

Welcome to II Tempo!



Cover art by Lord James de Biblesworth

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Il Tempo of Ponte Alto

[Barony Home](#)

Table of Contents

Cover	Page 1
Schedule	Page 3
Weekly Activities	Page 5
Upcoming Events	Page 7
Contacts	Page 8
Officer Reports	Page 12
Meeting Minutes	Page 15

Articles

Past Times	Page 18
Pontoons Say...	Page 19

Schedule

April 2004

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>March 29</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7 pm - Newcomer's Garb Night</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>April Fool's Day 1</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>7 pm - Needlework Night</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4 pm - Archery Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Spring Coronation</p>	<p>Palm Sunday 4</p> <p>2 pm - Fighter Practice</p>
<p>5</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p>Passover 6</p> <p>7 pm - Site Committe Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice (at Sunday location)</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice (at Sunday location)</p> <p>7 pm - Needlework Night</p>	<p>Good Friday 9</p> <p>4 pm - Archery Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Hidden Mountain Hofla</p>	<p>Easter 11</p> <p>2 pm - Fighter Practice</p>
<p>12</p> <p>6:30 pm - Asian Night</p> <p>7 pm - Scriptorium</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>7 pm - Needlework Night</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7 pm - Scriptorium</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Night of the Fools Performer's and Dance Symposium</p> <p>Tir-y-don's Baronial Birthday</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2 pm - Fighter Practice</p>
<p>19</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 pm - Newcomer's Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>7 pm - Needlework Night</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Bardic Circle</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Beltane XXIII Hidden Mountain Birthday/Investiture</p> <p>Novice Tourney: Challenge of the Phoenix</p> <p>Blue Moon</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2 pm - Fighter Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Business Meeting</p>
<p>26</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4 pm - Archery Practice</p>	<p>May 1</p> <p>Spring Crown Tourney</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2 pm - Fighter Practice</p>

			6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice 7 pm - Needlework Night 7:30 pm - Dance Practice				
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	7:30 pm - Alle Psallite	7:30 pm - Harp and Drum		6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice 6 pm - Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice 7 pm - Needlework Night	4 pm - Archery Practice	Feast of St. Pyr Inn on the Road - The Pyramid of Giza	2 pm - Fighter Practice
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	6:30 pm - Asian Night 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite	7:30 pm - Harp and Drum		6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice 7 pm - Needlework Night	4 pm - Archery Practice	Feast of St. Isadore Garb Wars: Siege of Orleans Hero's Portion IV Peasant's Revolt	2 pm - Fighter Practice

Ponte Alto Activities

SUNDAY	
Ponte Alto Baronial Business meeting	Last Sunday of the month at 6PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. Directions .
Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice	Weather permitting, 2PM - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Please contact Baronial Knight Marshal for information on heavy weapons fighting, or the Baronial Rapier Marshal for information on rapier fighting. Directions .
MONDAY	
Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)	Every Monday, 7:30-9PM in Herndon. Please contact Mistress Anne of Carthew through e-mail at 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 .
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	Meets the second Monday of the month. Please contact Lady Renata von Hentzau for more information and directions.
Asian Nights (Exploration of all things Asian)	Second Monday of every month, starts at 6:30 in Annandale. Please contact Lady Áine at 703-256-5755 (nlt 10:30 PM) or ellen.m.davis@att.net , or Lord Ii at logan@modzer0.cs.uaf.edu for more information or directions.
TUESDAY	
Harp and Drum Corps (Instrumental Music)	Directed by Mistress Anne of Carthew who can be contacted through e-mail at anne AT ravenstreet.org. Held every Tuesday, 7:30 - 9PM at the home of Master Corun , in Annandale.
WEDNESDAY	
SCA Newcomer Meetings	Newcomer Meetings occur once a month, typically Wednesday, 7-9PM at the home of the Baronial Chatelaine , whom you should contact for directions and information, or check out the home page under "Upcoming Events" for the most recently posted information.
Newcomers Garb Night	We have newcomers garb night once a month, typically Wednesday at 7PM, at the homes of various members of the Barony. Please contact the Baronial Chatelaine for more information, or check out the home page under "Upcoming Events" for the most recently posted information.

THURSDAY	
Rapier Practice *	Every Thursday at Shrevevood Elementary school from 6PM to 9PM. Please use the rear entrance to the Cafeteria. Please contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information. Directions . This is a school location activity .
Dance Practice *	Last Thursdays at Shrevevood Elementary school from 7:30 PM to 9PM. Please use the rear (outside) entrance to the cafeteria. Please contact Lady Allasan bhán inghean Fhaoláin for more information. Directions . This is a school location activity .
Heavy Weapons Indoor Practice *	Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6PM - 9PM. 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. Directions . This is a school location activity .
Lady's Instructional Heavy Weapons Indoor Practice *	First Thursday of every month at Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6PM - 9PM. Contact Lady Maria-Térèse de Normandie for more information. Directions . This is a school location activity .
Needlework Nights	Every Thursday, 7PM in Sterling. Contact Jaine the Embroiderer at wombat AT lazywench DOT com for directions.
FRIDAY	
Stierbach/Ponte Alto Archery Practice	Contact and practice time/location information can be found at the Stierbach Archery website: http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html . You may also contact the Baronial Archery Champion for carpool or other information.
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	Meets the third Friday of the month. Please contact Lady Renata von Hentzau 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 the Baronial A&S Officer , the Baronial Bard , or Baroness Briana (darbyjanie@hotmail.com) for more 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.

Upcoming Events

Baronial Progress

- April 3 - Coronation (Seareach)
- April 17 - Night of the Fools (Lochmere)
- May 15 - Hero's Portion (Marinus)
- May 28-30 - Sapphire Joust (Caer Mear)

April 2004

Date	Event	Group	Location
2-4	Spring Coronation (R)(H)	Seareach	Swansboro, NC
10	Hidden Mountain Hofla	Hidden Mountain	Harleyville, SC
16-18	Night of the Fools	Lochmere	Annapolis, MD
17	Performer's and Dance Symposium	Crannog Mor	Boone, NC
17	Tir-y-don's Baronial Birthday	Tir-y-don	Newport News, VA
23-25	Beltane XXIII	Berley Cort	Sedley, VA
23-25	Hidden Mountain Birthday/Investiture (R)	Hidden Mountain	Bennetsville, SC
23-25	Novice Tourney: Challenge of the Phoenix	Sacred Stone	Elkin, NC
24	Blue Moon	Bright Hills	Bel Air, MD

May 2004

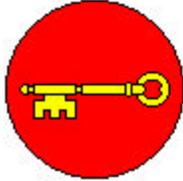
Date	Event	Group	Location
30-2	Spring Crown Tourney (R)	Crannog Mor	Blowing Rock, NC
7-9	Feast of St. Pyr	Azurmont	Vinton, VA
8	Inn on the Road - The Pyramid of Giza	Aire Faucon	Casar, NC
14-16	Feast of St. Isadore	Falcon Cree	Blacksburg, SC
14-16	Garb Wars: Siege of Orleans	Bright Hills	Street, MD
14-16	Hero's Portion IV	Marinus	Spring Grove, VA
14-16	Peasant's Revolt	Cathanar	New Bern, NC
21-23	On Target	Lochmere	Annapolis, MD
28-31	Sapphire Joust V (R)	Caer Mear	Richmond, VA

Ponte Alto Officers



Baron and Baroness

Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli and Belphoebe de Givet
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Seneschal (President)

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Lady Felina von Behren (Lora Budzier)
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Deputy Web Minister
Lady Courtney de Hoghton (Courtney Houghton)
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Members of the Ponte Alto Baronial Guard

Geoffrey ap Clywd
Myghell O'Kelley

Baronial Notables

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Ponte Alto Baronial Heavy Champion

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Ponte Alto Baronial Rapier Champion

Geoffrey ap Clywd (Jeff Williams)
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Ponte Alto Baronial Archery Champion

Arnfriðr (Nancy Covington)
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Ponte Alto Baronial Artisan

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Ponte Alto Baronial Bard

Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani (Kim Jordan)
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Officer Reports and Letters - Seneschal

Greeting to the populace of Ponte Alto from your Seneschal.

I would like to thank everyone for coming out to St. Patrick's Day Blood Bath and making it such a success. We had over a hundred gentles and when all is said and done, we should make about \$200.00. Not bad at all.

I would also like to announce that the May Business meeting will be held on the 23 of May and not the last Sunday of the month as usual. This change is necessary because the last Sunday in May is in the middle of both the Memorial Day weekend and Sapphire Joust. With most of the Barony being out of town that weekend, it was decided to move the business meeting in May to the 3rd Sunday. This is only for the May meeting. The June business meeting will go back to the last weekend of the month. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Finally, we are still looking for a permanent chronicler for the Barony. Mistress Anne has graciously agreed to take the job on a temporary basis. If you are interested in the fun and important job, please contact myself or Mistress Anne.

As always, thank you all for your hard work and support.

Miles de Locwode

Officer Reports and Letters - Chronicler

Greetings to the noble people of Ponte Alto,

I wish to commend Lady Ursula for her long tenure as our Chronicler. Thank you, dear lady, for your service!

I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to do this job again. I'll also thank someone very much when I turn it over, in hopefully only a few short months. I have several people willing and able to help. In fact, Lady Cassandra is doing most of the hard stuff in publishing this to our internet site. Thus, this officer's position becomes one of "project manager" - just keeping everyone on track and on schedule. It's REALLY not that hard. If you're interested, or even interested in "trying it on for size" - please contact me.

This is the first issue of Il Tempo in a new format. This format is intended to be viewed primarily electronically, and only peripherally on paper. Since we've been publishing it primarily as an electronic document for some time now, let's make it easy to use that way! I look forward to your comments and suggestions!

With this format change, we can focus on CONTENT: more shared information, advice, creativity and ways to help our newcomers become one of us. Please consider helping us by sharing some content. What I want:

1. Any reports to be published from officers or Their Excellencies by the evening of the Baronial meeting.
2. I WANT GRAPHICS for the "cover"! Original art or photographs appropriate to our SCA activities.
3. Articles! Do you have a story to share? A recipe? Advice to give? Research to present? Write it up, and send it to me! Do you have information but no time to turn it into an article? I have a willing volunteer - Gabrielle du Blanc - who will do the writing for you!
4. Responses on a "survey" for a monthly article. This month's will be in another email shortly.
5. Your ideas and creativity!

In service,
Mistress Anne of Carthew, Acting Chronicler

Officer Reports and Letters - Web Minister

Greetings, Pontoons!

Welcome to the first issue of Il Tempo designed with the web in mind! Please let the Acting Chronicler or myself know what you like and what needs work. We're trying something new here, but the idea is to serve you, so let us know how we can help.

You may have noticed some other changes to the web site beyond the Il Tempo in recent weeks. The website for the Barony's Sapphire Joust Encampment is up, and campsite information will continue to be updated as information is gathered from the Land Agent. The initial Barony Pennsic Encampment site is also up, and will be updated with information from the Barony's Pennsic Land Agent as it comes in.

Please also check out the updated Roll of Arms and Order of Precedence. Is all your information correct and up to date? Please email me with any updates. Do you have a image of your device you'd like included in the Roll of Arms? Email it to me (preferably in GIF format, but JPG and zipped BMP files are OK, too) and I'll see about getting it included. Need help putting a device image together for your blazon? Contact myself or the Baronial Herald to get an image made.

And as always, email me (or the Ponte Alto mailing list) of any schedule changes or updates to weekly activities so they can be posted on the website.

In the meantime, I look forward to serving as your Baronial Web Minister. Special thanks go to Lady Courtney de Houghton, first for giving me the opportunity to "run amuck" in that capacity, and second for leaving excellent footsteps to follow!

Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani
Acting Web Minister, Barony of Ponte Alto

Meeting Minutes - March 28, 2004

Held in the Education Building of St. Paul's, Falls Church
25 Attendees

Officer Reports

Seneschal:

- Officers please collect all (quarterly) reports and get copies to Miles. Electronic reports preferred.
- Miles has two deputies/heirs. They'll be running the next two meetings.
- Coronation is this weekend.
- Thanks to those who helped at Bloodbath.
- We're "set" on events for a while. The next big one is Pennsic.

MOL:

- We had an event and Northern Regional War Practice. Went very well. Had 26 heavy and 16 rapier fighters. Lots of MOLs.
- Sunday is having a really good turn out.
- New policies: there can be authorizations at a practice, but it must be pre-arranged. Otherwise, there is the same regulations on authorizations.

A&S:

Not attending, however:

- Scriptorium - 2 have been held this month

Marshal:

- Practices are continuing. Getting good turn out.
- Christopher Hare has completed work to be warranted. Once he receives his warrant, we'll be sharing responsibility for the Thursday practices (alternate weeks).
- Chris wants to change the start of practice time on Sundays to noon.
- There was discussion about some missing waivers from the 3rd quarter, 2003. Duncan doesn't have them; handed them to either Kevin or Marsellus; Marcellus doesn't have them. Hasn't gotten a response from Kingdom yet. Talk with Seneschal off line to handle.
- Discussion of authorizations at practices - might need a clarification of what an "outside marshal" means.

Rapier:

Good tournament at the event. 4 authorizations Saturday and 2 on Sunday. 1 new fighter at practice today.

Archery:

Still looking for a Marshal

Chatelaine:

- Had 5 attendees at the Newcomers meeting. ALL then came to Bloodbath. Thanks to all who are making them welcome.
- Newcomers Garb Night on the 30th at "Lochwood Hall."
- Next Newcomers Meeting is Tuesday April 20th.
- Demo "season" is on: 1 at Stenwood Hall on April 1; 1 at Spring Hill at end of April. If you want to get in involved, you can look up the northern regional demo page, and your help would be very welcome.

Minors:

We had kids at Bloodbath, but hadn't planned activities for them, since we didn't have any kids last year.

Herald:

Not present but sent a message: "Heraldry doesn't happen."

Web Minister:

- Courtney just "switched places" with Cassandra, since she's been doing the most recent updates. Courtney to stay on as deputy.
- Website - has new pages for Pennsic, Sapphire, roll of arms, and OP

Exchequer:

Currently have \$5688.65. We will have about \$7300 in the account when the Bloodbath income/expenses are complete.

Baron and Baroness

- It's been a busy month.
- KASF: Congratulations to MISTRESS Giuliana. Belpheobe got a Pearl at KASF. Cassandra advanced far in the InterBaronial Bardic competition.
- Dance Practice went very well - 14 people. Come dance! At the rapier practice site, last Thursday of each month. On those evenings, rapier runs 7-7:30; then switch to dance practice.

Upcoming Events

Sapphire:

Register by April 1 to camp with the Barony; There are hotels near by, but don't use the Super 8. Maria Teresa will send out some directions to better hotels. Let Geoff know your tent size, and include the ropes (3 feet EACH side).

Pennsic:

- Registration for the Barony is on the web site. Only the Baron and Baroness are currently registered!
- You MUST register with the Pennsic site by May 31, and please also register with the Barony site so that we know you'll be with us.
- If you are going to Pennsic and plan to stay in a hotel, please register with the Barony so that we can have your land and provide you with an area to hang out during the day.
- There is discussion with the Land Grab people about getting water outlets closer to our part of the block.

Chalice - 2nd First Annual: Sept 17-19

- Application is in for Prince William Forest Park.
- We have most of the staff
- Baronial Champions are asked to be the Champions for this 1st round. If you can't attend, let Lucia know as soon as possible.
- "ladies pleasure" theme same as last year.

Old Business

- Heavy weapons practice cancelled for next Wednesday, (schools on spring break) Info is on the web site.
- 8th will move practice to the park.
- First Aid Kit: Marcellus is putting a list together, with prices, for the next meeting.
- Site Committee: had an organizational meeting. Next meeting is April 6, Lochwood Hall, 7pm

New Business

- Picnic this summer. Think about a picnic/practice where we can get authorizations done, sometime in June or July. Perhaps mid-July to have time for "last" authorizations before Pennsic. Marcellus to work on dates and getting it into the Acorn.
- From Cassandra: please check your schedule and activity info for the web site, so we can get it

up to date.

Announcements

- Marie Teresa: needing ride to Thursday and Sunday practices.
- We could really use a Baronial Chirurgeon. Anyone who wants the job, call the Seneschal and Kingdom Chirurgeon
- From Belpheobe - Siege Crews: armor criteria for siege crews is now the same as for scouts. If you need help getting armor together, let us know. We have 4 siege engines in the Barony.
- The MAY Meeting will be on May 23rd (not the 30th) so that it won't conflict with Sapphire Joust.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Past Times

What was reported in our past issues of *Il Tempo* (The Times)?

Highlights from Ten Years ago, *Il Tempo*, April, 1994:

Mistress Ilaria has passed the office of Chronicler to Lady Anne of Carthew. *Il Tempo* subscriptions are \$5 per year...Lady Tehair is the new Chatelain, with Lady Elise retiring... St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath made money. There was some confusion at Troll, since this is the first time there has been a fee for this event. .. At St. Paddy's, Thomas of Calais was picked to be baronial champion....The topic for the Newcomers meeting will be Camping In The SCA At the home of Lady Annys and Lord Kenwrec.... Start A&S projects now for entry at Sea Wars.

Highlights from Five Years ago, *Il Tempo*, April, 1999:

St. Paddies: it was cancelled, we didn't have to pay a site feePlans for "Siege of Acre" were discussed...(A lengthy description of the recent Coronation ceremony was provided) ... Guard and of their Champion, Their Majesties asked the consorts of those chosen if it was their will to have their consorts in royal service...Alle Psallite and Harp & Drum did splendidly and got applause led by His Majesty...(The new Baronial Minister of Arts and Sciences, Muireann, provided a translation of her report in Swedish Chef): "Ledy Reneta fun Hentzoo is ooor noo Beruneeel Erteesun, Lurd Culloom Mekeesvell is ooor noo Beruneeel Brooer, und Ledy Breeunnna Mekooes steps up es ooor nooest Beruneeel Berd. Bork bork bork!"... Aelfwyn had a baby girl, and Elizabeth Ernst is expecting twins.

Pontoons Say...

Here is this month's survey: What was your first SCA event? What is the best and worst thing about it that you remember?

My very first event was On Target in A.S. XXXV (2001). Despite having to pay fairly constant attention to keep my bosom from being exposed by an over-large loaner garb dress, I had a wonderful time. Since I didn't know anything about archery at an archery-specific event, I ended up talking to heralds, the cooks, and people working on A&S projects for most of the day. I met my husband, Odde ap Tam, at that event. He tricked me into singing at the bardic following dinner, as he does with any poor soul who says, "but I don't know any songs..." It was him, and all the other wonderful and welcoming people, that convinced me to brave the weather the following weekend to attend Atlantian 20 Year Celebration. Odde fed me strawberries and brushed my hair while we watched the fighting. I'd never been so spoiled in my life. Growing up in the SCA had ingrained chivalry and courtesy in him as nothing else could. It was a wonderful introduction to the Dream of the SCA.

Lady Allasan inghean Fhaolain

First event was Pennsic 24. Best was that my sister Lady Aelfwin of Whitby made all my clothes, and my worse was that my foot was cut to the point of needing stitches but it didn't get it because I had it checked out a day later.

Lady Heather of LochRaven

Black Diamond Investiture in February, 1984. The worst thing was not knowing many people. I'm shy and I tried to convince my silly brother (a former Black Diamonder who came to see his former Shire raised to the Baronial level) to introduce me to people. He's always been very bad at introductions - you would think that as a Laurel he would know better. The best thing was finding my nitch in the kitchen. For many years, the kitchen was where I hung out during events. I met Timothy of Arindale (now a Duke residing in the East Kingdom) when he groveled at my feet, trying to convince me to let him wash his dirty dishes in the kitchen sink. I have some good Tim stories which started with that first grovel :-)

Baroness Greta Klusenaere (CtB, CP, OGD, etc.)

SeaDog Tavern. I spent the whole day in the kitchen, was much impressed at the idea of sautéing spinach in olive oil. I remember the cook's borrowing Lord Gryffdd ap Cadfael, and how impressed I was with the boffer weapons. Boffer plague rat, anyone? I think I still have the "coins" minted for the games in the tavern.

Lady Renata von Hentzau

My first SCA event was Stierbach's Holiday Faire in November 2001. I arrived with my good friend from college, Rosa, a new arrival from the West. We had revised our former college impression that the SCA was just people trying to be strange, burning incense and reading tarot cards. Back then I didn't even associate the armored guys with sticks with the same group! So, of course, as we shop around, who should we see? None other than the young lady who had given us our initial college impression of the SCA! Everybody sing now! "It's a small world..." She's married and settled down from her crazy college days, and the reunion is a good one. Although the meeting left our jaws dropping the rest of the afternoon, and we completely forgot to go outside and check out the fighting. Oh, well, there would be more events to come!

Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani, Baronial Bard, Deputy Webminister

Well, the very first SCA event was long ago in a Kingdom far away -- about 20 some years ago in Ansteorra. The SCA group down there had a 'recruiting' booth at the Renaissance Festival and I thought that was very cool -- I could go do more fun 'rennie' stuff the rest of the year too. Well, I showed up at an event with everyone in Late Elizabethan - yards of black velvet and huge farthingales -- and there I was in my pink cotton chintz (yes, I know.....) ren faire garb and unfortunately, they were rather unkind about it, so I went home and was never coming back! However, just a little over two years ago, I was told by Maria-Theresa, "Get dressed, we're going to an event!" Fortunately, my ren faire garb is much improved. So I went to Defending the Gates in Sudentur and had a terrific time. Everyone was very welcoming, more than willing to talk to the newcomer, introduce me to people and I was hooked. It was my first time watching heavy fighting -- always entertaining, even when you have no clue what's really going on -- I found out about A&S and the shopping was good too.

Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lochwood Moss

Well, the first one I *went* to was the coronation of Aonghais and Ysabeau, in the East in 1975. But I don't think that one quite counts, since I was only nine and didn't go to any events for many years thereafter. ;-)

I know I went to other events before it, but the first event I really remember was the coronation of Klaus and Cyffaith in October AS XXI. I worked in the kitchen (go figure) under Duchess Melisande de Belvoir as the head cook. The best thing I remember was the silliness of the entire kitchen crew, which explains a great deal about how I work in SCA kitchens to this day. The worst thing I remember was that, because the head cook kept getting yanked out of the kitchen to go to peerage meetings, no one was specifically keeping an eye on the roasting chickens, and they came out of the oven at the specified time, but only partially cooked. Fortunately, Melisande came back in time to catch the problem and get them back in the oven, so they didn't get served that way.

Dame Caitlyn o Duirnin, OP, OGD, GoA, CB, AoA, Garland

The first event I can remember (there were probably a couple before that) was a Storvik Novice Tourney. At the time, I thought the best thing about the event was coming in second - the best I've ever done in a tourney. The best thing turned out to be an assistant MoL with pretty blue eyes.

Ranulf of Waterford (OL, CGD, CP, etc.)

My first event was Night in the Town, a Lochmere event, about 5 years ago. At the time, I had been fencing for about six months and was not authorized yet. In fact, I did not have any proper garb so I attended the event wearing a shirt and doublet on loan from Lady Kate Mounsel, and a pair of jeans and sneakers.

Night on the Town proved to be a lot of fun, especially because there was a nautical battle involving an actual ship, cannons, and an inflatable sheep. Rapier fighters and archers were on the other side of the town, and the marshals wore fish heads and tails over their helmets in an attempt to look unobtrusive. This was supposed to be the Spanish Armada invading the Town of Smeewick, and the best part was that the townspeople (meaning all of us non-fighters) were able to participate by throwing rocks at the combatants. (The rocks being actually tennis balls.) My children were with me at the time, and we had a blast.

Later we stayed for feast, and sat with Marcellus and other fencers. This was my introduction to SCA feasts, and I still remember it. It was delicious. After that, I got really motivated to make more garb so I would not have to wear jeans and sneakers to events (I am still working on it). And the rest is history.

Baroness Belphoebe

My first exposure to the SCA was back in 1973 when I was visiting Johns Hopkins University from my

Ponte Alto - Il Tempo

own college. There was a fighter practice going on - on Garland Field where a bunch of us stopped to watch the fighters in their carpet armor and strange helmets - before we left for a concert on the campus where Allen Ginsberg recited his "Howl" poetry and other pieces.

My first official SCA event was the investiture of Niall and Teleri as the founding Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto. Anne and I had been told of the SCA in the area from one of her co-workers. So, the week before the event, we made our first set of garb (long since banished to Goodwill) and I also made some foods using Cindy Renfrew's "Take a 1000 Eggs...." book. We were off board so I made 4-5 items. The event was fun and people were very friendly. We even shared our off board foods with other people at the table and as a result, we were hooked. It's been 12 years now.

Master Tirloch, OP (CP, OGD, CB, Garland)

As Tirloch said, Ponte Alto become a Barony at our first event. The best part of the event was as I sat on the feet of Mistress Fevronia and Lord (now Master) James of Rutland as they played their harps together. (My first harp arrived the following month!)

I had arrived with recorders and music in hand. For a while, Ponte Alto's "Harp and Drum Corps" played for a while in a corner of the hall. In retrospect, the worst part was that I felt too self-conscious to go over and try to join them!

Mistress Anne of Carthew, OL, CP, OGD, Garland

Spring University back in 1998 in North Carolina. I remember being all excited because I was getting to do something "renaissance-y." I stayed up late sewing together a chemise and bodice to wear. Hey I give myself brownie points for it being hand sewn and then I also deduct a HUGE amount for unknowingly going to an event in my underwear!

I guess you could say I really didn't know what I was in for. I signed up for classes at random that sounded interesting. One of the classes I took was on how to do marzipan and sure enough I can't remember anything from it! I also took a herald class and I remember getting some pretty stern looks for making a Steve Martin "The Medieval Barber" joke.

Morning court had me a little un-nerved. I kept thinking "wow these people are lunatics....they actually believe they are in the middle ages!" Of course, I'm proud to be one of those "lunatics" now. I guess I could say the best part of my first event was that even though it was probably not the best first event for a newbie it did still win me over to the SCA. People were exceedingly nice, helpful and I learned a lot of things from that University (nix marzipan). I was inspired by all the things there are to learn about the Middle Ages and the renaissance and I'm proud to say I no longer show up to events in my underwear (chemise and bodice) unless a dress is on over it!

Delfina The Mad

My first SCA event was in October of 1992 in a church in Boston Massachusetts. It was a BoD meeting. Amazingly, I came back to the SCA anyway. Luckily, we were not privy to the BoD meeting itself; though the subsequent odd tension running through the place was the worst part. The event featured dancing, games, and a splendid feast. However, the best part was most certainly the people. And, 12 years later, it still is.

Lady Bianca di Bari
