



The Nottingham Quill

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COVER PHOTO BY
BRIAN OF SHARP'S KEEP

DRAGON'S FIRE III

MAY 18, 2024

DAME DELIA AND MAGISTRA ETAIN
INVESTIGATE A NEWLY ARRIVED SEA
DRAGON.



BARONIAL REGNUM

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Nottingham Coill Baronial Champions

Archery	Lady Anneke inghean Mhurchadha
Armored Combat	Jack of St. Georges
Arts & Sciences	Fergus Uilleam Kinloch
Bardic	Lord Snorri “Big Crunch” Halfdan
Rapier	Lord Lucio Malatesta
Cut & Thrust	Lady MeiLan Hua
Thrown Weapons	Gunnulf Hrórkr
Brewing	Lady Mór Gwyn
Brewing (youth)	Valentine of Windmaster’s Hill

A Note from Their Excellencies...



Photo credit: Mistress Machteld Cleine

Greetings to Our Wonderful Barony.

As we settle down into the slower summer season, I'd still like to remind everyone to stay hydrated, sun-blocked, and look out for each other.

We know many of you are prepping for Pennsic, and hope everyone attending has a wonderful war! We are unfortunately unable to attend this year, but know that those of you going will represent both our fine Barony and our great Kingdom well.

Even if you aren't attending Pennsic, this is a great time to check your gear and start on projects for your kit & camp setup. Fall camping season starts in September, which will be here much sooner than we think. As we all know weather in this region is uncertain in the fall. It could be sunny and 95 degrees out, or pouring rain and 35 degrees. And flip back and forth from one day to the next. June and July are a great time to fill in the gaps in your wardrobe be it for hot or cold weather. It's also a great time to re-waterproof your tent seams,

make that new piece of camp furniture you've been wanting, or plan and test easy war cooking recipes.

As always: have fun, make stuff, do stuff, and we look forward to seeing you at a future event.

We remain In Service,

Líkerion & Ceara

Posadník & Posadnitsa Nottingham Coill

Baronial Progress:

June

June 15: Not Quite Quarterly Braggín' Rights IV

July

July 13: Warrior's Games

August

August 17: Baronial Picnic and Scíbal Workshop

From the Seneschal's Desk...



Greetings unto the populace of Nottingham Coill. You will notice a few changes and additions to our baronial Regnum in this edition. I would like to thank everyone that found a niche to volunteer. I send thanks to Baroness Gwenfrewi of Abergavenny for her faithful service as Chronicler and producing our baronial newsletter for these past years. And I welcome Baron Dressel of Seven Bends as our new Chronicler and his first edition of our beloved Quill.

We have a lot of wheels in motion and are looking for help as we move onward in this year. Not Quite Quarterly Bragging Rights will be looking for a lot of help on June 15th. We have secured a date for our annual Baronial Picnic and a Scribal Workshop, Saturday, August 17th, at Dreher Island State Park, the same location as past picnics. This week the contract and payment will be mailed in for Yule Toy Tourney, weekend of December 13-15, 2024.

We are still searching for a new Baronial Exchequer, I will be taking the Exchequer classes at University to ensure I understand more about that office. Please if you are interested send in a letter of interest to the baron, the baroness, or myself. I have also learned that Lord Éamonn mac Riogháhardáin wishes to step down from his role on the Baronial Financial Committee. This position is specific to our Baronial Financial Policy to have one member of our barony serve along with the Exchequer and the Seneschal on financial matters for the

good stewardship of our treasury. The individual will be authorized to sign checks and that will allow us to meet corporate requirements to always have two people able to sign all checks issued by the Exchequer.

When our new Exchequer is warranted, we will be creating a deputy position of Quartermaster who will see to the care of all Baronial possessions. This would include things like chairs, tapestries, banners, curtain walls, etc.

On a personal note - I am having spinal fusion surgery in June, scheduled for the 20th but that date might be moved earlier. I have had a previous spinal surgery and 15 years of nerve blocks and radiofrequency ablations (RFA) on my lumbar area. This is all related to a car accident from 40 years ago when I lived in Charleston, was 20-something, and before seat belts were required. I will be absent for a while during my recovery. I am still available by email and Facebook.

Lord Roderick Mund

Vivant, Hooray, and Congratulations!

At Dragon's Fire the Golden Cord was awarded to those gentles who have enriched the Barony and its populace through Service -

Master Geldamar le farceur

Mistress Etain of Sutherland

Mistress Collwen ferch Dafydd Caerllion

m'lord Brian of Sharpe's Keep

Their Excellencies were also pleased to name two more champions -

Lady Mór Gwyn for brewing

m'lady Valentine of Windmaster's Hill for youth brewing

Dragon's Fire also featured one of the Titan's Challenge Tourneys, and 2 more worthy individuals gained the trident that will admit them to the final challenge -

Master Ackbar ibn Ali for armored combat

Master Lucien de la Rochelle for rapier combat

Also at Dragon's Fire, two Peers took on new students -

Magister Elphin ap Dafyd took Baroness Gwenfrewi of Abergavenny as a protégé.

Sensei Mizuno Sakami took Lady Hextilda Violet MacLean as an apprentice.

Congratulations to all these individuals on their accomplishments!

Vanilla Mead

an ancient drink, with modern conveniences

By Lady Mór Gwyn

I want to first thank the judges and Their Excellencies for considering me a baronial champion! I am always surprised when someone loves my art, even if it's the drinkable kind. I love to create simply for the act of creating. To create is to knock on the sky and listen for the sound! I want to also thank my Laurel, Marion, who always motivates me and teaches me how to document, she is my greatest cheerleader; my dear friend Robear, who guides me in my brewing journey and gives me wonderful advice to make my mead even better; my friends who are always happy to taste my mead and always help in any way they can; and most importantly my husband who always encourages me to be better, create better, and do better. He never lets me forget my worth even if I do sometimes.



This was my fifth batch of mead. To me, mead is deceptively simple. You can mix a mead the same way each time and it will taste different each time. To me, mixing and fermenting is only half of the job. I always put my mead where it can be in the “mix”, right in the middle of where we move about from day to day. It seems to make a more delicious batch of mead. Scientifically, this is probably because of a strong air flow, a regulated temperature, and a daily watchful eye to make sure it isn't jostled. Metaphysically, if you believe everything has a spirit, I like to think the mead feels loved and included. Everything thrives when it's loved more.



To make my mead, I used 27 pounds of medium quality honey. Not top-of-the-line raw organic, and not imitation bottom shelf honey bear honey. Four vanilla beans, which to me impart an extremely pleasant, gentle flavor that is almost imperceptible but is still there. Three packets of red star yeast, Premier Cuvée. This yeast had the highest fermentation temperature, and the highest amount of things it could make taste good. We keep our house relatively warm, between 75° and 78°, since we are from a much hotter part of the country. With this batch, I introduced two new things: boiling the honey and what's called tannins.

Tannins seem to add a deeper flavor and reduce off-putting flavors from forming. First racking was at 6 weeks. Racking is what you do when a lot of sediment, or lees, forms on the bottom of your brewing vessel. Leaving the mead in this can often cause the



mead to be a yeasty flavor, or even have a distinct sulfur flavor. To rack, a new sanitized bottle is placed below the old one on a stool or lower counter top, so that gravity can feed into the new vessel quickly. Seal with an air lock to allow carbon dioxide out but no air in, and place out of the sun and in not-too-hot and not-too-cold temperatures. Right now, I am at the first racking stage. In a few months, I will probably rack again depending on the sediment level (since the yeast is still alive, it is still reproducing and changing those sugars to alcohol and carbon dioxide). If I bottled it while it is still fizzy from the yeast, it could make fizzy mead, but it could also create bottle bombs depending on the

activity and temperature. I like to avoid those. I will take un-fizzy mead over those any day.

As your baronial brewing champion, I will be making more mead soon for people to enjoy responsibly. I'll continue learning and trying new things! Please look for me and my mead over the next year at events within four hours of Aiken, SC. I also occasionally bring it to our Tuesday night fighter practice and A&S nights, so if you happen to be down here, please join us! If you see me at an event, please don't be afraid to ask me questions, and again, please don't be afraid to give me advice! Lastly, we'll be holding our annual event Not Quite Quarterly Braggin' Rights IV on June 15th, which is also a Titan Tournament, and A&S contest and display! The site is dry, but the after party will have some of my delicious mead! Mór Please! :)



Sources:

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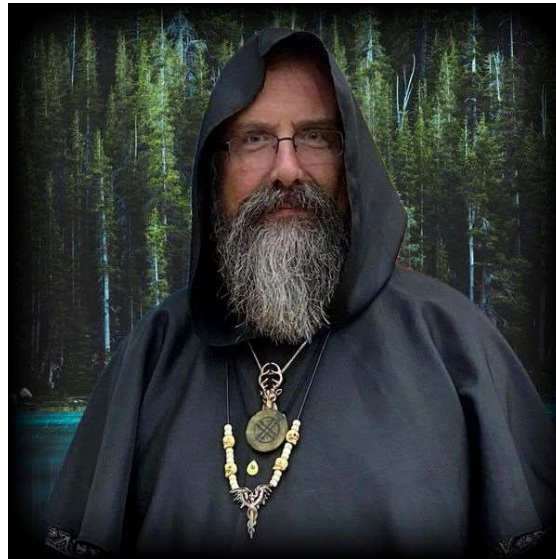
6. The Life of Spice, The Herb Society Of Nashville,

Photo credit: Brian of Scharp's Keep





Chatelain's Point



Greetings and Well Met!

A few months ago, I mentioned that the Chatelain's office exists to help recruit new members; educate them on the culture and traditions of the SCA; and to encourage and assist the retention of existing members. In reality, these are things that every SCAdian can help support, but some group officers have responsibilities that directly support that work. Chroniclers, Social Media Officers, and Web Ministers can all help with member outreach and communication by making it a priority to make their respective publications accessible and to ensure that contact information is easy to find, complete, and up to date.

*There was a time when the only official SCA group communications were conducted live at official events or contained in the printed kingdom or local newsletter – online media of any kind was entirely unofficial and could not be used for *any* official communication. Times have changed and the SCA has embraced a variety of online media as official channels of communication complete with warranted officers to oversee that media. The first contact many potential new members have with the SCA is through social media and SCA web sites. This is why it is so important to actively provide contact information on*

SCA websites and associated with SCA social media channels. How can you help? By keeping that information up to date and accurate.

After recruitment, there is the more complicated work of retention. Aside from a handful of employees at the corporate level, the SCA is utterly dependent on volunteers to survive and flourish. There are literally shelves full of books on volunteer retention and I won't try to summarize them here. I will only suggest this: The SCA's main currency can arguably be characterized as "fun", which often equates with being "seen" by your fellows. People who aren't having fun – in whatever SCA related way they personally experience fun – tend not to hang around.

Acknowledging that there are some people who genuinely prefer to work invisibly behind the scenes, most people like to be seen and recognized. It can be as little as expressing gratitude for volunteering for a job or just complimenting someone on their garb. Or, it could be an award recommendation. As a transplant to Atlantia, local awards are still a bit of a mystery, but it takes only a small effort to look them up and determine which awards may be appropriate for a recommendation. So ask yourself, "What can I do to make the SCA more fun for my fellows?"

I look forward to meeting more of you during the coming months as we all journey forward into the past!

Yours in Service,

[Macsen ap Rhys \(Link to wiki\)](#)

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"We may recreate pre-17th century history, but we live in the 21st century. Take advantage of available technology. Web pages, mailing lists, social media, and instant messaging are very useful tools for attracting newcomers and maintaining contact. Your local group's website should be interesting, informative, quick to download, and easy to navigate. It should, at a minimum, contain local contact information, an activities calendar, and some general information about the SCA and your local group..." – [Atlantian Chatelain's Handbook](#)

Upcoming Events of Interest

*Complete Atlantian calendar can be found at
<https://atlantia.sca.org/calendar/>*

Local Activities

Contact local seneschals for details

Cyddlan Downs has fighter practices/A&S gatherings most Tuesdays.

Falcon Cree has various activities most Tuesdays, and fighter practices many Saturdays.

Ritterwald has fighter practices/A&S gatherings most Tuesdays.

Saint Georges has A&S gatherings on the first Thursday of each month.

June - 2024

06-15: *Not Quite Quarterly Braggin' Rights: Aiken SC
(Ritterwald)*

*06-21 - 06-23 Inter-Kingdom Fighter Practice: Bryson City NC
(Stormwall)*

06-28 - 06-30 *Atlantian Bardic Madness: Matthews NC (Atlantia)*

July - 2024

*07-05 - 07-07 Kingdom War Practice II: Boonville NC
(Sacred Stone)*

07-13 *Warrior's Games 2024: Harleyville SC*
(Tear-Sea's Shore)

07-26 - 08-11 *Pennsic War: (Aethelmearc)*

August - 2024

08-17 *Nottingham Coill Baronial Picnic: Prosperity SC*
 (Nottingham Coill)

Diary of a Crazy Chronicler

It's been just over 40 years since I last published an issue of The Quill, and about the only thing that hasn't changed is the title of the newsletter. I could say quite a lot about the changes in technology—no more re-typing an entire page to fix one mistake! No more licking stamps! But those changes aren't the most significant ones.

Forty years ago, there was no internet and social media; we were dependent on USPS to deliver our information about anything SCA-related. In that environment, baronial newsletters filled an important role in getting information out, especially information that wouldn't fit into the Acorn.

But now, all that information is easily found on Kingdom websites and local group Facebook pages or Discord servers.

So what is the Quill still good for?

Well, there is the requirement that baronies publish newsletters, but I think it can be a lot more than just that. I think the Quill can be, and should be, a showcase for the people of Nottingham Coill—who we are, and what we do.

But that's not a goal I can achieve by myself. I've approached a number of you about writing articles—the first one is elsewhere in this issue—and I intend to ask more of you to do so.

But don't wait for me to ask. Everyone has material for the Quill in them, whether they realize it or not. Share what you learned diving down that latest rabbit hole. Feastcrats, write down that recipe that everyone's asking about. Let us know how you made your latest project, or tell about an event you had a wonderful time at. Share an original poem or bit of prose. The possibilities are endless.

I challenge you to give me the problem most chroniclers never know—more material than I know what to do with.

Special thanks to Their Excellencies Líkerion and Ceara, for trusting me with this responsibility; to Baroness Gwenfrewi, who's done it for the past two years; and to Lady Merewyn Sharp, for endless technical assistance and proofreading. Believe me, you didn't want to see the early drafts!

See you next month -

Dressel

Contributors

***Brian of Scharp's Keep** is the husband of Lady Merewyn Scharp. Brian resides in the Canton of Cyddlan Downs. In addition to being his wife's right-hand man for running events, he also enjoys shenanigans and archery.*

***Lady Merewyn Scharp** is a resident of the Canton of Cyddlan Downs. She is proteged to Master Elphin ap Daffyd and relishes every opportunity to serve as an event steward. She is also the Baronial webminister. Lady Merewyn also enjoys almost all activities that involve fiber or yarn, having a dragon's hoard of such things in her craft room.*

***Arglwydd Macsen ap Rhys of Wyvern Hall** is a 14th-century CE Welsh yeoman longbowman named after the legendary Macsen Wledig (Magnus Maximus), the 4th-century CE Celtiberian Emperor of Rome. He fought as a contractually indentured mounted archer in the Hundred Years War and achieved enough favor to be awarded arms. During his indenture, Macsen served for a time as a man-at-arms to a renowned Scottish archer who schooled him in bowmanship and fletchcraft. While Macsen's first choice is the longbow, he has been known to pick up a crossbow at need.*

***Lady Mór Gwyn** is an Irish Gaelic woman from the 12th century. She is that in name only, as she enjoys wearing many dresses of different time periods for the fun of it. She holds a baronial Golden Knot for her art, the position of Ritterwald webminister, the position of Ritterwald deputy MoAS, and is the Nottingham Coill Baronial Brewing Champion. She just passed her two year anniversary in the SCA!*

***Lord Roderick Mund** attended his first event in 2018 at Dragon's Fire, since then he has been to War of the Wings, Gulf Wars, and Pennsic. He is currently the Seneschal for Nottingham Coill and the Notifications Herald (the Opal) for Atlantia. He enjoys learning and learning and learning about all that the SCA has to offer including fiber arts, calligraphy, illumination, kitchen work, archery, and making camp life easier. He resides in Falcon Cree.*