



The Yeoman



**Newsletter of The Barony of Bright Hills
July 2017 • Volume 31, Issue 7**

Trial by Fire - A Teaser in Verse by Deirdre O'Bardon

The archers are shooting
For glory and fame
Their prize – Lochmere Arrow
If they hit where they aim.

The scents from the cook fires
Delighting your nose
Now you smile with pleasure
As your appetite grows

You can hear the bards singing
Or telling marvelous tales
With the flames leaping higher
And all quaffing their ales

It is magic that weekend
With so much to inspire
So won't you please join us
At Trial by Fire?



Trial by Fire is September 8-10 at the Baltimore Bowmen in Bright Hills. We hope to see you there!

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A Note from Your Chronicler

Pennsic Wars is looming in the near future. Some will attend and others will stay back and keep our home fires burning. As you prepare for a total immersion into this game we play, let us do so with integrity and joy in our accomplishments. Let us find ways to serve others in the background where no one sees to fill the pockets of the heart. The heat will be intense and sometimes tempers flair, so let us calm our spirits with good friends, good music and stories and of course good food. Please remember to stay hydrated and enjoy the journey. See you at the war!

Yours in Story, Song and Service,
Lady Scholastica Joycors
Chronicler of Bright Hills

Credits

Cover photo by Wanda Ostojowna at Pennsic 45
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This is the July 2017, issue of *The Yeoman*, the official newsletter of the Kingdom of Atlantia. Atlantia is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and *The Yeoman* is published as a service to the SCA's membership. Subscriptions are available only to members. This newsletter is available online at <http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/home/talon> for current Sustaining and International members. Memberships are available from the Member Services Office, SCA, Inc., P.O. Box 360789, Milpitas, CA 95036- 0789. All changes of address or questions about subscriptions should be sent to the Corporate Office.

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THE BARONY OF BRIGHT HILLS

Greetings unto all that call themselves Bright Hills. Whether they be citizens by zip code or choose to come and play, we welcome you all.

With a full spring and early summer schedule it is still very hard to believe that the summer is already peaking and bearing quickly towards that pinnacle known as Pennsic War. So many preparations taking place for those that are planning on attending. Sewing circles, wood working, and plans on how to pack ...all...that.. stuff.... All are in the works and in full swing.

For those that plan to attend the war in Pennsylvania please note the highlights of our scheduling. There are many other items on our "To do" list but these are items that are close to our heart. If you would like to retain for us during any of the events in our schedule below, please contact us personally.

Saturday Mid War will be the Saint Sebastian's Shoot from 9am to 4pm. Come on up and check out all of the hard work the archers put in, in preparing for this fun event. We are hoping to make it up there first thing in the morning.

Later Saturday we would love to see you at Procession and Opening Ceremonies. We will post the time and location to meet as we get closer to the date.

Sunday will be the last Lochmere Pennsic Court of Baron Gabrell and Baroness Avice. Please come and join us as we celebrate all that they have accomplished. There has been a promise that this will not be a teetotaler's event. So please be certain to bring a mug or drinking vessel of choice. Maybe we will be honored by a serving or two of their signature cocktail as we are planning on bringing our, now even more renowned cocktail, Bright Hills Sling. Confirmation of time is forthcoming.

Monday of war week you can find both of us on the heavy field for the battles of the day. Monday evening will be Bright Hill's Open House, graciously hosted by House Black Star and the inexhaustible Cook's Guild. There is a rumor that their Majesties are interested in joining our party for a short while to greet our populace. This is not a guarantee as their Majesties have a very busy schedule but they have expressed their desire to do so.

Tuesday is a busy one with all of the Known World Baronial Champions Tournaments all happening on the same day. You will find us out on the fields most of the day starting at 9am till 4pm.

Wednesday will be seeing his Excellency at the Heavy Weapons Woods Battle in the morning and then both of us in the Combat Archer/Siege Battle that afternoon. Later in the evening we look forward to seeing you at Atlantian Court. We have been informed that it will be held in the Great Hall beginning at 6pm.

Thursday will see us close to the barn as A & S will be competing for war point. We have one of our own submitting her portion so come and show your support.

Friday will again see both of us on the battle field in the morning before finally calling it done.

This is a partial listing of our schedule so do not be surprised if we come upon you with a hearty back slap and a hug as you are out and about. And for those that cannot attend, we make a promise of wondrous stories to tell upon our return.

Yours in Service and Gratitude,

KOLLACK AND REBECCA VON ZWECKEL
Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills



Bright Hills Officers and Guild Reports

There was no physical meeting because our meeting place was being used for a wedding, therefore it was decided that reports would be sent in and published.

Officer Reports:

Seneschal: Lady Ailis inghean uì Bhriain — Sent in a bid for Fall University.

Chronicler: Lady Scholastica Joycors — Yeoman sent out on time.

Exchequer: Lady Clara — No report.

Webminister: Lord Janyan Fletcher of Lancastreschire— No report.

Heralds Report: Lord Richard Wyn — No report.

A&S Report: Lord Alexander de Burdegala — Continue supporting active guilds and helping to restart and promote guilds that are inactive.

Chatelain Report: Lady Rebekkah Samuel — Mike Shipway (Micheliczio il Matto): returning Matt Taylor: Steppingstone Demo. Descendant (14th grandfather) of an Anglican Archdeacon Rowland Taylor who was Bloody Mary martyr. Margaret Tinsdale: (14th grandmother) niece of William Tinsdale (Translated Bible from Latin to English; burned at the stake). Sam: attending a modern event at same hotel as KWDMS and noticed us. His wife does spinning, both drop spindle and wheel. KWDMS: Parker 23 and Wallace 22 Mom is Patricia Brierley-Bowers played in BH until 2000s Dad is Keith

Knights Marshall: Lord Randver Askmadr— No report.

Minister of the List: Lord Alexander Fowler — After contact with KMOL 3 fighter renewals were updated on data base. Also my warrant was corrected.

Youth Minister: Lady Katarzyna Witkowska— No report.

Guild Reports:

Armors – No report.

Bardic Circle — Attending Known World Dance Symposium June 16-18

Brewers – No report

Cheese Mongers: Master Chirhart— No report.

Clothiers – No report.

Cooks Guild: Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri —

Herb Group – Faolan Mac Raghnaill— Focused on planting black currents and haskap berries. Working on cultivating honey this year too.

PAGE : Lady Yseulte — No report.

St. Matthias – No report.

Scriptorium: Lady Aemilia Rosa — No report.

TAG — Mistress Brienna Llewellyn — No report

Woodworkers – No report.

Next meeting: July 14, 2017

Any additions or corrections to these minutes should be sent to Lady Scholastica at totallystories@gmail.com

Border: Book of Hours, Belgium, possibly Ghent, 140-90

↔ UPCOMING EVENTS ↔

Assessment

July 07- 09, 2017 • Barony of Black Diamond

Come and try your skills on the field in a last chance gathering prior to Pennsic

merchandise. That evening, the MPP will present a free performance of William Shakespeare's "Troilus and Cressida". Blankets, chairs, sunscreen and cash are recommended. Garb is encouraged but not required for newcomers. Merchants should contact the autocrat for space. Set up starts at 9:00, demo begins at noon.

Montford Midsummer Faire Demo

July 15, 2017 • Barony of Hawkwood

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1944919285745059/?acontext=%7B%22sourc>

FREE EVENT! Sharpen your skills before Pennsic. The Montford Park Players and The Barony of Hawkwood invite you to join them for a day celebrating the best of Medieval and Renaissance Europe. Come fight, play and show the public how great it is to be part of the SCA. We had over 500 attendees last year. Excellent opportunity for newcomers. Participate in demonstrations of armored fighting, rapier fighting, thrown weapons, dancing, leatherworking, blacksmithing, games, crafts, arts and sciences. Children can make their own shield and get their faces painted. We hope to have a couple of food trucks. Booths will be selling period-inspired

Pennisic War 46

July 28 - August 13, 2017 • Slippery Rock, PA

A two-week medieval encampment designed as a Medieval "War" between the Kingdoms of the East and the Middle of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Pennsic is also the largest SCA event, with activities include large melee battles, tournaments, archery, stage performances, dancing, and hundreds of classes on medieval topics.

<http://www.pennsicwar.org/penn46/>

Atlantian Calendar of Events

July 2017			
7-9	Assessment	Black Diamond	Appomattox River, VA
15	Montford Midsummer Faire Demo	Hawkwood	Ashville, NC
28-13	Pennisic War (R)	Aethelmearc	Slippery Rock, PA
August 2017			
1-13	Pennisic War (R)	Aethemearc	Slippery Rock, PA
26	St. David's Market Day and Fair	Aire Faucon	Dallas, NC
September 2017			
8-10	Raven's Cove Baronial Birthday (R)	Raven's Cove	
8-10	Trial by Fire	Bright Hills	Glen Arm, MD
8-10	Rip Rap War	Mariunus	Courtland, VA
8-10	Southern War Practice IX	Ritterwald	New Ellenton, SC
16	Fall University	Atlantia	
22-24	Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday and Investiture (Q)	Sacred Stone	Blacksburg, SC
22-24	Battle on the Bay & Lochmere Investiture (K)	Lochmere	Upper Marlboro, MD
29-1	Bash with Bacchus	Seven Hills	Big Island, VA
29-1	War of the Eight Saints	Hawkwood	Marion, NC

Lore from the Larder



illumination from The Luttrell Psalter

The Humble Strawberrye

by Lady Scholastica Joycors

Medieval recipes for summer fruit are rare. Strawberries, raspberries, brambles, blue and blackberries; they were all eaten as we like to eat them; 'straight from the bush', but you don't need a recipe for that. This wild strawberry or the *Fragaria vesca* is smaller than our strawberries today and littered the woodlands throughout Europe; just like the ones you find growing in your lawn sometimes today. The strawberries we eat today are varieties from American (North and South) strawberries. These were introduced in Europe in the seventeenth century.

Cultivated strawberries didn't occur until the early 1300's in France and mostly in home gardens. Then in 1368, King Charles V had 1200 strawberry plants planted in his Parisian gardens at The Louvre blanketing it in a sea of red. A few years later the Duke and Duchess of Burgundy planted a flour-block area on their estate near Dijon in strawberries.

The strawberry, a sweet member of the rose family, came to prominence around 1560 when Bruyerin-Champier, King Henry IV's physician reported that the English ladies were quite fond of strawberries and had even begun to plant them in their gardens so that they could indulge in A Dysschefull of Snowe or what we have come to call Strawberries and Cream. The wild strawberry was also used in medieval cooking to make strawberry wine, jams, jellies, tarts and strawberry shortcake. Aside from being used in cooking the humble strawberry was used in myth and legends and medicinal uses.

Interesting Tidbits:

- 🍓 The medieval people believed that the strawberry represented righteousness and perfection and it's likeness was often carved into altars and pillars and around colonnades and pillars at churches and cathedrals to symbolize these desirable traits. Artist frequently depicted the Virgin Mary with strawberries to symbolize perfection and righteousness.
- 🍓 Fresh wild strawberries were often only eaten by the peasants, because the nobility thought that raw food such as fresh fruit was suspicious or dangerous. Thus, the sweet strawberry was served cooked, boiled, or baked at important events to bring about peace and prosperity.
- 🍓 Pregnant women of the this period avoided eating or even touching raw or cooked strawberries due to the superstition that their babies would be born with a strawberry-shaped birthmark.
- 🍓 The strawberry was used as a medicinal herb as *Fragaria vesca* and was believed that it would help sunburn pain, skin blemishes, brighten discolored teeth and cure various digestive ailments such as diarrhea, upset stomachs and gout.
- 🍓 In the late 12th century, Abbess Saint Hildegard von Binger, announced that one should not eat strawberries because they grew on the ground where toads and snakes crept over them, making them unclean. Local

political figures spread this fallacy and discouraged people from eating strawberries, this lasted for several years.

- 🍓 In Norse mythology Oden's wife, Friggia gave strawberries as a symbol to the spirits of young children who had died in infancy who would then ascend to heaven hidden within a strawberry.
- 🍓 Freyia, the Norse goddess associated with love, sex, beauty, fertility, gold, seiðr, war, and death used the strawberry as one of her symbols and her sacred food.

Bibliography:

<http://www.coquinaria.nl/english/recipes/03.4histrecept.htm>

<https://abbeymedievalfestival.com/category/medieval-householding/>



A Dysschefull of Snowe – Strawberries on Snow

(A Proper Newe Book of Cokery c.1575)

To make dyschefull of Snowe: Take a pottel of swete thycke creame and the whytes of eyghte egges, and beate them altogether wyth a spon, then putte them in youre creame and a saucerful of Rosewater, and a dyshe full of Suger wyth all, then take a stick and make it cleane, and than cutte it in the ende foure squire, and therwith beate all the aforesayde thynges together, and as ever it ryseth takeit of and put it into a Collaunder, this done take one apple and set it in the myddes of it, and a thick bushe of Rosemary, and set it in the myddes of the platter, then cast your Snowe uppon the Rosemary and fyll your platter therwith. And yf you have wafers cast some in wyth all and thus serve them forthe.

To Make a tarte of Strawberries. Wash your strawberries, and put them into your Tarte, and season them with suger, cynamon and Ginger, and put in a littl red wine into them. (*The Good Housewife's Jewell*, T. Dawson)

Redacted Recipe:

Snow:

8 egg whites	2 pints strawberries
1 pint whipping cream	1 cup red wine
1/2 cup sugar	1/4 cup sugar
1-2 Tbsp. rose water	1/2 tsp. cinnamon
	1/4 tsp. ginger

Method

For Snow: Whip cream and set aside. Then beat egg whites until they form soft peaks. Add egg whites to whipped cream and whisk together. Add rose water and sugar - adding a little sugar at a time. This stuff will have a consistency something like Cool-Whip, but will taste lots better.

For Strawberries: Clean strawberries and place into bowl. Mix red wine, sugar, cinnamon, and ginger. Pour mixture over strawberries and allow to marinate for an hour or so.

Serve "snow" with strawberries on top and with a couple shortbread cookies, ratafia, amaretti biscuits or wafers on the side.

Resources:

A Proper Neue Book of Cokery, T. Gloning (ed.) <http://www.staff.uni-giessen.de/gloning/tx/bookecok.htm>

<http://www.medievalcooking.com/notes/ghj1596.txt>

<http://www.medievalists.net/2015/09/recipes-from-the-tudor-kitchen/>

Things To Do At Pennsic

by Lady Katharine of Caithness

1. Camp with friends. Life in camp is always nicer with your best friends about you.
2. Take the bus all the way around it's route at least once, only then will you have an idea of how large an area Pennsic covers.
3. Go to as many classes as you can. Not only will you learn more about your favorite subject you will meet lots of interesting people who share your interests.
4. See at least one battle on the battle field. It is SCA warfare at its most impressive. You will get a real feel for what warfare was like in medieval times and best of all everyone who gets killed gets up at the end and with only their pride hurt with a few bruises.
5. Take a trip or two to the food court. There you will find just about any kind of food you could want.
6. Walk about and visit other groups camps you may not only get something to eat you may be invited to sample some of their home brewed / made beer and wine.
7. Go for a walk about in the merchant area. You will need to know the layout.
8. Attend court. It is perhaps the only time when all the barons, baroness and royalty of the kingdom of Atlantia are together on one platform at the same time.
9. Attend at least one party. There are plenty always going on.
10. Take in a evening stage performance or two. The singing groups are first rate and the comedy and acting is not too shabby either.
11. Go and take in Midnight Madness (no this is not the Rocky Horror Picture Show movie being shown at midnight). This is shopping Scadian style. Even if you don't buy anything, the street performances, music and food are worth the walk.
12. Stop by the archery range. Yes it is out of the way but it is very impressive seeing so many archers shooting, especially if you happen by when they are doing a clout shoot.
13. Do remember where you are camped. There are no street lights at Pennsic so bring a flashlight to get around after dark.
14. Go by the thrown weapons range. Why? Same reason as archery.
15. Pick up a postcard when they become available from the Pennsic Post Office and send it to yourself. They have a special post mark for each year. It is one of the cheapest memories you can buy, But years from now it will be priceless.
16. Go to Coopers Camp store and get some of the locally produced chocolate milk. (unless you are lactose intolerant) it is some of the best tasting you will have.
17. Stop by and see the street performers, along the various places on your way to coopers store.
18. Stop by and try the Mist tent. Best done when you are hot and sweating in your garb. Most refreshing
19. Go to Heralds Points and observe the heralds consulting with clients about names and devices. It is very interesting to see how they research a name and device. While things can get a bit tense and they are testy with one another at times it is amazing what they are able to do. And if per chance you are having trouble getting that name or device approved this is the place to go.
20. Finally Have A Wonderful Time. No two Pennsic's are ever the same and you will not pass this way again so go out and as Auntie Mame said " Live Live Live!"

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Households in the SCA

by Gunnbjorn Gunnarsson

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not represent the SCA or any of its associated groups, kingdoms or members other than the author himself.

At a recent Talonvale Wednesday night meeting, the subject of Households in the SCA was discussed in brief. I thought that perhaps a bit more on that subject should be said, hence this article. The following is taken from a larger "SCA Introduction" I wrote for a local computer bulletin board before Talonvale was founded, when Hawk, Fernando and I were trying to create local interest in the SCA. Look for other excerpts in the future.

What is a household?

An SCA "household" is a difficult thing to define. No two are alike. Households have no "official" status in the SCA, but are a recognized part of SCA life.

Households are groups of people in the SCA who do things together, or pursue a common interest, or follow a particular leader, or simply enjoy each other's company. Most successful households will meet several of the above criteria. Each household will have a name, such as House Darkyard (a prominent household in the Detroit area) or, if they're Scots, Clan Whatever. The larger and more established may have their own emblems and badges, customs and traditions.

At its simplest, a household may be just a few people who like to hang together at events, perhaps camp together at the War. Such households seldom have any real structure beyond the "who's-in-charge-this-week?" level.

Many households are begun by an individual who becomes the "head" of the household, which will often be referred to as "(Name)'s household." If this person has strong leadership skills, the household may thrive; if not, it won't be around long.

Peers (Knights and their equals) will usually head households of their own. These consist of their current "significant other" and, in the case of Knights, the Knight's Squires and/or men-at-arms and anyone else he or she may invite to join. (Rather than squires, Masters/Mistresses of the Laurel take Apprentices, while Masters/Mistresses of the Pelican take Protégées.)

Since many families are now involved in the SCA, a household may even be an actual family unit. Even if none of a household's members are actually related, a good household should feel like a family.

Many households have no more than five or six members. Most will have less than twenty. Some have more than a hundred, and a very few have over two hundred.

A household may register its name and heraldry with the SCA College of Arms, just as an individual might.

Joining a Household...or maybe not...

Now, don't all of you rush right out and find a household to join! There are a few more things you might want to consider first.

In most cases, you join a household only after being invited to. If you find a household you want to become a part of, start hanging with those people, maybe let a few of them know you're interested, and be patient. Don't push. Some households have procedures for considering new members, most don't. In Households centered around an individual (a Knight or other peer, for example) the decision may be entirely up to that individual. Some households will require that potential new members be sponsored by a current member. As in most matters, it's difficult to find two households that do this alike.

But wait a minute...are you really sure you want to do this? Read on...

Joining a household can be a big decision, so don't make it lightly. At its best, a household can help you get what you want out of the SCA; it can provide an extended family to support you, a knowledgeable hand to

guide you, and good friends to have fun with. At its worst, it can deny you all of the above.

I firmly believe that it would be a mistake to join a household before you've figured out what you really want from the SCA. And that takes time. It would also be a mistake to join a household before you know what they're all about. I would advise anyone new to the Society to avoid joining any household for at least a year. (That advice is based on my own personal experiences and observations; your mileage may vary.)

When you join a household, it becomes part of your identity in the SCA. The reputation of the household reflects on you, and your conduct will reflect on the household. In other words, you're trusting the household and its membership with a part of your honor, and in turn a part of its/their honor is entrusted to you. So be careful.

And remember, you don't HAVE to join any household at all! In fact, most people don't.

Also consider that sooner or later the household you join may cease to exist. Like any social organization, households are subject to pressures internal and external. Power struggles, personality conflicts, member apathy, leaders moving on, a couple breaking up, any of these can be the death of a household.

Another thing; as you grow in the SCA, you just might outgrow your household.

I have been in two households since I joined the SCA. The first one disintegrated while I watched. I left the second for personal reasons. Joining the first may or may not have been a mistake; joining the second had been the right thing to do at the time. I'm in no hurry to join another; in fact, I doubt that I will. Perhaps one day I'll start my own; probably not, though.

How to Form a Household...OR NOT...

Forming a household can be as simple as a group of people saying, "Hey, gang, let's be a household!" Once again, I recommend that you give the matter a bit more thought.

Before you leap, have the answers to these questions in your minds:

What kind of household do you want?

What do you expect to accomplish by forming a household?

What will the household require of its members?

What sort of leadership or social structure will the household have?

Do all of you agree on the answers to these questions?

Once you've resolved all of that, decide on a name, a theme (if you want one, such as a clan of Scots), a device and/or badge, bylaws if you want them, officers if you want them, and all the boring stuff like that. Congratulations. You're a Household.

One Last Comment

Please don't get the idea from reading any of this that I'm down on households. I like households. I liked being in households. I liked the people I was in households with.

Belonging to the right household brings a new dimension to your involvement in the SCA. It gives you an extended family within the larger extended family of the SCA as a whole, something on a more personal level.

I have, however, seen people's SCA experience spoiled by a poor choice of household, or by jumping too soon at a chance to join a household before they really knew what they wanted from the SCA. All I am saying is, look well before you leap.

The Great Dark Horde

The Dark Horde is a household that deserves a special mention, if for no other reason than that it's the largest household in the SCA.

The Horde was founded in Ann Arbor by science fiction author Robert Asprin, whose SCA name is Yang the Nauseating (no kidding!). That was over twenty-five years ago. Since then, the Horde has spread across the country like...well, like a horde!

At first, they were all Mongols, but somehow a bunch of Vikings got into it. They would do authentic Barbarian schtick which would often offend the Euro-centrist medieval “purists” of the Society as a whole. This gave them a bad rep that stayed with them for a time, but which they may never have deserved and have largely put behind them.

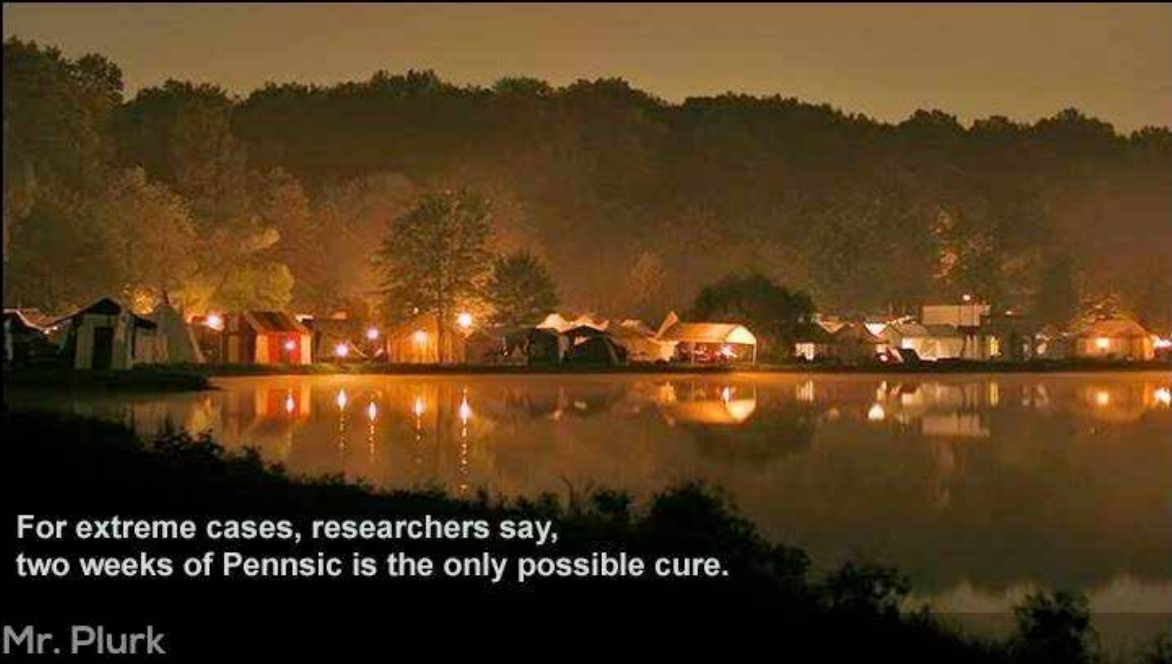
The Horde is big. Really big. I’m not even sure how big. They have the biggest single camp at Pennsic War. Their membership is spread across the country, mostly in the northern Midwest and the Great Lakes states. They have their own social structure and newsletter.

These days, the Horde commands a great deal of respect. Because they field a larger fighting unit at the War than some Kingdoms, and because they owe no fealty to any particular Crown, the Midrealm and the East Kingdom each spend a great deal of time and effort trying to gain the Horde as allies. And while there are some people in the Horde I don’t personally care for, the same can be said of the SCA as a whole and I wouldn’t judge either the Horde or the Society by its worst examples. I should also say that some of the best people I have known in the Society are or were associated with the Dark Horde.

Permission is granted to reprint the following article in SCA-group newsletters or other non-profit group’s publications, by Gunnbjorn Gunnarsson or Michael S. Rosecrans.

Did You Know?

For those who have trouble sleeping, researchers say that one week of camping, without electronics, resets our biological body clock and synchronizes our melatonin hormones with sunrise and sunset.



For extreme cases, researchers say, two weeks of Pennsic is the only possible cure.

via Mr. Plurk

Gunnbjorn's College of Bardic Knowledge or, Make a Joyful Noise unto the Bored

by Gunnbjorn Gunnarsson

who used to get called a Bard a lot but was never really comfortable with it

Bard" is a term you'll run in to frequently in the SCA. In current SCA usage, it refers to someone who sings songs and/or tells stories and/or recites verse and/or writes songs or stories or verse. And some people calling themselves bards can't really do any of these things worth a damn but insist on calling themselves "bards" nonetheless.

Throughout Medieval history (and for a very long time before and since) there have been wandering musicians/storytellers, and different cultures have given them different names. Bards, minstrels, troubadours, skalds, whatever; their rolls in Medieval society may have varied from time to time and place to place, but in the SCA we tend to lump them all under the term Bard.

Unfortunately, few "bards" in the SCA bother to find out much about this profession during their persona's time and place, and quite happily adopt the SCA usage of bard to describe themselves. But if you think I'm going to waste this space trying to correct people's misconceptions on this point, you're wrong; I am going to stick to talking about the "SCA Bard" from here on.

"Bard" is not an official title of any kind, although in some kingdoms there may be a position of "Kingdom Bard." This is usually an unofficial or honorary position. It may be an official title in some kingdoms, and some kingdoms may have a recognized "guild" of bards or even a College of Bards. In the Midrealm (where I'm writing this) there is neither guild nor college, but occasionally .Midrealm kings have appointed Kingdom Bards. I was once "King's Skald" ("skald" being roughly the Norse equivalent of "bard") in the Midrealm, but the only time I ever refer to myself as "former Skald to the King of the Middle" is when I'm trying to establish my credentials to pontificate on matters bardic. Like now.

"How can I become a Bard in the SCA?"

There's an old joke about a lost tourist in New York who goes up to someone and asks, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" The New Yorker answers, "Practice." Same goes for becoming a bard.

I used to get asked this all the time (no, I don't mean the "Carnegie Hall" question!), and frankly I've never felt I had an adequate answer. I actually find the question somewhat embarrassing, since I never describe myself as a "bard" (and only ever referred to myself as a "skald" when actually serving as Skald to the King of the Midrealm). I hate to sound like a shoe commercial, but the best advice that I can give is just do it. Learn some material and go forth and perform.

But ask yourself this first: Why do you want to be a bard? Your answer should be, "I like to perform and entertain, and I'd like to be good at it." You should enjoy entertaining people, and not mind getting up in front of an audience and looking like an idiot (which can be quite entertaining indeed!).

A lot of articles I have seen on this subject stress regular practice sessions and serious vocal training. Sure, all of that will certainly help, especially if you are pursuing a career as an opera singer. For the SCA bard, however, being able to read, work, and satisfy a crowd is of far more importance. This only comes with experience, though some people will initially be better at it than others. If this kind of thing doesn't seem to come naturally to you, don't despair. Work on it. Find an audience and perform. Take note of what works and what doesn't. Keep what works and discard the rest. Keep trying new stuff. Keep performing.

I am not saying that you should entirely forsake trying to improve your vocal skills; indeed, I often wish I had



paid more attention to my High School Choir Director or studied vocal performance in college. I often practice my SCA material while driving to work. If you are having problems with your voice, ask someone who knows more about singing than you (such as a college voice major). Joining a community or church choir is a very good and cheap way to receive basic vocal training and experience.

Even if all of your efforts to become a better singer should fail, don't give up! Poetry and prose are sadly neglected in most SCA bardic performances but can be damned good stuff to listen too.

Then again, if you have any real talent for instrumental music you may not need to open your mouth at all. If you can play an instrument that sounds even remotely period and play it well you will be more than welcome at most fires. For this kind of performance, there is really no substitute for regular practice and study but you will still need to develop a sense for the crowd, which only comes from repeatedly performing to an audience.

If you don't know how to read music, don't rush right out and sign up for a music theory course (even though this is valuable stuff to know). Most of us learn new songs by ear anyway. A few of the best musicians I know can't read a note.

"Bardic" Material

Most of the material performed by SCA Bards falls into three categories:

Period Material - I should say right off that most SCA Bards don't do a lot of period music. There are two main reasons for this. One, there's a lot more non-period-yet-non-mundane (see below) music to choose from; and two, most medieval music doesn't sound particularly good to most modern ears. Finding period vocal music suitable for singing around a campfire will take some research, but there is some out there. Period prose

and verse, however, aren't that hard to find, and some of this stuff is very entertaining. Additionally, mythology can be an excellent source of stories for you to retell. Why I don't hear more of this type of material in Bardic Circles I don't know. Perhaps because of the pervasiveness of the non-period stuff that has become popular in the SCA. Maybe it's because poems and stories (and most period songs, for that matter) aren't nearly as much fun to sing along to. For period "Bards" (using the term in a generic sense), myth and legend were their stock-in-trade.

Out-of-period-but-not-quite-mundane Material - This is what you hear the most of from most SCA Bards. Folk songs from the 17th, 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries account for most of this material, as well as modern songs written in the style of songs from these eras. Many such songs are extremely popular in the SCA, and more than a few of them have been written by people in the Society. Obviously, all original material by people in the SCA falls into this category.

"Filk" Songs - "Filk" is a term we inherited from Science Fiction fandom. An obvious misspelling of "Folk," "Filk" refers to the practice of singing new lyrics to old (and not-so-old) tunes. I'm talking about the sort of thing Weird Al Yankovic does to popular songs, but done with a quasi-medieval or SCA theme.

Most people in the SCA (and most anywhere else) like to sing along to songs they know and like. It's hard to find a lot of period material to fit this requirement, but since many of us have recordings by a small core group of folk artists (including Roberts and Barand, Stan Rogers, Leslie Fish, Joe Bethancourt and The Clancy Brothers) there are some songs that nearly everyone at an SCA campfire will know. Some people, however, get very tired of hearing the same songs over and over. Still others would prefer to hear more period songs and stories. And some people positively hate filk songs. Moral: you can't please everyone.

Sources for Material

Recordings are a good place to steal material. Any recording by any of the artists named in the paragraph above is likely to yield something suitable. Bands like Steeleye Span and Schooner Fare specialized in doing modern renditions of old folk songs, even doing some actual period songs, and their recordings might also be of use. There will also be recordings for sale at many SCA events covering period, folk and filk music.

There are a lot of SCA-specific song collections on the World Wide Web. Doing a search for the keywords

Photo by Cassair Warwick



“SCA” and “Song” will turn up a fair number of entries. Additionally, there are non-SCA archives of folk music that can be extremely useful. Search for “folk” and “music” and ignore anything about Bob Dylan.

A good music store, especially one which specializes in folk instruments, will usually have a good many books of folk tunes from around the world. Songs from England, Scotland and Ireland will often work as will many traditional sea chanteys. (I tend to buy music books at a dulcimer store near my office.)

Period music will be harder to find. A college music library would be a good place to look. Ask around in your local group for someone who knows more about period music than you do (it wouldn't be me) and ask them about sources.

As for stories and poems, libraries and bookstores are the place to go. Especially books on mythology. Many period stories and poems will be available in the Medieval History section of a good bookstore.

Lastly, when you hear someone perform something you like, try to get a copy from them. Don't be pushy; just ask politely.

Making Yourself Heard

I find few things as annoying as trying to listen to someone reciting or singing in a voice too quiet to be heard by most of the crowd. Learn to project. This is an area where voice training can be a big help, but you might also consult any singers or field heralds you know for advice. Remember that you don't just need to be heard, you need to be heard clearly.

Actually, I can't be of much help here since being heard has never been a problem for me. I can advise you to fill your lungs and speak or sing from the diaphragm, but beyond that I can't quantify what I do. A trained singer would be of much more help. Better still, join a choir.

Where to Perform

The best place to start, in my view, is at an inter-kingdom war such as Pennsic War (in Pennsylvania each August) or Estrella War (in Arizona each February). There will be lots of campfires to sing around that will welcome you if you are any good at all. There will be Bardic Circles to perform at (see below). There will also be bards there that really know their stuff. Listen and learn.

Campfires - When you and your friends are sitting around and staring into the fire, ask if anyone would like to hear a song/story/poem. Do this a few times and when you feel you are ready, take a stroll some evening to another fire and repeat the process. Some of the most fun I have had at Pennsic War has involved this kind of “wandering bard” act.

Bardic Circles - A Bardic Circle is a gathering of people to hear and perform. Most of the people there will only be interested in listening, but anyone with a story or song will also be there. Be warned; you will hear better performers than you. You will also hear worse performers than you.

Some such circles are run in an organized fashion with a running list maintained of who is up next. This gives everyone a chance to perform without the circle becoming dominated by one or two “Big Bards.” (I have seen the Big Bard thing happen more than once. Indeed, to my discredit I have even been one of the Big Bards involved. Moderated circles are better than “free form” ones, in my opinion, for just that reason.) Another method I have seen (and like) is to go around the fire (these things are almost always held around a fire) and allow each person in turn to either perform or pass. This seems to work best when the circle is a moderately small one.

Photo by Cassair Warwick



Photo by Ursus

However the circle is being run, be polite, wait your turn and listen attentively. You might learn something.

Feasts - Most SCA feasts feature some kind of entertainment between removes. If you let the Autocrat of the event know you'd like to perform during feast, you have a good chance they'll say yes (especially if the material you intend to perform is in some way related to the theme of the event). If you have some reputation as a bard, you may be invited to perform by the autocrat before you can ask. Keep it to one piece (maybe another one later in the feast).

Court - I'd advise against asking to perform during a Royal Court unless you are presenting an original piece to the Crown. Even then, this is a request that a bard of known reputation will have a better chance of being granted. Remember that no one speaks in court without the Crown's leave. If making such a presentation, be sure to let the court herald know well in advance of court and don't start until and unless you are called.

Targets of Opportunity - You can sing for your supper. You can sing for your friends. You can sing with the gang as you walk down the road. You can sing on the battlefield to work up your blood. You can sing something sweet to that cute blond you met at the Swimming Hole. You can sing anytime and anywhere you feel like singing and won't get killed for it, and you can sing for no other reason than the love of song.



Coda

I must admit, I don't really like the generic use of a culture-specific term like "bard" as a sort of entertainer catch-all phrase, but I can live with it. Nor do I much like the use of the term "bard" by every Tom, Dick and Ulrich who knows a couple of tunes to describe themselves. You don't have to call yourself a bard in order to sing or recite (or whatever) in order to entertain people. Just do it. Do it for its own sake. Do it because it makes you happy. Do it because it makes others happy.

I have almost never referred to myself a bard. I was actually surprised the first time I heard myself called one, until which time I had never really considered the matter. When His Majesty Dag named me his Skald, I suppose it became "official" and I started getting new people asking me how *they* could become a bard. I can't answer that question any better than I have in this article, which I suppose I wrote in order to find an answer to give.

Anyone can call themselves a bard. You become a bard when other people call you a bard.

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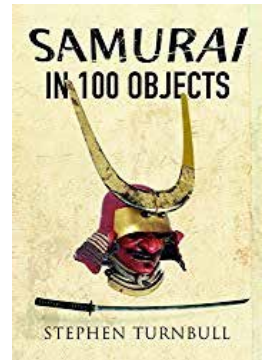
New Medieval Books

SAMURAI in 100 OBJECTS by Stephen Turnbull

From lowly attendants (samurai literally means 'those who serve') to members one of the world's most powerful military organizations, the samurai underwent a progression of changes to reach a preeminent position in Japanese society and culture. Even their eventual eclipse did not diminish their image as elite warriors, and they would live on in stories and films.

This proud and enduring tradition is exemplified and explored by the carefully selected objects gathered here from Japanese locations and from museums around the world. These objects tell the story of the samurai from acting as the frontier guards for the early emperors to being the inspiration for the kamikaze pilots.

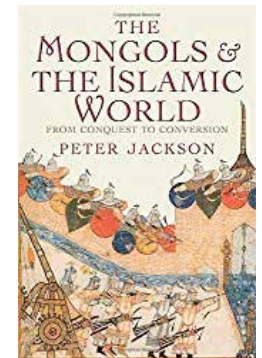
The artefacts, many of which are seen here for the first time, include castles, memorial statues, paintings and prints associated with the rise of the samurai along with their famous armour and weapons. The latter include the Japanese longbow, a thirteenth century bomb and the famous samurai sword, but not every artefact here is from the past. In a Japanese souvenir shop was found a cute little blue duck dressed as a samurai complete with helmet, spear and surcoat, dressed authentically as the brutal samurai Kato Kiyomasa, who was responsible for a massacre at Hondo castle in 1589!



Frontline Books
ISBN: 9781473850385

The Mongols and the Islamic World: From Conquest to Conversion by Peter Jackson

Excerpt: This book sets out to explore two questions. First, it investigates the impact on the Islamic world (Dar al-Islam) of the campaigns of conquest by the armies of Temujin, better known as Chinggis Khan (d.1227), and his three successors, under whom the empire of the Mongols (or Tatars, as they were often termed) came to embrace all the Muslim territories east of Syria and the Byzantine Greek oecumene. And second it examines the character of Mongol rule over Muslims down to, and just beyond, the conversion of various khans to Islam, and the longer-term legacy of subjection to the infidel.

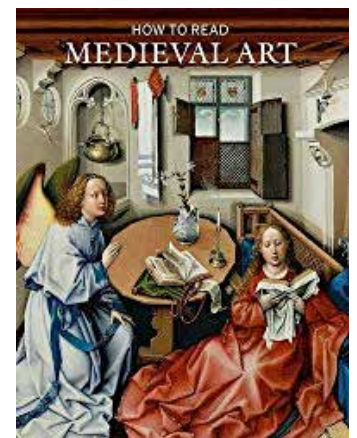


Yale University Press
ISBN: 9780300125337

How to Read Medieval Art by Wendy A. Stein

The intensely expressive art of the Middle Ages was created to awe, educate and connect the viewer to heaven. Its power reverberates to this day, even among the secular. But experiencing the full meaning and purpose of medieval art requires an understanding of its narrative content.

Excerpt: Most of the art of the period served that powerful purpose. None of it was made "for art's sake," not even the secular art. Every work had a function, not just containers and vessels and objects with a specific use in liturgy or other ceremonial context, but each painting and carving. An object depicting a sacred scene had an active role in religious practice. It had many purposes: to recall to the viewer the larger story; to provide the believer with guidance; to embody and exalt that which is holy; to link the past with the present; to connect the worshipper to heaven. The powerful function of art, moreover, did not only inhere in the object; it also depended upon the direct involvement of the viewer. The intense gaze of an icon or reliquary head was returned by the worshipper's passionate contemplation. This art was made in expectation of a profound relationship between the object and the observer.



The Metropolitan Museum of Art
ISBN: 978-1-58839-597-

Tips from books of yore

How to Improve Your Memory, c. 1562



Margarita Philosophica Nova (1508), Wellcome Library

"To sleepe hosed and shoed especially with foule sockes, doth hinder the Memorie, because of the reflection of the vapours: feebleth the syght, and causeth the body to waxe whote and burne... Feare doth oppresse the Memorie, or enduryng sadnes: also a pensive care of housholde busynesse is hurtfull. Also immoderate sleepe and violent vomiting."

Guglielmo Gratarolo, *The Castel of Memorie*

How to Cure a Snakebite, c. 1303



British Library, Harley 3244, f. 57r (13th c.)

"First, bind the extremity with strong and tight bindings. Second, get an old rooster and pluck its bottom and hold it with its bottom on the bite, and if the rooster dies it is a good sign, because it is a sign that the venom has been drawn out of the body, so apply many roosters until you see that the rooster does not die from the venom."

Bernard de Gordon, *Lilium medicinae*

from the collections of <http://askthepast.blogspot.com> by Elizabeth Archibald

Barony of the Bright Hills

Practices and Meetings Site Directions

Heavy & Light Weapons Fighter Practices and A&S classes are held most Friday nights from

7:30 PM-10 PM

Business Meetings are held from 7 PM-8 PM the last Friday of the month (Please See Calendar)

Location: Christ the King Episcopal Church, 1930 Brookdale Rd., Baltimore, MD 21244

Although we use these facilities, the SCA is not endorsed by the Church.

Directions: Exit the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) at Exit 17 (Security Blvd Exit). Take the exit west toward Rolling Road, not the exit east toward Woodlawn. Travel west along Security Boulevard about one-half mile, through traffic-lights at Belmont Avenue, Lord Baltimore Drive, and Rolling Road. Continue west for another block, until you reach Brookdale Road. The Episcopal Church of Christ the King is on your left. Make a left turn onto Brookdale, and then turn right into the Church parking lot.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Baltimore County Schools announce they are closed or closing early, there will be no practice that night. You can usually hear the school closing lists on virtually any local radio station broadcast throughout the morning.

Sunday Afternoon Archery Practice

Lord Dagfinnr Jarnauga, 443-857-5178

Every Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (See Calendar)

Location: Baltimore Bowmen Site

Go to www.baltimorebowmen.com for directions. If the gate is closed, check to make sure it is not locked. If it is not locked, open it and drive down the hill to the butts. If the gate is locked, park your car and walk down the hill to the butts. NOTE: PRACTICE WILL NOT BE HELD WHEN THERE ARE WEEKEND-LONG EVENTS AND WHEN THERE ARE EVENTS AT THE BOWMEN SITE.

Guild Gatherings

Bardic Circle/PAGE

(Sundays 4-8pm; Contact Lady Nina for exact dates or check calendar)

6414 Loch Raven Blvd. Baltimore MD 21239

ninadances@gmail.com

Woodworkers' Guild (Check Calendar)

Lord Luke of Bright Hills' house. 1020 Register Avenue, Towson, MD 21239, (410) 377-6828.

Directions: Take Baltimore Beltway 695 toward Towson. We live near the northern apex of the beltway. Take exit 29 from 695. Take Lock Raven Blvd. south, past Taylor Ave. intersection, go through two lights after Taylor, look for quick right onto Register Avenue just over peak of a hill. (If you miss Register Ave. don't despair: at next light make a right onto Loch Hill Rd., then left at stop sign onto Register Ave. If you've gone too far on Loch Raven, you will reach Northern Parkway – a huge intersection.) Our house is at 1020 Register – white house with porch on right with SCA-type banner hanging from a signpost on front lawn - large driveway. Park on the south side of Register Avenue if there is no room in driveway.

Brewer's Guild

Lady Livia di Samuele, 7927 Mandan Road Apt 104 Greenbelt, MD 20770; 301-807-5476

Abramsonsm@yahoo.com

Contact with questions or to request special brewing days.

Clothier's Guild

Lady Faye de Trees, 1402 Hillside Dr., Bel Air, MD 21015; 352-281-8216, feataure@gmail.com.

The clothiers currently do one class per month on a specific project at Friday night fighter practice followed by a sewing session on Sunday afternoon to finish the projects. The location of the Sunday sessions varies. (Check calendar)

Textile Arts Guild

Mistress Brienna Llewellyn Lindsey, 3009 Ebbtide Dr., Edgewood, MD 21040, [410.598.3422](tel:410.598.3422), ladybrienna@gmail.com.

TAG meets the first Sunday of every month. Check calendar for location and times

Armors' Guild

Baron Heinrich, 3114 Littlestown Pike, Westminster, MD 21158; 443-789-8109, lands_heinie@yahoo.com
Weekends by appointment.

Cook's Guild

Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri ap Hwytell, jay_wynne@hotmail.com

Meets second Sunday of the month. Check calendar for location and time.

Gold Key

To Access Gold Key garb, Contact Lady Wanda Ostojowna, wlkinnie@comcast.net

Bright Hills Email List

To subscribe to the Bright Hills mailing list, please go to: <http://www.yahogroups.com/subscribe/brighthills>

Electronic Connection

Bright Hills Website

The Baronial website, <http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/> contains a listing of current officers, regularly scheduled meetings, events and other items of interest. If you have an item for the website, please send it to the Webminister,

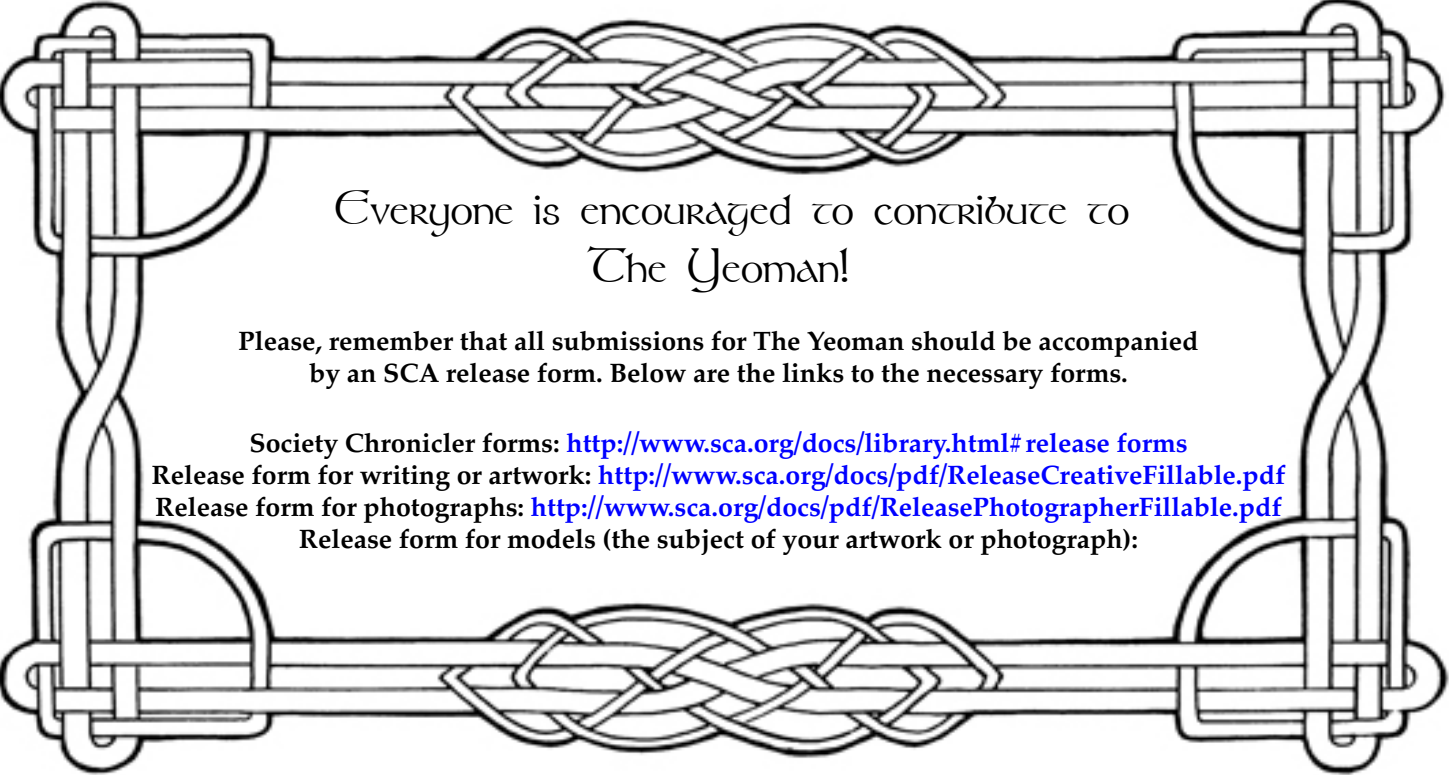
THL Janyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire at janynfletcher@comcast.net

Bright Hills FaceBook Page

The new baronial Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brighthills/>. Further information can be obtained from the administrators Lady Reyne Telarius at robynbecker@comcast.net, THL Janyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire at janynfletcher@comcast.net or Lady Aemilia Rosa at aemiliarosa@comcast.net

The Yeoman On-Line

<http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/yeoman/yeoman.html>



Everyone is encouraged to contribute to
The Yeoman!

Please, remember that all submissions for The Yeoman should be accompanied by an SCA release form. Below are the links to the necessary forms.

Society Chronicler forms: [http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html#release forms](http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html#release%20forms)
Release form for writing or artwork: <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseCreativeFillable.pdf>
Release form for photographs: <http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleasePhotographerFillable.pdf>
Release form for models (the subject of your artwork or photograph):

Officers and Deputies of the Barony of Bright Hills



















Please try not to call after 9 PM










Baron & Baroness
Kollack & Rebecca von Zweckel
Kenneth & Becky Kepple
443.254.1206



baron@brighthills.atlantia.sca.org or baroness@brighthills.atlantia.sca.org

<p>Seneschal Lady Ailis <i>Erin O'Brien Scimeca</i> 443-857-2849 ailisingheanuibhriain@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Seneschal</p> 	<p>Webminister THL Janyin Fletcher of Lancastreschire <i>Jay Nardone</i> 443-508-4456 janyinfletcher@comcast.net</p> 
<p>Baronial Clerk Signet & Deputy Webminister Lady Aemilia Rosa <i>Amy Nardone</i> 443-508-4456 aemiliarosa@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Herald Lord Richard Wyn <i>Richard Muti</i> 443-615-1025 RickWyn@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Deputy Herald Lady Deirdre O'Bardon <i>Debbie Eccles</i> 410-356-0028 deirdre_obardon@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Exchequer Lady Clara <i>Michelle England</i> 443-799-1913 kuscheltier13@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Exchequer Wanda Ostojowna <i>Wanda Kinnie</i> 443-398-5100, wandaostojowna@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Deputy Exchequer Cairell mac Cormaic <i>Howard Carl Jacobson</i> 443-416-8356, cairellmaccormaic@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Steward/Deputy Exchequer Master Chirhart Blackstar <i>Truman Barnes</i> 410-239-8794 chirhart_1@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Chatelaine Lady Rebekkah Samuel <i>Victoria Wank</i> 443-846-2001 vwank35@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Deputy Chatelaine Baroness Barbara Giumaria diRoberto <i>Barbara Kriner</i> 443-244-0432 bjokriner@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Chatelaine Wrad of Ce <i>Wade Whitlock</i> 410-272-8407 wadewhitlock@hotmail.com</p> 	<p>Youth Minister Katarzyna Witkowska <i>Katherine Hawkins</i> 443-813-1436 k_hawk_us@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Youth Minister Bridget of Bright Hills <i>Wilda Hawkins</i></p> 
<p>Chronicler Lady Scholastica Joycors <i>MyLinda Butterworth</i> 443-817-2129 totallystories@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Minister of Lists Lord Alexander Fowler <i>Hunter Fowler</i> 410.313.8626 hunterfsc@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Minister of Lists Lady Livia di Samuele <i>Sherrill M. Abramson</i> 301-807-5476 Abramsonsm@yahoo.com</p> 

Knights Marshall Lord Randver Askmodr <i>Randy Feltman</i> 410-877-1735 randver_askmodr@verizon.net 	Deputy Heavy Marshal Baron Heinrich Kreiner <i>Robert Stephen Kriner</i> lands_heinie@yahoo.com 443-789-8109 	Thrown Weapons Deputy Marshal Beatrice Shirwod <i>Annelise Bauer</i> 843-312-5971 spindlebird@gmail.com 
Rapier Deputy Marshal Lord Stephen Bridewell <i>Stephen Cavano</i> 410.235.3590 stephenbridewell@yahoo.com 	Archery Deputy Marshal Lord Dagfinnr Jarnauga <i>Fred Scimeca</i> 443-857-5178 fortshmex1180@yahoo.com 	
Minister of Arts & Sciences Alexander de Burdegala <i>Larry Jones</i> Appolodelsol@gmail.com 	Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences Lady Reyne Telarius <i>Robyn Becker</i> 443-995-0461 reynetelarius@comcast.net 	

Current Baronial Champions:

Archery: Lord Janyyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire
Arts and Sciences: Lady Freydis sjona
Bardic: Lord Faolan Mac Raghnaill
Baronial Warlord: Lord Randvar Askmodr
Brewer: Barun Gustav Emile der Dunkele Rotvogel

Equestrian: Mor Inghean Ui Dochartaigh
Heavy Weapons: Lord Raphael
Rapier: Milord Conrad Muni
Children's Archery- M'Lord Pietre Witkowski

