never actually existed (all in one place, at one time, if at all). He wants all the beauty, knowledge, technology, culture, energy, etc., without the less attractive aspects of Byzantine culture. Demetrius knows that the brilliant robe of state and of the church were to 1) glorify Christianity and 2) impress visiting dignitaries with the power and wealth of Rome. He chooses his brilliant colors to startle people into reflecting the power, the glory, the beauty, knowledge, etc. which was Byzantium. To see Demetrius, is to have a glimpse of the majesty of New Rome.

Demetrius also "knows" that there will never be a State to rival that of Rome. He wonders why some would choose to be Franks, barbarians, Turks, or Arabs. This is especially difficult for him when some of these barbarians are close friends.

Demetrius is a mercenary and as such is scrupulous about his word. A mercenary would take contracts to perform specific tasks. His performance of the contract would rest on his word. He is careful not to offer more than he thinks he can deliver and to deliver what he promises. Demetrius feels no problem in not making a statement or making a statement which is equivocal. He is only responsible for what he says he will do. Demetrius views persons who do not keep their word as lacking in honor. It is a great dilemma to him when individuals he likes and/or respects do not do what they say they will do.

Since Demetrius spends time in Venice, he is familiar with and is part of the Renaissance. Consequently, he displays characteristics which might seem unusual in a Byzantine. He writes poetry and plays, having a bawdy orientation which is more Italian than Greek. He wishes to learn about a wide variety of arts and sciences. He cooks and seeks knowledge about the past.

Portions of Demetrius' personality are still being worked out. Is there anyway a mercenary could swear fealty? Could a mercenary engage in commerce and view himself as something other than a merchant? What would be the relationship between a mercenary and a friend, if the friend were on the opposing side?

As you construct your persona, do all the historical research you feel appropriate and construct the most interesting persona you can, but don't forget that a persona is a list of dull, dry facts unless he (she) has a personality. That personality (biases, values, view of himself (herself) and the world, attitudes, etc.) is what will make your persona more real. Remember, however, like a "real" human being, a personality has to be fairly consistent. Like all human beings, there will be a few interesting quirks (like a mercenary who accepts a guild head position).

I wish you good luck in your endeavors (great luck, if you are Byzantine).



Instrumental Music, Wednesdays, 7:00p.m.

Táncos János

808 W. 11th
Emerald City, Oz 67203-3507

(316) 264-3576 (home, sometimes)
(316) 269-3965 (work, ask for Don McClane)

Calendar for July

(Check 522-SERF for details)

- July 1, Officer's Mtg-7:00
- July 13, BUSH, see flyer.
- July 17, Populace at N. Linwood-7:00
- Sundays, Archery at Kansas-Newman-12:30
- Tues. and Thurs., Archery at Kendall's
- Fighters check with Rinaldo or Duke Sir Gabriel for a time.

Baronial Officers List

Baron - Gawayne ap Tristam	
Wayne Taylor	524-0917
Baroness - Briallen ferch Vikingr	
Debbie Taylor	524-0917
Seneschal - Lawrence Tailer the Leech	
Larry Bumgardner	942-1045
Pursuivant - Annys de Vernun of Ketteing	
Marie Watson	755-1917
Treasurer - Lelia ni Lochtna O'Cathail	
Lana Smith	838-2858
Minister of Arts - Saerlaith nic Uilliam O' Ceallaigh	
Devery Corteville	687-3241
Minister of Sciences - Thorgrim of Hammerstorm	
Richard Cathey	687-6471
Knights Marshall - Rinaldo il Bianco	
Del Lindsley	684-0782
Archer Marshall - Stephan Egan O'Bannon	
Steven Burris	733-1936
Chronicler - Eleanor ap Rhiwallon	
Wendy Donaldson	264-4530
Luchistnik - Dietrich Isenhardt	
Jim Morrison	682-7320
Champion - Thorgrim of Hammerstorm	
Richard Cathey	687-6471
Historian - Friar Thomas Bacon	
David Moreno	685-1182
Minister of Children - Hywela Frech Ferch Wyddel	
Lisa Cooper	685-3152
Bardic Champion - Saerlaith nic Uilliam O' Ceallaigh	
Devery Corteville	687-3241
Arts & Sciences Champion - Demetrius il Condottierro	
Henry Marks	777-0770
Chatelaine - Galen MacDonald	
Mark Donaldson	264-4530

