

Baronial web site. Any member of the Barony of Ponte Alto who does not have Internet access may request a printed copy of II Tempo at no charge. Please notify the [Baronial Chronicler](#) if you require a printed copy.

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Courtesy copies of II 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 II Tempo, posted on the Baronial website.

II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Ponte Alto Activities

Scriptorium/A&S Night will start at **6:30 pm on Friday, June 3, 2005**, hosted by Lady Perronelle la peintre ([dwatsonirwin AT cox.net](mailto:dwatsonirwin@cox.net), (703) 455-0298 (H)). Focus is again on scrolls, this time for the reign of Their Highnesses, Janos and Rachel, but most A&S activities are welcome!

The June **Newcomers Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 7:00PM** at the home of the [Baron and Baroness](#). Please contact the [Baronial Chatelaine](#) for more information and directions.

Thursday night **Rapier Practice** moves outdoors to **Tyson's Pimmit Park** (weather permitting) starting **June 23, 2005** due to the closure of the schools for the summer. The site is the same as the outdoor Sunday practices. For more information, please contact the [Baronial Rapier Marshal](#).

SUNDAY

Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting

Last 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](#).

Outdoor Rapier Practice

Weather permitting, 2 pm - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Please contact [Baronial Rapier Marshal](#) 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.

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.

Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice

Mondays from 5 pm until dark, Ponte Alto's outdoor season archery practice site is near Goose Creek Golf Course in Leesburg, VA. [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>.

TUESDAY

Harp and Drum Corps (Instrumental Music)

Meets first 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. Meets third 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. Contact the respective hosts for more information.

WEDNESDAY

All Things 15th Century Workshops

Third Wednesdays of every month from 6-9 pm in Reston, VA, at the home of Lady Courtney of Houghton (***courtneydehoughton AT yahoo.com***) and Lord Connor Sinclair (***connorsinclair AT yahoo.com***), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

THURSDAY

Rapier Practice *

Every Thursday at Shreveview 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](#).

Dance Practice *

Last Thursday of the month - ON HOLD until summer.

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](#).

Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Indoor Practice *

First Thursday of every month at Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6 pm - 9 pm. Contact Lady Marie Thérèse Normand (mariatheresapontoon AT yahoo.com, (703) 690-9453 (H)) for more information. [Indoor Heavy Directions](#). This is a [school location activity](#).

FRIDAY

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.

Newcomers Garb Night

We have newcomers garb night once a month on a weeknight at 7 pm, at the homes of various members of the Barony. Please contact the [Baronial Chatelaine](#) 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.

II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Monthly Calendar

June 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Memorial Day May 30	31	June 1	2 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice 6 pm - Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice	3 6:30 pm - Scriptorium/A&S Night	4 Summer University	5 Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice 2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Fighter Practice
6 5 pm - Archery Practice 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite	7 7:30 pm - Harp and Drum	8	9 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice	10	11 Desert Wind Highland River Melees	12 Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice 2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Practice
13 5 pm - Archery Practice 6:30 pm - Asian Night 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite	14	15 6 pm - 15th Century Workshop	16 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice	17	18 Midsummer Twilight Tourney Stierbach Baronial Birthday In a Phoenix Eye	19 <i>Father's Day</i> Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice 2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Practice

<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>5 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Summer Begins</i> 21</p> <p>7 pm - Newcomer's Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>7:30 pm - Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic Circle</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>Challenge of the Heart</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Fighter Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Business Meeting</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>5 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">July 1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>All Things Marshal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Fighter Practice</p>
<p><i>Independence Day</i> 4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Fighter Practice</p>

II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Upcoming Events

Baronial Progress

Date	Event
June 11	Highland River Melees
June 18	Stierbach Baronial Birthday
June 26	Challenge of the Heart

June 2005

Date	Event	Group	Location
4	Summer University (Q)	Atlantia/Crannog Mor	Piney Creek, NC
10-12	Desert Wind	Sacred Stone	Booneville, NC
10-12	Highland River Melees (R)	Highland Foorde	Hagerstown, MD
17-19	Midsummer Twilight Tourney	Buckston-on-Eno	Leasburg, NC
17-19	Stierbach Baronial Birthday	Stierbach	Locust, VA
18	In a Phoenix Eye (Pr)	Sacred Stone	Drexel, NC
24-26	Challenge of the Heart (Q)	Dun Carraig	Nanjemoy, MD

II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Ponte Alto Officers



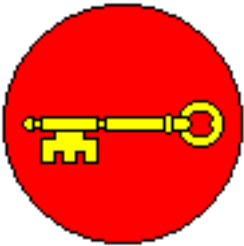
Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto

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Vacant



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Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd
Myghell O'Kelly

Baronial Warlord

Sir Thomas of Calais (Thomas Hundley)
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Baronial Heavy Champion

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Baronial Rapier Champion

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Baronial Archery Champion

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II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2005

Held at the Education Building of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

26 Attendees

Meeting Start Time: 6:04 pm

Officer Reports

Seneschal: Lady Marie-Therese Normand

- No marshal activities are to be permitted at demos unless the Baronial Marshal, Kingdom Earl Marshal, and Kingdom Seneschal are notified first. Please keep the Baronial Chatelaine in the loop as well with any demos scheduling or information.

MOM: Siobhán

- Not present
- Needs a deputy

Exchequer: Lady Melissent d'Artois

- Current balance is \$8113.73
- The Baronial Chamberlain has found new storage at the same location: a 5x10 space for \$78 a month instead of 5x5. It is on the same floor and will be easy to move everything. The Barony has a unanimous positive vote in favor of this new storage space.
- Lady Melissent also passed out copies of the new [Financial Policy](#) that will go into effect after the publication of the June *II Tempo* (correction from previous statement of "Acorn"). Some minor grammatical changes have been sent back to the Kingdom Exchequer for approval, but the substance of the policy has been approved and is ready to be published and enacted.

Heavy Marshal: Lord Duncan the Elder

- [See Officers report](#)

Rapier Marshal: Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd

- No weekend practice the weeked of Sapphire Joust
- Still carrying on practice at the school

Archery Marshal: Arnfriðr

- Practices now in Leesburg, VA, (Stierbach's site) on Monday nights; Arnfriðr and Miles will

still carpool out; contact Arnfridr or Miles if interested in carpooling.

A&S: Baroness Greta Klusenaere

- Lots of workshops happening; thanks to Courtney & Connor for hosting 15th Century Night classes on the third Wednesday of every month.
- Baroness Greta will be teaching two classes at Sapphire Joust on Sunday: how to write documentation, and how to illuminate leafy objects

Chatelaine: Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lochwood Moss

- Newcomer meetings are thriving. The next meeting is at Baron Marcellus and Baroness Belphoebe's house June 21. Further details will be posted on the Ponte Alto website closer to the date.
- On June 8 at 9:30AM there will be a demo at Ravensworth Elementary in Springfield, VA

Herald: Lord Connor Sinclair

- Barional Award Badges submitted to Kingdom - Golden Dolphin Herald will report when they have arrived
- Connor will have an open herald's table/time at Sapphire for anyone who needs help

MOL: Baroness Agnes Daunce

- Nothing to report.

Chronicler: Lady Courtney de Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair

- Need a deputy
- Will start maintaining a roster of registered members who attend Ponte Alto meetings to facilitate in financial voting

Web Minister: Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani (not present: report via Seneschal)

- [See Officer report](#)

Warlord: Sir Thomas of Calais

- We are trying for a large war turnout, and encourage Sunday or Thursday practice participation.
- Capelets and tabards are available

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

- It has been a busy month with Crown Tourney and other events
- The seige engineers had a blast at Hero's Portion
- Their Excellencies won't be able to attend Sapphire
- Baronial Progress: Highland River Melees, Challenge of the Heart, Stierbach's B-day
- Send Recommendations for Baronial/Kingdom Awards!

Events

Chalice: September 16-18, 2005

Siobhan, autocrat; Lady Luce Antony Venus, deputy autocrat

- The site is confirmed as Prince William Forest Park again: wet site, cabin camping only; no tents. Cabin Camps 1 and 4
- The Gym will be undergoing improvements and will not be available to us.
- The barony voted unanimously in favor of the site of \$1270.
- The A&S theme will be All Things Nautical (traveling over seas, sea shanties)
- All of the Chalice Champions are returning to defend their titles
- The Barony will have their Archery Champion shoot at Chalice

Pennsic: August 2005

- We are registered with Pennsic as "Barony of Ponte Alto".
- Don't forget to register with the Baronial Pennsic coordinators after registering for Pennsic and receiving your PENN number.

November Event: November 2005

- Proposal by Baroness Belpheobe/Celia/Mistress Anne for a non-fighting event was accepted by the Barony.
- Concept is: Spanish - new world meets old world - boat races. Possibility of sponsoring best ship competition for A&S
- Tentative site reservation at Falls Church Presbyterian (same site as Day at the Races)
- Master Tirloch will be head cook

Tournament of Love and Beauty: February 16 2006

- Proposal by Lord Connor/Lady Courtney (co-autocrats) for a tournament style fighting event was accepted by the Barony.
- Concept is: heavy and rapier tournaments, winner in each discipline gets to crown the "Queen/King of Love and Beauty" (heavy fighter) and the "Prince/Princess of Love and Beauty" (rapier fighter)
- Audience will get to judge all fighters according to 7 knightly virtues
-
- Marcellus and Belpheobe are checking with Their Excellencies of Steirbach on availability of a site in their lands
- Autocrats will check on availability of Loudoun County Fairgrounds in Leesburg, VA.
- A head cook is needed.

Old Business

- Still looking into moving the meeting date to the third Sunday of the month, depending on the church's availability, and according to the needs of the Chroniclers.

New Business

- Lady Courtney de Houghton put out a plea for Silent Auction donations for various Kingdom Travel fund silent auctions coming up at Highland River Melees and Challenge of the Heart.

Announcements

- Her Majesty Denise announced the Laurel Hardsuit Tourney at Pennsic, and also announced that the Wednesday of war week (August 17) is the day Atlantia will sponsor the Children's Fete, as well as having Court on the Field at 6PM
- There will be an Atlantian Populace Pavilion on the field for all to enjoy
- Ponte Alto Baronial Court at Pennsic will be on the Thursday of war week (August 18)
- Atlantia needs more scrolls for Janos and Rachel's upcoming reign. Please contribute whenever and wherever you can.
- Sir Thomas of Calais won the Heavy Weapons Tourney at Peasant's Revolt in NC.
- Lord Seamus is fighting in the Free Scholars Charity Tourney at Sapphire. Please consider donating to his "entry fee". All proceeds benefit children with diabetes.
- One of the July "All Things 15th Century" nights will actually be on a weekend, and Lord Connor will be demonstrating the Fiore fighting technique.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Other Articles

Jewelry and the magical nature of gemstones (in honor of Sapphire Joust)

The word is derived from the word "jewel", which was anglicised from the Old French "jouel" in around the 13th century. Further tracing leads back to the Latin word "jocale", meaning plaything.

Jewelry, particularly when made with precious materials, is generally considered valuable and desirable. Some cultures have a practice of keeping large amounts of wealth stored in the form of jewelry. Jewelry can also be symbolic, as in the case of Christians wearing a crucifix in the form of jewelry, or, as is the case in many Western cultures, married people wearing a wedding ring.

Jewelry in various forms has been made and worn by both sexes in almost every (if not every) human culture, on every inhabited continent. Personal adornment seems to be a basic human tendency.



A gemstone is prized especially for great beauty or perfection. Hence, appearance is almost the most important attribute of gemstones. Characteristics that make a stone beautiful or desirable are colour, unusual optical phenomena within the stone, an interesting inclusion such as a fossil, rarity, and sometimes the form of the natural crystal. In terms of beauty, it is unsurprising that diamond is prized highly as a gemstone, since it is the hardest substance known and is able to reflect light with fire and sparkle when faceted. However, it is important to understand that diamonds are far from rare with millions of carats mined each year.

Traditionally, common gemstones were classified into precious stones (**cardinal gems**) and semi-precious stones. The former category was largely determined by a history of ecclesiastical, devotional or ceremonial use and rarity imposed by the limits of known deposits and available collection methods. Only five types of gemstones were considered precious: [diamond](#), [ruby](#), [sapphire](#), [emerald](#), and [amethyst](#).

Diamond

The word "diamond" derives from the ancient Greek *adamas* (ἀδάμας; "impossible to tame"). Diamonds have been treasured as gems since at least 2,500 years ago, when they were used in religious icons in India.

Diamonds were first recognized and mined in India, where significant alluvial deposits of the stone could then be found. The earliest written reference can be found in the Sanskrit text Arthashastra (completed around 296 BCE), which describes diamond's hardness, luster, and dispersion. Diamonds quickly became associated with divinity, being used to decorate religious icons, and were believed to bring good fortune to those who carried them. Ownership was restricted among various castes by color, with only kings allowed to own all colors of diamond.

Diamonds were traded to both the east and west of India, and were recognized by various cultures for their gemological and industrial uses. The Roman writer Pliny the Elder noted diamond's ornamental uses, as well as its usefulness to engravers due to its hardness, in his work Naturalis Historia. In China, diamonds seem to have been used only for engraving jade and drilling holes in beads. Archeological evidence from Yemen suggests that diamonds were used as drill tips as early as the 4th century BCE. In Europe, however, diamonds disappeared for almost 1,000 years following the rise of Christianity due to two effects: early Christians rejected diamonds due to their earlier use in amulets, and Arabic traders restricted the flow of trade between Europe and India.

Diagram of old diamond cuts showing the evolution from the most primitive (point cut) to the most advanced pre-Tolkowsky cut (old European). Until the late Middle Ages, diamonds were most prized in their natural octahedral state, perhaps with the crystal surfaces polished to increase luster and remove foreign material. Around 1300, the flow of diamonds into Europe increased via Venice's trade network, with most flowing through the low country ports of Bruges, Antwerp, and Amsterdam. Also around this time, the taboo against cutting diamonds into gem shapes (established over 1,000 years earlier in the traditions of India) ended, allowing the development of diamond cutting technology to begin in earnest. By 1375, a guild of diamond polishers had been established at Nuremberg. Over the following centuries, various diamond cuts were introduced which increasingly demonstrated the fire and brilliance diamonds are treasured for today: the table cut, the briolette (around 1476), the rose cut (mid 16th century), and by the mid 17th century, the Mazarin, the first brilliant cut diamond design. In 1919, Marcel Tolkowsky determined an ideal round brilliant cut, a design that continues to set the standard for comparison for modern gems. However, the evolution of diamond cuts continues on to this day.

The rise in popularity of diamonds as gems seems to have paralleled increasing availability through European history. In the 13th century, King Louis IX of France established a law that only the king could own diamonds. However, within a century diamonds were popular gems among the moneyed aristocratic and merchant classes, and by at latest 1477 had begun to be used in wedding rings. Popularity continued to rise as new cuts were developed that enhanced the diamond's aesthetic appeal, and has largely continued unabated to this day; diamonds have proven popular with all classes in society as their cost becomes within reach. A number of large diamonds have become historically significant objects, as their inclusion in various sets of crown jewels and the purchase, sale, and sometimes theft of notable diamonds, have sometimes become politicized.

Ruby/Spinel

Its name originates from ruber, Latin for red.

Until fairly modern times, all red gemstones were referred to as "rubies". It was only relatively recently that the rarer spinel has been differentiated from the more common ruby. The two gemstones can be distinguished on the basis of hardness and density, namely that a ruby is slightly harder and denser than a spinel. The two stones can also be told apart by their optical properties: a true ruby is dichroic while a spinel is singly refractive.

The Black Prince's Ruby is actually a bead-shaped spinel weighing roughly 170 carats (34 g) that is the size of a chicken egg. It is currently set in the cross pattée above the 317.40 carat (63.48 g) Cullinan II in front of the Imperial State Crown. The Black Prince's Ruby is one of the oldest of the Crown Jewels of England, with a known history dating back to the middle of the 14th century and having been in the possession of the British kings since it was given in 1367 to its namesake, Edward of Woodstock, otherwise known as The Black Prince of Bordeaux.

Don Pedro of Seville. The Black Prince's Ruby enters into history in middle of the 14th century as the possession of Abu Said, the Moorish Prince of Granada. At that time, the rule Castillian Spain was being centralized to Seville and the Moorish Kingdom of Granada was being systematically attacked and reverted to Spanish rule as a part of the Christian Reconquest of Spain. Abu Said in particular was facing off against Castile under the rule of Peter I of Castile, also known to history as Don Pedro the Cruel. According to the historical accounts, Abu Said desired to surrender to Don Pedro under unclear circumstances. What is clear is that Don Pedro welcomed his coming to Seville in what is recorded as a desire for Abu Said's wealth. When Said came to visit Don Pedro, the Don had Said's servants killed and is said to have personally stabbed Said to death himself. Upon searching Said's corpse, the spinel was found and added to Don Pedro's possessions.

In 1366, Don Pedro's illegitimate brother led a revolt against Don Pedro. Lacking the power to put down the revolt unaided, Don Pedro made an alliance with the Black Prince of Bordeaux. The revolt was successfully put down and the Black Prince demanded Abu Said's ruby in exchange for the services he had rendered. While historians speculate that this was contrary to Don Pedro's desires, he had just suffered a costly civil war and was in no position to decline. It is at the point where The Black Prince acquired the Ruby that it exits the historical records until resurfaces in 1415.

A Wartime Adornment. During Henry V of England's campaign in France, he wore a gem-encrusted helmet that included the Black Prince's Ruby. On 25 October, 1415, in the Battle of Agincourt, Henry was struck a blow to the head by the French duke of Alencon's battleax and is recorded to have nearly lost the helmet, along with his life. However, the Battle of Agincourt was won by Henry's forces, Henry did not die, and the helmet was preserved along with the Black Prince's Ruby. Richard III is reported to have also worn the Black Prince's Ruby in his helmet at the Battle of Bosworth Field where he died.

Crown Jewel. James I had the Black Prince's Ruby set into the state crown near the turn of the 15th century, where it remained until the time of Oliver Cromwell. With the exception of The Coronation Chair, Cromwell had all of the Crown Jewels disassembled and sold, having the metal melted down and made into coin. A British jeweler bought the Black Prince's Ruby in the days of the Commonwealth and sold it back to the Charles II when the monarchy was restored in 1660.

Sapphire

The sapphire is noted as a regal gem by Damigeron, who asserts that kings wore it about their necks as a powerful defence from harm. The stone preserved the wearer from envy and attracted divine favor. (Pitra, "Specilegium Solesmense," Parisiis, 1855.) For royal use, sapphires were set in bracelets and necklaces, and the sacred character of the stone was attested by the tradition that the Law given to Moses on the Mount was engraved on tablets of sapphire. (Epiphanius, "De XII gemmis," Tiguri, 1565, fol. 6.) While we should probably translate here "lapis-lazuli" instead of "sapphire," all such passages were later understood as referring to the true sapphire, which is not found in pieces of the requisite size.

In the twelfth century, the Bishop of Rennes lavishes encomiums upon this beautiful stone. It is quite natural that this writer should lay especial stress upon the use of the sapphire for the adornment of rings, for it was in his time that it was beginning to be regarded as the stone most appropriate for ecclesiastical rings. The sapphire was like the pure sky, and mighty Nature had endowed it with so great a power that it might be called sacred and the gem of gems. Fraud was banished from its presence and necromancers honored it more than any other stone, for it enabled them to hear and to understand the obscurest oracles. (Marbodeus, "De lapidibus," Friburgi, 1531, fols. 46, 47.)

The traditional virtue of the sapphire as an antidote against poison is noted by Bartolomeus Anglicus, who claims to have seen a test of its power, somewhat similar to that recorded by Ahmed Teifashi of the emerald. In John of Trevisa's version this passage reads as follows: (Bartolomeus Anglicus, "De proprietatibus rerum," London, Wynkyn de Worde, 1495, lib. xvi, cap. 86, De Saphiro.)

His vertue is contrary to venym, and quencheth it every deale. And yf you put an attercoppe (Old English for spider.) in a boxe and hold a very saphyre of Inde at the mouth of the boxe ony whyle, by vertue thereof the attercoppe is overcome & dyeth as it were sodenly, as Dyasc. sayth [pseudo Dioscorides]. And this same I have assayed oft in many and dyvers places. His vertue kepeth and savyth the syght, & clearyth eyen of fylthe wythout ony greyf.

Voicing the general belief that the sapphire was endowed with power to influence spirits, Bartolomeus says that this stone was a great favorite with those who practised necromancy, and he adds: "Also wytches love well this stone, for they wene that they may werke certen wondres by vertue of this stone." (Bartolomeus Anglicus, l. c.)

There was in the South Kensington Museum, in London, a splendid sapphire of a peculiar tint. In the daylight it shows a beautiful rich blue color, while by artificial light it has a violet hue and resembles an amethyst. In the eighteenth century this stone was in the collection of Count de Walicki, a Polish nobleman, and Mme. de Genlis used it as the theme of one of her stories, entitled "Le Saphire Merveilleux." Here the sapphire is used as a test of female virtue, the change of color indicating unfaithfulness on the part of the wearer. If the owner of the stone wished to prove that the subject of the test was innocent, she was made to wear the sapphire for three hours of daylight; but in the opposite case the test was so timed that it began in daylight and ended when the candles or lamps had been lighted. This sapphire, still known as the "Saphire Merveilleux," was for a time in the collection of the Duke of Orleans, who bore the name of Philippe Egalite during the French Revolution.

The star sapphire is that variety of sapphire in which, when the stone is cut and rounded off horizontal with the dome of the crystal, the light is condensed across the three lines of crystalline interference. Three cross lines produce a star which moves as a source of light, or as it is moved from the source of light. Star sapphires very rarely possess the deep blue color of the fine blue sapphire; generally the color is somewhat impure, or of a milky-blue, or else a blue-gray, or sometimes almost a pure white. The blue-gray, gray, and white stones frequently show a much more distinct star, possibly from the fact that there are more inclusions between the layers of the crystals than with the darker blue stones, as it is the set of interference bands that produces the peculiar light. Just as the eye agate was used in some countries to preserve against the Evil Eye, so the moving star is believed by the Cingalese to serve as a protection and a guard against witchcraft of all kinds.

The great Oriental traveller, Sir Richard Francis Burton, had a large star sapphire or asteria, as it was called. He referred to it as his talisman, for it always brought him good horses and prompt attention wherever he went; in fact, it was only in those places where he received proper attention that he would show it to the natives, a favor they greatly appreciated because the sight of the stone was believed to bring good luck. The fame of Burton's asteria travelled ahead of him, and it served him well as a guiding-star. De Boot, writing in the seventeenth century, states that such a stone was called Siegestein (victory-stone) among the Germans.

The remarkable asteria, known as the "Star of India," in the Morgan-Tiffany Collection in the American Museum of Natural History, has a more or less indefinite historic record of some three centuries, but after its many wanderings it has now found a worthy resting-place in the great Museum. Its weight is 543 carats. (The subject of the origin, development and reform of the caratweight has been fully treated by the author in the Trans. of the Soc. of Min. Engineers, 1913, pp. 1225-1245, "The New International Metric Diamond Carat of 200 milligrams.")

The asteria, or star sapphire, might be called a "Stone of Destiny," as the three cross-bars which traverse it are believed to represent Faith, Hope, and Destiny. As the stone is moved, or the light changes, a living star appears. As a guiding gem, warding off ill omen and the Evil Eye, the star-sapphire is worn for the same reasons as were the oculus mundi and the oculus Beli. One of the most unique of talismanic stones, it is said to be so potent that it continues to exercise its good influence over the first wearer even when it has passed into other hands.

(Although the ruby is her proper birthstone, sapphires are the favorite gem of your Chronicler as well. This is the first "challenge question" to be found in the II Tempo.)

Emerald

It is highly prized as a gemstone and by weight is the most valuable gemstone in the world, often made more so by inclusions. Emerald is the birthstone for May as well as the traditional gift for the 55th wedding anniversary.

The word comes indirectly from the Gr. *rjthpayos* (Arabic *zumurrud*), but this seems to have been a name vaguely given to a number of stones having little in common except a green

color. Pliny's smaragdus undoubtedly included several distinct species. Much confusion has arisen with respect to the emerald of the Scriptures. The Hebrew word *nophek*, rendered emerald in the Authorized Version, probably meant the carbuncle: it is indeed translated *avopaE* in the Septuagint, and a marginal reading in the Revised Version gives carbuncle. On the other hand, the word *bareqath*, rendered *qj. uipayiloc* in the LXX., appears in the A.V. as carbuncle, with the alternative reading of emerald in the R.V. It may have referred to the true emerald, but Flinders Petrie suggests that it meant rock-crystal.

The ancients appear to have obtained the emerald from Upper Egypt, where it is said to have been worked as early as 1650 B.C. It is known that Greek miners were at work in the time of Alexander the Great, and in later times the mines yielded their gems to Cleopatra.

On the Spanish conquest of South America vast quantities of emeralds were taken from the Peruvians, but the exact locality which yielded the stones was never discovered. The only South American emeralds now known occur near Bogota, the capital of Colombia.

Many virtues were formerly ascribed to the emerald. When worn, it was held to be a preservative against epilepsy, it cured dysentery, it assisted women in childbirth, it drove away evil spirits, and preserved the chastity of the wearer. Administered internally it was reputed to have great medicinal value. In consequence of its refreshing green color it was naturally said to be good for the eyesight.

Amethyst

The name is generally said to be derived from the Greek *a*, "not," and *methuskein*, "to intoxicate," expressing the old belief that the stone protected its owner from drunkenness. It was held that wine drunk out of a cup of amethyst would not intoxicate. However, the word may probably be a corruption of an Oriental name for the stone.

Amethyst was used as a gemstone by the ancient Egyptians and was largely employed in antiquity for intaglios. Beads of amethyst are found in Anglo-Saxon graves in England.

Amethyst is the birthstone associated with February. It is also associated with the constellations of Pisces, Aries (especially the violet and purple variety), Aquarius, and Sagittarius. It is a symbol of heavenly understanding, and of the pioneer in thought and action on the philosophical, religious, spiritual and material planes.

Linked with Saint Valentine, tradition maintains that amethyst assists those who wear it in maintain their faithfulness, causing peace and calmness of mind. It was often carried by soldiers on the shafts of spears and on swords as a charm against death, being thought to bring calmness and victory in battle. However it is also thought that the protection and long life that amethyst owner has is being drawn from people nearby/enemies killed, thus stealing other's lifeforce in return of prolonging theirs. It is useful for the revelation of prophetic truth. It is said to strengthen wisdom, faith, and religion, and is an aid in prayer and in dreaming. It is also said to be a charm against witchcraft, poison (it warns of the presence of poison by dimming), and evil thoughts; it is an aid to chastity, a power against all forms of overindulgence, and a strengthener of the mind. It is used as a charm for securing the favor of princes, rulers, churchmen, people of wealth, influence and power, people with prophetic

ability, poets, travellers, publishers, and others. Ranking members of the Catholic Church traditionally wear rings set with a large amethyst as part of their office.

Bound to the left wrist, the amethyst is said to enable the wearer to see the future in dreams. It represses evil thoughts and actions, gives a keen business sense, and warns of ill health. The amethyst attracts love and good luck, and helps to prevent drunkenness.

When engraved with the names of the sun and the moon, it is said to protect against sorcery. A winged horse cut on an amethyst is a protective talisman for horses and their riders. Immerse an amethyst in hot water, take it out, dry it carefully, and apply it to headache or toothache.

To dream of amethyst indicates success to a traveller, clergyman, sailor, philosopher, teacher, or mystic; also protection, faith, and fruitful thoughts.

SOURCES:

The sources of this article for diamond, ruby, and amethyst can be found in [Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#). The text of this article is licensed under the [GFDL](#).

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II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Diamonds are forever, but Sapphires are a Fighter's Best Friend (Or, The Origins of Sapphire Joust, by Sir Bryce de Byram)

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sap·phire Pronunciation Key (saf'ir)

n.

1. A clear hard variety of corundum used as a gemstone that is usually blue but may be any color except red.
2. A corundum gem.
3. The blue color of a gem sapphire.

adj.

1. Made of or resembling a gem sapphire.
2. Having the color of a blue sapphire.

[Middle English saphir, from Old French safir, from Latin sapph rus, from Greek sappheiros, of Semitic origin; akin to Hebrew sappîr, a precious stone.]

THE GEMSTONE TOURNEYS (their actual, proper name, don't'ca know) were started something like 30 years ago. The story is that there once was a crazy ol' Scadian who was the sister of the founding baron of Caer Mear. Her normal attire for events was a black leather vest, blue jeans, black cowboy boots, and a handgun of some sort on her person at all times. No, she wasn't a Tuchex. As far as I know she predated them.

Anyway, she came up with this idea to hold this yearly event, with the first cycle to be called "Diamond Joust". The legend is that this was in honor of a story from the Arthurian legends where his knights jousted from a large diamond. I have no idea if this story is true or not, (sounds a little suspect to me, considering the source). Wherever the idea came from though, the deal was the tourneys were to follow the gemstone cycle: Diamond, Emerald, Sapphire, Ruby, Opal, etc... The prizes would be gemstones. I have no idea if the original prizes were actually diamonds and emeralds or not, but I know that they were actual unset cabochons or rough stones by the time I joined the SCA a dozen years ago (editor insert: 1990).

The formula for the tourney was unique. There would always be two winners. The Greater and the Lesser. Yes, there was a prize for the overall winner of the tourney, but that was not the Greater prize as you would think. For this was to be a "Chivalry Tourney" and the greater prize

would go to the fighter judged most worthy of that distinction. As the greater prize was an actual diamond, and the lesser an Emerald this was no small thing. The tourney grew in fame and legend, and fighters from all over the East Coast would come to vie for these awesome prizes and even greater honor. (I know that when I started the Emerald Chivalry prize meant a great deal. It is one thing to be a good fighter. It is a far greater thing to Fight Well.) I believe I have been told that Sir TJ was the cook of the first Diamond Joust. He went to the store and bought the food, fought in the tourney, and then took off his armour and made the feast.

Diamond Joust went on for about 12 years or so, and then the cycle shifted to Emerald Joust, with the prizes shifting accordingly. Why did it change? One major reason was that Diamond Joust was always fought in July, when it was piping hot, and when Caer Mear finally moved the event to Memorial Day Weekend, the name was conveniently changed then too.

And so, for about 12 years or so it was Emerald Joust. The Emerald Chivalry Prize was the most coveted, and the Sapphire was for the winner of the tourney. I believe that Duke Michael of Bedford holds the distinction (SHOCKER!) of winning the most Sapphire Tourney prizes. (There was a rumor when I was younger that his intention was to win enough to use them for a new ducal coronet. Like most things with Mike, though, don't believe all that ya' hear.)

Many of the Emerald Jousts were held at one of two places, either Pocahontas State Park, (Until it got too small) or Brady Saunders Boyscout Camp in Goochland Virginia. Emerald was held at Brady Saunders for a number of years until an unfortunate incident caused us to lose that site forever. My first Emerald was Atlantian 10 Year Celebration. That event, more than any other, probably hooked me in and made me stay.

A few years later I autocrated my first event. It was Emerald Joust and Atlantian 13th Year Celebration. That was the first time that there were gemstone prizes for the other activities at the event. (Rapier, archery, etc.) So you fencers have me to thank for that, partially at least. And all you folks, including me, who think it is ridiculous to have chivalry prizes for archery and thrown weapons and such can lay that one on me too. My shoulders are broad enough.

In the year 2000, after he had been sucked into being the autocrat, I mentioned to Sir Balynar that he should change the name to Sapphire Joust, what with the new millennium and all. To date there have been six Sapphire Joust. The first was held at Westview of the James, the second was held at Kingdom 20th Year Celebration, the third at Westview on the James, The Fourth and Fifth at Richmond International Raceway, and the sixth at Tom Scott Park. Next year will be kingdom 25th year and I hope that Sapphire Joust will be a part of that.

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II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Officer Reports and Letters



[Exchequer](#)



[Knight Marshal](#)



[Chronicler](#)



[Web Minister](#)

II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Officer Reports and Letters - Exchequer

Greetings from the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Our new financial policy has been approved by the Kingdom Exchequer and goes into effect with the publication of June's *II Tempo*. There are some changes of which our Barony should be made aware:

Our financial committee consists of all paid members who attend the Ponte Alto baronial meeting. The paid members shall be the ones who vote upon financial matters. The Chronicler shall verify membership. As such, if you are a paid member who desires to vote upon financial matters at future business meetings, you **MUST** bring your membership card to meetings.

Let me repeat: If you want to make financial decisions for the Barony of Ponte Alto, you **MUST** bring your membership card to the baronial meeting so that your vote will count.

We also have an Emergency Financial Committee which shall consist of the Exchequer, the Seneschal, and a third officer whose position rotates on an annual basis each January. This is the rotation schedule: Knight Marshal, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Chatelaine, Herald, Minister of the Lists, Chronicler, and Web Minister. Each member of this Emergency Financial Committee must be a paid member of the SCA, Inc, be at least 18 years of age, and possess a valid warrant for their office. This Emergency Financial Committee does not meet regularly; it is, as the name implies, for emergencies only.

The Barony of Ponte Alto Financial Policy

1. Ponte Alto Financial Policy

- a. Ponte Alto Financial Policy shall be accepted by a majority vote of the populace of the group and replace all previous financial policies and may be amended or replaced by a majority vote of the group.
- b. Ponte Alto Financial Policy is superseded by: Kingdom Exchequer Policy, Kingdom Financial Policy, Kingdom Law, Society Exchequer Policy, Corpora, State, and Federal Law.

2. Financial Committee

- a. The Financial Committee
 - i. Defined as all paid members who attend the Ponte Alto baronial meeting.
 - ii. At business meetings all financial needs will be brought to the Financial Committee for voting purposes. A majority vote will allow the money to be

spent. In the event of a tie, the vote shall be moved to the Emergency Financial Committee.

iii. A roster of paid members shall be kept by the Chronicler.

b. **The Emergency Financial Committee**

i. Emergencies are defined as money that needs to be spent before the next business meeting.

ii. This Committee shall consist of the Exchequer, the Seneschal, and a third officer whose position rotates on an annual basis each January. The rotation shall be Knight Marshal, Minister of Arts and Sciences, Chatelaine, Herald, Minister of the Lists, Chronicler, & Web Minister. Each member of the Emergency Financial Committee must be a paid member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc, be at least 18 years of age, and possess a valid warrant for their office.

iii. Members of the Emergency Financial Committee shall have one vote and recuse themselves from voting on any financial decisions in which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety. If there is a tie, the final vote will be cast by the deputy exchequer.

iv. Spending approval is permitted up to \$1000 unless the spending is for a site fee. This meeting of this Emergency Financial Committee may be in person, over the phone, or via email.

3. The Chancellor of the Exchequer

a. The Exchequer shall maintain a checking account with appropriate signature cards for the group, file all quarterly and event reports as required by Kingdom and Society law and policy, enforce and maintain the group's financial policy, serve as chairperson of the group's Emergency Financial Committee and hold primary responsibility for coordinating with other members of the Emergency Financial Committee, and communicating the committee's actions with the populace.

b. The Exchequer shall, upon request, provide access to the group's financial reports and books to any member of the group and shall publish to the group the annual doomsday report in both the local newsletter and to the Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer.

c. The Exchequer shall pursue any NSF checks received by the group according to the policy outlined in the Society Exchequer's Handbook.

4. Disbursement of Funds

a. Signatories on all Baronial accounts shall be the exchequer, deputy exchequer, and seneschal.

b. Authorization for disbursement of funds.

i. Routine expenses [e.g. rental of meeting rooms], expenses incurred through scheduled events, or newsletter publication expenses, disbursement may be

authorized by either the seneschal or the exchequer. The exchequer shall report all such expenses at the Barony meeting following their disbursement.

- ii. For all other expenses, authorization shall require a majority approval by the Financial Committee. Prior to voting, proof of membership will be required for those baronial members wishing to vote at the meeting, this includes the baronial officers and the Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto. The Chronicler shall verify membership before the vote.

5. Events

- a. The autocrat shall present an itemized budget for an event to the Financial Committee.
- b. The Financial Committee must authorize any itemized expenditure in excess of the approved amount.
- c. Event reservations and check in (troll):
 - i. All checks shall be photocopied and deposited in a timely manner.
 - ii. No funds shall be removed from the cash box except as change for funds received.
- d. Event Refunds shall be provided as follows:
 - i. No refunds shall be provided if the event does not make a profit.
 - ii. The Exchequer must receive refund requests in writing no later than seven days after the event.
 - iii. All refunds shall be paid by check from the group's checking account.
 - iv. No refund shall be issued until the event books have been closed and all reservation checks have cleared.
- e. The event financial report shall be presented to the populace at the first regular business meeting of the group after the event books have been closed.
- f. All photocopies of checks shall be shredded by the Exchequer after the books have been closed.

6. Special Funds

- a. Any funds raised for a specific purpose will be maintained as separately allocated for a period of one year. After this time, if they have not been spent, they will be transferred to general funds. These funds will be maintained within the baronial checking account.

Yours in Service,

Lady Melissent D'Artois
Baronial Exchequer



II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Officer Reports and Letters - Knight Marshal

The mercenaries of Angelsey under their warlord Badger have proposed through their representative Kaliban to take part in some of our Sunday afternoon practices as a group. Since their specialty is great weapons and melee, this would allow our own fighters to practice melee on Sunday on a more regular basis. No formal agreement has yet been made however.

The Barony of Storvik has proposed that we move our official Northern Regional War Practices to the archery range in the environs of College Park. This will allow combat archers from all the participating Baronies and Shires to participate in the War Practice. The Northern Regional War Lord has been informed. Questions of whether we will be able to reserve the range and at what cost have yet to be answered.

Lord Loric of Ironwood, a gentle from the Barony of Stierbach and a frequent participant at our heavy practices, has started a new Sunday afternoon Stierbach heavy weapons practice in Winchester. He has about twelve participants, of whom about half are authorized. He proposes to bring some of his fighters down to our heavy practices so that they may gain experience fighting other fighters in another Barony and hopes that we will reciprocate by asking some of our experienced participants to occasionally venture out to Winchester on Sunday for the same purpose. All this is still tentative however.

We have several new fighters or former fighters who are now frequenting our practices and who will probably authorize before Pennsic so that they may join us there on the field.

Yours in Service,

Duncan The Elder
Knight Marshal of Ponte
Alto



II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Officer Reports and Letters - Chronicler

Greetings from the your Chroniclers,

Lord Connor and I are happy to be of service to the Barony. We wanted to make sure everyone was aware of the upcoming changes to the [Ponte Alto Baronial Financial Policy](#) that affect us as the Chroniclers, and everyone else as the Financial Committee.

We join with Lady Melissent D'Artois, the Baronial Exchequer, in urging everyone to bring their membership cards to business meetings if they want to vote on financial matters. Membership cards are not necessary for NON financial matters. We will be sending around the usual sign-up roster, but we will be including a category for membership numbers and expiration dates. We will also need to check them personally the first time around. We thank you for your patience with us as we work out the details with this new policy.

On the topic of submitting Officer reports, we would appreciate it if everyone would submit their reports to us the week **before** the Baronial Business meeting. Any reports that are not in by the time the II Tempo is ready to "go to press" will be left out. This allows us to meet our deadlines that have been set according to Kingdom Policy.

Lastly, we are looking to boost the readership of the II Tempo, and will be delivering challenges to members of the Barony in the upcoming II Tempos. Only those of you who read the complete edition will know what I am talking about, so dig in!

Yours in Service,

Lady Courtney de Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair
Co-Chroniclers of Ponte Alto



II Tempo of Ponte Alto

Officer Reports and Letters - Web Minister

Web Ministry happens. :) The Baronial Sapphire Joust and Pennsic Encampment web sites are up and running; please fill out the appropriate online registration form if you are camping with the Barony at either of these events. This will notify the land agent of needed information as well as add you to the list of campers.

This is especially important for Pennsic, as the current camper list shows extra space and overruns for folks, so you can look to see who might have space available if you need to share a ghost. You can get your PENN numbers and do everything for pre-registration ahead of time, and then log back in to actually pay on May 31. This lets you get all your information to provide to the land agent before you have to pay, if that helps. When registering campers on the Baronial Registration page, be aware that the amount of land allotted to a ghost within the Baronial Encampment differs from that of an actual camper (body at Pennsic). Be sure to include people who will be there as campers, and ghosts as ghosts.

Yours in Service,

Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani
Web Minister of Ponte Alto

