



the Barony of Ponte Alto's Newsletter -Volume 19, Issue 2 February/March 2010  
Chronicer Baroness Marie-Therese Normand

Fencing  
Arts and Sciences  
String Art  
Service  
Seige Weapons  
Archery  
Researching and Teaching  
Dancing  
Heavy Combat  
Scribal Arts  
Heraldry

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Thank you go out to my very efficient Web Minister for getting last months issue up and on the Web site within 24 hours of my turning it over to her AND for keeping up with the calendar of events so I don't have to. © She is quite amazing. Thanks Giovanna Rossellini di Firenze

Cover Art, Formatting, Issue Concept, and Editing are attempted by (Me) Baroness Marie-Thérèse Normand

# Chronicler

Greetings Ponte Alto,

Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement. Now that the first issue of the Il Tempo is out, I'd like to know what you think. Do you have any ideas you'd like for me to address, an art form, or a bit of history you know about that the populace might not? Send it in!

Now that I've begun to settle into the office of Chronicler, I need art, articles and trivia from history. If you give me enough history, you will be entitled to your own trivia page. How does that sound? However, you must provide the answers to the questions and they must be searchable either on wikipedia or the Ponte Alto website.

Thanks for all the submissions, ideas, and critiques for the last newsletter, it will help to get the next one and the following one out in better shape.

Now, comes the hard part. I need volunteers to edit and help with articles on A&S, Combat (fencing and heavy) and Service. I know many of you don't have the time to commit to this, but think about it, and if you have any old articles or art work that you would like to share, I'd like to publish them.

Beginning with the March-April issue, I would like to begin having submission for the Il Tempo by the prior month on the 20<sup>th</sup>. As you will have noticed, I'm going to start calling the issues by dual month names. This is because our meetings are so late in the month that by the time the issue is published the content for the calendar is out of date. So Jan-Feb newsletter covers the last weeks in the prior month and the following month. This will have an overlap in months and sometimes date and calendars but the content will be up to date with what's going on. So submissions for the next issue should be submitted on or before March 20<sup>th</sup> to give us enough time to figure out what is needed to round out the issue and what I still have to come up with. The only exceptions to this rule will be the offices of the Seneschal, the Exchequer and any Kingdom news that might be pertinent but arrives at the last minute, at the Baronial Meeting. There will always be something that comes in last minute, but without enough time to read, edit or look over for content newsletter it may not make the issue in question.

Thank you

Baroness Marie-Thérèse Normand  
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto

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&

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# Baronial Meeting Minutes

Meeting Started at 6:00 pm

## Officer's Reports

**Seneschal**—Marcellus Di Capizillo speaking for several of his officers.

Among other things basically we got the paperwork signed and sent off for the MOL's up and running.

**Exchequer.** The event (Tournament of Love and Beauty) went well/even with the parking situation we did well. Celia (the Exchequer) is doing moon shots and sent her report [Ponte Alto] has over \$12,000 in out account. Fighter's account has \$237. She's currently working on the Tournament of Love and Beauty accounts.

Seneschal. **Minister of the List (MOL)** recorded 22 fencers for Tournament of Love and Beauty with 2 authorizations and 19 heavy fighters, with 2 authorizations. 4 people took MOL classes offered and all four people are at the meeting (Cassandra, Dawn, Katherine and the New A&S champion) So Ponte Alto has a plethora of MOL's once they finish their on-the-job-training. We're covered for future events.

**Arts and Sciences.** A&S Meetings continuing as long as the weather permits. Scriptoriums continue. Alle Psallete is on hiatus until March.

**Chancellor of Youth Activities.** Not in attendance. Emma spoke briefly: Did have a corner at Tournament of Love and Beauty but no one really used it. Because of the snow parents kept their children close to them during the event.

**Knight Marshall**—Not in attendance. Katherine (Baroness) told the meeting she's spoken to him and he would be there.

**Rapier Marshall**—Rapier continues. The turnout is good but there will be no rapier on March 11 because the school is having an activity

**Archery Marshall**—Katherine (Baroness) told the meeting Archery tokens were handed out to people.

**Chatelaine**—15 people were in attendance at the last new comer's meeting. 4 were brand new and seven had been participating less than a year. A family from Germany that made the meeting even offered to host the April meeting in their home. The next meeting in March will be held at Jurgen's house on March 26.

**Herald**—Not in attendance. Katherine (Baroness) told the meeting Sian was working on at least one person's heraldry, Master James of Bibleworth (Baron)

**Chronicler**—My report was babble but basically went something like this. I have my warrant. I published the Jan/Feb issue of the Il Tempo to stay compliant. I was told it was already up on the web and exclaimed at how efficient the Web Minister is. Then I asked for the articles, art, pictures or how to papers so that I would have something to publish for the next issue. I then explained a little bit about wanting to raise money at the end of the year by selling a compilation CD/book of the Il Tempo to raise money for the chroniclers office so that we could buy things such as program upgrades or things of that nature. The KWM (kingdom web minister) pointed out that we could not own a license for programs because it would have to have a company or individual's name attached to it. I said I'd check into it. Then I encouraged submissions explaining I'd have to turn around and publish another addition of the Il Tempo within the week.

**Excellencies**— Baroness Katherine announced the Champion from Tournament of Love & Beauty:

Our new Art and Sciences Champion is Catelina; the new Bardic Champion is Pippa, and our new Warlord is Lucas which is just in time to lead our troops against everyone at Defending the Gate. Sian received a Garland much to her surprise since she was court herald at Tournament of Love and Beauty. Baroness Celia and Lady Pippa received an Undine. Emma received an Opal, Brennan a Coral Branch and Finally Cassandra received a fountain. The A&S champion who won with her 16<sup>th</sup> c Sweet Bag and Baroinial Brewer Henry West will travel with the Baron and Baroness to Kingdom Arts and Science Festival and show their work in the Baroinial Champion Displays.

Their Excellencies will be traveling to KAaSF, Defending the Gate, and St Paddy's Day Bloodbath.

Baronial Brewer claims his work will be ready for KAaSF. The Baroness says nay. But he may open a bottle of something he's got in the works now. Or maybe later at Pensic.

**Events:**

**Tournament of Love and Beauty:** Lady Emma speaks—Tournament of Love and Beauty happens. Thank God it's over! 150-160 people were recorded on site. 45 stayed to feast. The site fee of \$1440 was reduced because the barn had not been dug out so we did not claim it as used, which reduced the site fee from \$1440 to \$740. The break-even point then became around 40 people which we made with ease.

A couple of mugs were found at Tournament of Love and Beauty.

Brennan on Tournament of love and Beauty, Feast was a good experience working with Graceie. The feast came in under budget.

**St Paddy's Day Bloodbath:** There was some reservations about renting to us this year because there were problems last year, but he smoothed them over. Has MICs for fencing, and heavy. Lit is taking care of lunch

Question was asked about when we make the decision to pull the event because werather has been so bad. The decision was for the Sunday/ Monday before the event as Marcellus travels past the park on his way to and from work everyday he could keep and eye on it. We'll see.

**Pensic:** Still looking for a land agent. If anyone knows anyone that would like to do it Please contact Baroness Katherine.

**Chalice:** not much has been anoned about the event except the theme. Has a MIC, but no name was given, so maybe that's Marcellus and he just wasn't told.

**Old Business:**

Coranets. Still no info on them.

**New Business:**

N/A

**Announcements:**

Brewing class will be held at a date to be announced at a future time by Henry West. He is just waiting on the delivery of a shipment of 5lbs of honey.

**6:18 meeting over.**

**10 attendees**

# Monthly Calendar

February/March 2010						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
22 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	23 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts	24 7 pm - 9 pm Armoring Night	25 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	26 7 pm - 9 pm Newcomer's Meeting	27 Nottingham Coill's Baronial Birthday and Investiture A Day in the Middle East 11 am - 7 pm Baron and Baroness Open House	28 <b>Nottingham Coill's Baronial Birthday and Investiture 6 pm Business Meeting</b>
MARCH 1 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	2 Fiber Arts Night at Bevin's	3	4 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	5	6 Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival	7 <b>1:30-4:30 Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice</b>
8 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	9 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts	10 7 pm - 9 pm A&S Night	11 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	12	13 St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath	14 Gulf Wars
14 Gulf Wars 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	16 Gulf Wars 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts	17 Gulf Wars	18 Gulf Wars 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	19 Gulf Wars	20 Gulf Wars	21 Gulf Wars <b>1:30-4:30 Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice</b>
22 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	23 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts	24 7 pm - 9 pm Armoring Night	25 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	26 7pm Newcomers Meeting	27 Defending the Gate	28 Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting
29 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto / Stierbach Archery Practice	30 6:30 pm - 9 pm Fiber Arts	31	April 1 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	2	3	4

\* = **Baronial Progress**

# Weekly Activities

Weaving night will resume in March on the Second Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

Armoring night will resume in March on the Fourth Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

SUNDAY	
<b>Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting</b>	Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idlywood Road, Falls Church. Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idlywood Rd., Falls Church. Take your best route to I-66. Get off at the exit for Route 7 West (Tysons Corner). Turn left at the first light after the interchange onto Idlywood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.
<b>Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</b>	Weather permitting, Noon - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for information. Sunday Fight Practice Directions. Practice is behind the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). The library is on the left about 1 mile. Park in the library lot and go down the hill to the park.
MONDAY	
<b>Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)</b>	On Haitus until March (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 <a href="http://www.ravenstreet.org/Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm">http://www.ravenstreet.org/Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm</a> and on the Yahoo Group AllePsallite.
TUESDAY	
<b>Ponte Alto Scriptorium</b>	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.
THURSDAY	
<b>Rapier Practice</b>	Every Thursday at Shrevewood Elementary school from 6-9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information. Indoor Rapier Directions. This is a school location activity.
<b>Heavy Weapons Practice</b>	Lemon Road Elementary School on Idlywood Road, 6-9 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	
<b>Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice</b>	Fridays from 4:30-8 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: <a href="http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html">http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html</a> .
<b>Ponte Alto A&amp;S Night</b>	May meet on a Friday during the month, as posted at the top of this page. Contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (dwatsonirwin AT cox.net, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for information and directions.
<b>Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic</b>	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**

<b>SCA Newcomer Meetings</b>	<p>Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony.</p> <p>Contact the Baronial Chatelaine for information, or check out the top of this page for the recently posted information.</p> <p>Friday, March 26th starting at 7pm at Lord Jurgen's house. Their address is 4964 Swinton Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032. If you get lost call me on my cell at 301-943-2469.</p>
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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>

**Baronial Progress for February/March**

Date	Event	
March 6	Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival	James and Katharine
March 13	St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath	James and Katharine

**February/March 2010 Calendar of Scheduled Events**

Date	Event	Group	Location
Feb 27	A Day in the Middle East	Dun Carraig	Mechanicsville, MD
27-28	Nottingham Coill Baronial Birthday and Investiture (R)	Nottingham Coill	Clinton, SC
Mar 6	Kingdom Arts and Science Festival	Tir-y-Don	Newport News, VA
12-14	Tir y don Baronial Birthday	Tir-y-Don	Lanexa, VA
13	St Urho's Tourney	Salesberie Glen	Salisbury, NC
13	A Roxbury Collegium	Roxbury Mill	Damascus, MD
13	St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath	Ponte Alto	Vienna, VA
14-21	Gulf Wars XIX (R, H)	Gleann Abhann	
27	Defending the Gate (R)	Sudentorre	Spotsylvania, VA
27-28	Feast of St. Pyr VII	Black Diamond	Blacksburg, VA
April 2-4 2010	Night on the Town	Lochmere	Annapolis, MD

# My Barony Is Better Than Your Barony!

Articles of fiction and history By Baroness Marie-Thérèse Normand

My barony is better than yours is!

When I heard the words for the first time I wanted to turn around and argue with a ten-year-old. Yes, me, the big strong fighter chic and most excellent Baroness Marie-Therese. At the time, I was standing by my day shade getting some water and wondering what my next meet and beat was going to be like. The kid was someone I didn't know, but he was arguing loudly with another girl about how great it was to be able to do archery and such. I turned my attention away from the fighting, outraged that anyone would make such a sweeping statement, and of course, being of the mind that my barony was the best. I listened for a short time while the loud kid went on and on about what his barony was like. They had fighting but no fencing. They had archery but no siege. They had knights but no laurels and so on. The more and more the boy boasted about how great his barony was, the more and more I began to smile and have pride in mine.

I was eventually called to the field to do battle and fought my hardest but was shortly thereafter defeated.

When I returned to my tent, the boy who'd been boasting had shut up long enough for his compatriot, a girl of about the same age as he, to start in on why her barony was the best. Her barony had not one, but two queens. The people in her barony got to go to feasts, and cook, and play cool games at events, and help water bare, and sew cool costumes to wear to events, and put on plays, and singing, and all sorts of other stuff the other kid's barony didn't get to do.

The argument went back and forth for sometime. I had enough time to get some fruit into my system, re-buckle my elbow and pull out a fruit punch sippy bag and down it while the boasted about there local group. The girl's group had sewing and fighting and monarchs and pelicans. But neither one of them had all of the things the others had. One had monarchs but no knights; The other had knights but no fencers. It went back and forth for a good little while until the adult in charge of the two separated them and sent them in opposite directions with an admonishment to stop yelling and stop bothering the populace.

When they left, I ticked off which each had. One had said they had fighting, archery and knights; the other had said they had sewing, costuming, plays, singing, cooking, queens, feasts, cool games they got to play, and the privilege to help with water bearing. Well, I said to myself, My barony has knights, past monarchs, laurels, pelicans, proteges, squires, apprentices, fencing, archery, fighting, historic martial arts, training, string art, service, cooking, sewing, costuming and a whole slew of other things that I could barely remember in the heat of the day, at an event far away from my home barony. And, I thought to myself, if I wanted to, I could do all of that every single night of the week and more.

In my mind as I stood there watching the two kids glare at each other across the list field, I knew who had the better barony and I didn't have to argue the point at the top of my lungs to get an affirmative on that. I knew in my heart that Ponte Alto was the better barony.

# Games

## Alquerque

### History

The game does not appear in literature until late in the 10th century when the author Abu al-Faraj al-Isfahani mentioned Qirkat in his 24 volume work *Kitab al-Aghani* ("Book of Songs"). This work, however, made no mention of the rules of the game. In *Board and Table Games from Many Civilizations*, R. C. Bell writes that "when the Moors invaded Spain they took El-quirkat with them".[1] Rules are included in *Libro de los juegos* ("Book of games") commissioned by Alfonso X of Castile in the 13th century.

### Rules

At the start of the game the players place their 12 stones in the 2 back rows—the rows closest to each player—and the two right most positions in the middle row. The game is played in turns with one player taking blue and the other player taking white.

A stone can move to any adjacent empty spot. A stone can jump over an opposing stone and remove it from play as long as the stone is in an adjacent position along one of the lines on the board and the otherside of the stone in the direction of the move is empty. Multiple jumps in this fashion are possible and cannot be ignored by the player if they are possible or the attacking player can have their stone removed from play. This is called being huffed. If a capture is possible it must be made or else the attacking players piece is huffed removing it from play.

The goal of the game is to eliminate the opponent's pieces.

### Additional rules

1. A piece cannot move backward (e.g., a piece in the middle of an empty board would have five available moves)
2. No piece can return to a point it has previously occupied
3. Once a piece has reached the opponent's back row it can only move to capture opposing pieces
4. The game is won when either; the opponent has lost all of his pieces or none of the opponent's pieces are able to move

Sources:

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alquerque>

*Board and Table Games from Many Civilizations*, R. C. Bell

*ALQUERQUE*, by Modar Neznanich

