



The Ursus

Newsletter of the Barony of Septentria



From the Baron and Baroness

From the High Seats do Percival and Christiana send Greetings unto the People of Glorious Septentria.

We first must welcome you to an all-new electronic version of the *Ursus*, the Baronial Newsletter of Septentria. It is our hope that with a new start and a new look the *Ursus* will once again serve the people as a source of news, information and knowledge. However it can only be as good as what we put into it so we encourage you all to put quill to parchment and write something for the *Ursus*, be it an event or officers report, an article or lesson on some aspect of period or SCA life or anything else that may be of interest to Septentrians. Write it up and share it with Septentria through the pages of the *Ursus*.

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Now to other matters, we have had a wondrous time as the first year of our tenure as Baron and Baroness come to a close. It has been a year of many Firsts at least from the point of view from the High Seats goes and we have loved every minute of it. Seeing the Barony from this angle is an eye opener and makes us realize just what a great and talented pool of people we have in Septentria. It has been our pleasure to travel to the far reaches of the Barony and see the faces of people as we honour them for these talents and hear the words of their peers as they congratulate them on these awards. However, we know there is more talent out there and we alas cannot see into or hear every word in every dark corner of the Barony. So we come to you our people and ask that you take a look around your local canton, watch over the shoulder of the people in your group as they go about their day-to-day SCA lives and make note of the skills they display. Send us word of these people and their skills in every field of endeavour so that we might know of them and reward them as is the Septentrian way. When recommending Septentrians for Kingdom level awards also make sure to copy us these letters so that we might also lend our voices to the Crown and help these recommendations along.

We now look to the future with excitement and joy. We look forward to seeing many of you at Late Winter Shoot, Cloth of Gold and other events beyond Septentria's borders. As winter will soon slip away we welcome spring and a momentous occasion in the life of Septentria as we celebrate 30 years as a Barony. It is hoped the many events held during the thirtieth year will show the pride and pleasure we hold in our lands and people. Starting off with the 30th Birthday event at Spring Tune Up in May we look to see many examples of the 30th theme as we visit events all across Septentria. We hope to see all of you soon at these events and look to share the spirit of the Mighty Bear of Septentria.

Percival and Christiana
Baron and Baroness Septentria

Contributors

Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton: The Origins of Kingdom Names, Page 9; Then and Now, Page 13

Baroness Christiana MacNamara: A Primer on Serving as Entourage, Page 10

Duke Finnvarr de Taahe: Historia Gaza, Page 11

Lord Gunther Wahlstadt of Bremen: Then and Now, Page 13

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Lord Thorolfr inn smithr: Graphic, Page 10

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Dover Medieval Life Illustrations: Graphic, Pages 2 and 9

Submission Information

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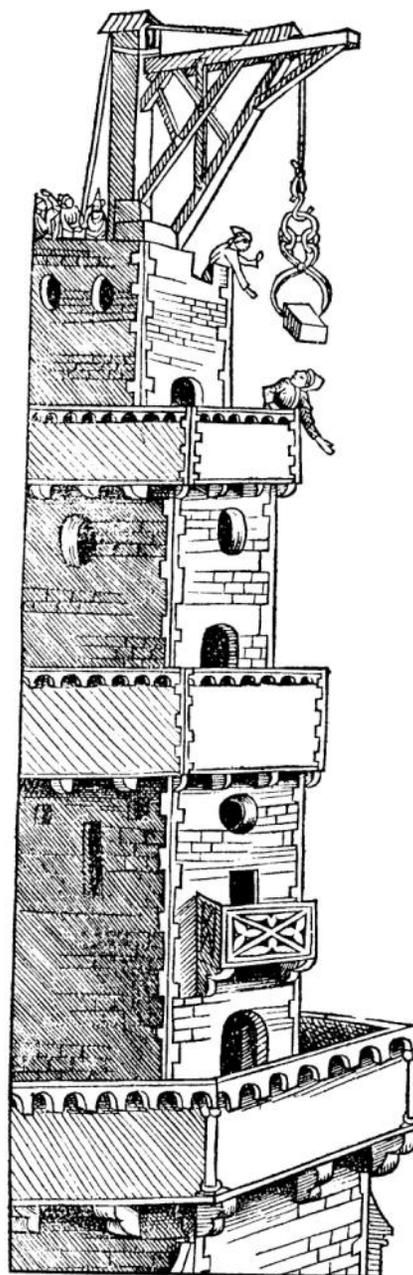
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From the Chroniclers

To the people of Septentria, greetings from Gunthar and Nicolaa, your new Chroniclers—

It.....is.....ALIIIIIVE!

The grumpy old bear known as the *Ursus* has emerged from hibernation, just in time for the Barony's thirtieth birthday. You will notice that you are receiving your copy of the *Ursus* free of charge through the magic of e-mail. Increasingly groups are taking this step to keep their newsletters alive and vital and accessible to as many citizens as possible without having to worry about the ever-rising costs of postage and paper. Using this format means no more worries of selling and tracking subscriptions. It also means that any Septentrian who desires it will have access to all the news around the Barony on a bi-monthly basis. We've made it easy to print out your own copy if you would like to keep one for your archives. If you know anyone who would like to become an *Ursus* subscriber, please have them send us their e-mail address and we'll add them to the list.

However, one thing that has not changed is that we need your help! This is the Barony's newsletter, and it is much, much more interesting with your submissions —articles, photos, and news items. We'll be looking to publish letters from the Baron and Baroness, your baronial officers and a few regular feature columns. Around the Barony will cover important Septentrian news, events (past and future), courts, practices, and photos from these happenings. Blast from the Past will be focus on an important document or photo relevant to Septentria's past, in keeping with our upcoming thirtieth birthday. Then and Now will focus on Septentrians from their early days in the Society to the current day. And finally, we will both contribute regular thoughts (deep and not so deep) in Nicolaa's Musings and Gunther's Corner.

We will also be republishing an excellent series of articles on Septentrian history written by Duke Finnvarr for the *Ursus* many years ago, with his Grace's permission. We hope that a new generation of Septentrians will be able to learn more about our Barony's rich tradition and be inspired to great deeds.

Lord Gunther Wahlstedt von Bremen
Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton
Baronial Chroniclers



From the Herald

Unto the good people of Septentria, warm wishes and greetings from the Baronial Herald of Septentria

As the new Baronial Herald of Septentria, having taken over from Lord Lachlan back in November at the Kingdom A&S Competition, I would like to simply offer my help and support to bring all manners of heraldry front and centre in our great Barony. I have many personal goals that I would like to see realized over the next months and years.

Foremost among my desires is to bring a strong and visible core of heralds to be seen and heard across our noble lands. Being a herald is far easier than it looks - no, really! I would like to meet with anyone who is curious to learn about the many different tasks a herald can have. We have a need for Canton Heralds in many groups. Too often this is a position that gets overlooked from people being scared of it. It's honestly one of the easiest Canton officer positions there is. To be an effective Canton Herald takes approximately 30 minutes spread over 3 months and keeps me a very happy herald come the end of each quarter. Please feel free to e-mail me or find me at an event and I would be happy to discuss the various "career paths" of heraldry as well.

There are also many different aspects of heraldry that not everyone thinks of - there's the obvious ones of vocal heraldry in terms of a Royal or Baronial Court or even event site heraldry. However, I would like to see more heraldry used for the armed might of Septentria regardless if it is our warriors, fencers or archers. This can be in heraldic surcoats, banners and standards (more on those later this spring), battle cries and even the fun of "boasting" the combatants onto the field. There is also name and device research and submissions for those more interested in research and books than being the centre of attention.

Please feel free to contact me by email for any information or with any questions at griffin@wraithstudios.ca.

I would also like to thank Gunther and Nicolaa for their hard work and dedication in bringing the *Ursus* back to life and into the hands of so many.

In loyal service to the Barony of Septentria and all Ealdormere,

Lord Griffin de Stockport
Baronial Herald of Septentria

Around the Barony

News and Notes

Septentria's Thirtieth Birthday

From the Baron and Baroness:

Good People of Septentria

A momentous occasion approaches. In May of A.S. 43 Septentria will celebrate its 30th year as a Barony. We look forward to a year of celebration and good times. To that end we seek your ideas and input on events and tournaments that can be dedicated to the theme of this 30th birthday. A gala Birthday event is in the works but we also seek to have themed happenings at every Septentrian event throughout A.S. 43 that are based on the number 30, 30th birthday and generally anything 30. Put on your thinking caps and let us together make this a year to honour our past and make way for a bright and glorious future.

Spring Tuneup news

The archery schedule for Spring Tuneup has been posted. There will be a brand new shoot in honour of Septentria's 30th birthday: 30 shots at a 30 sided cube. The cube will be taken to as many shoots as possible during the whole year of celebration to determine a winner.

Septentrian Twelfth Night News

Taxes of Septentria

From the Baron and Baroness:

At 12th Night, our people did see the generosity and honour of the High Seats and it was a very good thing. Now witness the right of our Baronial privilege as we announce our taxation upon our people for this coming year.

As we looked upon the wealth of the Barony we did notice one thing was absent from the splendour of our lands. For while we are just and fair rulers we look to the comforts of our peoples when we do them honour, and alas, when entering our courts did our people have to kneel upon the cold hard ground in our presence. We have sought to remedy this situation and by way of our taxes for the coming year command that each of our fine and noble cantons produce for us a rendition of their canton arms upon a piece of fine cloth that we might then take up and place upon a cushion to be used a kneeler before the High Seats of Septentria.

We would have these arms rendered in some form of needlepoint, embroidery or other stitched format. We have templates that a representative of each canton can obtain from our hands to guide your craftspeople in ensuring that all of the devices are of a similar and like size and shape. We ask that you use material of your choice. This may be of the main background colour of the group's arms with the rest of the detail added on, or you may stitch the entire work including background colours. This piece we ask to be finished in such manner that it can then be easily appliquéd upon a cushion that shall be fashioned to display these arms and offer some small comfort to our loyal populace when in our presence. We also ask a small thing if it be possible: that even should it be but one small stitch, each and every member of each canton attempt to add at least one stitch to the device that it may contain the very essence of all of Septentria.

We would ask that the latest these works be delivered unto our hands be one year from this date at 12th Night in AS 43. However, earlier would be most acceptable and perhaps we can have our people kneeling in comfort before long.

These then are the Taxes demanded of our people....

BUT WAIT... it seems our people were not happy with our demands, for in Royal Court no less, before their Lupine Majesties of Ealdormere, Trumbrand, Brave Wolf King and Kaylah, Cheerful and Beauteous Queen, did our people rise up in revolt. Led by a small group henceforth branded the Baronial Revolutionary Armed Terrorists (BRATs) did the people storm the dais crying out for justice and fair taxation of the lands. For several tense moments did it seem the very survival of the Baronial High Seats hung in the balance. However we did hear our people's words, considered their demands and negotiated a peaceful resolution to this situation. Seeing them as just and right we did see fit to accept these demands and thus we are pleased to INCREASE your taxes this year as proscribed and demanded by the BRATs.

Therefore in addition to the previously-mentioned needlework canton device we do also command our cantons to produce an item that embodies the very core of that groups being and what that group means to Septentria. These items are to be of a sort that might be used upon the fields of battle such as a weapon, shield or other item of war, or

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that might serve the commissariat in support of our armies in the field. Because these demands have such far reaching scale and would tax our meagre ability to account for them, we did negotiate with the leadership of the BRATs to appoint a Baronial Tax collector. To ensure that these taxes are properly created and worthy of our warriors we therefore have appointed Baroness Adrielle as Tax Collector and we would ask that each canton contact her for details and ideas of what exactly this taxation should entail. As with the canton devices we ask that this tax be paid on or before this day one year hence.

Quaich of Artio

From the Baron and Baroness:

At 12th Night we had the pleasure to introduce our new Baronial Award to carry forth the traditions of the those that have gone before it. In the spirit of the Cauldron of Ceridwen, the Cup of Teacht Ceartha Mor, and the Horns of Wessex and Munin, we now give unto our people the Quaich of Artio.

The Quaich is patterned upon a Scottish cup of friendship. It was hand carved of wood for us by His Lordship Augustyn von Brixen and contains Celtic knotwork upon its two handles and a rendition of the Baronial Arms in the Bowl.

The name of this vessel is the Quaich of Artio. The Goddess Artio was a Celtic deity said to be able to take on the shape or appearance of a bear. She was also attributed with being the goddess of Abundance, Harvest, Fertility, Strength and of Wild Animals — in particular Bears. All of these we find to be good and worthy attributes and find them as well among our people of Septentria.

As with the awards that came before it we have tasked the people of the Barony to ensure the Quaich ever remains full to show our honour given to the holder of the Quaich. However in keeping with the Cup of Friendship and knowing the hearts and arms of Septentria and Septentrians are ever open in welcome, we further charge the guardian of the Quaich to go forth and seek out those visitors within our halls. Make welcome the new people only recently finding their way to our game and people of all ranks who may be visitors in our lands.

We were also most honoured to name upon this 12th Night celebration the First Guardian of the Quaich of Ar-

tio, Lord Bjarn Thorolfson. Wassail Bjarn, and Wassail Septentria.

Spear training and tournament

Sir Nigel held a spear training class sponsored by Their Majesties, followed by a tournament including spear fighting at the barrier, great sword fighting and dagger fighting. The tournament was won by Duke Roak.

Baronial Twister

In the spirit of Twelfth Night, Queen of Fools Badrielle challenged the former holders of the High Seat of Septentria to a game of Twister. His Excellency Cynred emerged amazingly limber for an old Saxon and won the day.

Heraldry tree

With the patronage of Their Excellencies, Lady Lassarfina has undertaken a project to produce a baronial Shield Tree. This will travel to events along with Their Excellencies, and Septentrians who are also in attendance may hang a shield with their device or badge on the tree to mark their presence. A table with pre-cut wooden shields and paint to decorate them was provided and many Septentrians either painted their shield at the event or took home a shield blank to work on later. Watch for news as to when the shield tree will be seen at Septentrian events. Shields are also still available from Lady Lassarfina

Court

Here follows an account of the Court of Their Excellencies of Septentria.

Their Majesties of Ealdormere, Trumbrand and Kaylah, gave Their Excellencies Percival and Christiana leave to hold their Court.

Master Hector was called before Their Excellencies. One year ago, Their Excellencies Corwyn and Domhnail had bestowed upon him the Horn of Munin, which he did return, as was customary. Their Excellencies then retired the Horn, returning it to Their Excellencies Corwyn and Domhnail, who had created it.

Their Excellencies then introduced the Quaich of Artio and bestowed it upon Lord Bjarn Thorolfsson.

Their Excellencies then noted that Their Majesties had taken up the baronial coronets for a short time during their Court at Kingdom A&S, and saw fit to commemorate this

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by bestowing upon them rather large white bear medallions.

Baroness Adrielle then was called into Court and presented Their Excellencies with great wealth in the form of cattle. These were of the miniature finger puppet variety.

Their Excellencies then called forth Lady Tarian, and presented her with a small stuffed bear to take home for Baby Rowan, one of the Barony's newest subjects. Baby Rowan had already departed for nappy time.

Baron Cynred was called forward. Her Excellency noted the ongoing concern for her health following her visit to the barber surgeons, and to commemorate this presented him with a vial of her most precious Bile.

Their Excellencies concluded their court by announcing their Taxes (which led to the subsequent Tax Revolt later in Royal Court; see above for further information.)

Feast

Septentrions know that any feast cooked by Their Excellencies Corwyn and Domhnail is not to be missed, and this one was no exception. From the enormous cornucopia of pies, to the clever disguise of Her Majesty's favourite dish (called in the common tongue "KD") to the piece de resistance, featuring brave Sir Quail with his two swords facing Sir Chicken (an axeman), both knights with plumed helmets and tabards, feasters were well-fed and entertained as well.

Upcoming Septentrian Events

March A.S. XXXXII

29 Late Winter Shoot, Canton of Petrea Thule (in Peterborough, ON)

April A.S. XXXXII

11-12 Cloth of Gold, Canton of Eoforwic (in Oshawa, ON)
26 Coronation, Rising Waters

May A.S. XXXXIII

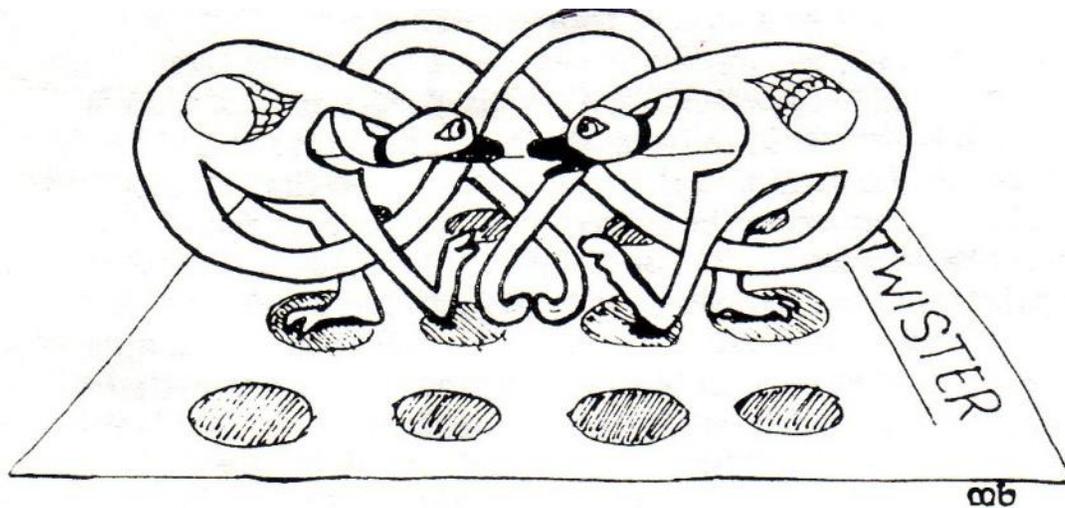
16-18 Spring Tune-up V Septentrian 30th Birthday, Canton of Caer Draeth (in Cookstown, ON)
24 Crown Tournament, Ramshaven

June A.S. XXXXIII

7 Pikeman's Pleasure, Canton of Petrea Thule (in Millbrook, ON)
26-Jul 1 War of the Trillium IV, Canton of Ardchreag (in Whitby, ON)

July - August A.S. XXXXIII

26 - 10 Pennsic War, Barony-March of the Debatable Lands (in Slippery Rock, PA)



LOOK-WHY DON'T WE JUST CALL IT A DRAW?

SPRING TUNE UP V SEPTENTRIA'S 30th Birthday

**The Cookstown Curling Club
Cookstown, ON
Friday May 16th to Sunday May 18th 2008**

COME FOR A DAY OR STAY THE WEEKEND IN THE GREAT HALL!

FIGHTING, FENCING, ARCHERY, MERCHANTS, A&S CLASSES!

SPECIAL FRIDAY NIGHT BARDIC CIRCLE!

GRAND BARONIAL PRACTICE (For all martial pursuits)!

	Adult	13-18 Years	6-12 Years	5 & Under
Site (weekend)	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$8.00	FREE
Site (day trip)	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	FREE

SITE FEE FAMILY CAP: \$30/weekend (family is: 1 or 2 parents and their children of the same residence)

NOTE: \$3 NMS fee will be added to adult site prices where applicable

SITE OPENS: 7pm Friday May 16th SITE CLOSES: 2pm Sunday May 18th

MEALS BY CAER DRAETH'S DANCING BEAR TAVERN!

Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Feast: Night of the 30 Dishes
Saturday	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$12.00-booked & paid before April 30th \$15.00-booked & paid after April 30th FEAST LIMITED TO 90 SO BOOK EARLY Gentles 12 and under: feast is half price
Sunday	\$5.00	A la Carte	

Make Cheques Payable to SCA Canton of Caer Draeth (NO CHEQUES AT THE DOOR)

Go to <http://ca.geocities.com/vanheef/CDupEvent.htm> for event details.

Event Steward: THL Seonag nic Thomais
(Mka) Sandy Benetti
(705) 424-4531
sandra.benetti@sympatico.ca

Reservations: Lady Fallon of Caer Draeth
(Mka Onda Masters)
14 Argyle Street
Orillia, ON L3V 2V6
(705) 326-1027
lady_english2@yahoo.ca

Tavern Steward: Streonwold Wulfesbana, Hlaford
(Mka Steve Benetti)
streonwold@gmail.com

EALDORMERE'S CLOTH OF GOLD COSTUMING COMPETITION

presented by the Canton of Eoforwic

Date: April 11 -12, 2008

Location: Lake Vista Clubhouse, 450 Emerald Avenue, Oshawa, ON L1J 1K4

Hours: Opens 6 PM Friday, closes 6 PM Saturday.

Site Fee for those checking in on Friday night: \$20 CAD

(this includes a hot breakfast, lunch, and drinks and snacks during the night)

Site Fee for those coming on Saturday: \$5 CAD, Plus \$3 CAD Non-Member Surcharge as applicable

Make cheques payable to SCA- Eoforwic.

The Competition

Each team of no more than 8 members have 18 hours to make a complete outfit, from underclothes to outerwear and accessories. A Fashion Show/Show-and-Tell will take place at 3:30 pm where the outfits will be judged and a winner will be declared. ****Team Registration Cut-off date is Friday, April 4, 2008.**** For detailed contest rules, see below.

Event Steward

Jocelyne Roget de Cranewall (Yvonne Rogers)
44 Glenshephard Drive
Toronto, ON M1K 4N3
416-261-8202 (no calls after 10pm)
tamlin01@hotmail.com

Troll/Registration

Bantiarna Medb ingen Dungaile (Jackie Wyatt)
15 Erskine Ave, Apt. #704
Toronto, ON M4P 1Y5
416-481-4868 (no calls after 10pm)
416-481-4868 (no calls after 10pm)

Because of the intense nature of this event, any team members travelling any kind of significant distance are encouraged to arrange for crash space and/or have a driver not on the team drive you home. This is a very tiring competition; if at all possible give yourself a day to recuperate. We schedule this event to end reasonably early on Saturday so that the teams can pack up and travel home or to their crash site and still have some time to sleep it off then travel home safely.

Directions

401 Eastbound:

Take EXIT 417 toward RR-2 / SIMCOE STREET. Turn LEFT onto BLOOR ST W /RR-22. Immediately turn RIGHT at lights onto SIMCOE ST S / RR-2. Turn RIGHT onto WENTWORTH ST W / RR-60. Turn LEFT onto CEDAR ST. Turn RIGHT onto EMERALD AVE.

401 Westbound:

Take EXIT 418 toward RR-16 / RITSON ROAD / RR-2 / SIMCOE STREET. Turn RIGHT onto TORONTO AVE. Turn RIGHT onto RITSON RD S / RR-16. Turn RIGHT onto WENTWORTH ST E / RR-60. Turn LEFT onto CEDAR ST. Turn RIGHT onto EMERALD AVE.

The Rules

Teams

- ◆ Teams may have up to 8 people maximum, not including the model. If the model assists the team, they must be counted as a team member. If not, they do not count towards the maximum number.
- ◆ Laurels of all stripes are encouraged to compete! Teams with costuming/textile laurels must enter in Advanced.
- ◆ No age limits (min/max).

Novice

- ◆ Patterns may be drafted in advance or you may use commercial patterns.
- ◆ Complicated underwear or accessories (hats, buttons, shoes, corsets, bumrolls) may be made in advance or purchased.
- ◆ *No pewter casting, glass bead making or other blowtorch work permitted at site.*
- ◆ All Other Rules Apply!

Advanced

- ◆ Teams with costuming/textile laurels must enter in Advanced.
- ◆ Patterns must be drafted on site.
- ◆ Expectation of greater complexity and execution of accessories on site.
- ◆ All Other Rules Apply!

The Facilities

- ◆ You must bring everything that you need – no last minute runs to Fabricland are permitted!
- ◆ Limited supply of spare bobbins, white thread and other notions may be available. Unlimited number of electrical appliances allowed, but access to power may be restricted. ***Please bring extension cords and power bars!!!***
- ◆ Ironing boards are permitted on the Stage which is equipped with extra power facilities. You are welcome to bring your own ironing board and iron.
- ◆ Site includes ample supply of tables/chairs.
- ◆ We hope to set up a vinyl Garage in a corner of the (large) room for crash space use. Bring a sleeping bag and/or cot, if you want to take a nap.

The Scope of the Project

- ◆ Garb must be made for a specific person – the model. Garb is top to toe, from the skin out. Includes underwear, corsets, hoops & bum rolls, hats, shoes, pouches, etc.

Fabric & Patterns

- ◆ Complete measurements can be done in advance. Patterns must be cut out onsite.
- ◆ Fabric can be pre-washed, or sized in advance. Fabric must be flat and unmarked at start time
- ◆ Embellishments may be done on site or in advance. Extra WOW points for embellishments done on site. Purchased trim is allowed, but must be applied on-site
- ◆ **No pewter casting, glass working or blowtorch work permitted on site.**

Accessories Rules

· Accessories not made of fabric may be done in advance (Shoes, buckles, buttons, purse hardware, belts, etc.) **Metal or glass accessories constructed under high heat MUST be done in advance due to fire regulations.** Exceptions : Gloves - May be made/purchased in advance, but must be embellished on site. Socks – commercial is OK, or may be made in advance

Judges: 6 (this number is currently unconfirmed)

If you are interested in judging, please Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton at nicolaa@rogers.com

Award Categories

- ◆ Early period - 600 to 1100 (e.g. Byzantine, Saxon, Viking)
- ◆ Middle period - 1100 to 1450 (e.g. Burgundian, Houppelandes, Cotehardies)
- ◆ Late period - 1450 to 1600 (e.g. Renaissance, Tudor, Elizabethan)

Any other category will be judged separately if there are at least 3 entries - non-European - e.g. Middle Eastern, Oriental - or horse bardings (horse need not be present!), etc.

Judging guidelines -20 points per category; categories are as follows: Creativity, Fit, Scope, Workmanship, Completeness.

Special points available: 25 - Proof & vindication of how/why you did what you did written or oral (may be done in advance); 25 - Accessories made on site; 50 - General WOW! factor of what you tried to accomplish

Total possible points 200

The Origins of Kingdom Names

By Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton

I was explaining to a new person recently what the name Ealdormere means: Ancient Lake, which is a reference, of course, to the Great Lakes. It may also be translated as Noble Lake. That got me thinking about the other kingdom names, and so I did a little research.

The first kingdom was the West Kingdom, followed by the East Kingdom and the Middle Kingdom. These names are self-explanatory. The Middle Kingdom is also an age in Pharaonic Egypt, as well as a name used by the Chinese to refer to their lands. The Middle Kingdom arms features a dragon, which was originally an oriental-style dragon, playing on this second meaning.

The fourth kingdom is Atenveldt, which was the only kingdom to grow from a barony to a principality and then to a kingdom. The Barony of Atenveldt (which is still active) is located in Phoenix, AZ, a region known as the Valley of the Sun. This is very close to the meaning of Atenveldt, which means “Sun Plains” in a conglomeration of ancient Egyptian and Afrikaans.

Meridies was the next kingdom to form. On medieval Latin maps, Meridies refers to the southern regions (just as Septentria refers to the North). Much of what we would consider the American South was at one time part of Meridies.

Caid has perhaps the most unique name origin. The name is an acronym of the initials of the four baronies – Calafia, Altavia, the Isles, and Dreiburgen – that were the four main groups in the Principality of Caid when it was created from the West Kingdom. The name, coincidentally, means “fortress” in Arabic.

Ansteorra comprises most of Texas and Oklahoma. The name means “One Star” – appropriate for a kingdom that includes the Lone Star State.

Atlantia’s name is self-explanatory, since it comprises the southern Atlantic states.

An Tir has one of the more simple names, meaning “The Land” in Gaelic.

You may note that “tir” forms part of the name of Calontir as well, but in this case, the name is Welsh rather than Gaelic, and means “heartland”. Calontir includes the tradi-

tional Bread Basket states such as Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas.

Trimaris includes most of Florida. The name refers to the three seas that surround it.

The Outlands were originally a principality of Atenveldt, and the name refers to the remote location of those lands from the central part of that kingdom.

Drachenwald means “dragon forest.” It does not appear to have any specific reference to its original heartland of Europe, other than being a cool name.

The name Artemisia is derived from the botanical name for sage brush, *Artemisia tridentate*, which is characteristic for this particular kingdom (Utah, Montana, Southern Idaho, and parts of Colorado.)

Aethelmearc has an origin similar to that of the Outlands. The name means “noble march” in Anglo-Saxon – a march being an outlying or border area. This kingdom was originally a principality of the East Kingdom and formed a border region with the Middle Kingdom.

Lochac (Australia and New Zealand) has the distinction of having one of the few truly period names. Marco Polo described in his writings a kingdom called Lochac that was located south of Java.

Northshield’s name is a reference to both the Canadian Shield and their original position as a “shield of the North” for their parent kingdom, the Midrealm.

And finally, Gleann Abhann, the SCA’s newest kingdom, means “River Valley” in Gaelic. The kingdom centres around the Mississippi River, including the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and part of Tennessee.



A Primer on Serving as Entourage

Part One

By Baroness Christiana MacNamara

As I begin a new phase of my SCA life and must get used to others looking after me, I felt this was a good time to share some of my experiences as serving as entourage. The following are some hints and tips from my years of experience serving as Lady in Waiting to several of Ealdormere's Royal Families.

Who or What is an Entourage? Put in its simplest terms, Entourage are the support staff and attendants that help make it possible for Royalty to do their jobs efficiently and with at least some degree of sanity. Be it as Chamberlain, a Lady in Waiting (LiW), Man at Arms (MaA) or any of the other many people needed to make a reign work well, they are all part of the entourage. This article contains a number of guidelines and tips to make this an enjoyable and rewarding experience for you, the other members of entourage, and the Royalty you will serve. This article comes from my experiences serving Royalty. Some things may change based on the Royalty you serve.

DISCRETION- If nothing else discretion should be your watch word while serving Royalty. You will find yourself in a position to overhear or observe things that should be considered secrets. (e.g. court business, award recommendations and general Royal gossip). Nothing you overhear or see should be repeated outside of the company it was meant for. If while attending one of the Royals you find yourself in earshot of a confidential conversation, remove yourself to a discreet distance so as to be out of hearing range but within sight of the Royal should you be needed. When in the royalty room, if the court herald, member of the peerage or someone else of importance is conducting sensitive business (court awards, peerages etc.) remove yourself from the room if possible. Wait outside until this visitor leaves or you are invited back in. This also applies to any meetings (peerage, etc.) that you are not entitled to attend. You should attempt to find a member of these orders to attend the Royals during these meetings for you.

IF YOU ARE ASKED FOR GOSSIP OR INFORMATION SIMPLY REPLY THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW OR CANNOT DISCUSS IT. This may sound rude but the Royals rely upon your discretion and infringement upon this could jeopardize your position in the entourage.

SET AN EXAMPLE – Consider yourself (even if just for a few short hours) a member of the Royal Household because other people will consider you to be an extension of

the Royals. Your behavior, words and actions will reflect back on the Royals and your Kingdom. Obnoxious, rude or drunken behavior, loud or argumentative discussions or inappropriate behavior whether on duty or not should be avoided at all cost.

REMEMBER YOU ARE ALWAYS ON DISPLAY EVEN IF YOU DO NOT REALIZE IT. This also goes although somewhat reduced when you are off duty, or out doing the party circuit. (e.g. at camping events).

PEEK-A-BOO WITH ROYALTY- Never let the Royals out of your sight when on duty. Except when they are in their personal pavilion/room, private meetings or inside a rest room stall always make sure the Royals can make eye contact or signal with you when needed. You should give them the space they need while remaining within sight or earshot to respond immediately to their needs. Some Royalty intentionally or accidentally like to play "Ditch the entourage." Should you find yourself faced with this situation attempt to reconnect with them as quickly and with as little fuss as possible. At an appropriate private time gently remind them that you are volunteering to serve them and if not needed you could be spending your time elsewhere. If they desire private time without entourage they should remove all signs of their rank and regalia and dismiss the entourage. This should be discouraged except within the confines of a Royalty room or a private camp space or other area, as they are Royalty no matter what. However if they insist they should be prepared not to receive the respect due them and fend for themselves without attendants.

That's it for now—stay tuned for part two. Anyone wishing further information regarding working as entourage please feel free to contact me at wingsnail@simpatico.ca or in person at an event.



Historia Gaza

By Duke Finnvarr de Taahe

Please note: This article and the series of articles that will follow in upcoming issues were written by Duke Finnvarr for The Ursus 12-13 years ago and highlights important people and events from the early years of the SCA in Ontario. In this thirtieth year of the founding of the Barony of Septentia (and also the tenth year of the founding of the Kingdom of Ealdormere) we hope that these articles will help illuminate the rich history of our great northern lands. We have kept the articles as originally published; hence the references to the Principality of Ealdormere, 13 kingdoms, etc.)

I often get the feeling when talking to newer members of our principality that they think of Ealdormere as a rather new and undeveloped part of the SCA. Our principality is about seven years old, if you count from Pennsic XVII, when it was created a Crown Principality by King Corwyn and Queen Shana; or five years old, if you count from the first Coronet and Coronation, which took place on April 7, 1990. The Middle Kingdom, on the other hand, was 25 years old last July 4th. So, of course, we must be the much younger group. Right?

When our esteemed Baronial Chronicler asked me to write a few short articles on the history of Septentria, the first thing that popped into my mind was to correct this misapprehension. If the Middle Kingdom's 25 years count as *great antiquity* by Society standards, then we in Ealdormere, and especially Septentria, can count on antiquity of our own.

The first of my articles will prove this point by laying down a little basic chronology; later on, we can get into tales of heroism and villainy, intrigue and tragedy, and all the stuff the Chronicler really wants to see. I hope, however, that neither she nor you will be bored by this introduction.

The Middle Kingdom is the third of the present 13 kingdoms. It was founded by science fiction fans who had witnessed the SCA in action at Baycon (the world SF Convention in Berkeley, 1968). Before A.S. V was over, two other Midrealm groups were up and running: one was the first Canadian group, Castel Rouge (Winnipeg); the other was North Woods (East Lansing, Michigan).

Septentria and Ealdormere have a direct and early connection to North Woods. I was a founding member of that Barony. Later I moved to the East, became King, and then moved to Toronto. For the first three weeks of my stay

(back in A.S. VII, 1973), I was still King of the East and Eoforwic-to-be was my *royal capital!*

This was not to be the real origin of Eoforwic and Ealdormere. Frankly, I was not brave, rich, nor idle enough to start an SCA group without experienced help. In A.S. VIII, Gillian d'Uriel, also a North Woodser, moved to Toronto, and we soon talked each other into making the big move. By March of A.S. X, 1975, our efforts paid off. We had a group, a name, a set of arms, and put on our first event - more on this later.

By 1978, there were enough groups in our province - Eoforwic, Ben Dunfirth, Noerlandia (on the site of present - day Skeldergate) and Starleaf Gate - to take the next step. After much hard thinking and a certain amount of arguing, these groups united to form the Barony of Septentria. Unlike all other baronies in the Known World, Septentria was not restricted to a single town. This was a province - sized barony, which would serve as a framework for further growth. Septentria, in fact, was born to be split up. But never, of course, to disappear!

Gillian was recognized as Baroness of Septentria by Queen Kirsten on the 13th day of the 13th year (1978) and we celebrated the event in Eoforwic in July. If memory serves, Septentria was the seventh Middle Kingdom barony. There are now 21, not including those split off with Calontir. Septentria, the forerunner of the Principality, is one of the oldest baronies in the Kingdom.

Thus Ealdormereans, and most of all Septentrians, should not think of themselves as belonging to a new region, struggling to make its place in Society history. Our history is old and honourable. We have contributed much to the Middle Kingdom: Kings and Queens, warriors and artists, officers and autocrats. Whatever the Kingdom has accomplished since A.S. X, we have had our share in it. We have often done more than our share. We have been on the battlefield, in the feast hall and especially in the tavern.

And if our Chronicler lends me her indulgence, stories of some of those exploits will appear here.

Originally published in The Ursus #181, February 1995 A.S. XXIX

Duke Finnvarr's next article will address anniversaries, which will time nicely with Septentria's 30th birthday in May.

Blast from the Past

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

July 29, 1975.

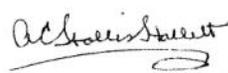
Mr. Steve Muhlberger,
30 Sussex Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario.

TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

You requested of me permission to hold a medieval activity in the University College Quadrangle on Saturday, the 20th of September, from 10 a.m. until about 5 p.m.

I am pleased to grant this permission on the understanding that if anyone should become ripped from the nave to the chaps or should suffer any debilitations, hurt, or bruise, the responsibility therefore shall be the responsibility of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

In Witness Whereof We Hereby Set our Hand and Seal this 29th Day of July, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-five.


A. C. Hollis Hallett,
Principal



c.c. Miss Reimer

This is a copy of the original letter granting the canton of Eoforwic use of the University College quad for their second event, held in in September, 1975. The Principal of the College definitely got into the spirit of the fledgling group - the dark area was a wax seal affixed to the original letter, which was kept as part of the Seneschal's files for Eoforwic. University College quad would serve as Eoforwic's primary event site for almost 20 years, until the canton was driven out by the site's ever increasing rental price and hordes of drunken wedding parties.

Please note: We hope to make this a regular feature of The Ursus. If you have any documents, photos, artwork, etc (and the story behind them) you would like to share, please email them to us or bring them out to an upcoming meeting or event.

Then and Now

By Magistra Nicolaa de Bracton and
Lord Gunther Wahlstadt of Bremen

This will be a recurring feature in the *Ursus* featuring then and now photographs of Septentrians. To give you an idea of what we're looking for, we're starting with us.

Top photo: Septentrian Twelfth Night, AS 25 (January 1991) in Eoforwic. This event was the one where Aedan and Kaffa announced their coming retirement as Baron and Baroness of Septentria.

This was the first event we attended together, and it was Nicolaa's first event, period. At the time she was known as Rigunth af Bern, and her persona was based in sixth century Ostrogothic Italy. The dress, her third piece of garb, was based on bog finds and the two large eagle brooches, characteristic of Ostrogothic art, were made from Fimo. Her first piece of garb, made in essentially the same style but of green taffeta and fondly remembered as the "Ostrogothic prom dress," never saw the light of day.

Gunthar had been in the SCA about four years at this point, although he is wearing his very first tunic, based on the Viking pattern in the *Known World Handbook*. His wardrobe would expand considerably in the coming months as he got to know Rigunth. He was serving as Eoforwic pursuivant, as indicated by the battered herald's baldric.

Lower photo: Wassail, AS XLI (December, 2006) This photo was taken for publication in the *Ursus* along with our Baronial candidates' letter. We've been together since just before that first event we attended back in AS XXV. Gunthar survived his term as pursuivant to later serve as Eoforwic's mayor and seneschal. Nicolaa went on to many years of service as a Chronicler at various levels, which continues to this day.

Please note: We hope to make this a regular feature of the Ursus. If you have a set of then and now pictures (and the story behind them) that you would like to share, please email them to us or bring them out to an upcoming meeting or event.



Nicolaa's Musings

This is my second go-around with the *Ursus*. Of all the Chronicler positions I've held over the years, however, this one is special. The *Ursus* has run continuously (more or less) since the founding of the Barony, and technically even earlier, since Eoforwic's newsletter was renamed the *Ursus* when Septentria was formed. I've spent the past couple of weeks looking through old issues, seeing myself "grow up" in the SCA in those pages, revelling in my incredible cluelessness at times, and at other times laughing at jokes long forgotten.

When I first joined the SCA over 17 years ago, the world was a smaller place. Like many new people, I had little concept of anything beyond my home group, Eoforwic, which (little known to me) was going through a far-reaching transition from the Eoforwic that once was the heart of Septentria, the Eoforwic where many of the legends of the early days of the SCA in Ontario still walked and played in its midst, to an Eoforwic that no longer had a close personal connection to its legendary figures. Yet the group was still perceived by many as the group that expected to rule by right of seniority. It was perceived as insular, peculiar, and snobbish.

What it actually was at that point was a group largely run by those who had come along long after the glory years had passed, who often made the same mistakes many newer folks make when they come to the Society—but others pointed to their group, not their newness, as the cause. Brimming with enthusiasm and inspired by the great heroes of the past, they blundered their way into more than one political situation where they were in way over their heads—and didn't even know it. This was certainly how it was for me. I often had no one to tell me, "that's a great idea, but did you ever look at it from this angle?" The history written in books couldn't give me that perspective and context. Only time, trials by fire, and patient mentors could.

This is why history is so important to me—written history, to be sure, but even more important is the oral history, the wisdom of those who have learned of a world beyond our local groups, our Barony, and even our Kingdom. It was in living outside the Barony for awhile that I believe I truly understood what Septentria meant to me—not just a listing of groups and dates and deeds solemnly recorded, but the strength of its very diverse people. Septentria is a force to bring these people together, to realize the greater things that can be accomplished beyond individuals, cantons, or households. We are all part of something greater than the sum of our parts, and we have much to teach each other. That is my Septentria.

Gunther's Corner

Top Ten things uttered by Santa Bjarn at the Christmas Party

10. If you're going out, could you grab me a Baconator™ and large coffee?
9. Hey kid, is your mom single?
8. This chair makes my butt hurt.
7. Santa need drink.
6. Dude, where did I park my sleigh?
5. How do you want your reindeer steak?
4. Yeah the beard is real, and so is everything else... if you know what I mean.
3. It's OK, Mrs. Claus and I have an open marriage.
2. You want WHAT for Christmas!?! Man, that is stupid!
1. Ho, Ho... oh screw this!

From the Personal Archives



For those of you who haven't been properly introduced, this is Murphy the Boushkazi Sheep, one of Septentria's oldest (living) residents. Many years ago Duke Finnvarr adapted the Afghan game of boushkazi (a kind of polo in which a sheep carcass is the "ball") to armoured combat. Murphy was created by then-Lady (now Duchess) Caitlin Stuart and served honourably for many years. He eventually gave one of his legs in battle and was retired after being fitted with the handsome peg-leg you see in the photo (as well as with a festive garland and a leather harness that has led to all kinds of unsavoury rumours about his retirement activities.) Murphy was made a companion of the Order of the Bear's Heart by Baroness Adrielle, and proudly wears his ancient Septentrian tabard with the gold bear.

Cantons of Septentria

Ardchreag



Lady Tarian verch Gadarn
(Michaela Helliwell)
905-420 4588
tarian@tworavens.org
(no website currently active)
Meetings: Thursday 7:30 pm
All Practices: Sunday
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes

Caer Draeth



THL Seonag nic Thomais
(Sandra Benetti)
705-424-4531
sandra.benetti@sympatico.ca
<http://ca.geocities.com/vanheef/index.html>
Meetings: Wednesday 7:30 pm
All Practices: None at the moment
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes

Eoforwic



Lady Alof of Eoforwic (Jen Russell)
416-925 5427
eoforwic_sca@yahoo.com
<http://sca.uwaterloo.ca/Eoforwic/>
Meetings: Tuesday 7:30 pm
Armoured Cbt Practice: Sunday 2pm
Rapier Practice: Sunday 2pm
Youth Combat Practice: Sunday 2pm
Archery Practice: Sunday 11am (spring)
Dance Practice: Friday 7:30 pm
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes

Monadh



Baron Cynred Broccan
(Ken Cook)
519-943 0635
broccan@sympatico.ca
(website under construction)
Meetings: 2nd Sunday each month 6pm
All Practices: None at the moment
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes

Petrea Thule



Lady Mathild de Valognes
(Valerie West)
705-743-0618
vwest@cogeco.ca
<http://www.pipcom.com/~thule/>
Meetings: Thursday 7:30 pm
All Practices: Sunday
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes

Skeldergate



Lady Brigit Langbein
(Brigitte Evering)
905-372-1834
moonfire@eagle.ca
<http://ca.geocities.com/skeldergate@rogers.com>
Meetings: Thursday 6:30 pm
All Practices: Thursday 6:30 pm
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes

Swan's Keep



Lady Ann of Saffron Walden
(Wendy Maurice)
705-549 3740
flaxspinweav@yahoo.ca
www.geocities.com/swans_deep/
Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesday each
month 6:30pm
All Practices: None at the moment
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes

Vest Yorvik



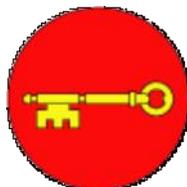
Lord William MacDonald
(Martin Ross)
905-949 5638
balnagown@rogers.com
<http://www.vestyorvik.org/>
Meetings: Monday 7:30 pm
All Practices: None at the moment
Please contact Seneschal or see website
for directions and scheduling changes



Baronial Regnum

Baron and
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HE Christiana MacNamara (Carole Crawley)
556 Maple Avenue, Burlington, Ontario, L7S 1M6
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(Wil Jolliffe)
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416-652-9131
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Chronicler



Lord Gunther Wahlstadt (David Clark)
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marginalia@rogers.com

Exchequer



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(Kim McAuley)
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L5N 2M4
905-542-0421
vicountessk@rogers.com

Armoured



Sir Nigel McFarlane
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19 Ridout St
Lindsay, Ontario
K9V 2B3
705-328-3965
nigel_mcfarlane@hotmail.com

Pursuivant



Lord Griffin de Stokeport
(Greg Saul)
792 Snelgrove Road
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 2G1
705-743-0970
griffin@wraithstudios.ca

Archery



Lord Michael of Brentwood
(Michael Dumond)
28 Parr Blvd, RR#2, Utopia, Ontario
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705-725-9916
new_knite@yahoo.ca

A&S Minister



Lord Thorolfr inn smithr
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Rapier



THL Gareth Cambell
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Webminister



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M6G 3Y7
416-532-1869
beithgrove@sympatico.ca