

II Tempo

The Barony of Ponte Alto's Newsletter

Chronicler, Baroness Marie-Therese Normand - Editors, Lady Grainne inghean Daidhui Chonchochhair and Lady Bevin an Broc



Volume 19, Issue 3, April/May

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Chronicler

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Greetings Ponte Alto,

Many of you have asked about the newsletter, how you can help or get information to me when the calendar is wrong or an article is incorrect. The answer is very simple: email me (chronicler AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org), call me (703-719-0417), or show up the Tuesday after the Barony meeting to the editing and final wrap up night of the Il Tempo. This is at my home in Alexandria, Virginia, where we edit and talk about the Il Tempo and the ideas we have for the next newsletter. All are invited, all are welcomed, and all are encouraged to contribute.

As outlined in the March/April issue of the Il Tempo, the newsletter will have a tentative deadline for articles and art of the 20th of the month prior to its publication. This can be pushed back a few days if you are wrapping up an article or artistic submission that you really want to contribute if the submission is all but done. The absolute nothing more can be accepted date is the beginning of the Baronial Meeting, Sunday at 6pm. The Baronial Meeting itself is the last information source for news and is the absolute last day for anything new to be submitted to me for the Il Tempo.

Themes for the next year are tentatively geared to the local or major kingdom-level events. April therefore has the theme of Spring, Strategy and the Courtly Arts. May will be Sapphire Joust and those things that go along with a Joust; such as heraldry, pages/youth activities, art and fighting. June is a summer issue that I would like to highlight with the theme "Eat, Drink and Be Merry." This issue I would like to include brewing, cooking, and entertainment. July, will cover Pennsic War preparations and the War itself. August, the aftermath of War and what the barony and individuals did. September, Chalice of the Sun God with its Medusa theme. October, Halloween or Ghost Stories. November, Fall and Harvest. December, Meet Me Under The Bridge, the issues will include pictures and stories about the events. That's about it. I hope you enjoy this month's Il Tempo, and remember any idea is a good idea if its written or drawn from the heart. I look forward to your submission with great anticipation.

Thank you for your support of the Barony's Newsletter.

Baroness Marie-Thérèse Normand
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto

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Baronial Meeting Minutes

Meeting Started at 6:00 pm April 25, 2010 Gregorian, Anno Societatus 44

Officer's Reports

Seneschal- Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli: Not a great deal on the seneschal front. We'll begin with the Officers reports.

Chronicler-Baroness Marie-Therese Normand: She, outlined the themes that will be covered in the Il Tempo for the following months of April (coronation, strategy, the courtly arts) and May (to do with jousts, and the songs, feasts, instruments and dance of the middle-ages) through the rest of the year. She wanted to let everyone know that the game section would be geared toward kids so that they had something they could look forward to in each issue. She encouraged people to send in art and articles. She passed around the calendar and the officer's contact information sheet so that she could get updated information for those areas of the Il Tempo that needed it.

Web Minister- Giovanna Rossellini di Firenze: Not in attendance. It was agreed that she's doing a great job.

Exchequer-Baroness Celia of Rosedale: \$11,922.55 in the account as of the meeting. She have still not added the Loudoun County Fairground Site check back into the account because they have not cashed the first check we wrote to them. A refund was received from Fairfax County School System, because one Sunday the school was not open for our use, so we asked for, and received a refund for that day. Also, the first quarter reports are in process and will be done by the end of the week, because they have to be.

Knight Marshall-Charles the Bull: Not in attendance. Sent a report via the Seneschal, heavy fighting continues. He's going to be try to make one heavy and one rapier fight practice a month..

Rapier Marshall-Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd: Rapier continues. They have had several newcomers join the practice. Therefore the Rapier Marshal would like to check with the exchequer for how much money the Baronial Fencing Fund has for gear. Exchequer does not have that information but will email it to the rapier marshal.

Archery Marshall-Lord Miles de Locwode: Spoke for the office. Monday nights are outside in Ashburn. If you want to come to them there is loaner gear available. It is a joint practice with Steirbach. There are lots of events with Archery this month to look forward to. The question was asked at what time the practices started and Lucia answered: 5 to 5:30.

MOL - No officer for this office at this time—Dalilly talked to Celia about giving MOL classes on Friday May 8th, at Steirbach novice Tourney and/or one day in July.

Herald- Lady Sian verch Gwilim ap Lewelin: Not in attendance. Tigernan Mear Mac Riatai mka Tim Branigan had his name approved by Society. His son's device is currently going through the process and his wife Cristine is working on hers currently.

A&S- Mistress Belphoebe de Givet: A&S happens. There have been several A&S activities: fiber nights, Alle Sallite, etc. Chalice A&S deals with Perseus and Medusa legends and allows anything from depictions of winged shoes to ships and traveling. This is not just meant to deal with Medusa. We're plugging the events A&S with plenty of time before the event so everybody has time to participate.

A&S deputy Perenelle is resigning. A&S at maybe two events a year.

Chatelaine- Lady Emma West: This past Friday, 7 people showed up to the Newcomers night. Two of those that showed up were brand new to the SCA. Freach alic has offered to do a monthly sewing session. The next meeting will be at Lord [Brenainn's](#) house the Friday before Sapphire Joust.

Chancellor of Youths - Gráinne inghean Dauídh uí Chonchobhair: Not in attendance. The report was given to the Seneschal and read as it was sent to him.

*Gráinne inghean Dauídh uí Chonchobhair
Minister of Minors, Ponte Alto*

On February 20, at Tournament of Love and Beauty, a Children's Corner was held, however, no children attended Youth activities, though this may be due to the low number of children in attendance of the event.

On March 27, Lady CC and I hosted a Children's activities tent at Defending the Gate, approximately 15 children were in attendance. We made juggling balls and colored on transparencies to make stained glass. Additionally, many children played on the jungle gym.

I will be attending Sapphire Joust and may be assisting with children's activities if needed. My attendance at Pennsic is as-yet unknown.

I am in the process of repairing the box in which MOM items are stored, but should have it done by the end of the month. Additionally, I will be moving to Norfolk in the Fall, making a deputy Minister a much needed officer. I will continue attend Ponte Alto events and run Children's Corner, but assistance would be lovely.

*Gráinne inghean Dauídh uí Chonchobhair
Minister of Minors, Ponte Alto
Semper Amans*

Notables -

Archery: Lucia Antonia Venus—A shoot is being designed for Chalice of the Sun Gods. She would therefore like to take a poll of the archers. What is your favorite target shoot and least favorite target shoot? Answer these two questions and return them to Lucia Antonia Venus at: archerychamp AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Baron and Baroness Report-Master James Bibleworth and Baroness Katharine Devereaux: Baroness Katharine: Made it to the meeting after driving back from Blackstone Raids in West Virginia.

Baron James: For those people who didn't go, you missed out on the fun. Rain didn't happen until late and this was a great event.

Awards at Coronation for Pontoons included Felix being named King's Champion, winning the 1st place slot in the unbelt list and being given the honor of a shark's tooth. Lord Lucas our Warlord took third place in the unbelt list.

Their Excellencies to travel in May to Sapphire Joust, and in June to Novice Tourney and Steirbach Baronial Birthday.

Events:

Sapphire - enrollment and registration can be done online. Register your tent and register with the Ponte Alto and on Ponte Alto website. Gustav is running the land allotment.

Pennsic - Officially Bridget O'Hara will be the land agent, although Katharine is doing most of the work, Bridget is helping out. Katharine will contact Giovanna to get Pennsic registration on the Ponte Alto website so people can register. The encampment is going to ask that people please come early and help setup or stay late and help break down. There will be no food plan this year. The B&B will have court, but it won't be the traditional Thursday, because Atlantia is holding its court Thursday in the Atlantian Royal encampment.

Jason/Gerhild are staying in the Atlantian Royal encampment, so maybe it will be a large royal encampment this year.

Chalice of the Sun God - Belpheobe : Several snags. Set out date on the assumption that they would be the same as last year. 17th is last day camp 4. We tried to move it. It was impossible, because we were going against everyone else in the SCA. Really didn't feel like being against Archery of Roxbury Mill. Since they had to cancel several of their events and ours is big

on Archery. We made the decision to go with Camp 5. Wulfwyn sent paperwork in two weeks ago and so we will make camp 5 work. Otherwise we will have to cancel Chalice. Parking is the only problem. We will work on the logistics.

Lucia: We will talk more off-line.

Tim: We could use the buildings and do a wicked field battle.

Lucia: The field would let us do both heavy fighting and work the archery in the field holding to the archery rules.

Belphoebe: September 22-24 no conflict. Let's keep it and make it work. Coordinate with archery Marshall and work out the particulars. Tried to do other sites and so were trucking along and will make this change in Camp site work.

December- Meet Me Under the Bridge - Penciled into the moose lodge. There is no budget but we have designated \$100 for food and \$400 for rental. Break-even is for \$10 at 50 people paid onsite. The liquor license needs to be obtained for the day. Talked about brewing competitions and the need to get a liquor license at \$150 puts the break-even point at 75 people. No alcohol had been the status of past events. Baronial Brewer was done last year at Pennsic then we could do the next one at this coming Pennsic if we can't or don't want to get the liquor license. Everyone's events have been doing much less. Break-even was discussed if we have the brewing. Then it was suggested we talking to the Brewer's guild and see if they would be interested in the event should it have a brewing competition. It would be an open competition. We won't be at the Sixth month mark for the budget until next month. Put out feelers and see what the brewers say. Decision on the alcohol license can wait until a few weeks before the moose lodge is used. Celia would like to see the budget with alcohol in it when presented for vote. Then it could be taken out at the last minute if necessary. Then it was asked if the event needed anything else beside, games (chess), music, and dancing.

Old business.

Coronets- sending a request. lofair and darkridge

Send information and request a proposal from them. It needs to be kept simple. We're planning on doing the basic design parameters and suggest something. Baoness Katharine saw Master Lothar hitting examples of them on the table and the brass balls did not come off. His designs have come a long way. Darkridge did, beautiful work but the one they saw was very fragile. A cited example was a private commission by one of the old Baroness of Tir-ya-don. Its an old Norman style coronet. The Barony did not care weather the coronet was Norman, Italian or English as long as it was identifiable as a Baronial Coronet and had a bridge on it.

New Business.

There was no new business.

Announcements.

Brief one: Heads up for census 2010 for the Society. Gulfwars had classes about it. Encourage participation. It should be out in May. The census is going to help us in decisions going forward in the future. Get the word out and excited about it. It is critical to talk this up and participate. Both card-carrying members and casual players are strongly encouraged to participate.

Are you still planning on fighting champion? Baroness Katharine is still planning and are checking dates.

6:29pm meeting adjourned.

14 people were in attendance.

Monthly Calendar

April/May 2010						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 26 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	27 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	28 7 pm - 9 pm Armoring Night	29 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	30 Spring Crown Tournament (R,H)	May 1 Spring Crown Tournament (R,H)	2 Spring Crown Tournament (R,H) 1:30-4:30pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice
3 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice 7:00 Scriptorium	4 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	5	6 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	7 Hawkwood Baronial Birthday and Investiture (R)	8 Hawkwood Baronial Birthday and Investiture (R) Atlantian Royal Archer Competition	9 Hawkwood Baronial Birthday and Investiture (R) 1:30-4:30pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice
10 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	11 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	12	13 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	14 Steppingstone Medieval Days	15 Steppingstone Medieval Days St. Aiden's Melee College Feast of the Saints (Q)	16 Steppingstone Medieval Days St. Aiden's Melee College 1:30-4:30pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice
17 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice 7:00 Scriptorium	18 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	19 7 pm - 9 pm A&S Night	20 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	21 Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Cooks Guild Meeting	22 Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday On Target	23 Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday 1:30-4:30pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice
24 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	25 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite 12:00 pm Articles due for the Il Tempo	26	27 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	28 Sapphire Joust XI & Investiture (R) 6:30 pm - 9 pm Open House at Viscount Eldrid's	29 Sapphire Joust XI & Investiture (R)	30 Sapphire Joust XI & Investiture (R) 1:30-4:30pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice 6 pm Baronial Business Meeting
June 1 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	2 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	3	4 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	5	6	7 1:30-4:30pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice
8 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	9 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	10 7 pm - 9 pm Armoring Night	11 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	12	13	14 1:30-4:30pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice

* = Baronial Progress

Weekly Activities

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>

SUNDAY	
Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting	<p>Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church.</p> <p>Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idylwood Rd., Falls Church.</p> <p>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 Idylwood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.</p>
Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice	<p>Weather permitting, Noon - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for information.</p> <p>Sunday Fight Practice Directions. 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.</p>
MONDAY	
Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	<p>Every Monday, 4:30 pm - 8 pm</p> <p>Contact the Archery Marshal at: archery AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org for further details.</p>
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	<p>Meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.</p> <p>Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for information and directions.</p>
TUESDAY	
Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)	<p>Every Tuesday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon.</p> <p>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.</p>
Fiber Arts Night	<p>Every Tuesday, 6:30 pm - 9 pm</p> <p>Contact Lady Bevin at snarlingbadger at gmail.com</p>
WEDNESDAY	
Arts and Sciences /Weaving Night	<p>Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.</p> <p>Weaving night will resume in March on the Second Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.</p>
Armoring	<p>Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.</p> <p>Armoring night will resume in March on the Fourth Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.</p>
THURSDAY	
Rapier Practice	<p>Every Thursday at Shreveewood Elementary school from 6-9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information. Indoor Rapier Directions. This is a school location activity.</p>
Heavy Weapons Practice	<p>Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6-9 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.</p>
MONTHLY	
SCA Newcomer Meetings	<p>Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony.</p> <p>Contact the Baronial Chatelaine for information, or check out the top of the Weekly Activities page for the recently posted information.</p>

Baronial Progress for April/May

Date	Event	Baron and/or Baroness
April 22-25	Blackstone Raid XIX	James and Katharine

April/May 2010 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
April 2-4	Night on the Town	Lochmere	Annapolis, MD
9-11	Spring Coronation (R,H)	Raven's Cove	Swansboro, NC
10	Slavic University	Aethelmearc	
16-18	Le Grand Tournoi d'Amitié - The Great Tournament of Friends	Attilium	Bunnlevel, NC
17	Feast of the Dragon Saint Georges		Pickens, SC
17	A Moose Tale Collegium and Tournament	Highland Foorde	Hagerstown, MD
17	Siege of the Black Tower	Rivers Point	Chesterfield, VA
22-25	Blackstone Raid XIX	Aethelmearc	
22-25	Southern Atlantian Archery Day (SAAD)	Crois Brigitte	Booneville, NC
22-25	Beltane XXIX	Berley Cort	Sedley, VA
30-2	Spring Crown Tournament (R,H)	Hidden Mountain	Blacksburg, SC
May 7-9	Hawkwood Baronial Birthday and Investiture (R)	Hawkwood	Arden, NC
8	Atlantian Royal Archer Competition	Sudentorre	Spotsylvania, VA
14-16	Steppingstone Medieval Days	Bright Hills	Havre De Grace, MD
15-16	St. Aiden's Melee College	Storvik	Upper Marlboro, MD
15	Feast of the Saints (Q)	Falconcree	Clinton, SC
21-23	Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday	Hidden Mountain	Bennettsville, SC
22	On Target	Lochmere	Annapolis, MD
28-31	Sapphire Joust XI & Investiture (R)	Caer Mear	Amelia, VA

The *Strategikon* Sixth Century Byzantine Military Tactics

Article By: Daniel Warwick (Daniel Bensing)

The Byzantine Empire survived for over a thousand years after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, despite repeated attacks by Huns, Persians, Avars, Arabs, Bulgars, Turks and Crusaders. The Byzantines did so through cunning diplomacy and an exceptionally well-trained professional army led by skilled and often brilliant commanders. That institutional military genius was codified and passed on to each new generation in a series of comprehensive military manuals, written not by literary aristocrats, but by experienced and plain-spoken generals.

The first and most famous treatise reflecting the accumulated wisdom of generations of Byzantine officers was the *Strategikon*, attributed to the Byzantine Emperor Maurice who reigned from 582 to 602 A.D.¹ This “modest elementary handbook,” as its author describes it, provides a comprehensive treatise on the training and battle tactics of the early Byzantine army.

In the Byzantine military, archery was the essential skill and its principle military unit was the *tagma*, a mixed unit of 300 heavy cavalry and horse archers. The *Strategikon* advises that archers must train extensively and “should be trained to shoot rapidly,” since “even when the arrow is well aimed, firing slowly is useless.” I.1. Additionally, “all Romans up to the age of forty must definitely be required to possess bow and quiver, whether they be expert archers or just average.” I.2

The well-equipped Byzantine horse archer wore chain mail and helm and carried lance, sword, bows “suited to the strength of each man and not above it,” spare bowstrings and quivers with covers “holding about thirty or forty arrows.” Attached to saddles should be two iron stirrups, a lasso, hobble and a saddlebag to hold three or four days rations. Horses in the front rank should have “protective pieces of iron armor about their heads and breast plates of iron and felt.” I.2.

Forces should typically be deployed in two lines. “The troops in front will fight more eagerly knowing that their rear is protected.” And “a man in the first line is not as likely to run away when he knows” others will see him deserting his post.” II.1. If the first line is successful, the second line should advance in good order, three or four bowshots behind, ready to serve as a rallying point should the first line suffer a reverse. III.15.

The depth of the formation should be no more than four ranks deep as “there can be no pressure from the rear up through the ranks, as happens with an infantry formation.” And when archers “are forced to shoot up high because of all the men in front of them,” their arrows are ineffectual. II.6.

Every formation should contain “flank guards” on the left wing and “outflankers” on the right. The duties of each formation are essentially the same. If the enemy line is longer, these units must incline to the flank and extend the line to prevent envelopment. But if the enemy line is shorter, “they should hasten to advance in crescent formation and envelop” the enemy line before the main advance, thus throwing the enemy into confusion. III.13.

¹*Maurice's Strategikon*, translated by George T. Denis (univ. of Penn. Press, 1984). Citations are to Book number, followed by Section number.

As the formation advances, Maurice recommends that the heralds shout the following commands: “Silence. Do not fall back. Do not go ahead of the standard. Advance even with the front rank. Keep your eyes on the standard. If you leave your standard you will not be victorious. Do not charge out impetuously and cause your ranks to be broken up.” III.5.

One typical attack formation requires the advancing cavalry formation to close up ranks when within three or four bowshots of the enemy. As the formation closes up “the archers open fire, and the whole line together in close order begins the charge.” III.4.

At the command for the “Charge,” the two front ranks should “lean forward, cover their heads and part of their horses heads with their shields, hold their lances high at their shoulders.” They should advance at a trot “to avoid having the impetus of their charge break up their ranks before coming to blows with the enemy.” And supporting them, “all the archers to the rear should open fire.” III.5. Note that horse archers do not carry shields, “for it is impossible to draw the bow effectively on horseback while carrying a shield on the left arm.” II.8.

All Byzantine manuals stress that this superb military force was only be committed to battle when absolutely necessary. Instead, commanders are advised to “make use of times and places, surprises and various tricks to outwit the enemy with the idea of achieving its objective even without actual fighting.” Byzantine commanders are reminded that “well timed attacks against the enemy’s flanks and rear are much more effective and decisive than direct frontal charges.” II.5

For an excellent overview of Byzantine strategy and tactics, see *The Grand Strategy of the Byzantine Empire*, by Edward N. Luttwak (Belknap Press, 2009). Other readily available original sources are *Three Byzantine Military Treatises*, translated by George T. Dennis (Dumbarton Oaks, 1985). These anonymous treatises date from the 10th Century and deal with three distinct subjects: (1) siege warfare; (2) border raiding and defensive strategies on the Eastern frontier; and (3) major operations on the Balkan frontier.

Games

Fox and Geese

Compiled by Modar Neznanich
<http://www.modaruniversity.org/Game6.htm>

HISTORY:

Fox and Geese belongs to the group of games known collectively as Tafl in which there are battles fought out by two forces of unequal power. Tafl games appear to have originated in Northern Europe. Mention is made of one as far back as AD 1300 in the Icelandic 'Grettis Saga'. Most likely they date back to BC.

RULES:

One player elects to be the fox and the other the geese. The geese (the thirteen counters of one color) should be placed so as to fill up all the points on one side of the board, as shown in the diagram. The fox (the one counter of the other color) can be placed on any vacant point remaining. The fox moves first. On their turn, each side may move one counter. Both fox and geese can move along a line, forwards, backwards, or sideways, to the next contiguous point.

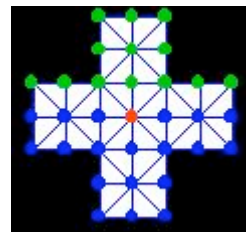
The fox may move along a line or jump over a goose to an empty point, capturing the goose and removing it from the board. Two or more geese may be captured by the fox in one turn, providing that he is able to jump to an empty point after each one. The fox wins if he depletes the gaggle of geese to a number that makes it impossible for them to trap him.

The geese cannot jump over the fox or capture the fox. They must try to mob him and hem him into a corner making it impossible for him to move. The geese win if they succeed in immobilizing the fox.

DIAGRAM:



Fox and Geese board



Board set up (Geese in green, Fox in red)

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