



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Welcome to Il Tempo!



The Muses Clio, Euterpe and Thalia, by Eustache Le Sueur

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Ponte Alto Activities

Sunday Outdoor Rapier Practice is CANCELLED on **May 28, 2006** because of Sapphire Joust. Please contact the [Baronial Rapier Marshal](#) for more information.

Archery practice moves outdoors in Sterling, VA, on Monday nights. Check the email list for latest information, as the site is only available if Earl Mika is available. As Ponte Alto no longer has an outdoor archery site, we are again joining our Stierbach neighbors at [their site](#). Though Sterling is outside our barony, for many this may be an easier trek, and some of us in the inner ring suburbs remain willing to coordinate carpooling with any interested in joining us. Contact the [Baronial Archery Marshal](#) for carpool or other archery information.

Newcomer's Garb Workshop will be held **Sunday, June 11, 2006 starting at noon** at the home of Lady Perronelle la peintre ([dwatsonirwin AT cox.net](mailto:dwatsonirwin@cox.net), (703) 455-0298 (H)). Come at anytime, hang out, have fun, etc. Simple patterns for T-Tunics, T-Dresses and Trews will be taught. Directions may be found at <http://atlantia.sca.org/pipermail/ponte-alto/2004-June/002558.html>

June's **Newcomers Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 7:00PM** at the home of the [Baron and Baroness](#). Please contact the [Baronial Chatelaine](#) for more information and directions.

SUNDAY

Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting

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

Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice

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

Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice

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

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

Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice

Starting May 15, 2006, Mondays from 5 pm (setup at 4:30 pm) until dark, Ponte Alto's outdoor season archery practice site is Earl Mika's place of work, Jefferson Millwork and Design, 44098 Mercure Circle, Sterling, VA 20166. [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>.

Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)

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

Asian Nights (Exploration of all things Asian)

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

TUESDAY

Harp and Drum Corps (Instrumental Music)

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

Ponte Alto Scriptorium

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, starting December 2005. Please contact Brigid O'Hara (***mill3rs AT yahoo.com, (703) 620-4945 (H)***) for more information and directions.

WEDNESDAY

Weaving Nights

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

THURSDAY

Rapier Practice *

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

Heavy Weapons Indoor Practice *

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

FRIDAY

Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice

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

Ponte Alto Scriptorium/A&S Night

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

Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic

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

MONTHLY

SCA Newcomer Meetings

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

Embroidery Night

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

* Note on school locations for activities:

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



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Directions to Ponte Alto Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indoor Heavy Fighter Practice (Thursdays 6 to 9 PM)

Lemon Road Elementary

From Southern Virginia, Maryland and Alexandria, VA

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

From Northwestern Virginia and Washington, DC

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

Indoor Rapier Practice (Thursdays 6-9 PM)

Shrevewood Elementary School in Falls Church

From 495 North

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

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

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

From 495 South

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

From Tysons

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

From Lee Highway Rt. 29 from Fairfax

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

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Falls Church)

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

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Tysons)

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

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

Archery Practice (Mondays 4:30 PM - dark)

Practice is at Earl Mika's workplace:
Jefferson Millwork and Design
44098 Mercure Circle
Sterling, VA 20166

Take your best route to the Dulles Toll Road towards the airport (West)
Take Exit 8, VA-606 West toward Route 50
Turn left onto Old Ox Road/VA-606 West
Turn right on to Mercure Circle
Follow around to 44098 Mercure Circle
The practice will be held in back.



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Monthly Calendar

June 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>Memorial Day May 29</p>	30	31	<p>June 1</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p>7 pm - Scriptorium</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>		<p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>		<p>Highland River Melees</p>	<p>Noon - Newcomer's Garb Workshop</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Practice</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>6:30 pm - Asian Night</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>7 pm - Newcomer's Meeting</p> <p>7 pm - Weaving Night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>King's Assessment A</p> <p>Midsummer's Twilight Tourney</p> <p>Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Practice</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Wastelands Seneschal/ Exchequer Symposium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</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: center;">26</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>7 pm - Weaving Night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>7:30 pm - Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic Circle</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">July 1</p> <p>Marinus' Baronial Birthday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Fighter Practice</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Independence Day</i> 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Storvik Novice and Unbelt Tourney</p> <p>Windmasters' Hill Baronial Champions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Fighter Practice</p>



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Upcoming Events

Baronial Progress

Date	Event
June 3	Summer University
June 17	King's Assessments

June 2006

Date	Event	Group	Location
3	June University	Isenfir	Charlottesville, VA
9-11	Highland River Melees	Highland Foorde	Hagerstown, MD
16-18	A Midsummer's Twilight Tourney	Buckston-on-Eno	Leasburg, NC
16-18	Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium	Gleann Abhann	
16-18	King's Assessment	Black Diamond	Vinton, VA
23-25	Wastelands	Hindscroft	Booneville, NC
24	Seneschal/Exchequer Symposium	Caer Mear	Richmond, VA



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Ponte Alto Officers



Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto

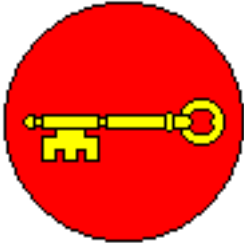
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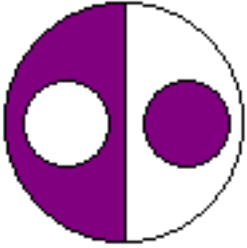
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Baronial Warlord

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Meeting Minutes - May 21, 2006

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

Officer Reports

Seneschal: Lady Marie Thérèse Normand

- Lady Katharine Devereax will lead next meeting as the test run, and then the following month she will be Seneschal. Send seneschal business to Katharine and CC Marie Thérèse now.

Exchequer: Lady Millicent Chandler

- Current balance is \$7229.92 in our account
- Chalice site fee of \$1230 - check ready to go
- The storage unit is now full with list fences, and we'll need more space for the shower stuff after Pennsic - our Chamberlain is on the case

Heavy Marshal: Lord Duncan the Elder

- War Practice went well today

Rapier Marshal: Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd

- Strong Thursday night practices continue, Sundays not as strong (much heavy crossover!)
- No Sunday practice over Memorial Day weekend

Archery Marshal: Lord Miles de Lochwode

- Earl Mika Longbow must be present for archery practice at his work site, so watch the list for whether or not practice is on or off depending on his schedule

A&S: Lady Renata von Hentzau

- A&S stuff continues to happen; Renata was able to connect a spinner with folks who wanted a demo
- Tempore Atlantia at Crown Tournament won by Lord Jurgen
- Lady Wulfwyn created a cool new banner for Sapphire

Chatelaine: Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lockwood Moss

- Last newcomer's meeting was at Lady Luce's home with 5 newcomers
- Next meeting will be on June 14th at the home of the Baron and Baroness

Herald: Lord Séamus Ó Maoil Riain

- Ana Beig's name and device passed
- Baronial Awards: All three names and two of the badges passed Kingdom; one badge returned for conflict

MOL: Lady Delphina the Mad

- Nothing new to report

Chroniclers: Lady Courtney de Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair

- Send in articles!!! Artwork! Something! ANYONE!! And read the newsletter!
- Lady Wulfwyn intends to take over the office sometime later
- Thanks to Lady Millicent Chandler for submitting an article!

Web Minister: Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani

- Web site is still up and running - no news on the new kingdom web server

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

- Ponte Alto had 4 fighters/consorts at Crown Tourney; Lord Jurgen won Tempore Atlantia with his woven tunic
- Sapphire Joust this weekend; baronial encampment - come out and participate!
- B&B Progress: Sapphire, University, Assessments - siege is happening at Assessments, so come out and authorize!
- Sapphire Joust is also Atlantian 25 Year Celebration - please consider volunteering a shift as a retainer for the B&B at the event, contact Greta if interested
- Baronial Charter will be displayed at Sapphire Joust/Atlantian 25 Year
- Send in recommendations!

Warlord: Lord Connor Sinclair

- War Practice went well - Ponte Alto is shaping up well as a fighting force

- Assessments in June
- A Tabard workshop day and an armor repair day upcoming - Jurgen will be helping new folks get their kits together
- No melee practice on Sapphire weekend

Archery Champion: Lord Miles de Lochwode

- There are now about a dozen ranked archers in PA, as opposed to the two there were a year ago

Baronial Artisan: Lady Millicent Chandler

- Millicent wrote an article for the II Tempo

Baronial Bard: Lady Luce Antony in Venus

- Luce plans to add 5 new songs to the PA Bard book; also planning to host periodic

Events

Sapphire Joust: 2006

Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd, land agent

- 23 people currently signed up with the barony that our Land Agent knows about

Pennsic: 2006

Lord Miles de Lochwode, land agent

- Currently 17 people registered with Ponte Alto - get pre-registered, or there won't be space for you!
- Go to the Baronial web page and fill in your tent info to help the land agent lay out the encampment
- Not much sheet wall creating happened - only 4 folks attended
- Setup and breakdown help needed - need help Land Grab weekend

Chalice: September 2006

Lady Katharine Devereaux, autocrat

- We have confirmed reservation with Prince William Forest Park
- Everything running along well
- Need a head troll, there will be sign up sheets next month
- There will be youth combat - working out how to include in point structure
- Baronial Champions expected to compete as Baronial team
- New Archery Champion to be selected

Day at the Races III: November 2006

Autocrat needed!!! - Assistance available, good starter event for new autocrat

- Falls Church Presbyterian not available, looking into King of Kings, St. Paul's - both have possible conflicts

Tournament of Love and Beauty: February 2007

Autocrat: Lady Courtney of Houghton

- Their Highnesses have already been asked, and are considering coming

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Announcements

- Jurgen continuing weaving workshops - viking chain knitting topic for next meeting
- Jurgen and Luce will talk about role-playing game after the meeting
- Luce Antony Venus has a personal request: she is looking for a babysitter the 1st week of Pennsic - to be compensated. Please contact her for further information
- Second Sunday in June (11) - Pennsic T-tunic garb workshop hosted by Perronelle
- University is nearby, and Ponte Alto is fielding several teachers, so come out!

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 pm.



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Announcements

Baronial Officer Openings

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

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

Deputy Exchequer: Lady Millicent is not intending to step down anytime soon, but she would like to have a deputy as a potential successor and backup in case of emergency. Please contact the [Baronial Exchequer](#) for more information or to apply.

Deputy Web Minister: Lady Cassandra is not intending to step down anytime soon, but she would like to bring on a deputy as a potential successor to the office. Please contact the [Baronial Web Minister](#) for more information or to apply.

Ponte Alto Directory

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

Historical Event Matrix

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

News

Sapphire Joust

Sapphire Joust was a lot of fun, and it was great to see so many of you there and spend quality time with you all. Many thanks to Lord Geoffrey, our fearless land agent, and to all of you who retained for Their Excellencies and kept Them fed and watered. You were wonderful.

A special thanks to Ladies Wulfwynn and Renata for creating the extremely spiff banner that was displayed, and to Lady Celia of Rosedale for transporting the Baronial Charter used in the Atlantian Historical display.

Pontoons also made a good show on the archery, armored and rapier fields. The finals of the rapier tourney ended up being between our current rapier champion, Hadrurus, and our current herald and last year's rapier champion, Lord Seamus. In the end, Hadrurus won the Ruby prize, but it was absolutely fantastic to know that two Pontoons held the field that day!

Ponte Alto also has a new companion of the Order of the Sea Dragon, Lord Seamus, for his excellent work on the rapier field. Also, Éamonn Wallace is now Lord Éamonn, and one of the youngest gentles to be awarded arms in our Kingdom.

Vivant for all of our Pontoons! You are an inspiration to us and to the Kingdom!

Crown Tournament

Vivant to Their Highnesses, Crown Prince and Princess, Ragnarr and Anneke!

Ponte Alto fighters put up a good showing, and Sir Thomas of Calais made it deep into the tourney. Also, our Armord Champion, Lord Jurgen, won the Tempore Atlantia for best in show and best woven item with his amazing hand-woven tunic.

Vivat for our Pontoon fighters and artisans! They are awesome!

Tournament of Chivalry

A couple of Pontoons were recognized at ToC this year:

- Countess Denise Duvalier was inducted into the Queen's Order of Courtesy.
- The Order of the Chivalry recognized Lord Mathieu Chatrain for his prowess on the field and bestowed upon him a pewter token.

Vivant for Countess Denise and Lord Mathieu!



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

The Royal Library of Alexandria

The Royal Library of Alexandria in Alexandria, Egypt was once the largest library in the world, holding perhaps 500,000 books. It is generally thought to have been founded at the beginning of the 3rd century BC, during the reign of Ptolemy II of Egypt, after Ptolemy's father had built what would become the first part of the library complex, the temple of the Muses—the Musesion (whence we get museum).

It has been reasonably established that the library was destroyed by fire, but to this day the details of the destruction (or destructions) remain a lively source of controversy. The loss of the library is widely considered a great loss to humanity. It contained the compiled history of generations, not just of Egypt.

The five hundred thousand or so volumes were not codices but scrolls, made of papyrus and written by hand. Philosophers and learned men of the time would visit the library from all over to study, and add to the great collection. It is said that Archimedes once visited Alexandria, studying for hours in the library and museum. Often, scientists would re-write old scrolls that were poorly written or growing brittle with age.

According to our earliest source for the library, the pseudepigraphic Letter of Aristeas, the library was initially organized by Demetrius of Phaleron.[2] Demetrius was a student of Aristotle, and it has been said that Aristotle's personal library formed the initial collection of the Library. Another story concerns how its collection grew so large: By decree of Ptolemy III of Egypt, all visitors to the city were required to surrender all books and scrolls in their possession; these writings were then swiftly copied by official scribes. The originals were put into the Library, and the copies were delivered to the previous owners. While encroaching on the rights of the traveler or merchant, the process also helped to create a reservoir of books in the relatively new city.

The Library's contents were likely distributed over several buildings, with the main library either located directly attached to or close to the oldest building, the Museum, and a daughter library in the younger Serapeum, also a temple dedicated to the god Serapis.

In 2004 a Polish-Egyptian team claimed to have discovered a part of the library while excavating in the Bruchion region. The archaeologists claimed to have found thirteen "lecture halls", each with a central podium. Zahi Hawass, the president of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, said that all together, the rooms uncovered so far could have seated 5000 students.



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