



PRAEFECTI · PRAETORI · ET · QUISQUE · MILITES ·  
IMPERATORE'S ERIAM · NECANDI · SE · DEDEBANT ·

# DRAGONFLYRE

AVGVST XXXIII



SENATORES MAGIS AMABANT PECUNIAM  
QUAM OFFICIUM



MORIATVR >  
C.PVB.DID.

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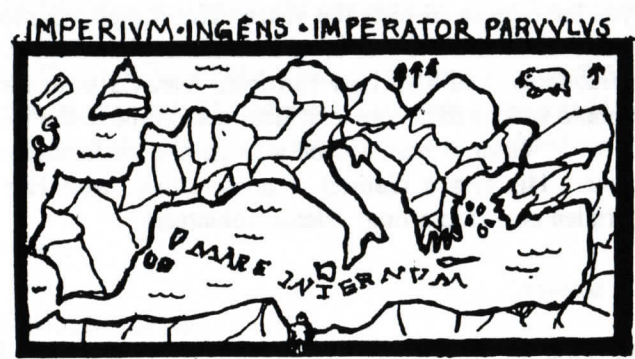
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PLVS  
 MERCEDIS  
 MILITIBVS



## FROM THE BARONAGE

Unto the good citizens of the Barony of Vatavia, greetings from Gabriel and Rhianwen, Baron and Baroness of these lands by the grace of Their Majesties Valens and Susannah.

Rhianwen has returned from her sojourn in the Outlands, and she is very happy to be among her family again! Rhianwen was extremely touched to have Vatavia serving as her personal guard at the War. She has never felt so honored or so proud as she did that day when she fought side by with the fighters of our Barony. Thank you all so very much!

Thank you to those who attended Lilies War. It was wonderful to see so many Vatavians at Lilies this year. We hope you had as much fun as we did, and we hope you will return again next year. A special thank you goes to everyone who manned a shift or two at Troll, and to Her Excellency Brialen for coordinating our shifts.

Our Baronial Birthday Bash was a fine, well-run little event. Lady Christine did a wonderful job, and she is to be commended. Her Majesty came to enjoy the day, and was well pleased with what she saw. Birthday Bash was a particularly joyful day, for Her Majesty announced the heirs to the Vatavian Coronets. His Lordship Tristan and Her Ladyship Kerare will succeed us at the Tournament of Valor. We are pleased to know that the Barony will be in such capable, enthusiastic, and experienced hands. We know that you each will give them the same support and good advice that you have given us over the years. Her Majesty expressed what a difficult decision it was to choose among so many well-qualified candidates, and also how fortunate Vatavia is to have so many people willing to devote their hearts and time to the Barony.

Valor is going to be a large and multi-faceted event this year. His Grace Gabriel is autocratting, with Her Excellency Brialen co-autocratting. Please volunteer!

In service,

GABRIEL

RHIANWEN

## FROM THE SENESCHALE

Greetings unto Their Excellencies Vatavia and the Good Populace of these Dragonfly Lands.

The excitement of summer continues! Lilies was a rousing success, despite the weather. It was grand to see so many people there doing so much great stuff! Quite a showing was made particularly on the archery and fighting fields. I hope everyone found something new they enjoyed doing and will continue to pursue it! Many thanks to HL Brialen for coordinating and everyone who worked the Vatavian troll shift. Also thank you to anyone who volunteered to help at any other part of Lilies. Working together ensures everyone's fun!

Also, a boisterous huzzah for our favorite dynamo, Lady Christine, for an exciting Birthday Bash. It was truly "pun"ishing! It was fine and fun. Of course, a huge hunk of the fun came in finding out who our new baronage will be! Congratulations to HL Tristan and HL Kerare!

Valor is in our very near future. Remember, we are a volunteer organization, if you don't volunteer, we don't know you want to help. Please, PLEASE, step forward.

Finally, on a most serious note, folks, please, Please, PLEASE take care of yourselves! We have had some incidents related to heat this summer. We all know it's bloody hot, and there is a reason Vatavia is also called The Land that Burns. Drink water, lots, eat right, take the time to take the precautions. We all want you around for a good long time. Thank you to Lady Sibeal, Milady Kathy, Lady Christine, and Lord Vladimir for their help at fighter practice a few weeks back. Her Majesty Susannah commented how impressed she was with how well everything was handled by the populace.

In service to all,

*Eleanor ferch Rhiallon*



## FROM THE CHRONICLER

*Salve* to the wonderful populace of Vatavia.

The time has come when I must seriously begin advertising for a successor, as my ~~sentence~~ tenure ends with the November issue. Here's what I consider to be qualifications for a good Chronicler.

- 1) Organization. (I lack this skill.)
- 2) A decent grasp of the English language, grammar, and spelling.
- 3) The willingness to hound officers for letters and the populace for submissions.
- 4) Access to a computer and a printer.

If you look at these items and see a picture of yourself, contact me, Their Excellencies, or Lady Eleanor in order to find out more about this rewarding position.

In service,

Οδοιπρία the Σπυμ



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

All newcomers: Orabella--wearing her census hat--needs your name and phone number, and the names of your children. Anyone who has changed their address, I need this from you too. Please contact her at 788-8826, or e-mail her at [allen@fn.net](mailto:allen@fn.net).

Archery practice is at 5500 N. Maize Road on Thursdays (except the first Thursday of the month), 6pm until dusk. Please contact Ld. Roderick at 788-8826 with your questions.

On the second monday of every month, there will be a Baronial Archery Class, presented by the Fletcha de Leon household, as a service to the Barony. The first class, "How to make arrows" was held July 13. The next class will be on August 10 at 7pm. Scheduled topic is "How to make a Quiver". Classes will be held at 9400 E Lincoln Apt 613. For directions or to ask questions, contact Katya de Leon at 682-1263, or email at [boqueron@juno.com](mailto:boqueron@juno.com).

Armoring is held at His Excellency Gabriel's house. Call Ld. Otoshi at 267-3456 for details

Bardic is held the last Monday of the month. For more information, call Cerridwyn at 524-0478.

Calligraphy and Illumination has moved to Godric's humble abode, meeting the first Thursday of the month at 7:00. Please call Corrigan McKenzie for the address or other information at 945-1536.

Costuming/Fiber Arts occurs on the third Monday of each month, at the Aragon Apartments Clubhouse. The Costuming/Fiber Arts interest group now has several books and a sewing machine available for loan to members of the Barony. Call Ly. Sibeal at 265-4643 if you have questions.

For information about European Dance, please call Lady Eliane at 265-2507 for more information.

Fighter practice remains at Watson Park, but remains on Sundays from 10:00 on. It has resumed on Wednesdays from

6pm(ish) until dusk at N. Linwood Park. Everyone is welcome—please bring your Arts & Sciences projects to work on and share with others.

The Property Mistress is taking on deputies for ‘training.’ If you are interested, please contact Ly. Christine at 943-1879, or e-mail her at [thebarrs@feist.com](mailto:thebarrs@feist.com)

The Minister of Children, hero that she is, can’t save the world alone. If you are interested in becoming her deputy, please call Ly. Orabella at 788-8826.

Anyone interested in any information concerning the SCA or in becoming a member of the SCA, please contact Cerridwyn at 524-0478.



## DRAGONFLYRE CREDITS

Her Excellency Rhianwen.....Ink  
Primate

HL Marie Chantal Delaire.....Officers’ Minutes & Heraldic  
Art

Milady Toda Galindez.....Non-border Art

## THE WHALE’S ROAD

Friar Thomas Bacon

I and my traveling companions arrived at the great Lilies War Thursday evening. The small puddles of water and the damp earth indicated that rain had once again visited the war. The cloudless sky and the relative dryness of things led us to believe it was either a small storm or that it was old history. Not until we started into the camps, looking for a place to pitch our tents, did we learn the true story. It was a storm to go down into Calontir history and rename the event as the “Water Lilies War.”

After setting up camp among other Vataivians, I then headed to the ball, which had been delayed by the storm—which I found fortunate as we had been running late. This year the ball featured its own war point. It is amazing how many Vikings knew how to dance, although I spotted a few ringers on the list who need to do penance for such apostasy. The ball was well attended—perhaps helped by the adjacent Mag Mor party. Many Vataivians lasted throughout the ball and for several dances afterwards. They also learned what it meant to have live musicians who know how to speed up the music.

Afterwards, Lord Gavin, Espen, and I joined Eleanor Margaret in making the rounds of the night’s parties, which included the Jell-O wrestling down on the beach. A very good time was had by all, and it was late into the night when we all stumbled into our tents.

The next day was filled with more dancing, either by the dance classes given by a lady from Meridies, or practicing for the performance to be given for Her Majesty that night. The practice was especially intense as two of our ladies could not make the trip and substitutes had to be found and taught on site. Two young ladies from Forgotten Sea more than amply filled in. There performance was held just prior to the evening fireworks, and Her Majesty was overwhelmed.



Saturday was occupied by visiting with friends from other groups, a little shopping, and taking in a play produced by Juan Marcias from Three Rivers. The production was "Tamberlane" by Christopher Marlow. The acting was well done even if the wind did not help by blowing down parts of the set., The program book by Juan was just as entertaining as well as educational.

Meanwhile, Lady Eliane went to the Bardic College meeting to investigate the possibility off the dancers being brought into that fold. In response to her and other performers' requests, the College initiated an effort to form a branch of the College for those performers who were not bards. In the meantime, Master Mikhail the Ram, Dean of the Bardic College, decided to sponsor the dancers and authorized them to wear a baldric with his badge.

Court that evening was more eventful than Their Majesties planned as yet another storm crashed through the area. It blew up shortly after Court began, and the local ranger inquired if Their Majesties could keep the populace at the grand pavilion for a half hour or so. "No problem," His Majesty replied. And Court continued as the pavilion walls were hastily erected.

Of the awards given, the only Vataviaian to receive anything was Her Excellency Rhianwen, who was given the CalonCross, though it was announced on the battlefield that His Excellency Gawain ap Tristram was to be knighted.

As we had struck our tent earlier in anticipation of the second storm, we left the site for drier quarters, returning the next morning to pick up the remaining travelers before heading home

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## KINGDOM CALENDAR

### JULY

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 18-19 | Thunder Wars  | March of Lochmorrow<br>Middle Kingdom<br>Barony of Forgotten Sea,<br>KC Metro Area |
| 25-26 | Tournament of Horse & Falcon & the Birthday of Valens Rex |  |

### AUGUST

- |       |                                    |   |
|-------|------------------------------------|---|
| 01-02 | Feast of the Eagles                | Cum An Iolar, Johnson Cty KS  |
| 08-09 | Dragon's Wood Pity Pennsic         | Oakheart, Springfield MO  |
| 08-16 | Pennsic                            | Debatable Lands<br>Cooper's Lake PA<br>Lost Forest, Warrensburg MO<br>Lonely Tower, Omaha NE<br>Mag Mor, Lincoln NE |
| 22-23 | Trabal Revelries<br>Zee Tournament |   |
| 29-30 | Cattle Raids                       |   |

### SEPTEMBER

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 05-06 | Valor Tourney                           | Vatavia, Wichita KS                                    |
| 12-13 | Reserved for Coronation                 | TBA  |
| 19-20 | Event                                   | Forgotten Sea, KC MO                                   |
| 26-27 | Sweet Sixteen & Never Been Hit<br>Event | Bois D'Arc, Independence KS<br>Deodar, Cedar Rapids IA |



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>August 1998</h1>				<b>LVDI ET FRUMENTI</b>		1
2 Fighter Practice: 10:00	3	4 Armoring/Pell Practice - 6:30	5 Officers' Meeting - 7:00	6 Calligraphy & Illumination - 7:00	7	8
9 Fighter Practice: 10:00	10 Archery Class - 7:00	11 Armoring/Pell Practice - 6:30	12 European Dance Practice - 7:00 Fighter Practice - 6:00	13 Archery - 6:00	14	15
16 Fighter Practice: 10:00	17 Costuming/Fiber Arts - 7:00	18 Armoring/Pell Practice - 6:30	19 Populace Meeting - 7:00	20 Archery - 6:00	21	22
23 Fighter Practice: 10:00	24	25 Armoring/Pell Practice - 6:30	26 European Dance Practice - 7:00 Fighter Practice - 6:00	27 Archery - 6:00	28	29
30 Fighter Practice: 10:00	31 Bradic - 7:00					



SCA SURVIVAL TIPS  
TIP #6394872

Thomas Foxliche of the Grenewode

Sometimes the water at primitive sites can taste a bit "au naturel," which is Middle French for "Mmm, tastes like the sweat off an old warhorse."

No problem. Go to your local grocer and buy one of those little plastic squeeze bottles of concentrated lemon or lime juice. They're easily carried in a pouch, and just a few squirts in a mug of water eliminates any "off" flavors.

It can also be added—undiluted—to your competitor's mug at the next bardic contest....

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THE END OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE WEST

Toda Galindez

To speak of the "fall" of the Roman Empire is to oversimplify a process of great complexity and long duration. Historians have been in no sort of agreement as to the causes of its dissolution, but most have now abandoned earlier single cause theories and support a scenario which links many mutually operative causes. The first of these, in the writer's considered opinion, and the one operating over the longest span of time, was the acquisition of territory by armed force: to wit, the military adventures that made Rome an empire extending from about 30° South Lat. To 55° North Lat. and from 40° East Long. To 14° West. Long. It has been said that Rome "conquered the world in self-defense," a true statement even if understood ironically. Resentful or frightened tribes did attack or threaten the early city/state. These were defeated, subjugated, colonized, and exploited, enlisted as allies and "protected." They became sources of land and soldiers, then had to be protected by the further conquest of adjacent territories and tribes. The empire increased continually to protect its gains from real, potential, imagined, or fictitious threats, transforming the Roman army in the process, until by the time of Julius Caesar it was possible for ambitious and insubordinate generals to attack and conquer large territories in pursuit of public fame, glory, and political power.

The ever-increasing territorial empire provided a constantly growing supply of slaves, land, spear-fodder, and products that could be turned to money by successful generals, venal officers, undisciplined legionnaires, usurious merchants, and above all, senators of the patrician order who were in a position to legislate wealth and privilege for themselves. Senators and any others who could, on however small a scale, invested in land; this was either land newly conquered and alienated from slain or



enslaved proprietors, or land abandoned by the free farmers and workers driven from their holdings by the increasing influx of slaves.

Each of the resources provided by conquest of new territory brought in its train new habits and attitudes and new consequences tending to the ruin of the state. The lure of the wealth that could be realized from them made wars of conquest an attractive enterprise to those who stood to gain-- and most Roman citizens felt they had something to gain. The influx of tens of thousands of slaves, from Greek rhetoricians to Pannonian swineherds, from British miners to Syrian dancers made possible a life of unprecedented leisure and self-indulgence. It promoted private cruelty, "culture races," and made possible the accumulation of vast wealth by individuals who did nothing to produce it, fostering a contempt for any labor other than that of seeking high office through influence and bribery.

The early flood of ambitious, loyal, and hopeful army recruits became a flood of reluctant conscripts of alien race, tongue, culture, and habit, with little loyalty to the professional army and none whatever to Rome. Such loyalty as they might feel was increasingly given to their own commander, their own imperator. In the end, their loyalty largely belonged to the man who bribed them the most extravagantly.

More important and greater in volume and value than all the other products of the Empire combined were these: timber, for domestic and industrial fuel and construction of every kind of tool and machine from knife handles and distaffs to siege towers and triremes; oil, for light and cooking in hovel and palace; wine, the drink of slave and emperor; cereals, the basic foodstuff, of which the Italian peninsula could produce only a very small fraction of its needs. The people had to be fed, the army, the slaves, and the mass of the unemployed and under-employed city proletariat had to be fed. The slaves and the soldiers could to a large extent be fed from the resources of their provincial stations or estates, but the grossly swollen pauper populace could not. The government was therefore dependent on the grain of North

Africa for the stability of its rule: throughout the history of the Roman estate, from the Punic Wars to the end, the feeding of the Roman proletariat became a growing burden and a problem. The feeding of slaves was their masters' responsibility; the feeding of country people--the pagani-- was their own responsibility, the army could live by local requisition. But the Roman proletariat was large, loud, and active in protest. They were prone to riot, to commit indignities upon officials, and to destroy private property. They grew to be a constant threat and an ever-present political card of high value. Magistrates courted them and emperors appeased them. It was very largely for them that the grain fleets set out each year from Alexandria carrying the harvest of North Africa. Grain was distributed to the needy by ticket--a great bureaucracy developed around the import and distribution of this grain, from which some men got rich. This was the "panem" of the phrase "panem et circenses" in Juvenal's 10th Satire.

From North Africa too came the hundreds of thousands of animals which were slaughtered in the arenas to entertain and thereby distract the poor and restless. The non-arrival of the grain ships, or of advertised wild animals, could threaten the careers of magistrates, the lives of bureaucrats, the fate of emperors.

Oil, wine, grain, and domestic livestock were most efficiently produced on huge estates owned in absentia by wealthy senators, provincial governors, or emperors; and worked by slave sin regiments, overseen by slaves and former slaves. From these *latifundia* flowed immense profits for the owners and graft for bureaucrats.

Increasing access to wealth, whether a few more *asses* of copper than one had before, or thousands of *asses* of land with buildings, slaves, rents, and products worth millions of *sestertii*, created an insatiable appetite for more wealth. Greed ate the civic virtues praised by Roman writers praised by Roman writes: *dignitas, gravitas, pietas*.



Then there were the barbarians. They had always been there, of course. The Romans themselves started out as barbarians. Although they had been more or less in touch with Roman culture through trade and clashes with frontier garrisons for a long time, it was not until the Gallic tribes had been conquered, Romanized, and co-opted that the Germanic-speaking tribes began seriously raiding the Romano-Gallic frontier in search of a little more land and a little booty. In the course of the 4th century the human tectonic shift that had begun when the Gothic speaking tribes wandered south from Scandinavia reached the eastern Germans. The shuffling and shoving of obscure bands of land-seekers in the dark forests finally pressed the German tribes against the frontiers of Italy itself. The Germans did not want to destroy Rome, they wanted to come into the Empire on their own terms, as settlers, not as captives or corpses. In time, a limited number of them were permitted to settle in Northern Italy. In more time, they were able to appeal to an ancient military law and demand possession of one-third of selected estates.

The emperor, and the government long usurped from terrified, indolent, bewildered senators, staffed by a trawl of venal functionaries, were powerless to prevent the Germanization of the Empire north of the Mediterranean. The legions were spread very thinly from the northern frontiers on the Rhine and Danube Rivers, and ambitious generals no longer hesitated to lead their troops to the City to try for the aureate crown, leaving the provincials who had thought to depend on them looking into the pale moustaches of very large men with long spears and short Roman swords. What the Germans took, or were given, the Goths came later to rule--they were Germanic speakers too. So *thiudireiks* becomes Theoderic.

Rome defeated the Germans on the Rhine and surrendered to them on the Po. The whole process by which the Roman Empire allowed itself to be overcome at last by speakers of Germanic tongues and professors of Christianity is extremely complicated. The Romans themselves wove the strands that made the rope that checked them. They were, pre-eminently, a

society founded on, and dependent on, territorial and technological expansion, consolidated enterprise, economic efficiency, and avarice. Each of these supported all of the others, each grew out of all the others, all the others grew out of each of them. A single strand of the rope will serve as the example: conquest brought land and slaves which made the great estates possible, and the immense wealth which that system generated for landowners; that system dispossessed great numbers of free smallholders and laborers who sought work and opportunity in the city of Rome, which could not provide these, the workers of the city being slaves too--whether Athenian grammarians or Judean sewer cleaners. Free grain was a solution to starvation or riot, and that could only come in quantity by ship from North African estates. So in the later 5th century, the Vandal settlement around present-day Tunis and the piratical sea-power they developed controlled the Roman grain supply.

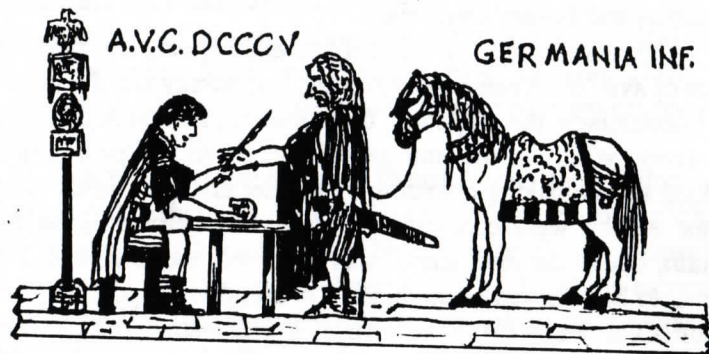
A critical underlying cause of the devastating effects of many events in Roman imperial history is the lack of any unifying and consistent active policy of the government. The policy of the patricians had always been to get riches and keep power, but once the Latin tribes had been conquered in some degree Romanified, Rome had no policy but reaction. The senate, the emperors, the bureaucrats reacted to events piecemeal, and so, repeatedly, their response was expenditure which they could not afford and conquest which engendered enmity, paranoia, and further conquests.

In every aspect of Roman life and history, one finds the pulse of avarice--it came to control the magistracy and the senate, the bureaucracy, the emperors, the populace, and most critically, the army, which in the end gave itself up to the pleasures of making and unmaking emperors by murder and extortion. Pieces of the empire were conquered militarily by barbarians, as was Britain, but in the end, Rome was abducted and transported by aliens, to be returned as medieval Christendom--a pontifex, or a centurion, or an aedile, to be sure--but with a strange look in his eye.



## SOURCES: A Partial List

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## OFFICERS' MEETING July 1, 1998

16 members attended: 16 officers/deputies/champions/autocrats

Preparations are being finalized for the Birthday Bash, July 11th. The various activities and the individuals in charge were presented. It was requested that the officers remind people of the \$3 site fee and to bring their meat and a side dish. Orders for the new Baronial T-shirt will be taken then. A sample of the designs will be available. The autocrat promises the event will be a barrel of laughs. His Excellency said he was also; he has plans.

The barony of Wisenfeuer in Ansteorra, OKC, has suggested having a joint event this summer. Instead, it was proposed that a challenge counter-challenge be issued at Defenders of the Wastelands on August 22nd for them to come to valor. The Baronage and Knights Marshal encourage as many Vataivians attend this event as can.

There will be a Valor meeting Friday, July 3rd at 7pm at the house of His Excellency, the autocrat, for deputies to work on specific plans for each part of the event. The flier has already been sent to the Mews. It was recommended to use diverse announcements for any special information that needs updating. An A&S competition for new members involved for a year or less was proposed for the Sunday of the event. Ideas for the construction of the showers were quickly covered.

There were no Calontir proposals on Laurel's June letter. Simidh Am Piobaire's name and armory have passed Kingdom level and been sent on to Laurel. There will be a consultation table at the Birthday Bash. Also, a presentation on developing a persona will be given.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$3283.54. A donation of \$51.44 from the Champions' event was made to the Beaumont Tower Preservation Fund.

A demo request for a full RenFaire type presentation two weeks after Valor will be declined with regrets. A presentation for the Boeing Employees Community Fund may result in some non-members attending interest group meetings. The possibility we look

into using the Sedgewick County Zoo for an event since we do volunteer work for Night of the Living Zoo. Marie will check into this. Bardic continues to be the last Monday of the month at Cerridwyn's.

The scheduled time for fighter practice on Sundays has been changed for the summer. Practice will begin at 10am at O.J. Watson Park. Armory tools were discussed and possible activities are being made.

The Seneschal reminded officers that the second quarter reports are due. Temporary recognition of the Middle Ages Recreation Society was granted by the WSU Multicultural Office with all the rights of a student organization. Official recognition by the student government will occur in the fall. Award recommendations for Kingdom awards need to be sent to Their Majesties as soon as possible. They will be very busy with Pennsic.

His Excellency announced that the decision on the next Baronage would be made this week by Their Majesties and announced at the Birthday Bash by His Majesty, who might attend, or by the Baronage. He also announced the Her Excellency Rhianwen would return from dirt camp July 4th.

Congratulations were extended to His Lordship Gawayne on his invitation to join the Chivalry. He has chosen to accept the accolade at Falcons.

The meeting was adjourned.



BARON Gabriel ap Morgan ap Hywel David Cooper	Boy Duke
BARONESS Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd Joan Steurer	269-3853
SENESCHALE Eleanor ferch Rhiwallon Wendy Donaldson	685-8510
ARCHER MARSHALL Ruadrigh de Graham Allen Graham	788-8826
CALTROP Brialen Ulfsdottir Vikings Debbie Taylor	524-0917
CHATELAINE Cerridwen o'r Eurgledde ferch Owain ap Glyndyfrdwy Deborah Billings	524-0478
CHRONICLER Odindisa the Grim Marguerite Reed	269-1574
KNIGHT MARSHALL Takahara Otoshi Tracey Gillaspy	267-3456
HISTORIAN Friar Thomas Bacon David Moreno	685-1182
MOA/MOS Aobhainn na Kildare Kim Shephard	683-7425
MINISTER OF CHILDREN Orabella Grace O'Brien Patti Graham	788-8826
PROPERTY MISTRESS Christine Joye Stewart Jerri Barr	943-1879
TREASURER Alcyoneus du Battenhelm Park McKellop	682-4468

Sgt. IMPERATOR  
AU. ANTONINVS