



PORTCULLIS

Newsletter of the Barony of Brendoken
Volume VII - Issue 10- December 2008

FROM THE BARON AND BARONESS

Greetings are sent to the good gentles of Brendoken.

The last five years have gone by so quickly. Alexander and I are grateful for our time serving the Barony of Brendoken as Baron and Baroness. We look forward to the growth and changes that will occur when Sgt Einar and Lady Maerwynn are invested as the new Baron and Baroness of Brendoken at the "Masque of Courtly Love" on February 21, 2009. We appreciate Their Royal Majesties, Ullr and AnneLyse, allowing this to take place on the barony's birthday. Our thanks go to Their Royal Highnesses for agreeing to represent Their Majesties as the oath of fealty is pledged by the new Baron Einar and Baroness Maerwynn.

As the Holiday Season comes upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on these past five years and on those who have helped to shape our time as Baron and Baroness in a most significant way. We value all of you. It is you, the citizens of Brendoken, who have made these past years so special. We wish you a very happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

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



**Barony of Brendoken
Business Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2008**

In attendance: 21

I. OFFICER REPORTS:

- a. Baron: He was present and reported that all was quiet
- b. Baroness:
 - 1. TRH thanked everyone for the good time they had at the Road to Alexandria event
 - 2. There will be a cookie exchange and gift exchange at the next meeting, which will be a Holiday Revel, on December 7, 2008
- c. Seneschal:
 - 1. Had 2 people attend the Office Hours at the Road to Alexandria event.
 - 2. A deputy is needed
- d. Exchequer:
 - 1. The banking account holds \$2940.78
 - 2. The three candidates for exchequer fell through.
 - 3. She is still looking for interested parties.
- e. Knights Marshall:
 - 1. He needs a deputy to be trained as a replacement. He would like to step down ASAP.
- f. Chronicler:
 - 1. Lady Bridget has agreed to become the deputy.
- g. Webminister:
 - 1. Milady Violetta was not present.
 - 2. Maistor Iustinos commented that the second player worked better on showing the candidates' videos on the baronial website.

II. GROUPS

- a. Gwyntarian:
 - 1. The Road to Alexandria event went well. It was too soon for numbers. Preliminary counts show that there were 125 through the door; 60 were needed to break even.
 - 2. Dance night in November and December are canceled due to holidays. They will resume in January.
 - 3. In addition to dance, there will be bardic activities.
- b. Thistle:
 - 1. Lord Gabriel (Jason) will be taken over as seneschal after the New Year.
 - 2. Meetings will be held in Dalton and Wadsworth. Check their web site for details.
 - 3. They are beginning to see growth in their membership.

4. Watch the You-Tube videos on SCA recruiting made by Syr Kyppyn Kirkcaldy
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64UzvDZB9DM&feature=related>
 5. Lady Mageen has recipes available to make finger foods to use at demos.
- c. Three Towers:
1. The meeting format has changed and is working well.
 2. The Cook's Symposium is on the Kingdom calendar for March 14th
 3. There will be a demo at the Discovery School on Nov 19th
- d. Alderford
1. If you are interested in teaching at Masque, contact Folh Duh.
 2. From the many recent demos, there were 3 interested people.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Brendokenfest 2009
1. Maistor Iustinos presented a draft proposal for Brendoken 2009
 - a. To be held at the Tuscararus Fair grounds
 - b. Verbal agreement and \$100 already with them
 - c. Extend the appeal to beyond the barony with equestrian and other activities
 - d. Equestrian activities are expensive
 1. Surcharge of \$10 per horse to help defray the cost.
 2. Net loss of \$160 to have equestrian
 - 3.
 2. Lady Cliodhna also had a draft proposal for Brendokenfest 2009
 - a. Different site (Wooster Fairgrounds), different day (April 25)
 - b. Still needed to talk with the fairground board.
 3. Discussion over merits of the two drafts
 - a. Baron moved that both refine their proposals to be presented later
 - b. Baron Nigel 2nd the motion
 - c. The motion carried

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Lady Jezebel presented a proposal for Qaina 2009
- b. Einar moved that it be accepted and Signore Lorenzo 2nd the motion. The motion carried.

Qaina 2009 Proposal

4-Apr-09

Attendance

Pre-Reg for NON SCA - 162 @ \$20	\$3,240.00	Pre-Reg Prices	
Pre-Reg for SCA - 28 @ \$17	\$476.00	SCA	\$17
At the Door NON SCA - 5 @ \$23	\$115.00	NON-SCA	\$20
At the Door SCA - 5 @ \$20	\$100.00		
Half Price, Staff - 10 @ \$10	\$100.00	Non Pre-Reg Prices	
Band & Dance Teacher Comps - 15 @ \$0	\$0.00	SCA	\$20
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,031.00	NON-SCA	\$23

Expenses

Site, Tadmoor Shrine	\$850.00
\$750 site + \$100 kitchen	
\$100 refundable cleaning deposit	
\$500 due when contract is signed - Remainder due 2 wks before event	
Feast Budget - 225 @ \$3.55/person	\$800.00
PALE Advertising	\$180.00
Printing & Mailing fliers, plus programs	\$90.00
Plates, cups and silverware	\$50.00
NON-SCA FEE sent to the SCA	\$501.00
Band	\$200.00
Site Tokens	\$50.00
Miscellaneous Supplies (cleaning, etc.)	\$60.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,781.00
PROFIT	\$1,250.00

STAFF

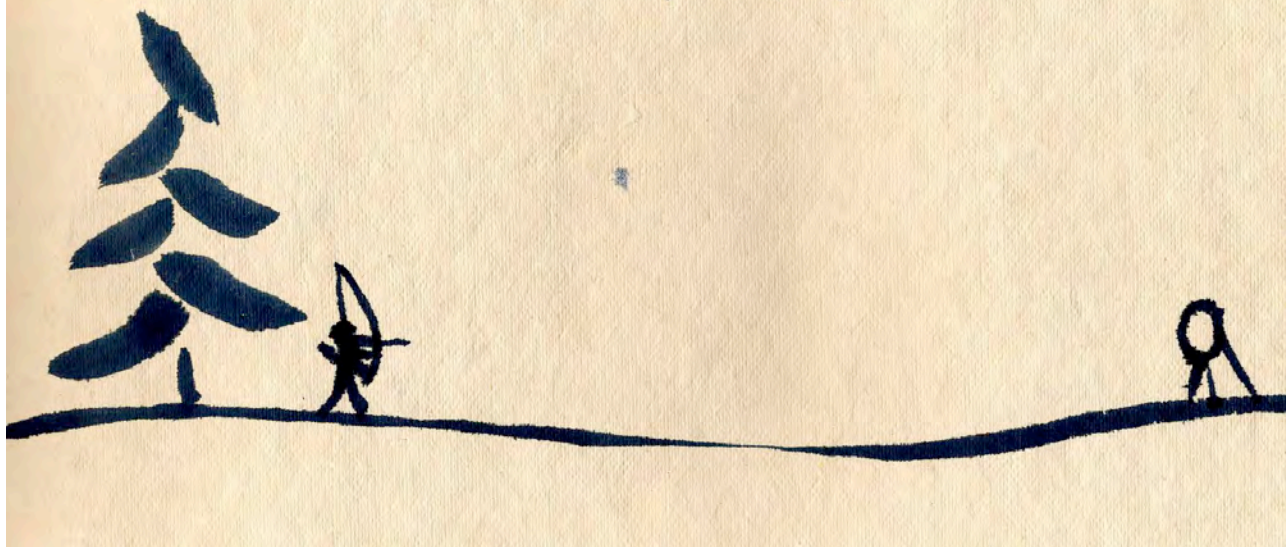
- Autocrat - Kathleen Corcoran (Lady Jezebel Shuvani)
- Deputy Autocrat & Troll - Laurel Modic (THL Celeste Dougherty)
- Feastocrat - Devona Simone (Lady Francesca di Simonetti)
- Merchant Coordinator - Lena Duncan (no SCA name)
- Sound Man - Doug Smoot (No SCA name)
- Stage Manager - Colleen Bonk (Lady Fey Silvermist)
- Fashion Show Coordinator - ?
- SCA Information Table Recruiter - ?
- Setup and Cleanup Coordinator - ?

- c. Lady Mageen brought up the rental of the Mishler Mill meeting room
 - 1. It was decided that Baron Alexander will be the contact person for the rental, Lord Giles will maintain the key, and the barony will book the room for a year in advance.
- d. If you are interested in get in touch with the photographer who was taking portraits at the Road to Alexandria event, contact Signore Lorenzo.
- e. If you are interested in a Combat Archery Unit, contact Milord Michael of Thistle
- f. The meeting was adjourned
 Catriona, Baroness Brendoken, respectfully submitted these minutes

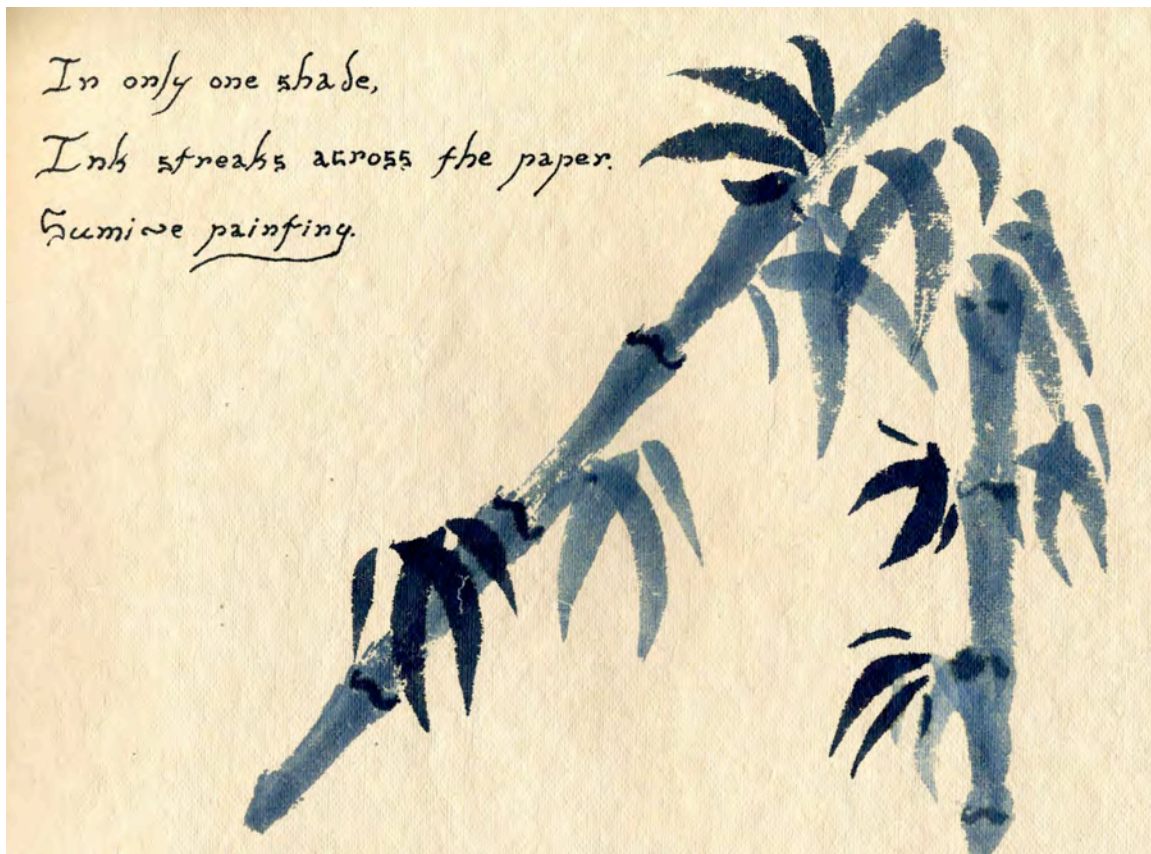


HAIKU
by
RYUZOJI KENSHIN

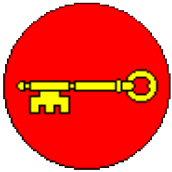
Calmly drawing breath,
the arrow's thoughts are my own.
It releases, his.



In only one shade,
Ink streaks across the paper.
Sumi-e painting.



OFFICER LETTERS



FROM THE SENESCHAL

Good Gentles:

As we head into the holiday season, I bring you glad tidings. The future of our great barony is secure. Their Majesties have selected heirs to the coronets of Brendoken. At Masque of Courtly Love Sgt. Einar and Lady Maerwynn will be invested as the new baron and baroness of the Great Barony of Brendoken.

We now have a solid date for Brendokenfest. Our championships will be at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds on 4/25/08. Reserve that date, and get ready to compete.

In Service,
THL Giles fitz Alan
Seneschal Brendoken



FROM THE KNIGHTS MARSHAL

REMINDER FROM THE BARONIAL KNIGHTS MARSHAL

ALL AUTHORIZATION CARDS WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31

1. Check the database at the Midrealm web site to see if your authorizations match what we have in the database.
2. If they're different, please photocopy your card and send it with the envelope as directed below.
3. If they match, send a SASE to the Mistress of the List, (address is in the Pale) to receive a new card.
4. OR you can show up at certain events and you can get a new card there.
5. Copies of your photo ID and membership card will assist in this process.

All red authorization cards expire will on Dec. 31, 2008, regardless of what expiration date is listed.

I am still looking for a deputy/replacement. If you are interested, contact Lord Magnus at: debforgail@aol.com

AROUND the BARONY



Gwyntarian: <http://www.midrealm.org/gwyntarian/>

The event, "Road to Alexandria," did well having 134 attendees and a profit of \$302. We are looking into new meeting sites to save money; we might be able to get a local school for free. We are considering an event proposal: Oaken Academy of Defense. It would be Feb 28 at the Stow Armory, staffed by the Blades of Brendoken.

Signore Lorenzo di Calabria



Thistle: <http://www.brendoken.org/thistle/>

The Marche of the Thistle would like to thank the Brendoken Blades for their participation in the Boar's Head Demo on Saturday December 6th at Buckeye High School in Medina. The next meeting will be on Weds, December 10th at 6:30pm at the Wadsworth Library. We will be having a short business meeting followed by a Christmas gathering. Anyone who wishes to attend may want to bring a treat to share.

Lady Elena of Argyll



Three Towers: <http://www.midrealm.org/threetowers/>

The "Defined" meetings are going well. We have had good response to the Armored and Armoring night and A&S nights. The Rapier and desert revel night is a big hit! I am in the process of adding to and updating the information on the group's website. I hope to add a photo link and will be taking pictures at the meetings.

Lord Gaelen O'Grady



Alderford: <http://alderford.org/>

Members of Alderford recently went to Border Keep to help out with their event this past month. They were very grateful to have the extra help. We have gotten word that Investiture will take place at Masque of Courtly Love on Feb 21, 2009. Any one interested in helping out or teaching a class can contact Cliodhna (celtigirl@sbcglobal.net) or Fohl Dubh (fohl_dubh@yahoo.com) respectively. I am looking for opinions as to hold Melee at Roswell before or after Pennsic and would welcome any comments at Einar@neo.rr.com. I will be recommending to the Crown that THL Francesca be my replacement as seneschal and will be stepping down just after the New Year. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with everyone and I feel that I have accomplished my goals as Seneschal. I hope everyone has a wonderful winter season.

Sgt Einar Blakklar

BARONIAL CHAMPION'S UPDATE



Here is a brief update on what I have done as the Thrown Weapons Champion.

Since I believe at the time I became Champion that there were only 3 other Marshals for thrown weapons in the Barony, my first task was to undertake the training necessary to become a Marshal. I was able to complete the training at Pennsic and now I am happy to say we have four thrown weapons marshals in the Barony. My thanks go to the others for their help along the way.

One of my goals was to increase participation in thrown weapons in Brendoken. While I have not been able to do much directly in that regard, I have assisted others with this. Thrown weapons activities were held at the Melee in Roswell, under the direction of Lord Quentin MacGowan and at the recent Road to Alexandria, under the direction of Master Ian Gourdon. I was able to assist at both events and hope to be able to do so at future events in the Barony.

Many people were able to enjoy throwing at these events, ranging from royalty to people attending their first SCA event. We are fortunate to have Lord Quentin, Master Ian, as well as Mistress Arwenna of Kelsley as thrown weapons marshals here in Brendoken. They are among the most knowledgeable and helpful in the Middle Kingdom. I hope that next year's champion will also undertake to become a marshal and I will be happy to assist them with this.

Yours in Service,
Lord Duncan de Vere



Brendoken, your archery champion sends greetings!

This year there were many opportunities for archers and crossbowmen alike to display their skills. As your champion, I was able to represent the Barony twice, first in response to a direct challenge from the champion of Middle Marches at the Encampment at the Castle. Unfortunately, luck was with my opponent that day and he did narrowly defeat me. But I avenged the honor of Brendoken later at Pounce, during our attempt to resist the incursion of the dread Lozengians. Some may have seen a person matching my description of the heavy list fighting for Lozengia, but I can assure you it was an impostor. Nay, I was at the archery butts where the same champion of Middle Marches had challenged the champion of Flaming Gryphon. They graciously invited me to shoot alongside them for fun. Though I was not officially competing, I did best their scores, maintaining the respect our Barony has rightfully earned for its skill with the bow.



Winter is a challenging time for archers but I would encourage everyone to practice as best they are able, to repair broken gear, and build new equipment in preparation for the thaw that will eventually come to our lands. At that time, we will again stand side by side for the glory of Brendoken!

In Service to Barony Brendoken,
Lord Tetsuo Akira

the middle ages and christmas

by THL Catriona nicHugh Mclae

(First published in *The Alder Leaf* 11-25-2003 and used with the permission of the author.)

While it is true that many of our traditions have roots in Victorian time, Christmas itself comes from the earliest part of the SCA time period. How it was celebrated depended largely on *when* not *where* it was being observed.

The date was very flexible until the 4th century when Pope Julius I fixed it on December 25th. Until that time, it had been celebrated in April or may, while other places favored January, even November.

To begin with, it wasn't even a holy day in the church calendar. Early church fathers dismissed birthday celebrations by saying only sinners celebrated birthdays. They actively ridiculed the pagan tradition of celebrating the various gods' birthdays. That they would do this makes sense when you remember that in Rome, even when Christianity was the official religion, there were other gods of importance. The first interest in the date of the nativity appeared in Alexandria, Egypt, in 200CE. And this was dismissed by Pope Clement as being of interest only to overly curious theologians who placed the event in the spring of the 28th year of Caesar Augustus.

The term Christmas doesn't show up until 1038 CE, being found in an Anglo-Saxon manuscript as: *Crites Maess*. And it refers to the church service, not to the jolly holiday with which we are more familiar. The French word *Noel* and the Italian *Il Natale* come from the Latin term *Dies Natalis*. "Yule" is not a Christian at all and comes from the Scandinavian custom based on the *Jul*, or wheel of the year, celebrating the winter solstice.

Epiphany was actually the more popular holy day to celebrate, which was held on January 6th. It is thought that the nativity celebration was pulled away from Spring to couple it with Epiphany. Also, it gave an alternate celebration to the pagan funfest of Saturnalia. But even Epiphany had its confusion. Most people today know that January 6th is the day the Three Magi visited the Holy Child bearing gifts however the earliest celebration of Epiphany probably marked the baptism day of Jesus.

Nativity celebrations grew more popular as the years went on. The traditions of pagan Yuletide and Saturnalia were incorporated into the Nativity. Of marked difference to today was the attention given to the season of Advent and the 12 days between the Nativity and Epiphany. One could argue that since Christmas ads pop up in stores and on TV right after the Labor Day sales, that we, too, celebrate Christmas over a long...long... period of time.

Sources: A Medieval Christmas: <http://historymeren.about/library/weekly/aa120897.htm>
The Catholic Encyclopedia: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/>

Credits:

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http://www.midrealm.org/midrealm_imaglib.phtml?pictoral=1

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upcoming events

December 2008

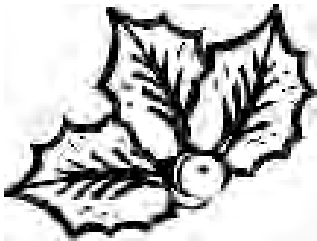
- 7- Baronial Meeting- 4-6pm
Smithville, OH
- 13- Yule Feast
Hrothgeirsfjordj, Toledo, OH
- 20- Dernehalde Throws a Snow Ball 3
Dernehalde, Athens, OH

January 2009

- 4- Baronial Meeting- 4-6pm
Smithville, OH
- 10- 12th Night
Middle Marches, Columbus, OH
- 17- Winter Revel
Rivenvale, Youngstown, OH
- 24- A Regular Event in the Cleftlands
Cleftlands, Cleveland, OH

February 2009

- 1- Baronial Meeting- 4-6pm
Smithville, OH
- 21- Masque of Courtly Love
BRENDOKEN INVESTITURE
Canton, OH



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Rebecca of Thistle

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