

Il Tempo

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto-Volume 17, Issue 3  March 2008



*Detail from a Calendar, January: a man and a woman dining and warming themselves at a fire.
Unknown illuminator, in the Hague.*

Barony of Ponte Alto, March 2008, Chronicler* Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dothor

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From the Chronicler...

From the Chronicler

The day was chilly and damp, but our spirits were warm and happy as we welcomed our new Baron and Baroness, Jurgen and Flora, at our Baronial Investiture the end of February. And everyone in the hall, including Her Majesty and Her Excellency, was highly entertained by all the candidates for the position of Baronial Bard. It was enjoyable, and amusing at time.

We want to congratulate our new Baronial Bard, Lady Willow, and our new Baronial Artisan, Lady Iohanna filia Iacobi. And we can't forget the many Pontoons that were recognized and called before Her Majesty Rowan.

As warm weather slowly returns, we see in increase in events, local and distant. I know I'm more than ready for Spring and getting out in the fresh air again.

St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath will be upon us on the 15th of this month; always a great time with wonderful fighting throughout the day. There's no feast, but there will be a lunch served. The site, as always, is Nottoway Park in Vienna. Come on out and have fun!

Also, let's not forget Defending the Gate VII/Steirbach Baronial Investiture on the 22nd in the Canton of Sudentorre. It's just a short drive down I-95 in Spotsylvania. So make you reservations and go support our neighboring barony.

And it's not too early to make your plans for the Coronation of TRH's Kari and Sinclair April 4-6. Check out the website for all information.

*Lady Wulfwyn AElf wines dohtor
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto*

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Baronial Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2008 **Start time**
6:00

Seneschal

Looking for Herald and Deputy Herald, Deputy Chatelaine and Deputy Chronicler. Contact Katharine for more information.

Exchequer

At Investiture, the luncheon grossed \$417, event grossed over \$2300 with a few check still to be added, projected profit of \$256. Currently in account there is \$9003.73, not including money from event. Sunday Social Fund had \$1265.85.

Melanie staying on as emergency deputy until there is a permanent person.

Heavy Marshall

Investiture went well with 23 fighters. Thanked everyone that helped. Practice went well.

Rapier Marshall

Investiture had 13 fighters. Dominic won.

Archery Marshall

Continues. Still working on site in Manassas.

A&S

A&S on Sunday during fighter practice is going well with good attendance.

Brigid O'Hare won the Bardic competition, 2 competitions for static, Baroness Leidan won the Italian competition and Baronial Artisan was Lady Iohonna.

Stepping down at Chalice, contact Renata for information.

Quarterly and event reports to be at the same town.

Chatelaine

Newcomers meeting will be March 18, place to be announced on the list.

A lot of new people moving into the barony, many new faces at Investiture.

Herald

Not in attendance, out sick.

Minister of Minors

Had very good attendance at Investiture with the Children's Corner.

Chronicler

Anyone who has photos of Investiture, please send them to the Chronicler. Also looking for articles, news, stories, anything that would be of interest to the Barony. Please contact the Chronicler for information.

Web Minister

Please contact the Web Minister with any changes that need to be made to the web site.

MOL

At Investiture, 23 heavy fighters, Felix was winner, 13 rapier fighters, Dominic winner.

Baron and Baroness

Learned a lot at Investiture, and hope to learn quickly in the near future.

Very thankful to everyone in the Barony.

Encourages everyone to go to the Stierbach Investiture.

Will be attending Blood Bath and KASF.

May or not be going to Coronation, depending on work schedule.

Heavy Champion

Not in attendance

Rapier Champion

Not in attendance

Baronial Warlord

Army is now the Northern Army of Darkness. Sir Guy is the executive officer, with three regional liaisons; Sir Tash is the Northern regional, Sir Theron the Central regional and Baron Max the Southern regional. Tournament of Chivalry coming up, with the first regional war practice will be the day after. Will start training as a unit more.

Baronial Artisan

New Artisan is Lady Brigid

Baronial Bard

New Bard is Lady Willow

Events**Baronial Investiture**

Thanks to everyone who helped out, especially all those who came out Friday night and stayed Saturday night for clean up.

There were many Pontoons recognized by the Baron and Baroness and the Queen. Please see the Herald's report for all the information.

A special thanks to Katharine for stepping up and helping Saturday night.

Would like to see more volunteers from the barony stay and help with cleanup at future events.

St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath

Lady Anne will be the CIC and organizing the waterbearers.

Decided against advertising for this event.

\$100 voted and approved for start up in Troll.

We have volunteers for set up, but will probably need more.

The Barony is encouraged to bring extra chairs if you have them.

Will need sufficient volunteers to handle any public that may show up as event is held in a public park.

There was a discussion regarding organizing a large public demo, will be discussed more at a later date.

Sapphire Joust

Baron Jurgen will be the land agent. There will be camping for the Barony.

Pennsic

Baron Jurgen will be the land agent. Sian and Rhiannon volunteered to be Deputy Land Agents.

Chalice of the Sun God

Budget based on last year's event. Plans are proceeding.

Budget based on last year's event. Most positions have been filled for marshals. More information to follow and will be announced. Budget voted upon and approved.

Crown Tournament Bid

Possible sites will be Prince William Forest Park or Camp William Snyder.

Pricing approximately the same for both. More information to follow.

University

Discussed the possibility of making a bid for University. Talked about different schools that could be used. We would not be out money for the site, as university would pay fee.

Voted up and approved making a bid for University. Lucia will lead a bid team.

Old Business

Coronets - \$250 from the profits of lunch at Investiture will go for paying for new coronets. Practice/A&S on Sunday at Lemon Road Elementary will continue through April

New Business

There will be a Lord of the Rings film festival at the Arlington Cinema and Draft House showing on April 27, suggested contacting the theatre for the possibility of doing a demo.

Announcements

The Business Meeting for April will be held the 5th Sunday in April instead of the 4th due to Easter weekend.

There will be an open house at James and Katharine's house on Friday, March 21st, starting around 6:00. Address is listed in the officer's page and more information will be sent to the list.

Meeting ended 7:12

26 Attendees

Greetings to the populace of Ponte Alto,

We thank all of Ponte Alto for their support and care. Know that in return, we will work without rest to continue Ponte Alto's traditions. We would ask each and every one of you to look into your heart, and strive to learn new things while enjoying the society to the fullest. Sunday Socials have been a tremendous success! Our Barony's renown continues in service & craftsmanship. Even as we write, KASF approaches, where our artisans will be both presenting and performing. The fighting community has ignited a special passion for participation lately. Those interested in heavy fighting should come by to participate, as we have both a training curriculum and good old fashion practice.

We would also like to thank the officers and champions of Ponte Alto. In particular, thanks to Connor, James, and Talitha for their service as Champions of Ponte Alto. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Champions: Baronial Warlord Baron Maximillian von Halstern, Baronial Artisan Iohanna filia Iacobi, and Baronial Bard Lady Willow. We also look forward to selecting new Armoured & Rapier champions at Saint Patrick's Day Bloodbath. Saint Patty's Day Bloodbath is approaching fast, we hope to see you all there.

*Vivat Ponte Alto,
Baron Jurgen & Baroness Flora*

Monthly Calendar

March 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival	2 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
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 Gulf Wars (Glenn Abhann) 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
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) 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
17 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	18	19 7:00 Newcomers meeting	20 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	21 4:30 pm Archery Practice	22 Stierbach Investiture* Feast of St Pyr	23 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
24 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	25	26 7 pm Armor Night	27 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	28 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	29 Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival*	30 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
31 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	1	2	3 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	4 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	5 Coronation	6 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
7 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	8	9 7 pm Armor Night	10 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	11 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	12 Night on the Town*	13 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts

* = Baronial Progress

Events

Baronial Progress for March 2008

Date	Event
March 1 st	Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival
March 15 th	St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath
March 22 nd	Stierbach Investiture

March 2008 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
1	Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival (Q)	Marinus	Chesapeake, VA
8	Caer Mear's 30 th Birthday Celebration	Caer Mear	Goochland, VA
9-16	Gulf Wars XVII	Glenn Abhann	
15	St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath	Ponte Alto	Vienna, VA
22	Defending the Gate VII/ Stierbach Baronial Investiture	Sudenture	Spotsylvania, VA
29	A Day in the Middle East	Dun Carriag	Mechanicsville, MD

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	<p>Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church.</p> <p>Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idylwood Rd., Falls Church.</p> <p>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.</p>
Sunday Social – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavy Weapons Practice - Arts/Sciences 	<p>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.</p> <p><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.</p>
MONDAY	
Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)	<p>Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon.</p> <p>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.</p>
TUESDAY	
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	<p>Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.</p> <p>Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for information and directions.</p>
WEDNESDAY	
Weaving Night	<p>Second Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com).</p> <p>Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions.</p>
Armoring Night	<p>Fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com).</p> <p>Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions</p>
THURSDAY	
Rapier Practice	<p>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.</p>
Heavy Weapons Practice	<p>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.</p>
FRIDAY	
Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	<p>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.</p>
Ponte Alto A&S Night	<p>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.</p>

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. March's meeting will be Wednesday March 19 th at the home of James de Biblesworth and Katharine Devereaux (Chatelaine and Seneschal) Contact our Chatelaine for information and directions., This month we will discuss events, what they are, what you need to take with you and feasts.

* **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

A Little History of Beer



At the beginning...

As almost any cereal containing certain sugars can undergo spontaneous fermentation due to wild yeasts in the air, it is possible that beer-like beverages were independently developed throughout the world soon after a tribe or culture had domesticated cereal. Chemical tests of ancient pottery jars reveal that beer was produced about 7,000 years ago in what is today Iran, and was one of the first-known biological engineering tasks where the biological process of fermentation is used.

In Mesopotamia, the oldest evidence of beer is believed to be a 4,000-year-old Sumerian tablet depicting people drinking a beverage through reed straws from a communal bowl. A 3900-year-old Sumerian poem honoring Ninkasi, the patron goddess of brewing, contains the oldest surviving beer recipe, describing the production of beer from barley via bread.

*“Ninkasi, you are the one who bakes the bappir in the big oven,
Puts in order the piles of hulled grains,
You are the one who waters the malt set on the ground...
You are the one who holds with both hands the great sweet wort...
Ninkasi, you are the one who pours out the filtered beer of the collector vat,
It is [like] the onrush of Tigris and Euphrates.”*

Beer is also mentioned in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, in which the 'wild man' Enkidu is given beer to drink. "...he ate until he was full, drank seven pitchers of beer, his heart grew light, his face glowed and he sang out with joy."

Beer was important to early Romans, but during the Roman Republic wine displaced beer as the preferred alcoholic beverage. Beer became a beverage considered fit only for barbarians; Tacitus wrote disparagingly of the beer brewed by the Germanic peoples of his day.

Medieval Europe

Beer was one of the most common drinks during the Middle Ages. It was consumed daily by all social classes in the northern and eastern parts of Europe where grape cultivation was difficult or impossible. Though wine of varying qualities was the most common drink in the south, beer was still popular among the lower classes. Since the purity of water could seldom be guaranteed, alcoholic drinks were a popular choice, having been boiled as part of the brewing process. Beer also provided a considerable amount of the daily calories in the northern regions. In England and the Low Countries, the per capita consumption was 275-300 liters (60-66 gallons) a year by the Late Middle Ages, and beer was downed with every meal. Though probably one of the most popular drinks in Europe, beer was disdained by science as being unhealthy, mostly because ancient Greek and more contemporary Arab physicians had little or no experience with the drink. In 1256, the Aldobrandino of Siena described the nature of beer in the following way:

"But from whichever it is made, whether from oats, barley or wheat, it harms the head and the stomach, it causes bad breath and ruins the teeth, it fills the stomach with bad fumes, and as a result anyone who drinks it along with wine becomes drunk quickly; but it does have the property of facilitating urination and makes one's flesh white and smooth."

The use of hops in beer was written of in 822 by a Carolingian Abbot. Again in 1067 by Abbess Hildegard of Bingen: "If one intends to make beer from oats, it is prepared with hops." Flavoring beer with hops was known at least since the 9th century, but was only gradually adopted because of difficulties in establishing the right proportions of ingredients. Before that gruit, a mix of various herbs, had been used, but did not have the same conserving properties as hops. Beer flavored without it was often drunk soon after preparation and could not be exported. The only other alternative was to increase the alcohol content, which was rather expensive. Hopped beer was perfected in the towns of Germany by the 13th century, and the longer lasting beer, combined with standardized barrel sizes, allowed for large-scale export. The German towns also pioneered a new scale of operation and a level of professionalization. Previously beer had been brewed at home, but the production was now successfully replaced by medium-sized operations of about eight to ten people. This type of production spread to Holland in the 14th century and later to Flanders, Brabant and reached England by the late 15th century.

Laws to enforce the use of hops in beer were introduced in England in the 14th century, and later similar laws were introduced in other countries. In England, these laws lead to peasant uprisings, since it was considered to spoil the taste, but these uprisings were brutally put down.

In Europe, beer largely remained a homemaker's activity, made in the home in medieval times. The oldest still operating commercial brewery is the Weiherstephan (Bavaria) abbey brewery, which obtained the brewing rights from the nearby town of Freising. By the 14th and 15th centuries, beermaking was gradually changing from a family-oriented activity to an artisan one, with pubs and monasteries brewing their own beer for mass consumption.

In 15th century England, an unhopped beer would have been known as an ale, while the use of hops would make it a beer. Hopped beer was imported to England from the Netherlands as early as 1400 in Winchester, and hops were being planted on the island by 1428. The popularity of hops was at first mixed — the Brewers Company of London went so far as to state *"no hops, herbs, or other like thing be put into any ale or liquore wherof ale shall be made — but only liquor (water), malt, and yeast."* However, by the 16th century, "ale" had come to refer to any strong beer, and all ales and beers were hopped.

In 1516, William IV, Duke of Bavaria, adopted the *Reinheitsgebot* (purity law), perhaps the oldest food regulation still in use through the 20th Century (the *Reinheitsgebot* passed formally from German law in 1987). The *Gebot* ordered that the ingredients of beer be restricted to water, barley, and hops, with yeast added after Louis Pasteur's discovery in 1857. The Bavarian law was applied throughout Germany as part of the 1871 German unification as the German Empire under Otto von Bismarck, and has since been updated to reflect modern trends in beer brewing. To this day, the *Gebot* is considered a mark of purity in beers, although this is controversial.

Most beers until relatively recent times were what are now called ales. Lagers were discovered by accident in the 16th century after beer was stored in cool caverns for long periods; they have since largely outpaced ales in terms of volume.

The Later Brewers

Following significant improvements in the efficiency of the steam engine in 1765, industrialization of beer became a reality. Further innovations in the brewing process came about with the introduction of the thermometer in 1760 and hydrometer in 1770, which allowed brewers to increase efficiency and attenuation.

Prior to the late 18th century, malt was primarily dried over fires made from wood, charcoal, or straw, and after 1600, from coke.

In general, none of these early malts would have been well shielded from the smoke involved in the kilning process, and consequently, early beers would have had a smoky component to their flavors; evidence indicates that maltsters and brewers constantly tried to minimize the smokiness of the finished beer.

Writers of the period describe the distinctive taste derived from wood-smoked malts, and the almost universal revulsion it engendered. The smoked beers and ales of the West Country were famous for being undrinkable - locals and the desperate excepted. This is from "Directions for Brewing Malt Liquors" (1700):

"In most parts of the West, their malt is so stench'd with the Smoak of the Wood, with which 'tis dried, that no Stranger can endure it, though the inhabitants, who are familiarized to it, can swallow it as the Hollanders do their thick Black Beer Brewed with Buck Wheat."

So, a bit of an acquired taste, then. Here's an even earlier reference to such malt by William Harrison, in his "Description of England", 1577:

"In some places it [malt] is dried at leisure with wood alone, or straw alone, in other with wood and straw together, but, of all, the straw-dried is the most excellent. For the wood-dried malt, when it is brewed, beside that the drink is higher of colour, it doth hurt and annoy the head of him that is not used thereto, because of the smoke. Such also as use both indifferently do bark, cleave, and dry their wood in an oven, thereby to remove all moisture that should procure the fume..."

Not exactly an unequivocal endorsement. Here's what "London and Country Brewer" (1736) has to say:

"Brown Malts are dried with Straw, Wood and Fern, etc. The straw-dried is the best, but the wood sort has a most unnatural Taste, that few can bear with, but the necessitous, and those that are accustomed to its strong smoaky tang; yet it is much used in some of the Western Parts of England, and many thousand Quarters of this malt has been formerly used in London for brewing the Butt-keeing-beers with, and that because it sold for two shillings per Quarter cheaper than Straw-dried Malt, nor was this Quality of the

Wood-dried Malt much regarded by some of its Brewers, for that its ill Taste is lost in nine or twelve Months, by the Age of the Beer, and the strength of the great Quantity of Hops that were used in its preservation."

Wood-dried malt had a horrible taste, but some London brewers did once use it because it was cheap and after long aging in a heavily-hopped beer you didn't notice the vile smokiness any more.

However, the straw-dried brown malt preferred in London was the least affected. That was the very reason it was valued above the wood-dried variety. In "Town and Country Brewery Book" (approx. 1830, p.47), there is a chapter about what can go wrong during malting. Smoking malt was seen as a serious mistake:

"The third error consists in the drying of malt. They are apt to be tainted by the smoke, through the carelessness, covetousness, or unskilfulness of the maker. Every care ought to be taken to guard against this accident as one of the most prejudicial that can befall malt drinks."

The hydrometer transformed how beer was brewed. Before its introduction beers were brewed from a single malt: brown beers from brown malt, amber beers from amber malt, pale beers from pale malt. Using the hydrometer, brewers could calculate the yield from different malts. They observed that pale malt, though more expensive, yielded far more fermentable material than cheaper malts. For example, brown malt (used for Porter) gave 54 pounds of extract per quarter, whilst pale malt gave 80 pounds. Once this was known, brewers switched to using mostly pale malt for all beers supplemented with a small quantity of highly-coloured malt to achieve the correct colour for darker beers.

The invention of the drum roaster in 1817 by Daniel Wheeler allowed for the creation of very dark, roasted malts, contributing to the flavour of porters and stouts. Its development was prompted by a British law of 1816 forbidding the use of any ingredients other than malt and hops. Porter brewers, employing a predominantly pale malt grist, urgently needed a legal colourant. Wheeler's patent malt was the solution.

The discovery of yeast's role in fermentation in 1857 by Louis Pasteur gave brewers methods to prevent the souring of beer by undesirable microorganisms.

Brewing Today

Modern breweries now brew many different types of beer, ranging from ancient styles such as the spontaneously-fermented lambics of Belgium; the lagers, dark beers, wheat beers and more of Germany; the UK's stouts, milds, pale, bitters, golden ale and new modern American creations such as Chili Beer, Cream Ale, and Double India Pale Ales. Traditional brewing techniques are still very widely for the sake of maintaining the quality of the final product which suffers if brewed using the more efficient industrial processes which have been developed in modern times.

Today, the brewing industry is a huge global business, consisting of several multinational companies, and many thousands of smaller producers ranging from brewpubs to regional breweries. Advances in refrigeration, international and transcontinental shipping, marketing and commerce have resulted in an international marketplace, where the consumer has literally hundreds of choices between various styles of local, regional, national and foreign beers.

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A 16th Century Muff (Snuffkyn or Skinskyn)

By: Mistress Belphoebe de Givet (Laura Martinez)



Muff Side A



Muff Side B

Description

Black silk satin muff, lined with grey rabbit fur. The muff is appliquéd with slips embroidered in tent stitch with colored stranded silks over 26 count linen canvas, and has a decoration of freshwater pearls.

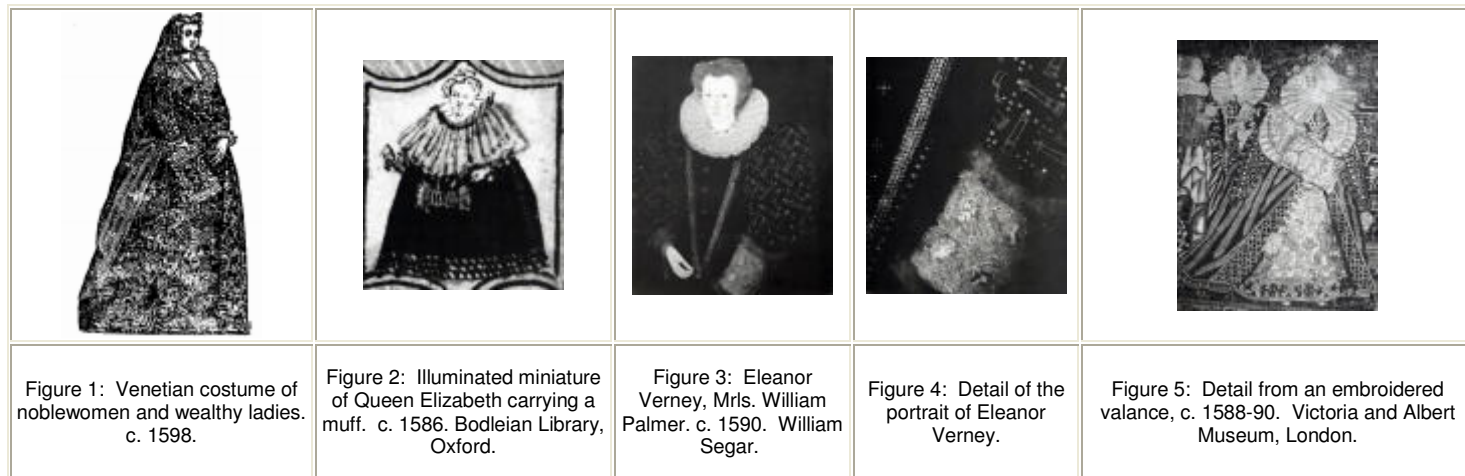
History

Muffs became fashionable in Italy during the early 1570's, and from there it spread pretty much everywhere. Harrison, as quoted by Janet Arnold, records that "Women's Maskes, Buskes, Muffs, Fanns, Perewigs, and Bodkins, were first devised and used in Italy by Curtezans, and from thence brought into France and there received of the best sort for gallant ornaments, & from thence they came into England about the time of the Massacar in Paris." (St. Bartholomew's Day, 24 August, 1572).

Cesare Vecellio, in the second edition of his fashion book *Habiti antichi, et moderni di tutto il Mondu*, published in 1598, shows a woodcut entitled "Winter Costume of Venetian noblewomen and wealthy ladies." On a closer inspection, the lady appears to be carrying a large muff (Figure 1). We can even see the little tufts of fur coming out of the borders, as well as what appear to be large buttons. It is difficult to tell from a woodcut what shape this accessory would have had, but it appears to me that it looks more envelope-shaped than tubular. My theory is that an envelope-shape would have made sense for large muffs, as a tube would have been much less practical to carry around. Just look at the size of the muff worn by the lady featured in an embroidered valance, c. 1588-90, which is currently in the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum (Figure 5). I believe that a large, semi-soft envelope-shaped affair might have been easier to slip on those sleeves and carry around than an unwieldy large tube.

There is, however, plenty of pictorial evidence showing tubular muffs, one such can be found on a miniature in the margin of a poem written by Georges de la Motthe, a Huguenot refugee, and presented to the Queen in 1586, which exists in the Bodleian Library in Oxford (MS Fr. e.I, f.13v) (Figure 2). This illuminated miniature shows Queen Elizabeth, wearing a silvery white cloak, or possibly a shoulder rail, over a black gown, a black muff embroidered with gold thread hangs from a ribbon. Also of note is the portrait of a lady said to be Eleanor Verney, Mrs William Palmer, Queen Elizabeth's god-daughter, attributed to Sir William Segar, c. 1590, (Figure 3). This is part of the Collection at

Parham Park, a detail of which you will see below (Figure 4). In that regard, those tubular muffs seem to be narrower than the large, envelope-type ones.



According to Andre Blum, in his volume *"The Last Valois,"* it is reported that King Henri III of France was fond of "perfumes and cosmetics, ear-rings, velvet or satin muffs lined with fur -- in fact, a whole range of modes formerly reserved for the use of women." Another reference to Parisian fashion for wearing muffs appears in Janet Arnold's *"Queen Elizabeth's Wardrobe Unlock'd (QEWU)"*: "Amyas Paulet was also instructed to get Elizabeth [Queen] a muff or 'countenance (so they call it here)' in Paris in 1579. He sent one, 'the best I can find at this time thinking it better to send this as it is when there is some cold stirring, than to wait for a better till the cold be clean gone. I have caused this countenance to be furred as well as it can be done in this town, but have not perfumed it because I do not know what Perfume will be the most agreeable to her Majesty."

Other terms for describing a muff would have been "snuffkyn," "skimskyn," or "countenance."

Construction

It is important to note that there are no extant muffs from this period. Part of the charm of making a piece like this is to bring to life an object of beauty that has been lost for centuries, that no one has seen except in paintings and engravings, and the details of which we can only surmise from period descriptions and inventories. I have based the design of my muff in the description contained in the 1588-1589 list of New Year's gifts to Queen Elizabeth, which describes the following item: "By the Lady Walsingham, one skimskyn of cloth of silver, *ymbrodered all over very faire with beasts, fowles, and trees, of Venis gold, silver, silke, and small seed pearles, with fyve buttons of seede pearles, lyned with carnation plush;* a peire of perfumed gloves, the coaffe ymbrodered with seed pearle, and lyned with carnation velvett." (I have added the italics for emphasis.)

Another interesting feature is that, unlike post-period muffs which have the fur lining in the *outside*, 16th Century muffs are lined with fur in the *inside*. This makes a lot of sense, since it helps keep your hands warm and toasty. In this case, I used grey rabbit fur following a description contained in Janet Arnold's "QEWU," which reads: "[Adam] Bland also worked on muffs, 'furringe of a Snufken of heare colour Satten enbraudered with ghre blake Jennett skynnes.'" Also, the warrants for the Bland's work (one of Queen Elizabeth's furriers), indicate that he used quantities of "Luzarnes," "Jennets," "powdered Armyons," "lettice," "Sable skynnes," "mynkes skynnes," "blak and grey coney skynnes," "callaber," "mynever," "gryzeled coney skynnes," "callaber wombes," "rouse squerilles," "red lambe skynnes," and "wolves skynnes."

As for the outside shell of my muff, I used black a silk satin ground appliquéd with embroidered slips, and freshwater pearls for embellishments. According to period descriptions, silk and velvet would have been the materials of choice for a muff of this kind and pearl buttons were frequently used, as were wrapped buttons. In this case, I had some

freshwater pearls available and that is what I used for buttons. Wrapped buttons will probably be my choice for future projects.

For the core of the muff, I made a quilted foundation out of linen stuffed with raw cotton batting. Period descriptions such as those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs talk about the way the muff looked or the kind of fur or lining that was used, but do not describe the actual construction. Therefore I have no way to know whether a similar foundation would have been used or not. However, it seemed logical to me that a foundation of some kind would have been necessary to achieve the desired shape and to mount the inside and outside shells. This one worked very well, although next time I will probably replace the cotton batting stuffing with raw wool.

Embellishments

Once I had decided on the design and materials for my muff, I was presented with the issue of the actual decoration. Pictorial and documental evidence shows that decoration varied from muff to muff. I particularly liked the description of the muff presented to Queen Elizabeth by the Lady Walsingham which tells us that it was "*ymbrodered all over very faire with beasts, fowles, and trees, of Venis gold, silver, silke, and small seed pearles.*" This description got me looking into other extant embroidery samples that contained such "beasts, fowles and trees," and found that there was no shortage of them in a variety of stitches and styles, particularly in pieces appliquéd with "slips." Typically, those slips are designs embroidered in silk on linen canvas.

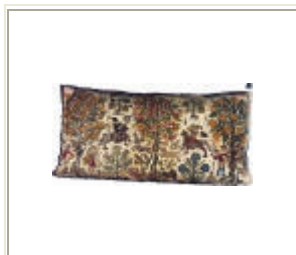


Figure 1: Long cushion cover embroidered with slips, c. 1600. Victoria and Albert Museum.



Figure 2: Embroidered slip, c. 1600. Pansies. Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



Figure 3: My version of the embroidered pansies at the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Figure 4: Embroidered slip, c. 1600. Cherries. Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



Figure 5: My version of the embroidered cherries at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

I found my inspiration in a long cushion embroidered with slips, c. 1600, that is currently at the Victoria and Albert Museum (Figure 1). It shows a design that contains precisely "beasts, fowles and trees," (not to mention some nifty little people prancing around), embroidered in silk over linen canvas, using tent stitch. Slips of this kind were commonly used on textiles and furnishings such as draperies, curtains and pillows, not actual clothing. Since a muff is not a piece of clothing, but rather an accessory, I decided that using slips for decoration might not have been out of place.

Once I decided what I wanted to do in the way of decorations, I started searching for designs that might fit the size of my muff. Obviously the design on the pillow would never fit on something as small as my project. Nevertheless, since the theme was fruit and flowers, I decided to embroider a version of the pansies and cherries on another set of slips, c. 1600, also at the V&A Museum. (Figures 2 and 4.) I embroidered my slips in stranded silk, using tent stitch and outlining with back-stitch, over 26 count linen canvas. (Figures 3 and 5.)

After I finished the embroidery, I "sealed" the borders with tiny buttonhole stitches to prevent fraying, after which I cut my slips as close as I could to the border (very carefully!). Once this was done, I took a stick of fabric glue and rubbed it gently on the back of the slip before placing it over my satin ground. This helped keep the slip in place while I stitched to the fabric. (The use of glue on slips for this purpose was commonly done in the 16th Century, although it would obviously not have been a glue stick!) This method of appliquéd slips results in a spectacular "3-D" effect.

Finally, I had some large freshwater pearls that had been languishing in my sewing room for several years. When I placed them on top of the black satin, they sort of "lighted up" the fabric. The combination of the black satin, grey rabbit fur, embroidered slippers and freshwater pearls was one of stunning elegance. I love wearing this muff everywhere and I am planning on making others!

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12. [The Renaissance Tailor](#) Online information on wrapped buttons.
13. [Netstitch](#) Link to tent stitch information.

Games

Various Groups of Atlantia

Main groups, shires and baronies alike – find all to know all:

E R E M H C O L H N Y A C M B C U T J Q
 O K A J B O R D E R V A L E K E E P X T
 B Z E V N O D Y R I T K I N S E N F I R
 E I T B E I S I N H R R O A I G E P E A
 R M M G D N O M A I D K C A L B A A F E
 L Q N O E H S N Q E S R L K C F I F B M
 E P K H T R A C T E E J L I A H E H R R
 Y O R A S R E I O D F Z I V P I S I I E
 C T O W B D Q C S V K V H R D D E G G A
 O L X K G G F T P H E S G O U D E H H C
 U A B W I H O E R E Z T N T N E L L T N
 R E U O T N D W L N F I I S C N N A H A
 T T R O E L L I H S R E T S A M D N I W
 G N Y D S U N I R A M R T P R O F D L U
 R O M G O N N A R C T B O E R U N F L E
 S P I A G G I A L E V A N T I N A O S K
 F E L F I S E A R E A C H V A T R O F T
 A S L L A C O E N N X H R D G A O R R E
 W I R I D Z Q J R T E C Z E T I B D J I
 J L B F D S I T G N W B Q G N N L E M E

Games – Answers:

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.

Solution:

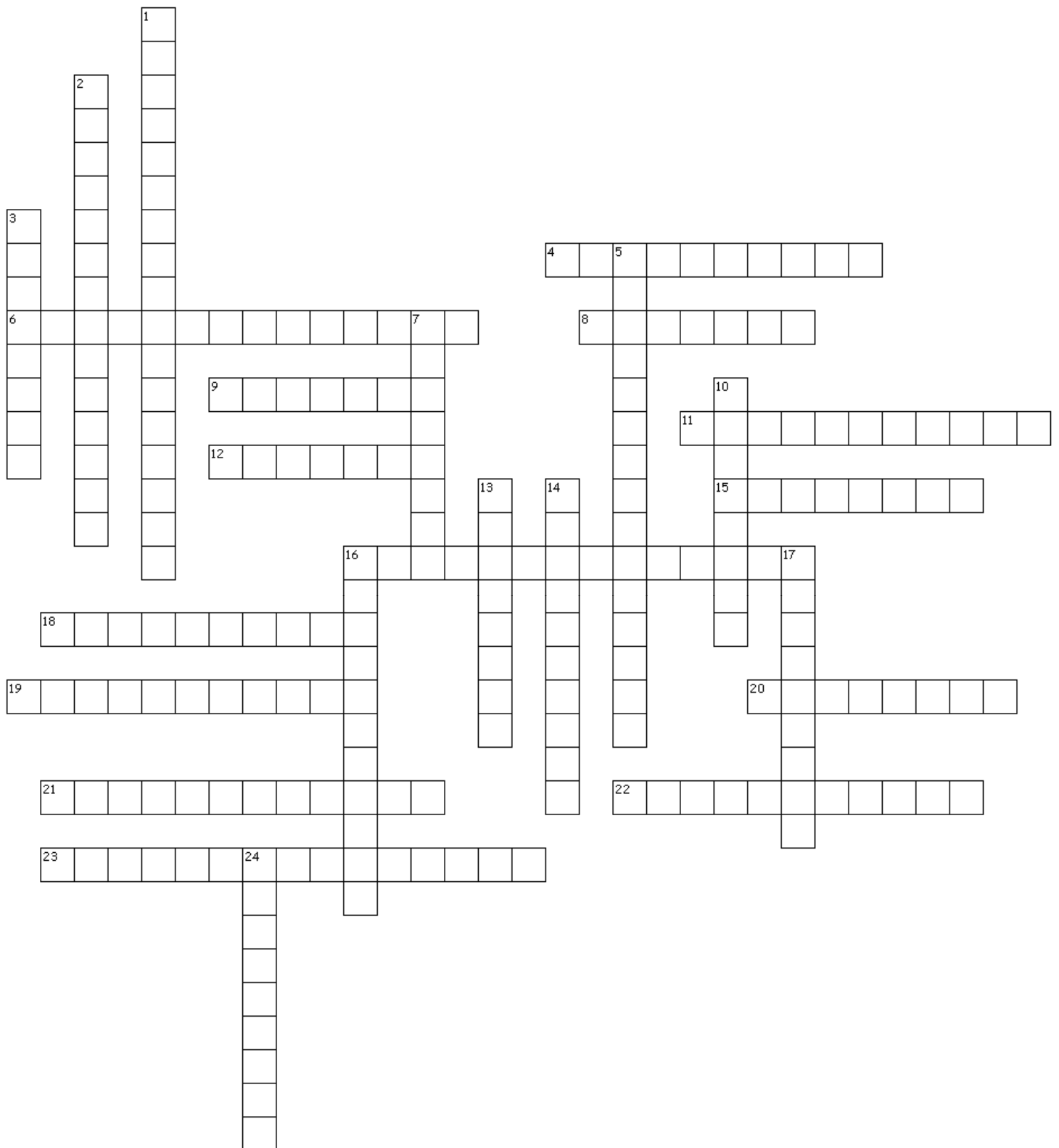
Welcome to the Barony of Ponte
 Alto. We are an Italian themed
 group who knows how to have fun.

Please enjoy this puzzle and
 suggest more for the future of
 the Il Tempo, our newsletter.

Plain: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Cipher: T U F B L Y X K J Q W Z O C S H E M A I G P N V D L

Groups within Atlantia (Cantons not included)



Across

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

Down

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