



The Portcullis

Newsletter of the Barony of Brendoken
Volume VIII - Issue 3– April 2009

Greetings are sent to the populace of our fair Barony. Spring is in the air and everyone knows that means: “Brendokenfest!!” Seriously, yes I know spring is flowery and rainy and in Ohio occasionally mucky but it also means that it’s time for new Brendoken champions. At Brendokenfest on April 25th in Dover, Ohio, the first Baronial Champions of Einar and Maerwynn will be chosen from the victorious that day. In preparation for becoming a Champion we ask that each individual please read the “Becoming a Baronial Champion” page on the Brendoken website: <http://www.brendoken.org/champion.html>.

Becoming a Champion is a great honor, but it also a great responsibility. We have a five-year tradition of excellence to continue and we are confident that our populace is up to the task. Please also note for the martial champions under item number 7 of the Responsibilities of the Champions “Martial Champions should plan to serve within their respective combat units as needed for the duration of their service. This may include training or command of said fighting force”. As Signore Lorenzo pointed out in his Rapier Championship note, his successor will serve as the default commander for the Baronial Rapier Corps, *The Blades*. For the heavy weapons champion, you will be expected to serve as the Baron’s right arm on the field, as he will exercise the prerogative of leading his Baronial troops.

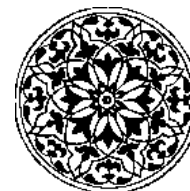
While the archery group within Brendoken is already noteworthy, we will ask that our archery champion be responsible for rallying the archers (and those of us with untested bows- I’m not ready to be called an archer!) to compete at events and participate in the War Point shoot at Pennsic. Also, Her Highness Runa is encouraging all archers to become combat archery qualified in preparation of forming a special combat unit, “*Runa’s Rangers*”. While the archery champion is not required to be combat archery qualified, we will ask that they also help to support Her endeavors.

Our Thrown Weapons and Arts and Sciences champions will have the task of encouraging others within the Barony in both of these fields. We would like to see enough people authorized as a marshal for thrown weapons to allow for its inclusion at all Baronial events where the sites allow. For the Arts and Sciences, we will be following the guidelines from the previous Championships by having an open competition this.

The populace of Brendoken is more than qualified for these tasks we have set before you. At last year’s Championships, Lady Bekea challenged everyone to compete in all of the Baronial Championship categories. This year, we would like to continue her challenge. We call upon everyone to prove once again the talent and strength of our citizens.



YIS,
Einar and Maerwynn
Baron and Baroness of Brendoken





Brendoken Business Meeting
March 1, 2009



Attendance: 28

I. Officers

A. Baron Einar and Baroness Maerwynn

1. A Yahoo group has been set up for those staying the Baronial encampment at this year's Pennsic War: Brendoken_camp@yahoo.com
2. Both are looking forward to serving the barony. The investiture event meant a lot to them both
3. Baroness Maerwynn showed two necklaces made with hand blown glass beads made by Lady Rivka. While the necklaces were presented to Them, Their Excellences have decided to donate the necklaces to the baronial regalia.

B. Seneschal

1. Not much is going on, no one visited him during the office hour at the investiture.
2. The transfer to the new B&B went well.
3. A deputy is needed

C. Exchequer

1. There is \$1984.29 in the checking account as of Feb 7, 2009.
2. Lord Giles has presented a budget for the feast at Brendokenfest.

D. Herald

1. Lady Ursula appreciated all the help given to her at the investiture event.
2. 5 baronial award and 3 presentations were presented at the last baronial court of Baron Alexander and Baroness Catriona
3. Updates of the Baronial OP were sent to the web-mistress

E. Chronicler

1. New issue of the Portcullis is available
2. Please keep sending in articles for the Portcullis
3. Baroness Catriona is hoping to pass the office on to a new chronicler by May 2009

F. Chamberlain

1. Lady Cliodhna of Scoon figuring out the transfer of baronial items
2. She will act as Minister of Regalia

G. Chief page

1. Baron Einar and Baroness Maerwynn will fill this position at a later date

H. Knights Marshal

1. Lord Magnus needs a deputy
2. He is looking for a fighter practice site that is centrally located

I. Web Minister

1. The new B&B need contact information updated
2. Milady Violetta is working on getting the photo links caught up

II. Groups

A. Alderford

1. Masque went well
2. Northern Oaken A&S Regional Faire is being hosted on March 28
 - a. Gentles are urged to participate by entering items in the Faire

B. Gwyntarian

1. There is a Bardic/Dance Night on the last Friday of the month at Fred Fuller Park in Kent, OH. Everyone is welcome.

C. Thistle

1. They will buy an archery net which will be available to the other groups in the barony.
2. A meeting site other than the Wadsworth Library for a heavy fight practice site is sought
3. On the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, the meeting is in Dalton, OH

D. Three Towers

1. Cook Symposium on March 14, 2009 has been canceled
2. The Encampment event on June 20 will be a one day event
3. 2nd Tuesday of the month is a fighter practice
4. 4th Tuesday of the month is a dessert revel

III. Old Business

A. Quina: April 29, 2009

1. 95pre-registrations
2. Money is due for the deposit as well as money for the feast and *Pale ad*.
3. Flyers have been sent out to Midrealm seneschals
4. Class descriptions have been posted on the baronial website

B. Brendokenfest: April 25, 2009

1. Maistor Iustinos presented a final proposal with a firmer budget
2. Lunch Tavern will be hosted by the *Brendoken Blades*
3. Due to the increase in site fees, it was suggested that we look elsewhere for next year
 - a. Marrow Co. Fairgrounds was brought up as a possible place
4. To keep costs down, donated prizes are being sought

C. Check with the Exchequer if requesting monies

D. Baroness Tea/Fighter Café at Pennsic

1. A less elaborate tea is being planned
2. Plans for Pennsic were discussed, no decisions were made

IV. New Business

A. None

Baroness Catriona respectfully submits the minutes.

Hear ye, hear ye!! Come one and all to: Brendokenfest 2009

The Barony of Brendoken cordially invites you to attend Brendokenfest 2009, to be held April 25 at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds, 259 S Tuscarawas Ave., Dover, OH 44622. Plans are underway for a full day of fun including armored and rapier combat, equestrian activities, arts and sciences, performing arts, and merchants. This event will also include Brendoken's baronial championship competitions, but the event is a regular event and not just of interest to the Brendoken populace. After a day of fighting, shopping, and fun of all sorts, enjoy a themed 15th Century English feast prepared by Lord Giles fitz Alan and his team.

Site opens at 9:30 a.m. and closes at 9:30 p.m. This is an indoor/outdoor site with lots of room, and it is easily wheelchair accessible. Dress for the weather, as you will need to move between buildings (a short distance, but outdoors) even if you are not participating in fighting or equestrian activities.

We will have plenty of seating for feast and court, but you may wish to bring chairs or benches for your day camp.

There is ample on-site free parking. This is a dry site.

Fees and Pre-Registration

Site Fees:

Pre registered or at gate \$6.00 adult, \$3.00 child 5-12, children under 5 free
Fees do not include adult non-member surcharge of \$3.00.

Feast Fees:

Seated diners (any age) pre-registered \$9.00
Seated diners (any age) at gate \$10.00
Servers \$5.00

Feast quantities are limited to 64 seated diners plus 9 servers.

Notes from the Champions

The Brendokenfest Championships:

A&S: Champion Lady Desderia von Bekea

Yes, there will be an A&S competition at Brendokenfest! Bring the projects you entered at regional, bring your projects you forgot to enter at regional, bring your projects you ran out of time to enter at regional! There will be no theme so as to not give anyone that as an excuse for not entering. There will be a populous bean count. The next baronial champion will be chosen by Their Excellencies, as was done past years.

Rapier: Champion Signore Lorenzo di Calabria

Since the Champion is the default Commander, Their Excellencies have asked that the Championship include some melees. Some details, notably whether a fight is to one kill or best of three, will change depending on the number of fighters and the amount of time allotted. Those who live outside Brendoken or who do not want to serve as Champion are still welcome to compete and help test the candidates' mettle, but should notify the list. They may be chosen as partners in Round 2, but will not be primaries. The tournament will be in three rounds, as described below. Each match in each round will be worth one point. In the melees, all members of the winning teams will earn the points.

Round 1: One on One, Round Robin, best of three. Double kills will be re-fought, but with different weapons. Each match consists of three fights, a) off-handed single rapier, b) matched weapons (single rapier is allowed), and c) mismatched weapons. Fighters must not use the same weapon style for both the matched and mismatched fights. Both fighters must agree upon all weapon choices. If the fighters cannot agree, the marshal or Their Excellencies will choose. Round 2: Two on Two, Round Robin. The top four scores from Round 1 will each choose a partner. Matches will be to the death with any weapons except Rubber Band Guns. Round 3: Four on Four, best of three. The top two teams from Round 2 will each choose a partner team. Matches will be to the death with any weapons except Rubber Band Guns.

Archery: Champion Lord Akira

There will be two parts to the championship: long-range (50+ yards) and short-range (10-30 yards). Long-range targets will be man-sized (and shaped!) Short-range targets will be round. If we have to be indoors, we will use the same targets but of course it will all be short-range. I am reserving specific details so that they are a surprise to all participants, but will say they are designed to maximize the fun and present challenges you have not faced before. If you are thinking about entering the championship, I strongly encourage you to do so! My victory last year proves that earning the honor of serving as archery champion is within reach of all who participate. And if nothing else, I guarantee that the tournament will be an enjoyable experience.

Heavy Combat: Champion Ryuzoji-dono Kenshin

The Heavy Weapons Championship tournament will be diverse in order to challenge your leadership skills, your individual prowess, and your warrior's spirit. First, a Warlord tournament will be held, with each member of a winning team receiving a point per victory. The unconquered warlord will receive three points bonus. The Heavy Weapons Champion leads the Baronial combat unit in His Excellency's stead, hence the bonus to the victorious warlord. However, the Champion must also be able to take commands, both from His Excellency, and those appointed by the Crown. Because of this duty to also follow, the members of a winning side will also receive points. After the Warlord tournament, there will be a round-robin style tournament, with each combatant facing every other fighter in an honorable duel to the death. Each victory will also be worth one point. Not only must the Champion be able to lead the Barony's troops, he must also be able to represent their Excellencies on the field of single combat. Additionally, being a Champion is as much about Spirit as it is about prowess. This is why the single combat will be held after the fighters have already fought in melee. The one who has the will to fight another bout when tired and perhaps discouraged will be the one best suited to defend the Barony's name. The combatant with the most points at the end of the day will gain the baldric, shield, and title of Champion.

Thrown Waepons: Lord Duncan de Vere

The thrown weapons list will be open to both the populace and those wishing to participate in the championship. Knives, axes, and spears will be thrown. There will be loaner weapons available, but bring your own weapons as well. Specific details concerning the targets will be announced closer to the date.



Unto the populace of the Barony of Brendoken doth Giles fitz Alan send greetings:

Well the A&S season is in full swing. If you missed North Oaken there is still a chance to catch Constellation on 4/18 or South Oaken on 4/25. The North Oaken Regional A&S Fair was hosted by Alderford this year. There were 25 entries that included several from our beloved Brendoken. It was a good event; Baron Einar cooked a fabulous luncheon for the judges; the site was beautiful; and we were regaled by the organ played by Lord Piotr Zavilov while the scores were being tallied. Sharpen your weapons and skills for the Baronial championships to take place at Brendokenfest on 4/25 in Dover,

In Service,
THL Giles fitz Alan



The Trumpet Sounds-

Notes from the Herald, Lady Ursula the Widow

At the Masque of Courtly Love on February 21, 2009, Baron Alexander and Baroness Catriona held their final court as landed baron and baroness of Brendoken. Sir Ephraim ben Scholomo and Baroness Madelaine Bouvier presented Their Excellencies with sets of drinking vessels as a token of their friendship. THL Dirk Edward of Frisia begged audience to present to Baron Nigel fitzMaurice a coronet betokening his court barony, which had been promised to Baron Nigel upon the occasion of his award some years past. The incoming baron and baroness, Einar Blakklar and Maerwynn of Warwick, received a gift from Alderford, their shire of origin: a small replica of a Viking longboat.

Alexander and Catriona also presented the Following Brendoken awards: To THL Tyzes Sofia, the Golden Alderleaf for keeping theatre arts active within the barony. To Lady Elena of Argyll, both the Golden Thistle and the Order of the Heart of Brendoken. To Lady Michelle of Thistle, the Golden Thistle. To Lady Kateryn Draper, the Golden Alderleaf for her skill and generosity in storytelling.

In the evening, the Masque of Courtly Love was honored to by the presence of Prince Eikbrandr and Princess Runa in Regency Court. They invested our new Baron Einar and Baroness Maerwynn in office, and bestowed court baronies upon Alexander and Catriona for their years of faithful service as vassals the Crown. Their Highnesses also presented the following award to the populace: To Lady Catriona Fionnaghal nic Elphinstone, called Ceit, the Order of the Willow. To Lord Guy-Jacques delaChaux, the Purple Fret.

The Month of April

By Baroness Catriona

It is thought that the month of April got its name from the Latin word: *aperire*, which means 'to open.' This seems logical as this is the month when the trees and flowers begin to bud and things start growing again after a long cold winter. The Anglo-Saxon name for this month was *Eostre monath* or *Eastremonath*. Eostre was an Anglo-Saxon pagan goddess of spring. Bede wrote about this goddess and her festivals in his 8th century work: *De temporum ratione*. The word used for the Christian holiday of Easter is said to come from the name of this goddess.

The custom of April Fool's Day might have come about due to the change from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar in 1582. Those who refused to use the new calendars were the April Fool's. Another origin might have been from certain European pre-Christian cultures, which celebrated May Day (May 1st) as the first day of summer. It signaled the start of the spring planting season. An April Fool was someone who planted before May 1st. It is possible that an early reference to April Fool's Day can be found in one of the Canterbury Tales, circa 1400. In the *Nun's Tale*, the story of the two fools, Chanticleer and the fox, took place on March 32nd.

The tradition is to persuade people to do something silly, like looking for hen's teeth, striped paint, a left-handed screwdriver, or some other non-existent thing. However in England, you can only play April Fools on people before midday. The fun must stop or the trickster is told: *'April Fool's Day is past and gone, You 're the fool and I am none.*



Pasties recipes are found in many medieval cookbooks and with many different fillings. The Le Menagier de Paris has a section that includes these:

CHICKS may be placed in pastry, back down and breast up, and broad slices of bacon on the breast; and then cover.
- Item, in the Lombardy fashion, when the chicks are plucked and prepared, have beaten eggs, both yolks and whites, with verjuice and powdered spices, and moisten your chicks in it: then put in pastry with slices of bacon as above.

MUSHROOMS of one night are the best, and are small and red inside, closed above: and they should be peeled, then wash in hot water and parboil; if you wish to put them in pastry, add oil, cheese and powdered spices. - Item, put them between two dishes over the coals, and add a little salt, cheese and powdered spices. You can find them at the end of May and in June.

ESCAROLE (U.K. endive; U.S. chicory (JH))[74]. Wash them in two or three changes of hot water, then flour them and fry in oil. Item, after this, some put them in pastry with lots of onions and chunks of herring or eel and powdered spices. Note. Pies should be roomy and the meat should have plenty of room inside.

Fresh VENISON PASTY. You must parboil the venison, and skim it, then lard it and make pastry: this is the way to make pasties of all fresh venison; and it should be cut in big, long pieces like rolling-pins, and this is called 'pasty of larded boiled meat.'

BEEF PASTIES. Have good young beef and remove all the fat, and the less good parts are cut in pieces to be used for stock, and then it is carried to the pastry-cook to be chopped up: and the grease with beef marrow.

The meat of a leg of beef is sliced up and put in pastry; and when the pastry is cooked, it is appropriate to throw a wild duck sauce into it.

MUTTON PASTIES. Chopped very small with scallions.

VEAL PASTIES. Take the round part of the thigh, and put with it almost as much beef fat; and with this you make six good pasties in platters.

My recipe this month was inspired by the Lombardy Style pasty above.

2 lbs Chicken,
1 small onion cut into quarters
1/2 lb Ham diced
2 Eggs
Seasoning
1/8 cup Balsamic Vinegar
1/4 cup Olive Oil
Pie Crust (I use Jiffy Pie Crust mix about half the time, but use your best crust recipe if you like)

Boil the chicken with the onion in enough water to cover until you can shred it. Remove the onion, drain the liquid (save to use as broth in another recipe) and shred the chicken. Toss the chicken and ham together in a large bowl. I seasoned these with a teaspoon Veggie Pepper blend from Frontier Co-op but you could add any seasonings you like. Simply adding a bit of salt and pepper would be sufficient. Add the eggs, oil and vinegar and stir well.

To assemble the pasties – mix one batch of crust at a time so it doesn't dry out. One box of Jiffy makes one two crust pie and I divide that amount of crust into 8 pieces for pasties. Roll the dough into a circle about 6 to 8 inches across. Add 1/4 cup of filling and fold the crust over. Seal it well dampening with water to get a good seal.

At this point, the pasties can be frozen in a single layer on cookie sheets to be cooked later.

When ready to bake, paint the tops of the pasties with an egg wash made by beating one egg with a teaspoon of water. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. The crust should be a golden tan when they are ready.



What the Heck does a Baronial Herald Do Anyway?

By the Brendoken Pursuivant, Lady Ursula the Widow

If you've hung around the barony for more than a few months, you have probably been present at a Brendoken baronial court. So you saw somebody resembling a green-and-black-clad Star-Bellied Sneetch standing up front, calling names, readings scrolls and trying to pronounce your friends' names right.

Looks like a pretty easy job, if you're loud. Well, that's the fun part. But what else does your herald do?

Court Planning and Protocol. Want to give someone a present in court? Head up a sword arch? Do a little shtick with a pumpkin, a weasel, and a rapier? I'm your man, er, herald. Bring such requests to me and I will carry them to Their Excellencies, who will decide... Except the part about the pumpkin.

Write Reports. This is a privilege shared by most SCA officers. Group pursuivants report quarterly to the Regional Herald and annually to the Kingdom (Dragon) Herald. Each quarter, I let Lord Pyotr Zaviorov, my current North Oaken superior, know what Midrealm publications I have copies of and how I've used the Middle Kingdom website recently, in addition to reporting who submitted a name or device, what kingdom awards have been received by all members of the Barony and any heraldic problems we may be having. This duplicates the award information sent in by your local group herald if you have one, and that duplication has frequently helped us to correct our mistakes before the reports go in. I also receive and read reports from the shires, whose pursuivants report both to me and to Regional.

Keep Records and act as Clerk of the Precedence. The Clerk of the Precedence keeps track of who has won what baronial (not kingdom) awards. In some baronies, this is a separate job; here, we think it makes sense for the Pursuivant to do it. Every quarter, I go through my baronial court records and send a message to the Webmistress, informing her of what names should be added to the Order of Precedence.

Field Heraldry. When someone yells "Oyez!" at an event and makes an announcement, when the names of fighters are declared, when the winners are named at the end of a tourney, that's field heraldry. We are fortunate in Brendoken in having lots of capable field heralds, so perhaps that's why I don't get asked to do this often. I am always willing to act as field herald if asked.

Book Heraldry and Help with Submissions. Book heraldry is a vast and multifaceted sea (can a sea have facets?) of research possibilities. Book heralds document names and devices and also write blazonry. So if you come to me and say, "I want my device to be a green cockatrice facing straight out at the viewer on a blue background, and inside a circle of red stars," I will write down "Azure, a cockatrice vert affronty in an annulo of mullets of five points gules." Then I'll try to convince you to have a yellow or white background instead, because of the heraldic principle against color on color. (I'll also go look up what a cockatrice is.)

Most members of Brendoken submit their names and devices either through their local herald or at Pennsic, and I encourage you to work with your shire herald, as they probably know you best. However, as with all my duties, I stand ready to help if asked.

Baronial Officers

Baron

Einar Blakklar
Darby Greene
4643 17th St NW

Baroness

Maerwynn of Warwick
Theresa Greene
4643 17th St NW

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2009

- 4- Qaina -Middle Eastern Dance
& Music Event
Brendoken, Akron, OH
- 5- Baronial Meeting- 3-5 pm
Smithville, OH
- 18- Mugmort Melees IV
Mugmort, Circleville, OH
- 25- Brendokenfest
Brendoken, Dover, OH
- 25- Spring RUM
Narrental, Peru, IN

May 2009

- 2- The Coronation of
EikBrandr and Runa
Cleftlands, Cleveland, OH
- 5- Baronial Meeting- 3-5 pm
Smithville, OH
- 8-10- Baron Wars
Marche of the Marshes,
Perrysburg, OH]
- 29-30- Iron Weasel
Eastwatch, Burton, OH

June 2009

- 6- An Elizabethan Faire
Tirnewydd, Columbus, OH
- 12-14 - NOWM XIII
Cleftlands, Cleveland, OH
- 12-14- Push for Pennsic
Hawkes Keye, Lebanon, OH
- 13- Butt's and Bale's V:
Midrealm's Thrown Weapons Event
Dragon's Vale, Ligonier, IN
- 20- Bardic Madness XIX
Border Downs (Northshield),
Sioux Falls, SD
- 20- Encampment in the Woods IX
Three Towers, Mansfield, OH
- 26-28- Bardic Roundhouse
Cleftlands, Chardon, OH

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