

Il Tempo

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto-Volume 17, Issue 6 July 2008



Depiction of a late 13th century joust in the Codex Manesse

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From the Chronicler...

Greeting to the Barony – the countdown has begun. To what you ask? Why, Pennsic of course! Can you believe it's less than a month away and already, summer is almost half over? Amazing how quickly the days fly by.

Hopefully everyone is ready for the War with pavilions, clothes, weapons, arts and crafts ideas, camp stoves and chairs all ready to be packed away for the trip north. Let's just hope for a little less in the monsoon area this year! I personally don't want another river of mud in front of my campsite.

Other than watching and supporting our brave armored fighters, archers and rapier fighters as they triumph this year, are your other plans made? If not, consider volunteering some time this year. Come work a shift a Troll, give some time a Herald's point or come join me at the Children's Fete. You don't need prior experience as there are always good gentle to teach you whatever you'll need to know. And it's fun! You'll meet new people and have the experience to add to your memories of yet another great Pennsic. There are lots of things to do to keep busy. You can even get part time jobs with some of the merchants to perhaps reduce the cost of that great looking dress or piece of armor you have your eyes on. Just ask!

I'd like to welcome my two new deputies – Brenainn and Alan de Fecamp. Alan was good enough to take the minutes for last month as I was unable to make it to the meeting. Thanks Alan! I look forward to working with these two men in the coming months.

See you at Pennsic!!

Lady Wulfwyn AElfwines dohtor
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto

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Baronial Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting Minutes – June 22nd Start Time 6:02

Seneschal

Lady Katharine reported she has the warrant for her renewal and is now just looking for signatures.

Exchequer

Currently, we have in the account \$11,900. Fighter's social fund currently has \$1,100. Dedicated funds are over \$7,000 with \$4,000 in working capitol.

The storage unit rate is increasing by \$6 a month but not enough to look for another site. The current site is good as it's close to home.

Heavy Marshal

Novice tournament is coming up and new fighters are getting ready to authorize.

Rapier Marshal

Baron Marcellus reported that at Highland River Melee the previous weekend, twelve fighters took the field. Four of the fighters were from the Barony.

Future Thursday practices have been moved to Tysons-Pimmit library.

Archery Marshal - Not Present

A&S – Not Present

Chatelaine

There is a need for a new deputy. Anastasia was mentioned, and she graciously declined.

The previous Friday's Newcomer Meetin was one of the largest with an excellent turn out. Twenty-two people attended. Of those twenty-two, seven were returning to the society and two were totally new. The next meeting is not scheduled as of yet, but we are looking for a location and date.

Herald - Not Present

MoL – Not Present

Chronicler - Not Present

Minister of Minors - Not Present

Webminister

The Pennsic camp site information has been updated. Issues with Comcast and the Kingdom mailing lists have been reported. There were suggestions to utilize a free mail service such as Yahoo and Gmail.

Heavy Champion - Not Present

Rapier Champion - Not Present

Baron and Baroness

- They were pleased at the turn out of the populace of Ponte Alto at Highland River Melee and the number of people who stepped forward to assist in running the event.
- There was a good showing at Assessment. Seventeen fighters from the Northern Army of Atlantia were there. Six of the fighters were from the Barony.
- There are new changes for smaller groups without Knight Marshals. Marshals at large will be able to authorize new fighters.

- We will be attending Stierbach's Tenth Birthday and Storvik Novice and Unbelt Tourney.
- Their Majesties have been invited to the Baronial Court at Pennsic, but there has been no reply as of yet.

Baronial Warlord

- There was a good turn out for Highland River Melee with six fighters from the Barony.
- The turn out at the Northern Army War Muster in Bright Hills was disappointing with only two fighters in Armor.
- Seventeen fighters attended Sunday practice. Four will try and authorize before Pennsic with a number more after Pennsic.
- Northern and Southern War banners are currently being worked on.

Baronial Artisan – not present

EVENTS:

Sapphire Joust

A dozen people camped. It was a good site.

Pennsic

Baron Jurgen reported 35 people have registered for the encampment, and several land blocks have been discussed.

Chalice of the Sun God

The amount we were billed for the camp was two times the amount for the camp, waiting for revised amount.

All items must be removed from the field by 8am Sunday morning due to another group needing the field. Looking at clearing all items off the field by Saturday night, and will ask for volunteers.

Crown Tournament

Currently there is only one bid for Crown Tournament. Will find out the deadline for submitting bids.

OLD BUSINESS

A 70 page document was produced with the history of the Barony. The document contained flyers, stories, schedules and other information. More background information is being sought including personal stories from the early days of the Barony. Two poems are being sought, "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Squish, Squish, Squish"

Coronets – Baronial coronets are in need of repair and polishing.

Coins – looking to send out bid document for the coins that will be for Baronial awards.

New Business

Baroness Flora discussed funding for mantles that were requested by their Majesties as a means for identifying fighters on the field at Pennsic. The cost should be no more than \$75 - \$100. Funding was approved, 14 in favor one opposed.

Pas d'armes – Kevin of Thurnbury brought up a suggestion for a 15th century style Pas d'armes. The event would take place in the fall. The heavy weapons pas d'armes would have certain fighters invited to take up the challenges as well as the challengers. Other events would include a rapier team melle on Friday night by torchlight and a Sunday archery practice. There would be a need for a field Herald. An artisan's row will be set up for people to show off their craft, but their won't necessarily be an A&S competition. There would be a need for classes covering 15th century music, dance, and clothing leading up to the event. The event would not take the place of Chalice.

There is a need for recommendations for Baronial awards.

The Baronial Coronets are in need of repairs. \$150 was authorized to repair the coronets if the money had not

already been allocated by a vote of 14 in favor and 1 opposed.

Baron Max Von Halstern gave an update on the current health of Sir Michael Sain-Sever.

Announcements

Meeting ended 7:11pm 15 attendees

Monthly Calendar

July 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 1:00 Social – Fighting & Arts Pennsic Prep Sewing
7 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	8	9 6 pm Pennsic Prep Sewing	10 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	11 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	12	13 1:00 Fighter Practice
14 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	15	16 7 pm Armor Night	17 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice Last Chance Authorization	18 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	19	20 1:00 Fighter Practice
21 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	22	23 6 pm Pennsic Prep Sewing	24 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	25	26 Pennsic War*	27 Pennsic War*
28 Pennsic War*	29 Pennsic War*	30 Pennsic War*	31 Pennsic War*	1 Pennsic War*	2 Pennsic War*	3 Pennsic War*
4 Pennsic War *	5 Pennsic War*	6 Pennsic War*	7 Pennsic War*	8 Pennsic War *	9 Pennsic War*	10 Pennsic War*

* = Baronial Progress

Events

Baronial Progress for July 2008

Date	Event
July 11-13	Storvik Novice Tourney
July 26-August 10	Pennsic War

July 2008 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
11-13	Storvik Novice Tourney	Storvik	Upper Marlboro, MD
26 and beyond	Pennsic War	Aethelmearc	Slippery Rock, PA

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	Tysons Pimmit Park is located at 2026 Burfoot Street in Falls Church besides Tysons Pimmit Library which is located at 7584 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church (the Park is easily accessible off Leesburg Pike). Directions: Take the Beltway to Tysons Corner and get off on Route 7 in the direction of Falls Church. Proceed about one mile (pass two lights). The library and entrance to its parking lot is on the left. You may park in the library parking lot or take the library access road past the parking lot and turn left into the Peach Tree of McClean apartment complex, proceed about a block and park on the left against the edge of the park.
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 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 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. The announcement will be made via the Baronail Email list.
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*** 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

Tournaments, Jousting and Competitions



A tournament, or tourney, is the name popularly given to chivalrous competitions or mock fights of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Men who carry weapons have in all ages played at the game of war in time of peace. Military games were organized in Europe around 1000. Equestrian games of war are known from before the Romans: chariot racing and the like were popular in Celtic Europe for example. Something like the medieval tourney was practiced by the Roman cavalry, from early on a critically important arm of the legions: two teams took turns chasing and fleeing each other, casting javelins in the attack and covering themselves with their shields in the retreat. These games, known as Hippica Gymnasia are known from ample archaeological and literary evidence to have been quite elaborate displays and were intended to impress their audiences. Special armor was made for them, including helms that fully covered the face against accidental injury, unlike the war helmets that left the face open for unimpeded vision and hearing. During the Early Middle Ages such cavalry games were still central to military training as is evidenced by Louis and Charles' military games at Worms in 843. At this event, the initial chasing and fleeing was followed by a general melee of all combatants. But the tournament, properly so called, does not appear in Europe before the 11th century. Medieval people themselves devised myths about its origins. A chronicler of Tours in the late twelfth century records the death, in 1066, of an Angevin baron named Geoffroi de Preulli, who supposedly "devised tournaments." Ruxner's sixteenth-century *Thurnierbuch* details the supposed tournament laws of Henry the Fowler (king of Germany, 919-936).

In fact the earliest use of the word 'tournament' comes from the peace legislation by Count Baldwin III of Hainaut for the town of Valenciennes, dated to 1114. It refers to the keepers of the peace in the town leaving it 'for the purpose of frequenting javelin sports, tournaments and such like.' The earliest reference to a recognizable tournament event is in the history of his church of St Martin of Tournai composed by Hermann of Tournai in the early 1140s, who refers to the accidental death of Count Henry III of Brabant in his town in 1095 in a meeting between his knights and those of the castellan of Tournai. A pattern of regular tournament meetings across northern France is evident in sources for the life of Count Charles of Flanders (1119-1127). The sources of the 1160s and 1170s portray the event in the developed form it maintained into the fourteenth century.

Tournaments centered around the melee, a general fight where the knights were divided into two sides and came together in a charge. Jousting, a single combat of two knights riding at each other, was a component of the tournament, but was never its main feature.

The standard form of a tournament is evident in sources as early as the 1160s and 1170s, notably the *Life of William Marshal* and the romances of Chretien de Troyes. Tournaments might be held at all times of the year except the season of Lent. The general custom was to hold them on Mondays and Tuesdays, though any day but Friday and Sunday might be used. The site of the tournament was customarily announced a fortnight before it was to be held. The most famous tournament fields were in northeastern France, in use between the 1160s and 1240s which attracted hundreds of foreign knights from all over Europe for the tournament season.

Knights arrived individually or in companies to stay at one or other of the two settlements designated as their lodgings. The tournament began on a field outside the principal settlement, where stands were erected for spectators. On the day of the tournament one side was formed of those 'within' the principal settlement, and another of those 'outside'.

The evening before the event parties hosted by the principal magnates present were held in both settlements, and preliminary jousts offered knights an individual showcase for their talents. On the day of the event, the tournament was opened by a review in which both sides paraded and called out their war cries. Then followed a further opportunity for individual jousting carried out between the two lines of knights. The opportunity for jousting at this point was customarily offered to the new, young knights present.

At some time in mid morning the knights would line up for the charge. At a signal, a bugle or herald's cry, the lines would ride at each other and meet with leveled lances. Those remaining on horseback would turn quickly (the action which gave the tournament its name) and single out knights to attack. There is evidence that squires were present at the lists to offer their masters up to three replacement lances. The mêlée would tend then to degenerate into running battles between parties of knights seeking to take ransoms, and would spread over several square miles between the two settlements which defined the tournament area. Most tournaments continued until both sides were exhausted, or until the light faded. A few ended earlier, if one side broke in the charge, panicked and ran for its home base looking to get behind its lists and the shelter of the armed infantry which protected them. Following the tournament the patron of the day would offer lavish banquets and entertainments. Prizes were offered to the best knight on either side, and awarded during the meals.

Popularity

There is no doubting the massive popularity of the tournament. The first English mention of tourneying is in a charter of Osbert of Arden, a Warwickshire knight of English descent, which reveals that he travelled to Northampton and London but also crossed the Channel to join in events in France. The charter dates to the late 1120s. The great tournaments of northern France attracted many hundreds of knights from Germany, England, Scotland, Occitania and Spain. There is evidence that 3000 knights attended the tournament at Lagny-sur-Marne in November 1179 promoted by Louis VII of France in honor of his son's coronation. The state tournaments at Senlis and Compiègne held by Philip III of France in 1279 is believed to have been even larger events.

Aristocratic enthusiasm for the tournament meant that it had travelled outside its northern French heartland before the 1120s. The first evidence for it in England and the Rhineland is found in the 1120s. References in the Marshal biography indicate that in the 1160s tournaments were being held in central France and Brittany. The contemporary works of Bertran de Born talk of a tourneying world which also embraced northern Spain, Scotland and the Empire. The chronicle of Lauterberg indicates that by 1175 the enthusiasm had reached the borders of Poland.

In view of this huge interest and wide distribution, it is odd how quickly royal and ecclesiastical authority was deployed to prohibit the event. In 1130 Pope Innocent II denounced the tournament and forbade Christian burial for those killed in them. The usual ecclesiastical justification for prohibiting them was that it distracted the aristocracy from more acceptable warfare in defense of Christianity. However, the reason for the ban imposed on them in England by Henry II had to have been in its persistent threat to public order. Knights going to tournaments were accused of theft and violence against the unarmed. Henry II was keen to re-

establish public order in England after the disruption of the reign of King Stephen, 1135-1154. He did not prohibit tournaments in his continental domains, and three of his sons were avid pursuers of the sport.

Tournaments were allowed in England once again after 1192, when Richard I identified six sites where they would be permitted and gave a scale of fees by which patrons could pay for a license. But both King John and his son, Henry III, introduced prohibitions which much annoyed the aristocracy and eroded the popularity of the events. In France Louis IX prohibited tourneying within his domains in 1260, and his successors for the most part maintained the ban.

There was a family of events which resembled the tournament in their day, and which are often confused with it. The most common was the *bohort*. This was a play tournament, which might be held informally on a variety of occasions. There is a record of one being held regularly by the youth of the city of London in the life of Thomas Becket by William fitz Stephen (composed 1171). Bohorts might be held between travelling knights, or between parties of squires, or within an encamped army. They might also form part of court festivities. Their main feature was the limited use of arms and armor and emphasis on horsemanship.

The *tirocinium* is first mentioned by Otto of Freising, referring back to an event at Wurzburg in 1127. That and later references indicate that it was a tournament held exclusively for newly-knighted youths. The new knight was often an easy victim for older and more experienced colleagues. The tirocinium allowed them to gain experience with less danger. Tirocinia were often held following the knighting of royal and princely youths, who were usually knighted in company with dozens or scores of other aspirants.

A further addition to the family of related events was the urban tournament, designed for the youths and young men of wealthy patrician families. These were facsimiles of the aristocratic event rather than simple bohorts. The most famous of them were the tournaments held in the market streets of the great Flemish cities, notably at the religious feast of the Epinette as early as 1283. They were not exclusively urban, and attracted neighboring country knights, but their location and patronage distinguished them from the parallel aristocratic events. This form of *mêlée* tournament survived the longest.

Jousting and the Tournament

As has been said jousting formed part of the tournament event from as early a time as it can be observed. It was an evening prelude to the big day, and was also a preliminary to the grand charge on the day itself. In the 12th century jousting was occasionally banned in tournaments. The reasons given are that it distracted knights from the main event, and allowed a form of cheating. Count Philip of Flanders made a practice in the 1160s of turning up armed with his retinue to the preliminary jousts, and then declining to join the *mêlée* until the knights were exhausted and ransoms could be swept up.

But jousting had its own devoted constituency by the early 13th century, and in the 1220s it began to have its own exclusive events outside the tournament. The biographer of William Marshal observed around 1224 that in his day noblemen were more interested in jousting than tourneying. In 1223 we have the first mention of an exclusively jousting event, the 'Round Table' held in Cyprus by John d'Ibelin, lord of Beirut. Round Tables were a 13th-century enthusiasm and can be reconstructed to have been an elimination jousting event. They were held for knights and squires alike. Other forms of jousting also arose during the century, and by the 14th century the joust was poised to take over the vacancy in aristocratic amusement caused by the decline of the tournament.

It is a vexed issue as to what extent specialized arms and armor were used in *mêlée* tournaments. A further question that might be raised is to what extent the military equipment of knights and their horses in the 12th and 13th centuries was devised to meet the dangers and demands of tournaments, rather than warfare. It is however clear from the sources that the weapons used in tournaments were initially the same as those used in war. It is not by any means certain that swords were blunted for most of the history of the tournament. This must have changed by the mid 13th century, at least in jousting encounters. There is a passing reference to a special spear for use in jousting in the *Prose Lancelot* (c.1220). In the 1252 jousting at Walden, the lances used had 'sokets', curved ring-like punches instead of points. The *Statute of Arms* of Edward I of England of 1292 says that blunted knives and swords should be used in tournaments, which rather hints that their use had not been general until then.

The decline of the true tournament was not a straightforward process, although the word continued to be used for jousts until the sixteenth century. Tourneying continued to be regarded as the best test of a warrior in 14th-century society, an idea reinforced by the prominent place that tourneying occupied in popular Arthurian romance literature. The tournament had a resurgence of popularity in England in the reign of the martial and crusading king, Edward I (1272-1307) and under his grandson, Edward III (1327-1377), yet nonetheless the tournament died out in the latter's reign. Edward III encouraged the move towards pageantry and a predominance of jousting in his sponsored events. In the last true tournament held in England in 1342 at Dunstable, the *mêlée* was postponed so long by jousting that the sun was sinking by the time the lines charged. The tournament survived little longer in

France or Burgundy. The last known to be held was at Bruges in 1379. That same year the citizens of Ghent rioted when the count of Flanders announced a tournament to be held at their city. The cause of their discontent was the associated expense for them.