



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Welcome to Il Tempo!



Harold Godwinson, or Harold II of England (c. 1022 – October 14, 1066) was the last Anglo-Saxon King of England. He ruled from January 5 to October 14, 1066 when he was killed at the Battle of Hastings.

The two-dimensional work of art depicted in this image is in the public domain in the United States and in those countries with a copyright term of life of the author plus 100 years. This photograph of the work is also in the public domain in the United States (see *Bridgeman Art Library v. Corel Corp.*).

This is Volume 15 #3 of Il Tempo (The Times). Il Tempo is provided at no charge online and in [PDF format](#) on the Baronial web site. Any member of the Barony of Ponte Alto who does not have Internet access may request a printed copy of Il Tempo at no charge. Please notify the [Baronial Chronicler](#) if you require a printed copy.

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Courtesy copies of Il Tempo are provided to Their Majesties, Their Highnesses, the Kingdom Chronicler, and the Kingdom Seneschal, in either electronic or paper format, as requested. All Kingdom Chroniclers are welcome to peruse the electronic version of Il Tempo, posted on the Baronial website.



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Ponte Alto Activities

Winter **Archery** season begins at [Bull Run](#) starting **Friday, November 4, 2005 from 4:30 pm until 8 pm**. Contact the [Archery Marshal](#) for more information.

Sunday Outdoor Rapier Practices have ended for the winter. They will resume in the spring. Indoor Thursday night practices continue through the winter on days when the school is open. Please contact the [Baronial Rapier Marshal](#) for more information.

Scriptorium is held on first Tuesdays of each month at 7 pm at the home of Brigid O'Hora (Karen Miller). Please contact Lady Renata von Hentzau ([starfox5 AT msn.com](mailto:starfox5@msn.com)) for more information.

A new arrival from the West Kingdom, Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) ([jcfrench AT gmail.com](mailto:jcfrench@gmail.com)), will host **Weaving Nights** on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays starting **Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 7 PM**. For more information see Jurgen's post to the Ponte Alto list: <http://seahorse.atlantia.sca.org/pipermail/ponte-alto/2006-January/004472.html>

March's **Newcomers Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 7:00PM** at the home of the [Baronial Chatelaine](#), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

SUNDAY

Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. [Business Meeting Directions](#).

Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice

Weather permitting, Noon - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Please contact the [Baronial Knight Marshal](#) for more information. [Sunday Fight Practice Directions](#).

Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice

First Sunday of every month, Noon - Dark, outdoors, weather permitting, at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Contact Lady Marie Thérèse Normand (***mariatheresapontoon AT yahoo.com***, (703) 690-9453 (H)) for more information. [Sunday Fight Practice Directions](#).

MONDAY

Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)

Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon. Please contact Mistress Anne of Carthew (***anne AT ravenstreet.org***) for more information or directions. Music files can be found at http://www.ravenstreet.org/Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm and on the [Yahoo Group AllePsallite](#).

Asian Nights (Exploration of all things Asian)

Second Monday of every month, starts at 6:30 in Centreville. Please contact Lady Áine Sindradóttir (***ellen.m.davis AT att.net***, (703) 815-0310 (H)) or Lord Ii Saburou Katsumori (***logan AT modzer0.cs.uaf.edu***) for more information or directions.

TUESDAY

Harp and Drum Corps (Instrumental Music)

Meets first Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 pm at the home of Mistress Anne of Carthew (***anne AT ravenstreet.org***) for practice and polishing of more advanced musical pieces. Meets third Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 pm at the home of Lady Celia of Rosedale (***rosedale703 AT aol.com***, (703) 378-2441 (H)) for practice of SCA Dance music. Contact the respective hosts for more information, and visit the [HarpAndDrum Yahoo Group](#).

Ponte Alto Scriptorium

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, starting December 2005. Please contact Lady Renata von Hentzau (***starfox5 AT msn.com***) for more information and directions.

WEDNESDAY

Weaving Nights

Second and fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) ([jcfrench AT gmail.com](mailto:jcfrench@gmail.com)), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

THURSDAY

Rapier Practice *

Every Thursday at Shrevewood Elementary school from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Please contact the [Baronial Rapier Marshal](#) for more information. [Indoor Rapier Directions](#). This is a [school location activity](#).

Heavy Weapons Indoor Practice *

Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6 pm - 9 pm. Practice is geared to developing beginning and intermediate fighters through intensive hands on training with experienced instructors, as well to providing ample opportunity for more advanced fighters to sparr with knight level combatants. All are welcome. Contact the [Baronial Knight Marshal](#) for more information. [Indoor Heavy Directions](#). This is a [school location activity](#).

FRIDAY

Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice

Fridays from 4:30 pm until 8 pm, the indoor season archery practice site is Bull Run Regional Park's shooting center. [Archery Practice Directions](#). Practices are jointly held with Stierbach. You may also contact the [Baronial Archery Marshal](#) for carpool or other information. Contact and practice time/location information for Stierbach practices can be found at the Stierbach Archery website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html>.

Ponte Alto Scriptorium/A&S Night

May meet on a Friday during the month, as posted on the at the top of this page. Please contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (***dwatsonirwin AT cox.net***, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for more information and directions.

Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic

Come and share your songs and stories! Meets the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Contact Lady Celia of Rosedale (***rosedale703 AT aol.com***, (703) 378-2441 (H)), Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani (***cassandra AT jordanclan.net***), or Baroness Briana Maclukas (***darbyjanie AT hotmail.com***) for more information.

MONTHLY

SCA Newcomer Meetings

Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony. Contact the [Baronial Chatelaine](#) for more information, or check out the top of this page for the most recently posted information.

Embroidery Night

Their Excellencies of Ponte Alto host a monthly embroidery night starting at 7:30 pm. Please contact the [Baron and Baroness](#) for more information, or check out the top of this page for the most recently posted information.

*** Note on school locations for activities:**

There will be no activities at schools during school holidays or on other days when Fairfax County schools are closed or all nighttime school recreational activities are cancelled. Notification of cancellation or alternate site location will be posted on the web as soon as possible. You can visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Emergency Announcement page for school closure status: <http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm>



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Directions to Ponte Alto Meetings

Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December)

The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idlywood Rd., Falls Church.

Take your best route to I-66. Get off at the exit for Route 7 West (Tysons Corner). Turn left at the first light after the interchange onto Idlywood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.

Fighter Practice (Sundays Noon (Heavy) - Dark, Weather Permitting)

Practice is behind the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). The library is on the left about 1 mile. Park in the library lot and go down the hill to the park.

Indoor Heavy Fighter Practice (Thursdays 6 to 9 PM)

Lemon Road Elementary

From Southern Virginia, Maryland and Alexandria, VA

Take I-495 (the beltway) to the VA-Route 7 East exit at Tysons Corner labeled Leesburg Pike/Falls Church, Exit #47B. Continue on Leesburg Pike towards Falls Church for 1.2M. Turn left onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. * Turn left into the Lemon Road Elementary School front parking lot. Park and enter the building through the main front entrance on the right hand side of the building. Proceed straight ahead past the cafeteria entrances, turn left into the hallway which leads past the stairs to the second floor and walk past the stairs to the entrance to the gym.

From Northwestern Virginia and Washington, DC

Take I-66 to the VA-Route 7 West exit for Leesburg Pike/Tysons Corner exit #66B. Continue on Leesburg Pike under 0.1M towards Tysons Corner. Turn right at the first light onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. Follow from * above.

Indoor Rapier Practice (Thursdays 6-9 PM)

Shrevewood Elementary School in Falls Church

From 495 North

Travel 495 South and go to exit (Arlington Blvd/50 West). TAKE 50 WEST. Make a right onto Gallows Rd/Merrifield exit and exit to the right onto Gallows Road.

* Travel past two traffic lights (Landmarks Giant, Boyds Piano). At the third light (Landmark German AutoBody shop on right), make a right onto Route 29 (Lee Highway).

** At the third light, make a left onto Shreve Road. The School will be on your right, where Shreve Road divides. We will be in the gym; please use the rear door.

From 495 South

Travel 495 North and go to the Gallows Road exit and take a left. Travel pass the Fairfax Hospital and proceed with directions above starting at the *

From Tysons

Travel on Gallows Rd. towards Fairfax Hospital. Make a left onto Route 29 (Lee Highway). Follow from ** above.

From Lee Highway Rt. 29 from Fairfax

Travel on Lee Highway until you come to intersection of Lee Highway and Gallows Road. Follow from ** above.

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Falls Church)

Take left onto Shreve Road (just past Chicken Out Catering on your right). If you reach I-66 intersection, you have gone too far. After approximately 1 mile, Shreve Road divides, directly in front of the school. Make a left turn into the school parking lot.

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Tysons)

Take a right onto Shreve Road (Landmark McDonalds on right, after I-66 intersection).

After approximately 1 mile, Shreve Road divides, directly in front of the school. Make a left turn into the school parking lot.

Archery Practice (Fridays 4:30 PM - 8 PM)

Practice is at Bull Run Regional Park's Shooting Center

I-66 to exit 52, US Rt 29.

RIGHT from exit ramp onto Rt 29 (south) for about 2 miles
(see sign for Bull Run Regional Park).

LEFT on Bull Run Post Office Rd (VA Rt 621).

LEFT onto Bull Run Dr (note this is about a 90-degree turn; *do not* take the tighter left onto VA 658).

Cross over 66 and then follow signs to shooting center at Bull Run Regional Park.



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Monthly Calendar

March 2006

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| 27 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite | 28 | March 1 | 2 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice 6 pm - Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice | 3 4:30 pm - Archery Practice | 4 Kingdom Arts and Science Festival | 5 Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice |
| 6 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite | 7 7 pm - Scriptorium 7:30 pm - Harp and Drum | 8 7 pm - Weaving Night | 9 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice | 10 4:30 pm - Archery Practice | 11 St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath Saint Urho's Tourney | 12 Gulf Wars Noon - Northern Regional War Practice |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>13</p> <p>Gulf Wars</p> <p>6:30 pm - Asian Night</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Gulf Wars</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Gulf Wars</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Gulf Wars</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p> | <p><i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 17</p> <p>Gulf Wars</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Gulf Wars</p> <p>Moose Olympic Games</p> <p>Rencester's Celebration of Spring</p> <p>Storvik Performer's Revel</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Gulf Wars</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> |
| <p>20</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p> | <p>21</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p> | <p>22</p> <p>7 pm - Weaving Night</p> | <p>23</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p> | <p>24</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic Circle</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Defending the Gate V</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Business Meeting</p> |
| <p>27</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p> | <p>31</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> | <p>April 1</p> <p>Coronation of Michael and Seonaid</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>Noon - Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice</p> |
| <p>3</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p> | <p>4</p> <p>7 pm - Scriptorium</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p> | <p>7</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> | <p>8</p> <p>Sacred Stone's Novice Tourney</p> <p>Tir Y Don Baronial Birthday</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> |



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Upcoming Events

Baronial Progress

| Date | Event |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| March 4 | Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival |
| March 11 | St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath |

April 2006

| Date | Event | Group | Location |
|-----------|---|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Coronation of Michael and Seonaid | River's Point | Petersburg, VA |
| 7-9 | Sacred Stone's Novice Tourney | Sacred Stone | Blacksburg, SC |
| 8 | Tir Y Don Baronial Birthday | Tir-y-Don | Newport News, VA |
| 14-16 | Night on the Town VIII | Roxbury Mill | Crownsville, MD |
| 14-16 | Tournament of Chivalry | Isenfir | Stanardsville, VA |
| 21-23 | Rogues of Sherwood Forest | Misty Marsh | Bennettsville,, SC |
| 22 | Challenge of the Heart | Dun Carraig | Huntingtown, MD |
| 22 | Spring Revel | Caer Gelynniog | Fork Union, VA |
| 28-30 | Beltane XXV | Berley Cort | Sedley, VA |
| Cancelled | Inn on the Road XI | Aire Faucon | Gastonia, NC |



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Ponte Alto Officers



Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto

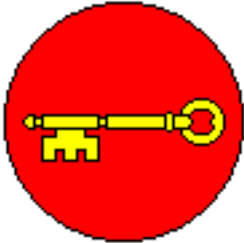
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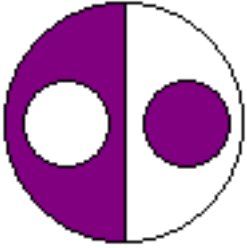
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Meeting Minutes - February 26, 2006

Held at the Education Building of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
26 Attendees
Meeting Start Time: 6:00 pm

Officer Reports

Seneschal: Lady Marie Thérèse Normand

- Minister of Minors office vacant - closing it down
- Phone List - when can new people get a copy? If new people provide their info, they may purchase a copy. Yearly printing expected, perhaps 6 month addendum?

Exchequer: Lady Millicent Chandler

- Current balance is \$8600.31 in our account
- Made \$393.07 from Tournament of Love and Beauty - still awaiting lunch receipts
- Emergency Financial Committee (Exchequer, Seneschal, MoAS is this year's third) - approved lunch expenditure
- Lady Katharine Devereaux will be stepping up as Seneschal later this year, so Lady Millicent is looking for an Exchequer deputy who would be interested in possibly taking over the office later

Heavy Marshal: Lord Duncan the Elder

- Not present - presented by Lady Marie Thérèse Normand
- Tournament of Love and Beauty had 25 heavy fighters - Lord Jonah M'Coghlane served as MIT after Thursday night practice injury
- Lord Connor Sinclair substituted as marshal at Thursday practice while Duncan recovers from foot surgery

Rapier Marshal: Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd

- Practices having high turnouts
- 20 fencers at Tournament of Love and Beauty
- Authorized some minors and others at practice, 4 fencers going to Gulf Wars

Archery Marshal: Lord Miles de Lochwode



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Officer Reports and Letters



[Knight Marshal](#)



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Officer Reports and Letters - Knight Marshal

The heavy weapons fighting at the Tournament of Love and Beauty went "beautifully" with appx. 25 fighters in attendance including several knights. One of our fighters, Jonah, was incapacitated by a shot to the wrist at the previous Thursday fight practice and could not participate in the tourney. Instead he did marshal in training service. Soon we will have with Jonah another heavy weapons marshal in the barony.

Connor Sinclair kindly substituted for me as marshal at last Thursday's heavy weapons fight practice. We are all looking forward to the Bloodbath on the 11th.

Yours in Service,

Duncan The Elder
Knight Marshal of Ponte
Alto



- Not present

A&S: Lady Renata von Hentzau

- Our new MoAS has survived her first week
- Has two existing deputies to check with, and two potential new ones
- Tournament of Love and Beauty - scribal winner - Lord Connor Sinclair; 15th century accessories winner - Lady Millicent Chandler; heraldry winner - Lord Domenico Barbieri da Mantova and Sir Guy Lestrangle; new Baronial Artisan - Lady Millicent Chandler; new Baronial Bard - Luce Antony Venus
- Don't let the D-word scare you! Documentation isn't that scary; a couple of paragraphs is good to start
- A&S Night successful at Lady Perronnelle la peintre's again
- Chemise workshop hosted by Lady Perronnelle la peintre and taught by Lady Katharine Devereaux
- Weaving night (hosted by Lord Jürgen van der Vols) had 4 or 5 attendees last week
- Brewing "meeting" at Lord Jürgen van der Vols' was also successful
- Kingdom A&S Festival on Saturday - come on out!

Chatelaine: Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lockwood Moss

- Next newcomer's meeting is March 15th at the home of the Chatelaine - 2 newcomers attended last month
- Newcomers have been staying in contact

Herald: Lord Seamus 'O Maoil Riain

- Award badge submissions handed to Golden Dolphin Herald
- Lord Seamus 'O Maoil Riain's device and Saethryth's heraldry passed Kingdom

MOL: Lady Delphina the Mad

- Tournament of Love and Beauty: First event as MoL - two rapier authorizations, one a minor. Rapire bear pit with 20 fighters.
- Lessons learned: Need to check IDs for authorizations. We might want to do a roll call before fighting begins to verify everyone has signed in. Valerian was crowned Prince of Love and Beauty
- Heavy - Grendel was crowned King of Love and Beauty - he fought for all the ladies!

Chroniclers: Lady Courtney of Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair

- We've been Chroniclers for a year!
- Send in articles!!! Artwork! Something! ANYONE!! And read the newsletter!
- Still looking for a deputy

Web Minister: Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani

- Web site updates:
Baronial OP and Roll of Arms now pulling directly from Kingdom OP database/site
Navigation changed for more standard SCA organization. History section added
(thanks to Missy Anne for gathering data)

Warlord: Sir Thomas of Calais

- Thomas will not be able to go to Gulf Wars; Sir Guy is planning to go; Sir Guy has recently arrived in Ponte Alto from the West Kingdom
- Potential interested successor as Warlord should talk to the B&B and will be selected at St. Paddy's Day event - experience in heavy fighting, melees, and preferably training
- Lord Edric renting 3 acres in Fairfax - contacting about archery practices - he will be setting up blacksmith shop, and interested folks should contact him

Baron and Baroness: Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli and Baronne Belphoebe de Givet

- Tournament of Love and Beauty lots of fun! Lots of positive feedback - requests to do it again
- New Artisan is Lady Millicent Chandler; new Bard - Lady Luce Antony Venus
- Lady Courtney of Houghton got her Golden Dolphin at Ymir
- University had many attendees, both students and teachers
- Come out to KASF on Saturday and participate! Several Pontoons are expected to complete in the performance competition, so come out and cheer them on!
- Bloodbath the following weekend: New Heavy and Rapier champions at St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath, and new Warlord
- Washington Post reporter potentially coming to KASF or Bloodbath - article for Sunday Source - need to contact media relations person
- B&B Progress: Kingdom A&S Festival, St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath, Coronation, Night on the Town
- Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd will be playing his Free Scholar prize at Coronation

Events

Tournament of Love and Beauty: February 18, 2006

Lord Connor Sinclair and Lady Courtney de Houghton, co-autocrats

- Thanks to all who helped!
- Tripled estimated profits
- Lunch looks like it made about \$300 for the travel fund; real details to come when receipts tallied - thanks to Sir Thomas of Calais and Countess Denise Duvalier for the list fence
- Notes on the site for next time: Need to make provisions to water the arena field, and move A&S indoors - too much dust
- Good job, autocrats!!

Bloodbath: March 11, 2006
Sir Thomas of Calais, autocrat

- Reserved field area for \$125 - check has been sent
- Lady Catalina dell'Acqua will be RMIC, Sir Thomas is MIC and heavy, Lady Gisele l'Orpheline (Kingdom Youth Combat Marshal) will be Youth MIC
- Lunch included in price of event - \$5 per person
- We have Tournament of Love and Beauty leftovers that can be used for Bloodbath - need water, pickles and veggies, getting free bread - so we only need 40 people to attend to break even
- First reservation from Lady Courtney and Lord Connor received
- Prizes - a few nice prizes for winners, and toys for other prizes - within \$200 budget
- No merchants allowed

Pennsic: 2006
Lord Miles de Lochwode, land agent

- Pennsic Committee met - only Lady Perronnelle, Lord William and Lord Miles attended - decided to postpone gate decisions, and will talk about running walls next meeting

Chalice: 2006
Lady Katharine Devereaux, autocrat

- Needs check for \$25 to reserve the site: Prince William Forest Park
- Theme Posiedon adventure again - will send A&S themes soon

Old Business

- Olaf quotes \$500 for the list fences, including speical barrier that includes extra corner posts. Olaf has already started on the fences.

New Business

- Lady Millicent Chandler would like to get another shelving unit for the storage unit - budget request of \$50 to get storage containers off the ground and make room for list fences and plastic fantastic. Vote passed

Announcements

- Happy Birthday Ponte Alto!
- Embroidery Night sometime in March after KASF - Baronne Belphoebe will post to the mailing list
- Happy Birthday Greta!
- Two potential demos in April - Coronation weekend and third week - more details posted to the mailing list later
- Next meeting is Sunday, March 26, 2006, in the usual room

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 pm.



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Announcements

Baronial Officer Openings

There are several openings available for Baronial officer and deputy positions. Enthusiastic newcomers looking to get more involved in the day-to-day workings of the Barony are encouraged to apply!

Minister of Minors: Potential candidates should contact the [Baronial Seneschal](#) for more information or to apply.

Deputy Chronicler: Lady Courtney and Lord Connor are not intending to step down anytime soon, but they would like to have a deputy as a potential successor and backup in case of emergency. The process has been streamlined so there is not all that much work involved. Please contact the [Baronial Chroniclers](#) for more information or to apply.

Ponte Alto Directory

Lady Perronelle volunteered to coordinate a hard copy directory for Pontoons to use to stay in touch. If you would like to be included (only people included in the directory will be allowed to get a copy), please [download the form \(MS Word\)](http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/ponte_alto_directory_form.doc) (http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/ponte_alto_directory_form.doc) , fill it out, and email or snail mail it to Lady Perronelle la peintre (***dwatsonirwin AT cox.net***, (703) 455-0298 (H)). Or use the [online directory form](http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/directory.php) (http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/directory.php) to submit your information via email. The first printing of the directory was at the Day at the Races event in November 2005, and copies are \$2.50 each.

Historical Event Matrix

Since the historically traditional event weekends for northern Atlantian groups have been under heavy discussion lately, Mistress Anne of Carthew put together an [event matrix \(PDF\)](http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/group_event_history_summary.pdf) (http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/group_event_history_summary.pdf) showing which northern Atlantian groups hosted events which weekends from 1998 through 2005.

News

Tournament of Love and Beauty

A fine yet chilly day greeted all at the spectacular Tournament of Love and Beauty! Their Excellencies Marcellus and Belphoebe were inclined to hold court, as follows:

- Baroness Greta Klausenare stepped down as Baronial Minister of Arts and Sciences; Lady Renata von Hentzau agreed to take on the position.
 - Lady Iohanna filia Iacobi (aka Siobhán) stepped down as the Baronial Minister of Minors. For her service, Their Excellencies awarded her the Ponte d'Oro.
 - Lady Millicent Chandler stepped down as Baronial Bard, and handed the trappings of her position over to the new Baronial Bard, Lady Luce Antony Venus.
 - Not yet finished with Lady Millicent, Their Excellencies awarded her the Ponte d'Argento for her A&S work, both performance and static.
 - Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lockwood Moss was succeeded as Baronial Artisan by Lady Millicent Chandler.
 - Lady Wulfwyn Isabella Ælwines Dother was awarded a Ponte d'Oro for her many acts of service, including organizing the day's lunch last minute when the original lunch cook took ill.
 - Deirdre was awarded the Bead of Ponte Alto by their Excellencies for helping with lunch at this, her very first event!
 - And finally, Lord Connor Sinclair and Lady Courtney of Houghton were each awarded the Ponte d'Argento for all their 15th century and heraldic spiff.
- Vivants to all those Pontoons recognized for their good works!

Ymir

Congratulations to Lady Courtney of Houghton, who was awarded the Golden Dolphin at Ymir! Vivats Lady Courtney!

Twelfth Night

Their Majesties, Janos and Rachel, were generous in Their praise of Pontoons at Twelfth Night. During morning court, They conducted the following business:

Edward de Clare was awarded arms. Vivats for Lord Edward!

Lord Geoffrey ap Clwyd was awarded the Opal. Vivats for Lord Geoffrey!

Lady Delphina the Mad was awarded the Opal. Vivats for Lady Delphina!

But Janos and Rachel were not finished recognizing Pontoons. In afternoon court, Lord James de Biblesworth was inducted into the Order of the Pearl. His Pearl medallion was presented by our own Baroness Belphoebe. Vivats for Lord James!



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Myths about Vikings

Horned helmets

Apart from two or three representations of (ritual) helmets with protrusions that may be either snakes or horns, no depiction of Viking Age warriors' helmets, and no actually preserved helmet, has horns. In fact, the formal close-quarters style of Viking combat (either in shield walls or aboard "ship islands") would have made horned helmets cumbersome and hazardous to the warrior's own side. The general misconception that vikings wore horned helmets was partly promulgated by the 19th-century enthusiasts of the Götiska Förbundet, founded in 1811 in Stockholm, with the aim of promoting the suitability of Norse mythology as subjects of high art and other ethnological and moral aims. The latter-day mythos created by national romantic ideas blended the Viking Age with glimpses of the Nordic Bronze Age some 2000 years earlier, for which actual horned helmets, probably for ceremonial purposes, are attested both in petroglyphs and by actual finds (See Bohuslän [1]). The cliché is perpetuated by cartoons like Hågar the Horrible and Vicky the Viking.

Skull cups

The use of human skulls as drinking vessels is also ahistorical. The rise of this myth can be traced back to a mistranslation of an Icelandic kenning. In the Latin translation of the *Krákumál* by Magnús Ólafsson (in *Ole Worm's Runer seu Danica literatura antiquissima* of 1636), warriors drinking *ór bjúgvíðum hausa* [from the curved branches of skulls, i.e. from horns] were rendered as drinking *ex craniis eorum quos ceciderunt* [from the skulls of those whom they had slain]. (Scandinavian *skalle*: *skall* means simply "shell" or "bowl".) The skull-cup allegation may have some history also in relation with other Germanic tribes (see skull cups).

Uncleanliness

The image of wild-haired, dirty savages, sometimes associated with the Vikings in popular culture, has hardly any base in reality. The Vikings used a variety of tools for personal grooming such as combs, tweezers, razors or specialized "ear spoons". In particular, combs are among the most frequent artifacts from Viking Age graves, and one can conclude that a comb was the personal equipment of every man and woman. The Vikings also used soap, long before it was reintroduced to Europe after the fall of the Byzantine Empire.

The Vikings in England even had a particular reputation of excessive cleanliness, due to their custom of bathing once a week, on Saturdays (as opposed to the local Anglo-Saxons). As for the Rus', who had later acquired a subjected Varangian component, Ibn Rustah explicitly notes their cleanliness, while Ibn Fadlan is disgusted by the women sharing the same vessel as the men to wash their faces in the morning. Ibn Fadlan's disgust is thus probably motivated by ideas of personal hygiene particular to the Muslim world (for instance, Muslims are required to wash only with running water), while the very example intended to convey the disgusting customs of the Rus' at the same time records that they did in fact wash every morning.



The Ramsund carving in Sweden depicts 1) how Sigurd is sitting naked in front of the fire preparing the dragon heart, from Fafnir, for his foster-father Regin, who is Fafnir's brother. The heart is not finished yet, and when Sigurd touches it, he burns himself and sticks his finger into his mouth. As he has tasted dragon blood, he starts to understand the birds' song. 2) The birds say that Regin will not keep his promise of reconciliation and will try to kill Sigurd, which causes Sigurd to cut off Regin's head. 3) Regin is dead beside his own head, his smithing tools with which he reforged Sigurd's sword Gram are scattered around him, and 4) Regin's horse is laden with the dragon's treasure. 5) is the previous event when Sigurd killed Fafnir, and 6) shows Otr from the saga's beginning.

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