



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Welcome to Il Tempo!



Detail from a Calendar, May - a pair of lovers. Currently in The Hague.

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Ponte Alto Activities

Sunday Fighter Practice is CANCELLED on January 28, 2007 due to the weather conditions. Please contact the [Baronial Knight Marshal](#) for more information.

February's **Newcomers Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7:30 PM** at the home of Lord Miles de Locwode (***milesdelocwode AT cox.net***, (703) 242-2339 (H), (703) 395-9487 (M)) and Lady Luce Antony Venus (***scalucia AT cox.net***, (703) 242-2339 (H), (703) 395-9487 (M)). 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](#).

MONDAY

Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)

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

**Asian Nights
(Exploration of
all things Asian)**

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

TUESDAY

**Ponte Alto
Scriptorium**

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

WEDNESDAY

None

THURSDAY

**Rapier Practice

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

**Heavy Weapons
Indoor Practice

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

FRIDAY

**Ponte
Alto/Stierbach
Archery Practice**

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

**Ponte Alto A&S
Night**

May meet on a Friday during the month, as posted 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 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.

Heavy Weapons Fighter Practice (Sundays Noon - 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)

Shreveewood Elementary School in Falls Church

From 495 North

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

* Travel past two traffic lights (Landmarks Giant, Boyds Piano). At the third light (Landmark German AutoBody shop on right), make a right onto Route 29 (Lee Highway).
** At the third light, make a left onto Shreve Road. The School will be on your right, where Shreve Road divides. We will be in the gym; please use the rear door.

From 495 South

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

From Tysons

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

From Lee Highway Rt. 29 from Fairfax

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

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Falls Church)

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

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Tysons)

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

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

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

Practice is at Bull Run Regional Park's Shooting Center

I-66 to exit 52, US Rt 29.

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

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

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

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



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Monthly Calendar

February 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29 7:30 pm Alle Psalite	30	31	February 1 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	2 4:30 pm Archery Practice	3 -Winter University -Bright Hills Baronial Birthday*	4 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice
5 7:30 pm Alle Psalite	6 7 pm Scriptorium	7	8 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	9 Tourney of Ymir 4:30 pm Archery Practice	10 Tourney of Ymir	11 Tourney of Ymir Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice
12 6 pm Asian Night 7:30 pm Alle Psalite	13 7:30 pm Newcomers meeting	14	15 6 pm Rapier Practice	16 4:30 pm Archery Practice	17 -A Day in the Middle East* - Rencester's Celebration of Exploration	18 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice

<i>President's Day</i> 19 7:30 pm Alle Psalite	20	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 21	22 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	23 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30 pm Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic Circle	24 = Tournament of Love and Beauty II* -Winter Tidings	25 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice 6 pm Baronial Business Meeting
26 7:30 pm Alle Psalite	27	28	March 1 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	2 4:30 pm Archery Practice	3 -Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival*	4 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice
5 7:30 pm Alle Psalite	6 7 pm Scriptorium	7	8 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	9 4:30 pm Archery Practice	10 St Paddy's Day Blood Bath*	11 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice

* = Baronial Progress



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Upcoming Events

Baronial Progress

Date	Event
February 3	Bright Hills Baronial Birthday (and Investiture)
February 17	A Day in the Middle East (and Investiture)
February 24	Tournament of Love and Beauty II
March 3	Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival
March 10	St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath
March 24	Tir-y-Don Baronial Birthday (and Investiture)

March 2007

Date	Event	Group	Location
3	Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival	Marinus	Chesapeake, VA
10	St Paddy's Day Blood Bath	Ponte Alto	Vienna, VA
13-17	Gulf Wars XVI	Gleann Abhann	
17	Highland Hoffla	Highland Foorde	Hagerstown, MD
17	Feast of St Pyr IV	Azurmont	Vinton, VA, VA
17	St Urho's Tourney	Salesberie Glen	Salisbury, NC
23-25	Baronial Birthday & Investiture	Tir-y-Don	Lanexa, VA
31	Defending the Gate VI	Sudentorre	Fredericksburg, VA



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Ponte Alto Officers



Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto

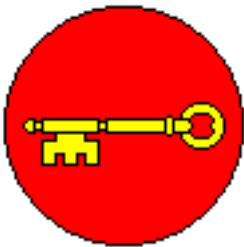
Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli and Baroness Belphoebe de Givet

(Bob Capozello and Laura Martinez)

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Vacant

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Members of the Baronial Guard

Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua (Captain)
Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd
Myghell O'Kelly

Baronial Warlord

Lord Connor Sinclair (Kevin Houghton)
warlord AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Baronial Heavy Champion

Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (Jeffrey French)
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Baronial Rapier Champion

Hadrurus
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Baronial Archery Champion

Anais Enderwick (RJ Crocker)
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bard AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



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Meeting Minutes - January 28, 2007

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

Officer Reports

Seneschal: Lady Katharine Devereaux

- A year out for new B&B - Tentative schedule:
Candidate submissions accepted from now until June 2007
Polling in August 2007
Decision in by October 2007
ALL subject to change by TRM
- New B&B will be chosen by Crown winners in May 2007
- Not intending to step down anytime soon, but seeking a deputy as potential successor

Exchequer: Lady Millicent Chandler

- Current balance is \$8087.78 in our account
- Reports turned into Seneschal and VA Regional Exchequer
- Millicent will be stepping down in February 2008 - Celia is willing to step up, but other potential successors are welcome to apply

Heavy Marshal: Lord Duncan the Elder

- Waivers mailed via priority mail last Wednesday
- Thursday practices reviving after the holidays - 12 folks last practice

Rapier Marshal: Lord Geoffrey Clywd

- Thursday night practices continue - slowed down in the new year
- Rapier melee practices planned for the Sundays after Bloodbath, Night on the Town, and Highland River Melees

Archery Marshal: Lord Miles de Lochwode

- Not present - reported by Lady Luce Antony Venus

- Lady Brigid O'Hara is now officially warranted as Deputy Archery Marshal
- Looking for outdoor site for spring

A&S: Lady Renata von Hentzau

- Has been having email problems, now fixed - contact her now if you were having trouble getting through
- Theme for Baronial A&S and Bardic competitions at TOLAB: Bring it on!

Chatelaine: Lord James de Biblesworth

- No newcomers meeting in January - Next meeting is February 13, 2007 hosted by Miles & Luce
- Looking to revive newcomer garb nights (as opposed to some of the more specialized garb workshops that have been happening)

Herald: Lady Katharine von Bayern

- Working with 4 clients to submit heraldry
- Connor still working the baronial award issues

MOL: Lady Delphina the Mad

- TOLAB: looking for MoL help - request sent to MoL list, need to send to Merry Rose and Ponte Alto lists

Chroniclers: Lady Courtney de Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair

- Lady Wulfwyn will be taking over in February, stepping up at TOLAB

Web Minister: Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani

- March 2007 is 3 years in the office - time to turn it over - Lord James de Biblesworth has agreed to step up at TOLAB
- Lady Courtney stepping down as deputy as of now

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

- B&B Progress: Investitures, investitures, investitures! Bright Hills, Dun Carraig, TOLAB, KASF, Bloodbath, Tir-y-Don
- Send in recommendations - baronial and kingdom! TOLAB is a royal progress, and TOLAB and Bloodbath will hold baronial courts. Use the online award system, since TRM use it for scheduling

Baronial Bard: Luce

- Baronial Bard - stalk Their Excellencies for the competition at TOLAB: Bring it on!
- New fight song still needs to be taught - will be passing it on to Mistress Anne of Carthew for further teaching

Warlord: Lord Connor Sinclair

- Next war - Gulf Wars - TRM would like to know who is going (Connor is unable to attend)
- New Kingdom Warlord to be announced, now that Valharic is Prince
- Melee practices to start after Bloodbath - Sir Tash wants to revive a northern region melee practice

Events

Tournament of Love and Beauty: February 24, 2007

Autocrat: Lady Courtney of Houghton

- Need volunteers for the event - Friday night setup, Saturday cleanup - look for emails on the PA list and reply
- Will be using top floor of hall for merchants, A&S and lunch
- Vigil and royal room downstairs in hall, as well as feast
- James will be leading Friday night decoration setup
- Wulfwyn has made 3 new banners for the 3 new virtues - Endurance, Humility, Prowess
- Ynes Garcia will be running Troll - needs volunteers
- Need crew for transporting list fence to/from storage unit to/from event, and for Thomas and Denise's fence
- Please bring running walls and banners to spiff up the hall - especially for royal presence
- Marie Therese volunteered to put together a gift basket for TRM

Bloodbath: March 10, 2007

Autocrat: Sir Thomas of Calais and Lord Mathieu Chartrain

- Everything progressing
- Flyer did not make it into February Acorn - heavy advertising will be happening soon
- Fundraiser for TRH travel fund approved by barony - bake sale/hot drinks - Wulfwyn will organize, contact her to donate goods - small items/single person servings best
- Need check for site - reservation will be sent Monday

Crown: May 2007

Autocrats: Iustinos/Marcellus

- We did not get the bid

Pennsic: July/August 2007

Land Agent: Mistress Aislynn of Jarrow

- Will have a committee meeting in the next couple of weeks at Perronelle's for encampment - looking for helpers for registration and camp aide

Chalice IV: September 2007

Autocrat: Lady Katharine Devereaux

- Nothing new

Event: November 2007

Autocrat: Lady Luce Antony Venus

- Need to work out a site - event will be a Performer's Symposium, and working on ideas to interest others

Old Business

- Perronelle is updating phone directory - use online form to update entries - new issue at TOLAB (\$2.50), cutoff date Jan 30.

New Business

- None

Announcements

- St. Anne's Clothier's Guild fashion show at KASF - looking for models of garb for all layers
- St. Anne's Clothier's Guild Symposium in April - teachers for classes welcome
- Scriptorium workshop will try again after the snow caused a low turnout - Perronelle is putting together a new PA scriptorium list - send email to Perronelle for information - Allasondrea will be holding quill cutting in March
- Miles & Luce considering hosting after-event party for Bloodbath
- Miles & Luce hosting open house for Superbowl
- Mary hosting monthly party nights to talk non-SCA stuff with folks - looking for skiing trip in February

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 pm.



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Announcements

Baronial Officer Openings

Openings available for Baronial officer and deputy positions are listed below. 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.

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) , 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>) to submit your information via email. The next printing of the directory will be at Tournament of Love and Beauty February 24, 2007, and copies are \$2.50 each. Submission deadline for this printing is January 30, 2007.

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) showing which northern Atlantian groups hosted events which weekends from 1998 through 2005.

News

Holiday Faire

Congratulations to Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lockwood Moss, whose woven basket won a prize in the A&S competition.

And our own Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli showed his fighting prowess by winning the rapier tournament.

Also, Their Majesties awarded Emily, daughter of Lord Mathieu Chartrain, the Sea Urchin. Vivant for Lady Marsaili, Baron Marcellus, and Emily!

Day at the Races III

One if by land, two if by sea, and three if by air! The third Day at the Races event took to the air, racing falcons of all kinds (though mostly of the balsa wood glider variety). Sir Aelfred of Cres, last year's winner of the boat races, returned to defend his title, and succeeded with his bird, a pelican named Nellie the Pellie. The winner of the children's races was young Robert, son of Talitha. And the prize for the best bird went to Lord Pagan Grendel for his well dressed bird, Jezabelle, who sported a hood with a red plume.

Falcon races were not the only tournament of the day, however. Sir Thomas of Calais ran a chess tournament, which was clearly won by Haddrurus.

After the competitions were complete, Their Excellencies held court and conducted the following business:

- Lady Marsailli Johnston of Lockwood Moss stepped down as Baronial Chatelaine, and Lord James de Biblesworth took on the office.
- The Bead of Ponte Alto was given to Mistress Anne of Carthew for her work as autocrat, Lady Delphina the Mad for being rental coordinator for all three DATR events and the Minister of the List for the past two years (with an injunction to submit a report for this one to the Kingom MoL), Signora Cassandra Arabella Giordani for being Baronial Bookie for the past two years, and Lady Perronelle la peintre for running an on-site bird hospital.
- The Ponte di Ferro was awarded to Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua for her excellent work in the rapier community.
- Baroness Greta Klusenaere was inducted into the Order of the Garland for her many years of service to the Barony.

Vivant to all deserving award recipients, and to all the race and tournament participants!

War of the Wings

Windmasters' Hill battled Sacred Stone at the War of the Wings. It was a beautiful day for war! Ponte Alto allied with Windmasters' Hill for the day.

Four Ponte Alto rapier fighters, Lord Geoffrey Clywd, Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua, Baroness Greta Klusenaere, and Haddrurus, took to the field and the woods in battle. Haddrurus, as baronial champion, was also invited to participate in the Champions rapier battle.

The Ponte Alto Performance Mercenaries, Mistress Anne of Carthew, Mistress Allasondrea de Fano, Lady Celia of Rosedale, Signora Cassandra Arabella Giordani, and Lady Millicent Chandler, earned 475 points for Windmasters' Hill in the Performance competition, to help win the war point for our allies.

Vivant for the Ponte Alto Mercenaries!

In other news of note, the last piece of business at royal court involved a former Pontoon, Master Herveus d'Ormande, who was served with a writ to contemplate joining the Order of the Laurel at a future date to be determined. Vivat for Master Herveus!



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Courtly Love (With a nod to this month's Tournament of Love and Beauty in our fair Barony)

Saint Valentine's Day or Valentine's Day falls on February 14, It is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other. The day became associated with romantic love in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. Courtly love was a medieval European conception of ennobling love which found its genesis in the ducal and princely courts in regions of present-day southern France at the end of the eleventh century. In essence, courtly love was a contradictory experience between erotic desire and spiritual attainment, "a love at once illicit and morally elevating, passionate and self-disciplined, humiliating and exalting, human and transcendent."

Courtly love was a medieval European conception of ennobling love which found its genesis in the ducal and princely courts in regions of present-day southern France at the end of the eleventh century. In essence, courtly love was a contradictory experience between erotic desire and spiritual attainment, "a love at once illicit and morally elevating, passionate and self-disciplined, humiliating and exalting, human and transcendent."

The term "courtly love" was first popularized Gaston Paris in 1883, and has since come under a wide variety of definitions and uses, even being dismissed as nineteenth-century romantic fiction. Its interpretation, origins and influences continue to be a matter of discourse.

The term "Courtly Love" was first popularized by Gaston Paris in his 1883 article "Attudes sur les romans de la Table Ronde: Lancelot du Lac, II: Le conte de la charrette, a treatise inspecting Chretien de Troyes's Lancelot, the Knight of the Cart (1177). Paris said amour courtois was an idolization and



Kristan von Hamle (medieval Lovers, pulled in a basket)

ennobling discipline. The lover (idolizer) accepts the independence of his mistress and tries to make himself worthy of her by acting bravely and honorably (nobly) and by doing whatever deeds she might desire. Though sexual satisfaction, Paris said, may not have been a goal or even end result, nor was the love entirely Platonic as it was based on sexual attraction.

The term and its definition as described by Paris was soon widely accepted and adopted. In 1936 C.S. Lewis wrote the influential *Allegory of Love* further solidifying courtly love as "love of a highly specialized sort, whose characteristics may be enumerated as Humility, Courtesy, Adultery, and the Religion of Love."

Later, historians such as D.W. Robertson in the 1960s and E. Talbot Donaldson in the 1970s, were critical of the term as being a modern invention, the latter calling it "The Myth of Courtly Love", because it is not supported in medieval texts. However, even though the term "courtly love" does only appear in just one extant Provençal poetry (as *cortez amors* in a late 12th century lyric by Piere d'Alvernhe, it is closely related to the term *fin'amor* ("fine love") which does appear frequently in Provençal and French, as well as German translated as *hohe Minne*. In addition other terms and phrases associated with "courtliness" and "love" are common throughout the Middle Ages. Even though Paris used a term with little support in the contemporaneous literature, it was not a neologism and does usefully describe a particular conception of love and focuses on the courtliness that was at its essence.

Courtly love had its origins in the castle life of four regions: Aquitaine, Provence, Champagne and ducal Burgundy beginning about the time of the First Crusades (1099). Courtly love found its expression in the lyric poems written by troubadours, such as William IX, Duke of Aquitaine (1071-1126), one of the first troubadour poets.

Poets adopted the terminology of feudalism, declaring themselves the vassal of the lady and addressing her as *midons* (my lord), a sort of code name so that the poet did not have to reveal the lady's name, but which was flattering by addressing her as his lord. The troubadour's model of the ideal lady was the wife of his employer or lord, a lady of higher status, usually the rich and powerful female head of the castle. When her husband was away on Crusade or other business she dominated the household and cultural affairs; sometimes this was the case even when the husband was at home. The lady was rich and powerful and the poet gave voice to the aspirations of the courtier class, for only those who were noble could engage in courtly love. This new kind of love saw nobility not based on wealth and family history, but on character and actions; thus appealing to poorer knights who saw an avenue for advancement.

Eleanor of Aquitaine brought ideals of courtly love from Aquitaine first to the court of France, then to England, where she was queen to two kings. Her daughter Marie, Countess of Champagne brought courtly behavior to the Count of Champagne's court. The rules of courtly love were codified by the late 12th century in Andreas Capellanus' highly influential

work *De Amore* ("Concerning Love").

Courtly love had a civilizing effect on knightly behavior, beginning in the late 11th century; it has been suggested that the prevalence of arranged marriages required other outlets for the expression of more personal occurrences of romantic love. New expressions of highly personal private piety in the 11th century were at the origins of what a modern observer would recognize as a personality, and the vocabulary of piety was also transferred to the conventions of courtly love.

Courtly love saw a woman as an ennobling spiritual and moral force, a view that was in opposition to ecclesiastical sexual attitudes. Rather than being critical of romantic and sexual love as sinful, the poets praised it as the highest good. Marriage had been declared a sacrament of the Church, at the Fourth Lateran Council, 1215, and within Christian marriage, the only purpose was procreation with any sex beyond that purpose seen as non-pious. The ideal state of a Christian was celibacy, even in marriage. By the beginning of the 13th century, the ideas of courtly tradition were condemned by the church as being heretical. The church channeled many of these energies into the cult of the Virgin; it is not a coincidence that the cult of the Virgin Mary began in the 12th century as a counter to the secular, courtly and lustful views of women. Francis of Assisi called poverty "his Lady".

At times, the lady could be a *princesse lointaine*, a far-away princess, and some tales told of men who had fallen in love with women whom they had never seen, merely on hearing their perfection described, but normally she was not so distant. As the etiquette of courtly love became more complicated, the knight might wear the colors of his lady: blue or black were the colors of faithfulness; green was a sign of unfaithfulness. Salvation, previously found in the hands of the priesthood, now came from the hands of one's lady. In some cases, there were also women troubadours who expressed the same sentiment for men.

The literary convention of courtly love can be found in most of the major authors of the Middle Ages such as Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, Dante, Marie de France, Chrétien de Troyes, Gottfried von Strassburg and Malory. The medieval genres in which courtly love conventions can be found include the lyric, the Romance and the allegory.

Lyric: Courtly love was born in the lyric, first appearing with Provençal poets in the 11th century, including itinerant and courtly minstrels such as the French troubadours and *trouveres*. This French tradition spread later to the German *Minnesänger*, such as Walther von der Vogelweide and Wolfram von Eschenbach.

Romance: The vernacular court poetry of the romans courtois, or Romances, saw many examples of courtly love. Some of them are set within the cycle of poems celebrating King Arthur's court. This was a literature of leisure, directed to a largely female audience for the first time in European history.

Allegory: Medieval allegory has courtly love elements, for example the first part of *The Romance of the Rose*.

Others: Perhaps the most important and popular work was that of Andreas Capellanus's *De Amore* which described the *ars amandi* ("the art of loving") in twelfth century Provence.

His work followed in the tradition of the Roman work *Ars amatoria* ("Art of Love") by Ovid and the Muslim work *Tawg al-hamamah* (The turtle-dove's necklace) by Ibn Hazm. Many scholars identify courtly love as the "pure love" described in 1184 by Andreas Capellanus in *De amore libri tris*:

"It is the pure love which binds together the hearts of two lovers with every feeling of delight. This kind consists in the contemplation of the mind and the affection of the heart; it goes as far as the kiss and the embrace and the modest contact with the nude lover, omitting the final solace, for that is not permitted for those who wish to love purely.... That is called mixed love which gets its effect from every delight of the flesh and culminates in the final act of Venus."

Within the corpus of troubadour poems there is a wide range of attitudes, even across the works of individual poets. Some poems are physically sensual, even bawdily imagining nude embraces, while others are highly spiritual and border on the platonic.

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The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Officer Reports and Letters



[Exchequer](#)



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Officer Reports and Letters - Exchequer

Greetings to the fine populace of the Barony of Ponte Alto from your Chancellor of the Exchequer,

We made money in 2006! Let's give ourselves a big ol' pat on the back for that accomplishment. Below you will find a snapshot of the 2006 Comparative Balance Statement which combines our Assets and Liabilities to give us our Net Worth. Also provided is a snapshot of the 2006 Income Statement. Look at all the Fundraising we did! I'm happy with our event income as well. Vivant, Ponte Alto! You can also see what we spent our money on. Surprisingly, our biggest expense this year was food; I suspect that is because the occupancy fee for the 2006 Tournament of Love & Beauty was paid in 2005.

Long story, short: we made \$ 2,056.24 in 2006. Keep up the good work and we'll build our coffers even higher in 2007!

Per the Baronial Financial Policy, our Emergency Financial Committee consists of the Exchequer, the Seneschal, and a third officer whose position rotates on an annual basis each January. This year's officer is the Chatelaine, Lord James de Biblesworth.

Yours in Service,

Lady Millicent Chandler
Baronial Exchequer



Barony of Ponte Alto 2006 Financial Report

Comparative Balance Statement

ASSETS

Undeposited & Non-Interest Bearing Cash

Start \$ 7,181.54

End \$ 9,237.78

Regalia & Non-Depreciated Equipment

Start	\$ 895.00
End	\$ 895.00

TOTAL ASSETS

Start	\$ 8,076.54
End	\$10,132.78

LIABILITIES

None

NET WORTH

Start	\$ 8,076.54
End	\$10,132.78

Change in Net Worth \$ 2,056.24

Income Statement

INCOME

Fundraising	\$ 1,114.42
Direct Contributions	\$ 55.00
Authorizations	\$ 245.00
Adjusted Gross Event Income	\$ 8,398.00
Funds Transferred In	\$ 5.54
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	\$ 9,817.96

EXPENSES

OFFICE & ADMIN

General Supplies	\$ 770.15
Occupancy & Site Charges	\$ 1,088.40
Postage & Shipping	\$ 53.60
Printing & Publication	\$ 147.14

ACTIVITY RELATED

Equipment Rental	\$ 310.70
Food	\$ 2,044.02
General Supplies	\$ 314.17
Occupancy & Site Charges	\$ 1,859.52
Printing & Publications	\$ 16.28
Subtotal	\$ 6,603.98

FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO THE KINGDOM

College of Heralds	\$ 60.00
MOL	\$ 112.00
NMS	\$ 618.00 (\$399 for Bloodbath!)
Travel Fund	\$ 307.74
Webserver Space	\$ 60.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,157.74
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,761.72
NET INCOME	\$ 2,056.24