



PORTCULLIS

Newsletter of the Barony of Brendoken
Volume VII - Issue 8 - October 2008

FROM THE BARON AND BARONESS

Greetings are sent to the good gentles of Brendoken.

We send warm greetings to our new monarchs, King Ullr and Queen AnneLyse. While yet Prince and Princess, they visited our barony and made a lasting impression with Their grace and good will. I am sure the entire barony wishes Them well in Their reign. Fall Crown Tourney is not that far away. It will be held on October 18th in the Barony of Flaming Gryphon in Dayton, Ohio. We urge the citizens of Brendoken to attend and to be part of the traditions of the Midrealm as our kingdom's best fighters vie to offer their consort the crown of Prince or Princess.

The Candidates for Baron and Baroness "road show" has made the rounds to each of the groups. A meet and greet was held at each canton to give the populace the chance to see and talk to the candidates. There were lively discussions and a lot of mingling. There will be time set aside at this month's baronial meeting for a "Q and A" with the candidates. Please use these opportunities to listen to the candidates' vision for the barony to help you as you fill out the ballot for the upcoming poll.

The cold winds of winter are starting to be felt. As the SCA moves indoors, We know that there are many projects to keep us all busy and occupied as the snow and cold take over the coming months. May we all be safe and warm.

Yours in service to the Midrealm and Barony Brendoken
Alexander and Catriona
Baron and Baroness Brendoken



**Barony of Brendoken
Business Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2008**

In attendance: 20

I. OFFICER REPORTS:

- A. Baron and Baroness: Gave thanks to all who helped them at Pennsic.
- B. Seneschal:
 - 1. The poll process is under way
 - 2. There are five couples who sent in letters of intent
 - 3. A deputy is needed
- C. Exchequer:
 - 1. After reimbursements, the banking account holds \$2950.24
 - 2. Polling office needs \$171.60 to cover printing costs, stamps and envelopes
 - 3. Lady Ursula proposed that this amount be sent, Sgt Einar and Lord Robert seconded, the motion passed
 - 4. A deputy is needed ASAP
 - 5. The Exchequer must see all baronial financial activities
- D. Pursuivant:
 - 1. Milord Donal Bane has agreed to be the deputy pursuivant
 - 2. There were many awards, both at the kingdom and baronial level, presented to citizens of Brendoken
- E. MoAS: Not present
- F. Knights Marshall: Not present
 - 1. Concerned that he is not getting quarterly reports
 - a. Local group marshals have sent in on-line reports
 - b. Copies should be sent to Lord Magnus automatically
 - c. The online reporting needs to be checked
- G. Chronicler:
 - 1. Thank you for the articles that have been sent in
 - 2. A deputy is needed for the office of Chronicler
- H. Chamberlain: Not present
- I. Webminister: Not present
- J. Signet: Lord Robert would like to start a database of available calligraphers and illuminators in the barony

II. GROUPS

- A. Gwyntarian:
 - 1. The Art in the Park demo is be on September 6-7
 - 2. November 1 is the date of the Road to Alexandria event
- B. Thistle: No new information
- C. Three Towers:
 - 1. The group's new seneschal is Lord Galen
 - 2. Blueberry Festival demo went well
 - 3. The group has decided to do a Cook's Symposium
- D. Alderford
 - 1. *Melee at Roswell* went very well, more people attended
 - 2. TRH, Ullr and AnneLyse, found it to be a nice relaxing event
 - 3. The autocrat, Sgt Einar, is seeking opinions on whether the date is better pre or post Pennsic

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Baronial Scroll table
 - 1. Lord Robert displayed the table that he is making
 - 2. Baronial scrolls will be protected by a sheet of Plexiglas so others might get a closer look
 - 3. It will be announced prior to court that scrolls will be displayed
- B. Brendokenfest
 - 1. Lady Ursula reported that the Tuscararus Co Fairgrounds will not respond until after the county fair
 - 2. However, we are firmly penciled in for April 18, 2009
 - 3. Lady Ursula is willing to be a preliminary contact person for the fairgrounds, but is NOT interesting in autocrating the event
 - 4. Discussion of whether Equestrian activities were justified
 - a. An extra \$125 for insurance
 - b. Discuss with Forester Offria and Lady Finna about marshalling and advisability
 - 5. General feeling was that if possible to have equestrian activities at Brendokenfest
- C. Transition of B&B's
 - 1. Transition Deputy is on track
 - 2. Poll planned for early October
 - 3. Everyone is encouraged to fill out the poll
 - 4. Missing polls will be considered abstaining
 - 5. Question: Is a certain percentage of the polls have to be returned? Answer: No.
 - 6. Reminder: The poll is only giving an opinion to TRM. It is our monarchs who will decide who is to be the new Baron and Baroness
 - 7. Member, non-members, those who live in the barony and out of the barony may receive a poll
 - 8. Suggested that the candidates go to each of the four local groups
 - 9. As three out of the four local seneschals were present, they agrees, pending checking with the missing seneschal
 - 10. It was decided that the four seneschals will organize the visits

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion on terms of office for Baron and Baroness
 - 1. It was decided to have no stated term limit, with a poll to be held every 5 years in accordance with kingdom law
 - 2. Our charter is only an advisory document and helps to provide continuity
 - 3. Suggestion that the charter be looked at to make sure it states what we wish it to state
 - B. Barony Structure
 - 1. Discussion concerning the local groups understanding of how the groups and the barony function
 - 2. Lord Giles has received complaints from individuals of one group that the barony is not doing its part
 - 3. Discussion tabled until the individuals' complaints can be clarified
 - C. Baron Alexander found the original question asked of the candidates at the "Q and A" session five years ago
 - 1. He will e-mail them to Lord Giles for possible use at the October meeting
 - D. Lord Giles voiced a concern given him on how baronial business is discuss and decided
 - 1. Discussion about other means of communication
 - a. An electric forum was suggested as a means to allow those unable to attend meetings to participate
 - b. There were differing views on this idea
 - c. Discussion was tabled, no decision was made
 - E. Lord Giles brought up a concern sent to him that the rapier fighters seem to be getting so much attention
 - 1. Lord Giles comment: the reason that they get attention is that they are doing something.
 - 2. The first time Brendoken fielded heavy weapon fighters there were 9. This year there were 2
 - 3. Suggestion: Do something!
 - F. The meeting was adjourned
- Catriona, Baroness Brendoken, respectfully submitted these minutes.

the medieval calendar

By Catriona nicHugh McLaey

OCTOBER



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The month of October gets its name from the Romans. It was the eighth month in their calendar, and “Octo” is Latin for eight. For the Saxons it was known as Wyn Month as this was the wine making season.

In Britain, Hiring Fairs were associated with Michaelmas Day, which is actually celebrated on September 29th. However, due to the calendar reform in 1752, this practice was moved eleven days forward to October 10th. Servants and laborers were hired from October to October. At the Hiring Fairs, people wanting to be hired would carry symbols of their work. A maid would carry a mop, a shepherd carried wool, a gardener would hold plants, and so on. Those looking to hire would seek out likely prospects. When hired, the employees would be given a small amount of money as a token of the agreement. The symbol of their work would be put away and the person would carry a colorful bunch of ribbons, which denoted their hired status.

October 18th is St. Luke’s Day. Girls could gain insight into their marriage prospects by putting a mixture of spices, honey, and vinegar on their face prior to getting into bed. Once in bed, they had to say: *St. Luke, St. Luke be kind to me, In my dreams, let me my true Love see.*

There are several weather beliefs associated with the month of October in England.

1. *Rain in October means wind in December.*
2. *When birds and badgers are fat in October, expect a cold winter.*
3. *If ducks do slide at Hallowtide, At Christmas they will swim;
if ducks do swim at Hallowtide, At Christmas they will slide.*
4. *In October dung your fields, And your land its wealth will yield.*

The tradition most familiar to Americans is All Hallow’ Eve, commonly known as Halloween. For the Celts, the year ended on October 31st and November 1st was New Year’s Day. This holy time was called Samhain. It was thought that spirits would come to posses the living. The villages would dress up in outlandish costumes and parade through the town to frighten the spirits away. The people would light a huge bonfire to fright the demons that would devour the sun and cause winter to happen. Jumping over the fire was thought to bring good luck. An ember from the bonfire would be given to each family to start new cooking fires for the new year. Sacrifices were given to ensure next year’s good crops. The remains of the sacrificed animals would be used to prophesize about the upcoming year.

During the Middle Ages it was customary to a-souling, begging for soul cakes. In exchange for the soul cake, the beggars promised to pray for the souls of the giver’s deceased relatives so that they would be admitted into heaven more quickly.

The Romans also had a festival to honor their dead in October during which they prayed to Pomona, the goddess of trees and fruits. The traditions associated with apples became part of the English folklore when the Romans inhabited Britain. One tradition was to peel an apple in a spiral, then toss the peel over your left shoulder. As it landed, it would form the initial of your sweetheart. Apple bobbing was another traditional game. An apple was assigned the name of a possible lover. If the person got the apple, he or she would get the lover. The apple could also be placed beneath a pillow at night in hopes the sleeper would dream of their love. They would awaken before dawn and sit outside and eat the apple. If they didn’t get cold, they would attain their desire.

Resources: A History of the Months: <http://www.crowl.org/Lawrence/time/months.html> Lawrence A. Crowl
Mostly Medieval - Exploring the Middle Ages - Book of Days: <http://www.skell.org/explore/text/octT.html>
Customs and Traditions in England <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/year/October.htm>

Credits:

Brendoken device on pg. 1 was created by Marti Livingstone using PhotoShop and is used with permission.

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The woodcut on pg. 1 is from Goode Cookery with permission.

Woodcuts on pg 5 from DiGrassi: His True Art of Defence(1594) http://www.academiadellaspada.com/library/general/true_art.html

Oak leaves and acorn graphic on pg. 8 is from Free autumn clip art from About.com.

Back in 2006, I wrote *The Banner of Brendoken* as a marching song for the Barony. Okay, that was fun. By 2008, I decided it was time for something a little less serious. The rapier fighters in Brendoken had by then attained quite a reputation for their skill. Since the whole Barony had a fight song, I decided the fencers needed...a drinking song!

Brendoken Rapier Corps (A Drinking Song) Words by Justinos Tekton called Justin / Tune: "Irish Washer Woman" (Trad.)

Brendoken's peaceful and quiet and fair,
But if you fight Brendoken you'd better beware
Of the fencers whose prowess is fabled in lore:
They're the blades of the Brendoken Rapier Corps!

REFRAIN:

*So, raise up your glasses and ring out a cheer.
First, we'll toast them with Scotch, then we'll toast them with beer!
If you think they're defeated they'll fight you once more!
Drink the health of the Brendoken Rapier Corps!*

First, they slash at your left, then they thrust at your right,
They'll attack you all day and then party all night!
And the last thing you'll know as your corpse hits the floor:
You're no match for the Brendoken Rapier Corps!

On the list field at Pennsic they challenged the East,
But the enemy fled as if they'd seen a beast!
All alone on the field, "one to nothing" the score,
No one dares face the Brendoken Rapier Corps!

At last, eight fell in battle and went straight to Heaven.
St. Peter said, "Sorry, we've space for just seven.
You must leave one behind, for we can't hold eight more.
My regrets to the Brendoken Rapier Corps!"

So they huddled a moment, then cackled with glee.
Bade their leave to St. Peter -- quite puzzled was he.
But their plan was one Peter could never ignore --
Sharp the wit of the Brendoken Rapier Corps!

They ran down the stairs to the infernal regions,
Cried challenge, then charged at the Devil's own legions!
A fortnight they battled, then seven days more --
Hell defeated by Brendoken's Rapier Corps!

Back to Peter they marched and cried, "Now you've got room,
For we've claimed it for you from the armies of doom!
We will not be divided! Now open the door!
All for one in the Brendoken Rapier Corps!"

St. Peter conceded, "You've done pretty well,
And I'd rather you fight for the Lord than for Hell,
We've got work for you here!" Then he flung wide the door.
Now his guards are the Brendoken Rapier Corps!

Author's Notes

Of course, this song was presented at Baronial Court at Pennsic 37, as a surprise to all except my own lady wife. Afterward, the rapier folk asked me if it was okay for them to sing the song at events and parties, to which my reply was this: "Hell, yes! I wrote it for you. Enjoy it! In fact, my fondest wish is to hear this song, at 3:00 a.m., in a drunken, slurred voice!"

That night, I was invited on a pub crawl with the Rapier Corps, and we ended up at a household camp featuring a bar shaped like a scale-model pirate ship, and big enough to have fore and aft decks you could actually climb. Given that setting, and a couple of slugs of rum....okay, *several* slugs of rum, in a delicious concoction known as a "Dirty Pirate"...the night ended somewhat differently than I had planned. You see, I got my wish, or close enough. But I hadn't expected that the drunken, slurred voice singing my song from the deck of a pirate ship would be....ahem...mine. What a night! Thanks to the Brendoken Rapier Corps, who took me pub crawling, got me wildly biffledinked, and then escorted me back to my own camp to sleep it off.

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upcoming events

OCTOBER 2008

- 3-5 Afternoon of Fun
Eastwatch, Burton, OH
- 5- Baronial Meeting- 3-6pm
Smithville, OH
- 10-12 Red Dragon
Tirnewydd, Columbus, OH
- 18- Fall Crown Tourney
Flaming Gryphon, Dayton, OH

NOVEMBER 2008

- 1- Road to Alexandria
Gwyntaian, Stow, OH
- 2- Baronial Meeting- 4-6pm
Smithville, OH
- 8- Border Quest 6
Border Keep (Middle Marches)
Marietta, OH

DECEMBER 2008

- 7- Baronial Meeting- 4-6pm
Smithville, OH



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