

Il Tempo

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto-Volume 17, Issue 2 February 2008

Barony of Ponte Alto, February 2008, Chronicler* Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwynes dothor



Scipio Nasica (dressed as a bishop) discussing theatrical performances of plays in honor of the Roman gods with a group of scholars. Maître François (illuminator)

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Table of Contents

From the Chronicler	iii
Baronial Officers	1
Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto	1
Seneschal (President)	1
Exchequer (Treasurer)	1
Chamberlain	1
Archery Marshal.....	1
Minister of Arts & Sciences.....	2
Chatelaine.....	2
Gold Key (Loaner Costumes)	2
Herald	2
Minster of the Lists.....	2
Chronicler (Newsletter)	2
Web Minister	2
Members of the Baronial Guard	2
Baronial Notables	3
Baronial Meeting Minutes	4
Officer Report	6
Annual Financial Report	7
Monthly Calendar.....	8
Events	9
Baronial Progress for February 2008	9
Weekly Activities	10
the Real Middle Ages.....	11
Theatre in the Medieval Period.....	11
Intra-Kingdom Baronial Activities.....	15
Ponte Alto Rapier Contingent	15
Games	18

From the Chronicler...

How quickly the first month of 2008 has passed. That only means we're that much closer to warm weather and outdoor events. Well, true, we still have a few months of cold weather left, but it doesn't hurt to anticipate, does it?

And have you come to the Sunday fighter practice/project day yet? It's being held at Lemon Road Elementary School in Falls Church on Sunday afternoons during the scheduled fighter practice and is a great place to come if you're a new or experienced fighter. There're always at least a few Knights available to offer advice and assistance. And if you're having trouble with a sewing project, or just looking to get started, come join us in the sewing room. Don't have a sewing machine or serger? No problem, there's usually at least one of each, and experienced folks more than willing to help if needed. No current sewing projects? Well come on out for a few hours anyway and enjoy meeting new people or visiting with old friends.

The Baronial Investiture is coming upon us soon – have you registered yet? If not, please take a few moments to send in your registration; this is one event you don't want to miss. There'll be lots of entertainment both on the list field and off, such as music, including the choosing of our new Baronial Bard, A&S exhibits and competitions, the selection of a new Baronial Artisan, a Children's Corner to keep the little ones entertained. And we can't forget the merchants! You want food? Of course there'll be food! A fundraiser luncheon benefiting the Barony will be sold for a mere \$5.00 a plate, including soups – for the vegetarian and for the meat lover both, ham, turkey, cheese, fruits, cookies. And don't forget Meister Gruffudd's Italian feast in the evening.

The main event of the day will be, sadly, saying goodbye to our wonderful Baron and Baroness, Marcellus and Belpheobe; well deserving of a break after all their hard work, and then welcoming our new Baron and Baroness, Jurgen and Flora. Lots of pomp and circumstance will abound to please all gathered.

As always, I'm looking for your input to make our monthly newsletter better. If you have news, articles, artwork, photos, or just want to share your knowledge, send them to my attention at snoleopard4@aol.com. Remember, this is your newsletter, and we want to see the many talents of the populace showcased. We have so many talented people, as shown by the incredible A&S displays we routinely see, why not share them here for all?

*Lady Wulfwyn Aelfwines dohtor
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto*

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Baronial Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2008 Starting time 6:00

Seneschal

Per the Society, background checks will be required for persons in charge of youth activities. Date of requirement will be announced.

Connor Sinclair has stepped up to be Knight Marshall, with Agnes as the alternate.

Looking for Deputy Chatelaine, Deputy Seneschal and Deputy Chronicler, please contact the Seneschal if interested.

Exchequer

This will be her last meeting as Exchequer, starting at February meeting,

Celia will be stepping up.

Payments made include \$1150 for site fee at Investiture, \$661.74 for storage unit, \$600 Investiture feast and \$165 for the business meeting site.

Currently, there is \$8644 in the bank account.

Heavy Marshal

Waivers have been sent.

Practice on Sunday has been very well attended.

Rapier Marshal

Thursday practice continues.

Archery Marshal

Practice continues.

A&S

Not here, report given by Seneschal.

There will be several competitions at Investiture, including All Things Italian, an open competition for the Barony populace only, and naming of the new Baronial Artisan.

Persons interested in or working on A&S projects are invited to the Sunday fighter practice/project gathering at Lemon Road Elementary School.

There is a possibility of Dance Practice at the Sunday gathering as well; more information to be forthcoming.

Chatelaine

There is a possibility of a dance demo, information will be posted to the list as more is determined.

February Newcomer meeting will be held before Investiture, date to be announced when scheduled.

Herald

4th Quarter Report will be sent soon.

Looking for new Herald, please contact the Seneschal for information.

MoL

Events continue.

Chronicler

Looking for new Deputy, please contact the Chronicler or the Seneschal for information.

4th Quarter reports sent at beginning of the month.

Please send in any information, articles, announcements, artwork, photos, games, etc. you would like to have published in the monthly newsletter.

Web Minister

Please send any updated that need to be changed in the Il Tempo

Ynes will be stepping up to assist with the web page.

Baron and Baroness

This is their last meeting as B&B, as they will be stepping down at Investiture. Thanked everyone that has been there for them during their time and Baron and Baroness, and the wonderful 4 years they have had.

Will be attending University and Investiture.

Have received a request from TRH's that all Kingdom Baronies take part in Coronation. They have suggested that, in keeping with the Crusades theme, a quest is planned, and would like the Baronies each sponsor a "stop" on the quest. The individual Baronage does not have to be in attendance, would they would like someone from each Barony be delegated in their stead.

Warlord

Max will be stepping up at Investiture, and Sir Thomas will be the commanding officer.

Artisan

New Baronial Artisan will be chosen at Investiture.

Minister of Minors

There will be a Children's Corner at Investiture in the lower level.

This will be the last event help before background checks go into effect.

Baronial Bard

A new Baronial Bard will be chosen at Investiture after morning court.

Events:

Revel Without a Cause: made \$281 at the gate, with a total profit of \$695

Investiture: Plans are being finalized. Contract and check for site have been sent, Celia is taking reservations, Millicent will be delivering a check for the feast to Meister Gruffudd, contacting Don's John's this week. Will be sending out a request on the e-mail list for volunteers to help with set up,

breakdown and cleanup for event. Sophia will not be in attendance all day for the luncheon, but Katherine and Branwyn will be stepping in to help. Denise and Luce will be helping with Troll, but would like a volunteer to run the table.

Bloodbath: Space has been reserved for March 15th. Millicent will be the reservationist and Wulfwyn will be serving luncheon. Need volunteers to help deal with the public's questions. The possibility of advertising the event was brought up; Sir Thomas and Sir Guy will be heading a committee to look further into this.

Pennsic: Need a land agent who will have to be on site for the entire 2 week time. Please contact the Seneschal for information.

Chalice of the Sun God: Due to a schedule conflict, the date has been moved to September 12-14, 208. Further information to come.

Old Business

Storage Unit - \$100 a year for insurance was voted upon and approved.

Voted on, approved and cut check for \$100 for Investiture troll startup and \$20 for luncheon startup.

New Business

Sunday practice/A&S is going well. There is currently \$931 in the fund which will cover February and most of March. Duncan is the point person for any questions or suggestions regard the location. Dance practice was discussed being set up at the location on a twice monthly basis in addition to the practice/A&S activities. This will be reviewed on a monthly basis and evaluated for continuance based on funding. The Barony also contributed \$300 to the practice fund (over and above the \$931).

Need to look into a commission to make new Baronial coronets. It was suggested that any profit from the luncheon at Investiture be added to the funding of new coronets. Luce volunteered to head a committee to look into the possibility.

Announcement

Ponte Alto now has a contingent in Antarctica.

Meeting ended 7:18

32 attendees

Officer Reports

Greetings to the Populace of Ponte Alto from your Chancellor of the Exchequer:

We started our fiscal year strong and continued gaining throughout 2007. While our event income declined, our fundraising efforts increased and our overall expenses decreased. Our net worth increased \$2,195.88 to a total of \$12,328.66. Vivat, Ponte Alto! Below you will find snapshots of the 2007 Comparative Balance Statement and the 2007 Income Statement.

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 was supposed to be the Herald, but as that position is in flux, we will move on to the Minister of the Lists: Lady Delphina the Mad.

As most of you know, I am stepping down as Baronial Exchequer at the Baronial Investiture on February 23. My successor is Lady Celia of Rosedale who is not only capable but also enthusiastic about continuing this Barony's upward financial growth. Thank you all for making my three years as your financial steward so rewarding and enjoyable.

In service,

Lady Millicent Chandler
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Barony of Ponte Alto 2007 Financial Report

Comparative Balance Statement

ASSETS

Undeposited and Non-Interest Bearing Cash

Start: \$ 9,237.78

End: \$11,433.66

Regalia & Non-Depreciated Equipment

Start: \$ 895.00

End: \$ 895.00

TOTAL ASSETS

Start: \$10,132.78

End: \$12,328.66

LIABILITIES

None

NET WORTH

Start: \$10,132.78

End: \$12,328.66

Income Statment

INCOME

Fund Raising: \$ 1,474.00

Direct Contributions: \$ 708.00

Activity Fees: \$ 268.00

Adjusted Gross Event Income: \$ 7,287.00

Other Income: \$ 8.00

TOTAL GROSS INCOME: \$ 9,745.00

EXPENSES

OFFICE & ADMIN

Bank Service Charges: \$ 8.00

Food: \$21.39

General Supplies: \$264.54

Occupancy & Site Charges: \$ 1,244.30

Postage & Shipping: \$ 8.09

Printing & Publications: \$ 239.57

ACTIVITY RELATED

Equipment Rental: \$ 316.20

Food: \$ 1,766.32

General Supplies: \$ 296.89

Occupancy & Site Charges: \$ 2,380.00

Subtotal: \$ 6,545.30

FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO KINGDOM

MOL: \$ 115.00

NMS: \$ 300.00

Travel Funds: \$ 528.82

Webserver Space: \$ 60.00

Subtotal: \$ 1,003.82

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 7,549.12

NET INCOME: \$ 2,195.88

Monthly Calendar

February 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2 University*	3 1:30 Sunday Heavy Weapons/ A&S Practice
4 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	5 7 pm Scriptorium	6	7 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	8 4:30 pm Archery Practice	9 Ymir Bright Hills Bday Storvik Revel	10 Ymir 1:30 Sunday Heavy Weapons/ A&S Practice
11 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	12	13 Estrella War (Atenveldt) 7 pm Weaving Night	14 Estrella War (Atenveldt) 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	15 Estrella War (Atenveldt) 4:30 pm Archery Practice	16 Estrella War (Atenveldt)	17 Estrella War (Atenveldt) Southern Reg War Practice 1:30 Sunday Heavy Weapons/ A&S Practice
18 Estrella War (Atenveldt) 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	19 Estrella War (Atenveldt)	20	21 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	22 4:30 pm Archery Practice	23 Baronial Investiture*	24 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice
25 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	26	27 7 pm Armor Night	28 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	29 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	1 Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival	2 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice
3 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	4	5	6 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	7 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	8 Caer Maer Birthday	9 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice
10 Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann) 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	11 Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann)	12 Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann) 7 pm Armor Night	13 Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann) 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	14 Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann) 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	15 St. Paddy's Bloodbath Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann)	16 Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann) Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice

* = Baronial Progress

Events

Baronial Progress for February 2008

Date	Event
February 2	Winter University
February 23	Ponte Alto Baronial Investiture

February 2008 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
2	Winter University (Q)	Berley Court	Franklin, VA
8-10	Ymir (H,K)	Elvegast	Reidsville, NC
9	Bright Hills Baronial Birthday: A Feast of Fools (Q)	Bright Hills	Manchester, MD
9	Storvik's Performer's Revel	Storvik	Bowie, MD
12-18	Estrella War XXIV (R)	Atenveldt	Phoenix, AZ
23	Ponte Alto Baronial Investiture	Ponte Alto	Leesburg, VA

ARCHERY PRACTICE NEEDS A NEW SITE—Archery practices are still on Friday night - but we need to put in a plea that if anyone knows of any land that we can use to practice archery on, please have them contact Lord Miles de Locwode (archery AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org) or Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo.com). Archery is still shooting indoors at Bull Run and can only shoot 20 yards - most events have 20, 30 and 40 yard targets but that is not available to us with the indoor range. I believe we need over an acre and no houses to hit in the path!

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY	
Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting	Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idylwood 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 Idylwood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.
Sunday Social – - Heavy Weapons Practice - Arts/Sciences	Lemon Road Elementary: Indoor Winter Practices for Heavy Weapons, Rapier, and an area for A&S activities are all included. Come and join the gathering and bring whatever you're working on. This is a great time to meet & socialize with other people in the barony. Activities held at Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 1pm-4pm. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity. <u>From Southern Virginia, Maryland and Alexandria, VA</u> 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.. <u>From Northwestern Virginia and Washington, DC</u> 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.
MONDAY	
Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)	Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon. 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.
TUESDAY	
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for information and directions.
WEDNESDAY	
Weaving Night	Second Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions.
Armoring Night	Fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions
THURSDAY	
Rapier Practice	Every Thursday at Shreveewood 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 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. Contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (dwatsonirwin AT cox.net, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for 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 (darbyjanieAT hotmail.com) for 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. February's meeting will be Tuesday, February 19 th at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact our Chatelaine or Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions., This month we will discuss Events and how to prepare, what to take and what to expect.
Embroidery Night	Their Excellencies of Ponte Alto host a monthly embroidery night starting at 7:30 pm. Contact their Excellencies for more information – baron (at) pontealto.atlantia.sca.org or baroness (at) pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

*** 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>

Special Thursday Night parking instructions at: We have received some complaints about lack of parking spaces from residents of the Peachtree of McClean apartment complex which adjoins our practice site. After some informal negotiations we have arrived at an agreement with the building management. We beseech those attending Thursday night practices to adhere to the following procedures from now on:

You may unload your gear from parking spaces adjoining our practice area. But then please move your car to another space either at least a block further away from Route 7 in the complex parking lot or in the library parking lot closer to Route 7. At the conclusion of practice you may once again move your car to a space adjoining the practice area in order to reload your gear before exiting the site. In this way we hope to be able to continue to use the parking facilities of the complex without inconveniencing the residents.

the Real Middle-Ages

Theatre during the Medieval Period



Medieval theatre refers to the theatre of Europe between the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the beginning of the Renaissance. The term refers to a variety of genres because the time period covers approximately a thousand years of the art form and an entire continent. Most medieval theatre is not well documented due to a lack of surviving records and texts, a low literacy rate of the general population, and the opposition of the clergy to some types of performance. At the beginning of the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church banned theatrical performances, mostly as an attempt to curb the excesses of the Roman theatre. The Roman theatre was in decline because the economic and political conditions could not support the vast entertainment industry that had grown up in the empire and included circuses, horse races, gladiatorial combat, and the Roman comedies that are still sometimes performed today

Very little is known about secular drama during the early medieval time. There certainly existed some performances that were not fully fledged theatre; they may have been carryovers from the original pagan cultures (as is known from records written by the clergy disapproving of such festivals). It is also known that mimes, minstrels, bards, storytellers, and jugglers traveled in search of new audiences and financial support. Not much is known about these performers' repertoire and no written texts survive.

Genres

In the tenth century the liturgical drama was born in the *Quem Quaeritis?* This Latin kernal is based on the story from the New Testament in which Mary Magdalene and her companions discover Christ's empty tomb was performed in the church or cathedral at Easter time. Eventually liturgical drama would encompass many stories from many parts of the Bible and be performed at diverse times of the year, according to local custom.

By about 1250, however, the plays would move outdoors into the churchyard and into open fields, town squares, or the city streets. As geographically further from the church, the clergy had less control over the content. The plays were also presented in the local vernacular languages, instead of in Latin, as was the mass. This allowed the message of the Bible to be more accessible to the illiterate audience--who wanted to have it but who were also unable to speak Latin--but also accelerated the gain of control over religious drama that the laymen would exercise.

These new plays in the vernacular based on Bible stories are called mystery plays. In England they would sometimes be performed in day-long festivals in groups of dozens of plays that traveled through town on wagons. Mystery plays were also written about the lives and miracles of saints, especially the Virgin Mary. Mystery plays

would be performed into the Renaissance through the Protestant Reformation in northern Europe or the seventeenth century in southern and rural Europe.

By the late medieval period several genres had developed in theatre. Morality plays, such as *Everyman*, personified Christian virtues and vices as they battled with one another for control of a mortal's soul. These plays were explicitly designed to teach a moral and improve the behavior of their audience.

Secular plays in this period existed, although documentation is not as extensive. Farces were popular, and the earliest known vernacular farce was the French *Le garçon et l'aveugle* ("The Boy and the Blind Man"), dating from the thirteenth century. The play was probably performed by a professional traveling actor and his young apprentice. In England, Robin Hood plays were popular, and all over Europe interludes with simple plotlines were performed at various social functions. Secular dramas were usually performed in winter indoors, and were often associated with schools, universities, and nobility, who would have the resources, time, and space to perform organized plays.

However, it is not possible to make a distinction between religious and secular theatre during the medieval era. The Roman Catholic church dominated life for almost every citizen of Europe, and the boundary between secular and sacred was blurred daily. In mystery plays, for example, nonreligious plotlines and non canonical characters were frequently interwoven with the religious story being told. An especially notable example of this is the The Second Shepherds' Play, in which the majority of the story focuses on a comic character trying to hide a sheep he has stolen from the other shepherds on the night of the birth of Christ.

Changes

A revival of interest in ancient Roman and Greek culture changed the tastes of the educated classes in the performing arts. Greek and Roman plays were performed and new plays were written that were heavily influenced by the classical style. This led to the creation of Commedia dell'arte and other forms of Renaissance theatre.

A change of patronage also caused drastic changes to the theatre. In England the monarch and nobility started to support professional theatre troupes, which catered to their upper class patron's tastes. These patrons desired to be entertained, not preached to, and as time passed the plays became more secular and refined. In time these same tastes would filter down to the lower classes.

Finally, the construction of permanent theaters, such as the Blackfriars Theatre, signaled a major turning point from reliance on church facilities, touring groups, and inns as stages. Permanent theaters allowed for more sophisticated staging and storytelling. Moreover, professional troupes that owned their own theatre had more resources with which to prepare their productions, which changed the theatre from a mostly amateur or traveling art form to a professional one with different practices and standards.

English Renaissance Theatre

English Renaissance theatre derived from several medieval theatre traditions, such as the mystery play that formed a part of religious festivals in England and other parts of Europe during the Middle Ages. The mystery plays were complex retellings of legends based on biblical themes, originally performed in churches but later becoming more linked to the secular celebrations that grew up around religious festivals. Other sources include the morality plays that evolved out of the mysteries, and the "University drama" that attempted to recreate Greek tragedy. The Italian tradition of Commedia dell'arte as well as the elaborate masques frequently presented at court came to play roles in the shaping of public theatre.

Companies of players attached to households of leading noblemen and performing seasonally in various locations existed before the reign of Elizabeth I. These became the foundation for the professional players that performed on the Elizabethan stage. The tours of these players gradually replaced the performances of the mystery and morality plays by local players, and a 1572 law eliminated the remaining companies lacking formal patronage by labeling

them vagabonds. At court as well, the performance of masques by courtiers and other amateurs, apparently common in the early years of Elizabeth, was replaced by the professional companies with noble patrons, who grew in number and quality during her reign.

The City of London authorities were generally hostile to public performances, but its hostility was overmatched by the Queen's taste for plays and the Privy Council's support. Theatres sprang up in suburbs, especially in the liberty of Southwark, accessible across the Thames to city dwellers, but beyond the authority's control. The companies maintained the pretence that their public performances were mere rehearsals for the frequent performances before the Queen, but while the latter did grant prestige, the former were the real source of the income professional players required.

Along with the economics of the profession, the character of the drama changed toward the end of the period. Under Elizabeth, the drama was a unified expression as far as social class was concerned: the Court watched the same plays the commoners saw in the public playhouses. With the development of the private theatres, drama became more oriented toward the tastes and values of an upper-class audience. By the later part of the reign of Charles I, few new plays were being written for the public theatres, which sustained themselves on the accumulated works of the previous decades.

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Ponte Alto Rapier Contingent Invades Antarctica!

By: Baroness Belphoebe de Givet (Laura Martinez)

On January 10, 2008, an elite strike force from the Ponte Alto Rapier Contingent successfully invaded Antarctica. The Ponte Alto force was comprised of Her Excellency, Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua, who was also its Commander, surgeon, drummer, head cook and kabuki performer. Despite the overwhelming forces against it, at the end of the day the Ponte Alto black and gold were victorious.

The scariest moment was when the Antarctica Air Force, comprised of an alarming number of hungry skuas, threatened the operation by attacking the shoes of the troops which looked (by skua's standards anyway¹) very much like food. Undaunted, Her Excellency distracted them by tossing pieces of stale bread, leftover pizza (along with box), and assorted munchies in their direction. The Air Force dived for it and forgot about the battle.

They never had a chance.

After the Air Force's sound defeat, the Antarctica ground forces (15 penguins), surrendered without a fight. Later on, their Commander, an imposing penguin named General Bubbles, said that the Pontoon attack had taken place as they were getting ready for their annual ice cream social and mating soiree, a fact they thought mighty inconvenient.

After the battle was over, our forces attempted to interview the Seneschal, a seal known only "Mr. T," to get his impression on the Ponte Alto invasion. The Seneschal's response was "Urgh?", and he promptly went back to sleep.

We can only assume that he (or was it a she?) meant "No comment."

At the end of the day, the Ponte Alto banner flew proudly over the frozen fields of Antarctica, and everyone (except for the skuas) went back to their respective homes.

(We hear that the penguins are still having a blast.)

¹ Then again, by skua's standards anything looks like food, including old socks, soda cans, Donald Trump's hair and small pieces of furniture.

Pictures:



The Ponte Alto Elite Forces Commander proudly displaying the Baronial Banner



The Antarctica Ground Forces getting ready for their Annual Ice-Cream Social and Mating Soirée.



Yum! Those sneakers look like a Big Whopper! Or spaghetti! Definitely spaghetti!



Mr. T, the Seneschal, goes back to sleep.

Games

Cryptogram:

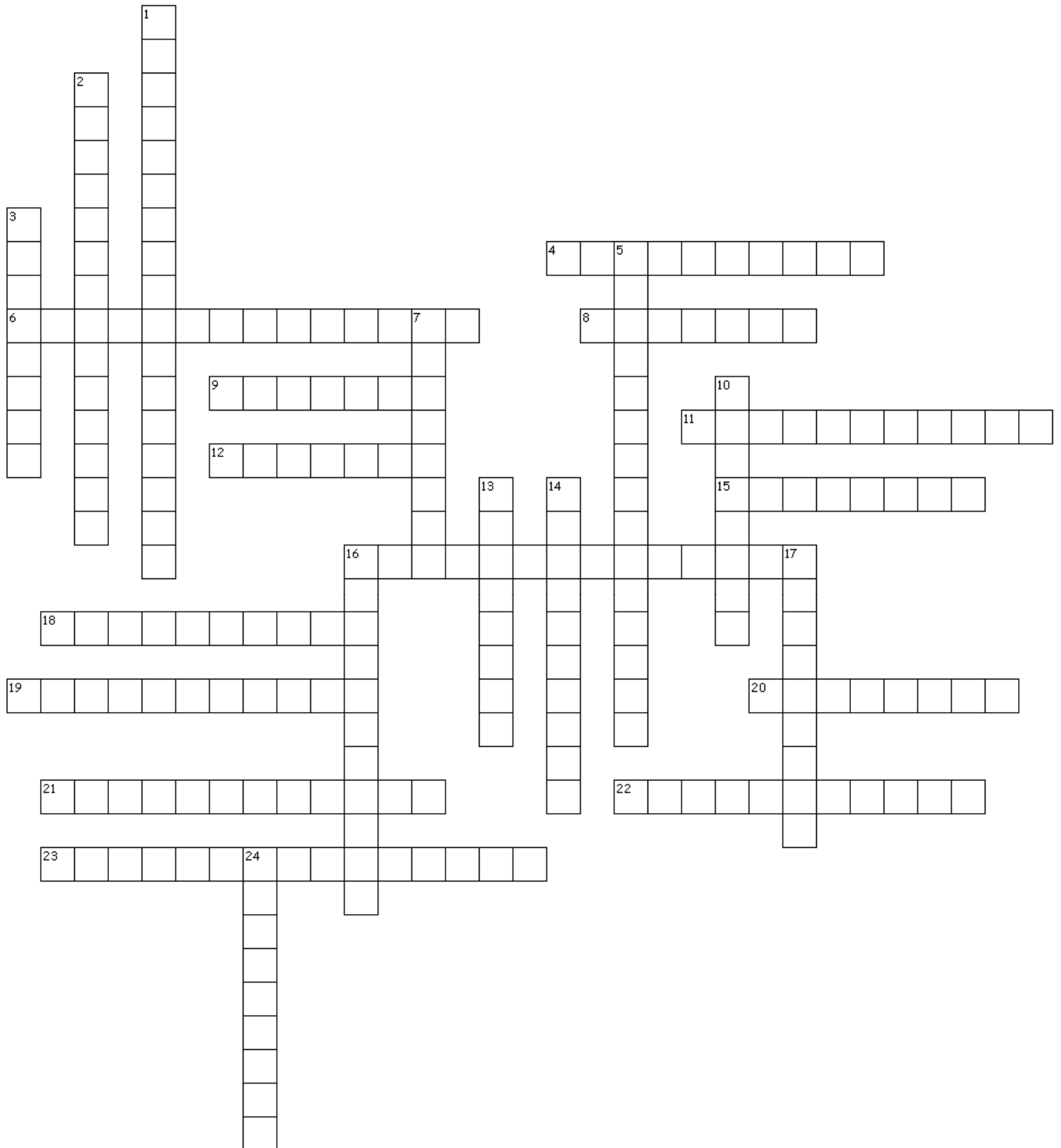
Hint to get you started:

“I” is represented by “J” – Have fun!

NLZFSOL IS IKL UTMSCD SY HSCIL
 TZIS. NL TML TC JITZJTC IKLOLB
 XMSGH NKS WCSNA KSN IS KTPL YGC.

HZLTAL LCQSD IKJA HGLLZL TCB
 AGXXLAI OSML YSM IKL YGIGML SY
 IKL JZ ILOHS, SGM CLNAZLIILM.

Groups within Atlantia (Cantons not included)



Across

4. Current Baroness received her Laurel in August 2007
6. Premier group award - Order of the Pinnacle of the Mountain
8. The original Atlantian Landed Baroness
9. The Baron's first name is a palindrome
11. Their current seneschal was our third queen
12. Just hosted Interbaronial 12th Night
15. Atlantia's western most land
16. The most Southern group within our fair kingdom
18. Their Herald cooked for Chalice of the Sun God IV, September 2007
19. This group has the most Cantons
20. One of the two groups without a webpage
21. Their Baron is also one of Atlantia's newest knights
22. Recipients of the Blue Collar Award
23. Challenger (rather than host) for War of the Wings

Down

1. Are you able to spell or pronounce their name?
2. Host the Annual Demo in June - Melees
3. New Bern is one of their modern cities
5. A Quill is used for communications to the group
7. Within their borders are the Cavaliers
10. Watch out, their device can taste good or pinch!
13. Hosts of Sapphire Joust
14. Their newsletter is Raven's Cry
16. The 2nd of two groups without a webpage
17. Our home
24. The neighbors to the immediate south