

The Yeoman



Newsletter of the Barony of Bright Hills
January 2019 • Volume 33, Issue 1

The Story Behind the Cover Image

The cover art represents Nian, who according to tales and legends, the beginning of Chinese New Year started with the fight against a mythical beast called Nian, who had the body of a bull and the head of a lion. It was said to be a ferocious animal that lived in the mountains and hunted for a living. Towards the end of Winter when there was nothing to eat, Nian would come on the first day of New Year to the villages to eat livestock, crops, and even villagers, especially children. To protect themselves, the villagers would put food in front of their doors at the beginning of every year. It was believed that after the Nian ate the food they prepared, it wouldn't attack any more people. The villagers would live in terror over the Winter, but over time they learned that the ferocious Nian was afraid of three things: the color red, fire, and noise. So when the New Year was about to come, the villagers would hang red lanterns and red spring scrolls on windows and doors. They also used firecrackers to frighten away the Nian. From then on, Nian never came to the village again.

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A Note from Your Chronicler

Joyous New Year to each of you. This past year has been a joy and a challenge and I look forward to the new year with the words Carpe Diem on my lips or Seize the Day. It is my hope that we all will seize the day and make the most of it regardless of whether it is a good, bad or even ugly day. For each day is a gift.

The new year brings with it new promises of adventure and as I began to post all of the events for the next few months in Atlantia I saw so much fun in the future. So tighten your belts and mark your calendars for a exciting new year. Try new projects, write articles about your new discoveries or your passions and send them to me to be printed in The Yeoman, do hidden acts of kindness and service just to put a smile on your face and the recipients, snitch on your friends great accomplishments so that they may be recognized and enjoy the new year and all it has to offer.

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



» New Year «

New Moments

© New Adventures ©

New Lessons

» New Memories «

New Challenges

» New Opportunities «

Take the time to
Seize them All!

» Happy New Year! «

Credits

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This is the January 2019, 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.

For information on reprinting articles from this publication, please contact the baronial chroniclers, Baronial Chroniclers, Lady Scholastica Joycors, totallystories@gmail.com who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the printed material. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors. Contributions are due by the 25th of each month.



THE BARONY OF BRIGHT HILLS

To the Fair Populace of Bright Hills



First we realize that this will be posting after some of the holiday season has passed. We hope that that the holiday season brought good tidings to all, and a time to relax as we prepare for the New Year.

We would like to thank all of those who were able to make the trip and attend the annual Kingdom Unevent held in December. Most of the officer reports were published on the baronial list or found under the monthly meeting minutes and should be available to everyone.

We look forward to celebrating the holidays and sharing your company at baronial twelfth night, being held at the Friday Night Practice location on January 4th, please see the baronial webpage for details.

We also hope to see many of you at Kingdom 12th night, being held on January 11th-13th in the Barony of Sacred Stone.

On January 26th we plan to attend Lochmere's event "The Road to Compostela" (Midwinters Revel).

Then on February 2nd it is off to the Barony of Caer Mear for Winter University.

Which brings us to our very own Bright Hills 25th Baronial Anniversary. We hope that you all will come out for this splendid day as we will be saying our farewells as Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills and making way for the new Baron and Baroness. We appreciate all those that took the time to fill out and return the polling letters, and await in anticipation of the notification of the outcome.

In closing once again we ask to please let us know if you have observed a fellow barony member that deserves our recognition and/or their Majesties. Thou we see much we have put two pair of eyes and need the eyes and ears of the Barony to point us in the direction of deserving candidates, that we may have overlooked

Yours in Service and Gratitude

Kossack and Rebecca von Zweckel

Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills



Minutes of the Bright Hills Board Meeting December 14, 2018 - 7:13 p.m.

Attendees: Casey Keener, Kenneth & Becky Kepple, Jay and Amy Nardone, Rachael Knoblauch, Erin Makel, Debbie Eccles, Richard Muti, Mylinda Butterworth, Claudia Bosworth, Richard Muti, Robert and Barb Kriner, Karen Whitlock, Hunter Fowler, Wanda Kinnie, Becky Ritterhouse, Jill Peters, Karen Whitlock, and Jill Abranson.

Report from the Baronage: It is December which means we have a finite amount of time left in our reign and so we are looking for awards. Please send awards by email to their majesties for kingdom awards as well as posting them online and do the same thing for us..

Officer Reports:

Seneschal: Lady Freydis Sjona (Casey Keener) — Today at midnight is the last day for polling. Did we update the flyer's for demos? Spike system still has issues. Seneschals are not getting information or notices. Changes to the polling in the future where it will moving to an online system. Waivers: If a child has a blue card parents do not need to sign a waiver. Also it does not if your card is signed or not. The posting of events must go through official channels if not it may affect insurance. War of the Wings is now going to be a Kingdom Event. Audits are coming from the Kingdom so we need to be prepared.

Chronicler: Lady Scholastica Joycors (MyLinda Butterworth) — Yeoman out on time, but I need people to send in their report before the meeting.

Exchequer: Lady Wanda Ostojowna (Wanda Kinnie) — Money we has not changed.

Webminister: Lady Dagný austkona (Rachael Knoblauch) — The website is up to date. I am requesting a deputy. Looking to transition from Yahoo by next business meeting and open up a Q&A for the next meeting.

Heralds Report: Master Richard Wyn (Richard Muti) — We have nothing new to report for the Court Heralds this month. Lady Deirdre O'Bardon was my proxy at the Herald's meeting at Unevent her report of the meeting follows this short report. Out Heralds attended Un-event's Heralds meeting and office hours, are working on getting all the submissions notifications updated. Herald's need to diligent about secrecy when it comes to awards.

A&S Report: Lord Alexander de Burdegala (Larry Jones) — From the Deputy MoAS Tatiana Ivanovna: Chagin has done an amazing job the last three weeks(two due to the lock out) in teaching a hands on class on making cloaks. Her average class attendance has been 11 on the two "in house" classes. The hand outs have covered history, fabric types and resources, linings and pattern drafting, Other artisans at meetings have been spinning—both on wheel and by drop spindle;knitting;wire rings, and jewelry; recipe swap for holiday snacks;discussions on making arrows;different fighting formats discussions. Average attendance has been about 30 people, with several new attendees at each meeting. PAEG had nothing to report this month, with activities looking forward to Lochmere's Winter Bardic, and plans for Bright hills Birthday. Cooks Guild now has submitted their own minutes, but plans are going ahead for Birthday menu. I have not asked about plans for Kingdom 12th Night A&S, or plans for Kingdom A&S. I am working on the Children's activities for Lochmere's Road to Compostela, and am getting help with the pilgrims staffs from Barb and Bob Kreiner. Otherwise, I currently know of nothing else to report: .

Chatelain Report: Baroness Barbara Giumaria diRoberto (Barbara Kriner) — The Barony continues to expand with new members and returning friends. I was able to attend Unevent and trade ideas with other Chatelains. So, this is the last report for 2018. Here is to 2019, may it be as busy and full of new friends..

Knights Marshall: Lord Randver Askmadr (Randy Feltman)— No activity this month.



Minister of the List: Lord Alexander Fowler (Hunter Fowler)— No Mol activity other than got my warrant straightened out so I am again available as MOL.

Youth Minister: Lady Katarzyna Witkowska (Katherine Hawkins)— There were no children's activities this month. Still looking for a deputy.

Baronial Steward: Master Chirhart Blackstar (Truman Barnes) — Nothing to report this month.

Guild Reports:

Armors – No report.

Bardic Circle — No report.

Brewers – No report

Cheese Mongers: Master Chirhart (Truman Barnes)— No report.

Clothiers – No report.

Cooks Guild: Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri (Jill Peters)— The Bright Hills Cooks Guild met at the home and in the new kitchen of Mistress Cordelia and Baron Barre on Sunday, December 9, 2018. There were 10 members present.

The first part of the gathering was spent in partaking of the marvelous goodies brought by members and basking in the glow of a newly renovated kitchen with all the bright new lights, counter-tops, cooking equipment, cabinets and drawers. Especially the knife drawer! Oh the ideas we all came away with.

The meetings first topic was Baronial Birthday feast. Raven, our Head Cook, has recipes under control. Mistress Jeanne is leading the expeditions to the food store sometime in the near future. We are very pleased to have duck and venison from members to add to the feast.

The Baronial 12th Night celebration will be held at our regular meeting place on Friday, 4 January at 7:00 pm. If you are early you will be asked to help with set-up.

Kingdom 12th Night is the following week, Saturday, 12 January 2019 in the Barony of Sacred Stone. It will be held in the same place as the previous 12th Night...the Founders Inn and Spa, in Virginia Beach, VA. Your Guild Mistress has been honored with a writ to join the Order of the Pelican and the vigil will be held during the event. Please contact Mistress Jeanne if you wish to bring any thing for the vigil snack table. There may also be one or two vigils so the more food the merrier; especially if it is from Bright Hills!

As a reminder to all, I will be stepping down as Guild Mistress at Baronial Birthday. If there is anyone who wishes to lead this fine group of people into the future please contact me. (Wynne)

If there is anything I have failed to cover, please let me know. My notebook took a vacation and my memory has done its best to remember.

May your future days be merry and bright.

Herb Group – Faolan Mac Raghnaill — No report.

PAEG : Lady Reyne — No report.

St. Matthias – No report.

Scriptorium: Lady Alexandria Wright (Andrea Scott) — No report.

TAG — Mistress Brienna Llewellyn — No report

Woodworkers – No report.

Old Business:

There is no update to the P.O. Box at this point.

Birthday: I am nagging people for information about write ups for competitions. Katargina does not need any money for children's activity. Propose feast is a 3 course meal plus a dessert feast. Still looking for a heavy MOL. The hall wants full payment 30 days before event, so a check is needed before the end of the year. In Baronial history a pen and ink

drawing and have it properly frame and so a cost estimate is needed.

Harvest Wars had to be respiked because WoW booted out of October and we are now spiked for September 27-29.

Trial by Fire has nothing new to present, but with the new media request for A&S activities I will need that info in January.

Royal Archer: Spiked for September 20. Seneschal reminded them that they must speak with her before they spike an event. 130 archers are anticipated. A motion to accept the event and the date as spiked was presented and passed.

Since Social Media is public, complaints need to be sent by email and not posted on social media.

New Business:

December is the month when we negotiate with the church for the next year. The church has decided that they are going to triple the costs to us. For the new year they want to charge us \$90@ week or \$360 @ week. So we are looking for options of other locations. Suggestions were American Legion, the Bowman or a school. It needs to be centralized location. The Business meeting could be in a different location like a library.

Motion presented to pay for one quarter and search for a new location expecting a refund from the church if we find a new location. Vote: Unanimous.

Wanda reminds us that for multiple day events that there should be one sheet used for each day and make sure that troll times are listed for events.

Finally congratulations to Lady Scholastica and the Yeoman were recognized in three categories for the Blackfox Award. She received a commendation for Best Layout and Design, and then a nomination for Best Overall Newsletter, and Best Regular Feature for "Lore of the Larder."

Next meeting: January 18, 2019 Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Atlantian Calendar of Events

January 2019

11-13	12th Night: A 1001 Atlantian Nights (R)	Sacred Stone	Virginia Beach, VA
19	Ice Castles (R)	Black Diamond	Salem, VA
25-27	Nottingham Coill's Investiture and Baronial Birthday (R)	Nottingham Coill	Bennettsville, SC
26	The Road to Compostela (Midwinters Revel)	Lochmere	Servana Park, MD

February 2019

2	Winter University	Caer Mear	Mineral, VA
8-10	Tourney of Manannan mc Lir XXXVIII	Tear-Seas Shore	Ridgeville, SC
9	Bright Hills 25th Baronial Anniversary (R)	Bright Hills	Manchester, MD
16	Ponte Alto Baronial Birthday (R)	Ponte Alto	
16-17	AEduIt Swim IV	Aethelmearc	
22-24	Ymir 44 (R)	Windmaster's Hill	Ellerbe, NC

March 2019

2	Kingdom Arts and Science Festival (H)	Atlantia	Mebane, NC
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↔ UPCOMING EVENTS ↔

Baronial 12th Night

January 4, 2019 • Christ the King Episcopal Church

After consultation with Their Excellencies Kollack and Rebecca and with the Baronial Officers, it has been determined that the Baronial Twelfth Night celebration will take place on Friday, January 4, 2019.

As usual, the celebration will be held at Christ the King Episcopal Church (our fighter practice site). We plan to open the hall at 7:00 PM (if you come early you will be asked to help with set up) and will continue until 10:00 PM.

There will be a pot luck meal, so please bring a dish to contribute and to impress us (this is Bright Hills, after all)!!! The Bright Hills Cooks' Guild will provide non-alcoholic drinks, and plates, utensils, napkins, etc.

Garb is suggested, but not required.

The donation box will be available for contributions to the site fund, which helps cover the cost of the hall rental throughout the year. (Note - if you write a check, it is tax-deductible!)

If you have any questions, please contact the organizers of the celebration - Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec (beckyritterhouse@yahoo.com) or Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri. (ay_wynne@hotmail.com)

12th Night: A 1001 Atlantian Nights

January 11- 13, 2019 • Barony of Sacred Stone

Who hasn't dreamed of the enchanted time brought to life by the stories of the Arabian Nights? Stories from the Islamic Golden Age, of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, and let's not forget Sinbad the Sailor, and his seven voyages. The tales range from love stories to tragedies, and everything in between: djinns, sorcerers, magicians, and of course, legendary places.

Whether your dreams are filled with history or fantasy, this will be the event for you! Just like our heroine Scheherzade, you are only limited by your own imagination. For those who enjoy the history, research the Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid and Sassanid Empire, for those who prefer a more magical time, peruse the stories of 1001 Nights, and revel in the fantasy and help set the stage for our own Atlantian Twelfth Night celebration.

Website: <http://www.12thnight.atlantia.sca.org>

Ice Castles

January 19, 2019 • Barony of Black Diamond

Join Black Diamond as she celebrates her thirty-fourth Baronial Birthday! Spend the day in the not so frozen northern reaches of the Kingdom basking in the warmth of fine company, feasting on delicious food, and test your mettle in the year's first fighting event of the season.

Website: <http://blackdiamond.atlantia.sca.org/icecastle/>

Nottingham Coill's Investiture & Baronial Birthday January 25- 27, 2019 • Barony of Nottingham Coill

Come celebrate the investiture of our Fourteenth Baronage and annual birthday! Friday night fun in the hall proceeds a day of Pageantry, Martial activities and Arts & Sciences Displays.

Website: <https://www.altaniandarailt.com/>

The Road to Compostela (Midwinters Revel) January 26, 2019 • Barony of Lochmere

All roads lead to Compostela! Come journey with us along the pilgrim road from Venice, across northern Italy, through the south of France, and into Spain to our final destination at the Shrine of Santiago de Compostela. Are you fulfilling a sacred vow? Doing penance for your sins? Seeing the world? Obtaining an indulgence? Avoiding your pesky family or an arranged marriage? Or are you escaping persecution? Regardless of your motivation for embarking on this arduous journey, you will experience the hospitality afforded every pilgrim in terms of nourishment, entertainment, and rest. For to deny hospitality to a pilgrim is a grievous sin and therefore will not be tolerated! The "Way" is well marked and you will have many opportunities to visit lesser "Shrines" along the way, collect relics, sample regional cuisine, get your Camino passport stamped, and swap stories with your fellow pilgrims. The timeline for our journey is approximately 13th/14th century, attendees are encouraged to dress accordingly.

Website: <http://lochmere.atlantia.sca.org/midwinters/>

Baronial Anniversary, February 9th, 2019 A.S. LIII (53)

The Barony of Bright Hills invites you to join us as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary as a Barony. Since the Silver Anniversary is a very special day we shall be celebrating the arts with aspects of Silver in a Mardi Gras themed Anniversary celebration. We hope to see many pieces of garb sporting silver in all forms.

This 25th Anniversary is also a day for celebrating our current Coronets, Baron Kollack von Zweckle and Baroness Rebecca von Zweckle as they prepare to retire to their private estates and welcome their Heirs to the thrones of Bright Hills. Thus, we will also be graced with a visit from Their Majesties.

ACTIVITIES; Check the website often as we add more activities and details to the list. <http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/> Plan on a day filled with A & S activities, Bardic brilliance, Children's activities, Courts, a fine feast, merchants, The Sekunjabin Tavern, classes and.... weather permitting.... Archery, Heavy Weapons, Youth fighting, Rapier and possibly more

Open Competitions:

Baronial Brewing Champion Competition:

Anyone is welcome to enter into the open competition within the following usual categories: beer/ale, mead/wine, cordials, and non-alcoholic beverages. Entrants in the Baronial Brewing Champion competition should exhibit a diversity of abilities in brewing. As such, include at least two (2) separate entries in any of the above categories for consideration as Bright Hills next Baronial Brewing Champion.

Please abide by these additional requirements/suggestions for each competition:

1. You MUST mark your bottle - a label or well-attached tag - with your name and a list of ALL the ingredients, or it won't be considered.
2. Documentation is encouraged and will be rewarded with additional points in the judging of the competitions. I want to know what historical recipe you're using (including your sources), your redaction (what you actually did; there are always compromises), and what you'd do differently the next time you make it.
3. I will be using the Kingdom of Atlantia Brewers Guild Judging Forms for both competitions. Feel free to review them in advance of the competitions.

Baronial A & S Champions competition:

The time has come once again for Bright Hills to choose a new A&S Champion. In keeping with the Mardi Gras theme of the Bright Hills Birthday Celebration this year the competition will be as follows:

The Lenten season of austerity and fasting will soon be upon us. But before we see Shrovetide pass let's eat heartily and participate in rowdy revels. In preparation for these celebrations, create your best party themed art. Make it loud, make it bold, make it bright! Make it illuminated, make it garb, make it metal! Just make it! Be creative and be inspired by an exemplar but be creative in your work. Documentation of the exemplar for entries is required. Entries will be judged on execution

and creativity but not on adherence to the exemplar. If you have any questions please contact Freydis sjona (Casey Keener) at frejya2004@gmail.com

ScRiBAl Competition

Lady Alexandria Wright, Baronial Signet, invites all scribes to enter a competition to honor those of the Barony in the form of Scroll blanks. All levels of scribes welcome to provide blanks for the Baronial Signet office of blanks for Baronial Awards.

The following guidelines apply:

1. Blanks must be made on one of the following: Smooth Bristol; Pergamenata or Arches Hot Press
2. They must include space for text no smaller than 5" x 7". Unless you choose to include the scroll text then leave space to fill in the name of the person receiving the award as well as the date it is given with a light pencil line.
3. Scrolls can be either 7.5" x 9.5" or 10.5" x 13.5" with at least a 3/4" border all around.

Should you have any questions please contact Lady Alexandria (Andrea Scott) at ladyalexandriawright@gmail.com

Table Decoration Competition

There will be a competition for the best table decoration sized 'float', complete with its own Krewe. Float must be no larger than 12" wide and 18" long. No height restriction. The float theme should be 'Mardi Gras'. 'Floats' will be presented, parade fashion, during feast and the winner will be selected by the gentles seated at High Table. Prize sponsored by the Autocrat. For More information contact Chagan Khulan (Karen Whitlock) at chagankhulan@gmail.com

Classes

Beaded Jewlery: A class on constructing beaded jewelry (\$6.00 class fee) followed by a supporting class on locating beadwork documentation offered by Lady Sindara. Details coming soon

Kumihimo for Beginners: Have you seen those neat braids that have become so popular with awards? Have you wanted to learn the general history about them? Lady Livia di Samuele will be teaching a class at birthday. \$5.00 will buy you a basic set with a traditional 8 strand braid (one foam form, instructions, a weight, and 8 clothes pins with enough cotton to make 3 feet of braid). If you have any questions please contact Lady Livia (Sherrill Abramson) at 301-807-5476 (no calls after 9:00 PM) or at abramsonsm@yahoo.com * Phone calls are preferred.

Lunch – The Bright Hills Archers are hosting a fundraiser lunch. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

Merchants are always welcome! If you are interested in merchanting please contact Lady Livia di Samuele (Sherrill Abramson) at 301-807-5476 (no calls after 9:00 PM) or at Abrahamsonsm@yahoo.com * Phone calls are preferred.

Site: The Manchester VFD Activities Bldg, 3297 York St., Manchester, MD 21102

Lore from the Larder



illumination from The Luttrell Psalter

Rice Pudding

In Northern Europe in particularly Sweden, Finland, and Norway a single whole almond is hidden among the bowls of rice; tradition says that whoever finds it in their portion will be blessed with good fortune. In the 1300s, rice was imported to Norway and recognized as a status symbol. Serving rice porridge on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve was something for the elite. It is normally dusted with cinnamon.

Original Recipe:

Rys. Take a porcyoun of rys, & pyke hem clene, & sethe hem welle, & late hem kele; þen take gode mylke of almaundys & do þer-to, & sepe & stere hem wyl; & do þer-to sugre and hony, & serue forth.

Translation:

Rice. Take a portion of rice, and pick it clean, and boil it well, and let it cool; then take good milk of almonds and thereto, and boil and stir it well; and do thereto sugar and honey, and serve forth.



Redaction::

2 cups almond milk

¼ cup sugar 2 Tbsp. honey

2 cups of water 1 cup rice

Bring water to a boil in 2 quart pot then stir in rice. Reduce heat to low and let rice cook for 20 minutes until rice is tender. Add almond milk, sugar and honey. Continue to cook, stirring constantly, over low heat until pudding is quite thick. Can be served warm or cooled.

Reference:

Source: Harleian MS. 279, ab. 1420 A.D (from Two Fifteenth-Century Cookery-Books)

The Beginning of New Year's Celebrations

by Lady Scholastica Joycors

At least four millennia ago civilizations around the world began celebrating the beginning of the year. Today most festivities begin on December 31st or New Year's Eve, which is the last day of the Gregorian calendar, and do not end until the wee hours of January 1st (New Year's Day). Among the traditions that we are accustomed to in our day are attending parties, watching the ball fall, food, fireworks and making resolutions for the new year.

It appears that Babylon, sometime during the middle of the third millennium BC has the first recorded history of festivities to honor the new year. For the Babylonians in ancient Mesopotamia it represented the first new moon following the vernal equinox, generally a day late in March which had an equal amount of sunlight and darkness, which was the cue to herald in the new year. They held a massive religious festival called Akitu (the Sumerian word for barley which was cut in the spring) which had different rituals for each of its twelve days. One of the most unusual rituals was held on the fourth day of Akitu, which was known as the humbling of the King, this took place to remind the king of his role to serve the will of the sun god Marduk in order to properly serve his community. In this ritual the head priest would strip the king of his regalia and slap him squarely and with great force across his face. If the king teared up it was apparent that Marduk approved him to be king for another year. One great king of note who submitted himself each year for this humiliating procedure was Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BCE). Following this ritual, the king would swear once again his promises and assurances that he would care for all of his people and his clergy whereupon this regalia would be returned.

Throughout history, civilizations around the world developed increasingly advanced calendars, typically linking the first day of the year to an astronomical, agricultural or religious event. For example, in Egypt the new year began with the annual flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising star Sirius. The Chinese New Year begins with the second new moon after the winter solstice. Some celebrated the new year as a religious holiday with the Feast of the Annunciation which celebrated the coming of the Angel Gabriel to Mary where the streets would be filled with processions and people making offerings to Mary. In some places like Venice, the New year began on March 1st, and in other places it began on Christmas or Easter. The Anglo-Saxons celebrated December 25th as the New Year, then the switched it to March 25th in the later Middle Ages, and then to January 1st in the 18th century.

If you lived in Russia you would celebrate the New Year on multiple days. From 1348, New Year's was celebrated on September 1st. Prior to that, New Year's was celebrated March 1st, and in some places, March 22nd. It wasn't moved officially to January 1st until 1699, by Peter the Great (1672-1725). Russians also celebrate with a New Year's Tree, *Novogodnyaya Yolka*, that remains up until January 14th, when Russians celebrate a second New Year's based on the old Julian calendar, called Old New Year's, *Staryj Novyj God* and where Grandfather Frost along with his daughter would pass out gifts to the children.

In England, it was customary to exchange gifts on New Year's, since it was considered to bring good fortune for the coming year.

In Scotland and Ireland, the appearance of the *First Foot* or the first person to enter the house after midnight, mattered. It was believed that this person could either make or break a family's fortunes for the rest of the year. It went even further than that, for some they believed that someone with light-hair would bring good luck, for others, it was a dark-complexioned man/boy, or someone who was flat footed. However, if you were a red head you would not have received a very warm welcome on New Year's Eve for they were thought to bring bad luck and grief.

In Ireland, New Year's Eve was known as *Oíche Chinn Bliana* (Year's End Night). People banged on the walls and doors of their home to chase out the evil spirits before ringing in the New Year. Irish homes were always spotless to start the New Year off fresh. This was also a time to remember the dead; candles were lit in the windows, an empty place was set at the table, and the door was left unlocked to welcome the spirits of deceased family members who had passed on that year.

In Poland, (as well as several other Eastern European countries) New Year's Eve is known as *Sylvester* after St. Sylvester (†335), whose Feast Day is December 31st (and the date of his death). The legend states that St. Sylvester was imprisoned and then slew a dragon named Leviathan, who had escaped at the beginning of 1,000 AD. Leviathan's defeat was a cause of celebration, and was called St. Sylvester's Eve. In Poland, young boys would dress up as devils, and play pranks. One New Year's Day, bread was baked with a ring or cross hidden inside; if the lucky recipient found a ring, it would herald marriage, if they found a cross, it could mean a life in the clergy.

In France and later England January 1st would be celebrated with a riotous event called *The Feast of Fools* in which a mock ecclesiastical court was held complete with a mock pope. It was a day where the tables were turned and the lower classes dressed up and poked fun at the upper classes. During this feast there was plenty of cross-dressing, gambling, drinking, and risqué behavior (which didn't set well with the church), this tradition eventually fell away in the sixteenth century.

Is it any wonder why one might have been a bit confused at what time of the year you were in if you were a traveler? Frances and Joseph Giles in their book *Life in a Medieval City*, said:

A traveler setting out from Venice on March 1, 1245, the first day of the Venetian year; finding himself in 1244 when he reached Florence; and after a short stay going on to Pisa, where he would enter the year 1246. Continuing westward, he would return to 1245 when he entered Provence, and upon arriving in France before Easter (April 16) he would be once more in 1244.

It now makes perfect sense that the world needed a calendar that would put us all on the proverbial same page in order to keep us from being time travelers. I mean the early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox because it followed tradition. This early calendar was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. Later king, Numa Pompilius, added the months of *Januarius* and *Februarius*. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem himself by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. After much deliberation it was decided that in order to realign the Roman calendar with the sun, Julius Caesar added 90 extra days to the year 46 B.C. thus creating what we know as the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the modern Gregorian calendar that most of us use today.

As part of this reform, Caesar, designated January 1 as the first day of the year, as his way to honor the Roman god of beginnings, Janus, because his two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, decorating their homes with laurel branches and throwing and attending raucous parties. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders desired more days with religious significance and less pagan festivities so they ignored January 1st as the first day of the new year and called it the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ (based on Hebrew tradition of a circumcision occurring 8 days after birth), made December 25th the anniversary of Jesus' birth, and March 25th as the Feast of the Annunciation. In the year 1582, Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1st as the official New Year's Day.

Well there you have it, our celebration of the New Year's Day has gone forward, backward and even a little sideways, but no matter how you celebrate it, I hope that this New Year brings you good fortune, health, and happiness as you ponder the past and look forward to the future.

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The Bard's Corner

Where story, poem and song gather together for the sharing

The Legend of Nian

Traditional Chinese Legend

As told by the Lady Scholastica Joycors

It is said that in ancient China there lived a mythical beast named Nian who had the head of a lion and the body of a bull and had a ferocious attitude and appetite. During the year this monster lived deep at the bottom of the sea and hunted for his food, but when the winter was leaving and the food was gone he became hungry. Nian would rise up out of the sea and come to the Peach Blossom village to eat their livestock, crops, and even the villagers, especially the children. The villagers were terrified of Nian and to protect themselves the villagers would prepare food which they left at their front doors and escape to the remote mountains while Nian ransacked their village looking for food to feed his belly.

On this particular New Year's Eve as the people were dashing around in preparation to leave the village with their old and their young, their cattle and their sheep an old beggar entered their village. He was an ordinary looking man with a stick in one hand and a bag hanging from his arm, his silver white hair and beard glistened in the daylight, he had a ruddy complexion, and a strange sparkle in his eyes but no one seemed to notice him in their panic to escape before Nian arrived, for they were much too concerned about themselves.

On the east side of the village a grandmother noticed the old beggar and offered him some food and some advice. She urged him to quickly escape with them up to the mountains to avoid any confrontation with the monster Nian. The old man simply stroked his beard and said with a smile, "If you allow me to stay in your home for the night I am sure I can drive away the monster Nian."

The old woman was surprised to hear such boldness from this old man and looked at him with discerning eyes and concern, but no amount of begging or prodding would convince the old man to come with her, he simply smiled at her and said nothing, so the grandmother left for the mountain and wished the old man luck and urged him to be careful. As soon as the old woman was out of sight he set down his bag and began to prepare for the arrival of Nian. He put up red banners containing couplets on her door and windows, dressed himself all in red, lit red candles, placed bamboo pieces all around her home and then went inside the old woman's house to wait.

Around midnight the monster Nian emerged from the sea and rushed to the village prepared to dine on whatever he could find and destroy the village, but finding the air strangely still he approached cautiously. What he saw took him by surprise for in front of him were bright red banners on the door and red papers on the windows which caused him great distress and he squalled as if in pain, for he hated the color red. The strange site made Nian tremble in rage and as he pounced towards the door a loud crackling sound burst in the courtyard startling Nian so he dare not come any closer. Just then the old man burst out of the house dressed all in red robes and laughing like a mad man and the flashing bright lights from the candles bled into the eyes of the monster Nian and this threw him into a panic causing him to bolt back through the darkness as quickly as he could to the safety of the sea.

The next day was the first day of the lunar month. When the villagers returned to their village and saw that it was still there and not destroyed they were all in a bit of a daze and wondered what could have happened. It was then that the grandmother saw the old man gathering up his bag and his staff to leave, when their eyes met he made a simple bow to her as a courtesy to show thanks for her hospitality and threw his bag onto his shoulder. She went to grab his arm to stop him from leaving but stopped short as she and the other villagers looked in awe at the red couplets on her door and the red candles still lit inside her home and the embers of the pile of still crackling bamboo around her home and when she turned back to thank the old man he had vanished.

Everybody concluded that the old man must have been a celestial being come to save them from the ferocious monster Nian and to bless the people and he brought with him in his bag the red banners with couplets on them, the red candles, red cloth, and exploding firecrackers as the magic to frighten away Nian. The villagers were so happy with their good fortune that they all went home and dressed in their best clothes and gathered in the courtyard and celebrated their triumph over the monster Nian.

From that day forward the villagers instead of preparing to leave for the mountains to escape the dreaded monster Nian prepared instead for his arrival by placing red couplets on the doors and windows, dressing all in red, hanging red lanterns around the city and giving each child one for protection, and making lots of noise all night by partying and setting off firecrackers to keep Nian away. Word spread to all the surrounding villages of their good fortune and the 3 keys for keeping their village safe and each year Nian approaches the villages looking for a meal but instead runs away in fright from the noise, the fire, and the color red.

This is the story of how the Chinese New Year or Guo Nian (which literally means to overcome Nian) began and grew to become one of the most celebrated traditions in China.

Some Historical Notes: The Chinese New Year has a far-reaching history of over 3,800 years. The origin of the festival can be traced back to the worshiping activities in China's ancient agrarian society. The date for the ceremony wasn't fixed till the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD), when Emperor Wudi commanded the people to use the lunar calendar.

The name of 'Nian' (year), in fact, emerged in the Zhou Dynasty (1046 - 256 BC), and the worshiping performance eventually turned into a social practice to observe the beginning of farming in spring. Not only worshiping ancestor and praying for good harvest, they also began to enshrine the Kitchen God, Gate God, Joy God, Wealth God, and Well God.

The festival date had been really entrenched since the emperor Wudi, during the Han Dynasty, fixed the first day of January in the Chinese lunar calendar as the New Year's Day, which has continued till the present day. At that time, Chinese New Year had become a nationwide event. There was a big festival fair launched by the government, and civil people also gathered for celebration. New custom activities also arose, such as burning the bamboo (setting off fireworks nowadays), hanging Spring Couplets and staying up at night.

In 1912, the government decided to abolish Chinese New Year and the lunar calendar, but adopted the Gregorian calendar instead. People were unwilling to change the tradition, so the policy did not carry out successfully. A compromise was made that both calendar systems were kept, and the Gregorian calendar used in government, factory, school and other organizations while lunar calendar used for traditional festivals.



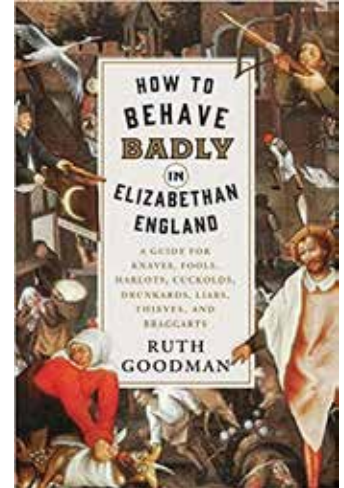
Books of Knowledge

How to Behave Badly in Elizabethan England: A Guide for Knaves, Fools, Harlots, Cuckolds, Drunkards, Liars, Thieves, and Braggarts

by Ruth Goodman

Offensive language, insolent behavior, slights, brawls, and scandals come alive in Ruth Goodman's uproarious history.

Every age and social strata has its bad eggs, rule-breakers, and nose-thumpers. As acclaimed popular historian and author of *How to Be a Victorian* Ruth Goodman shows in her madcap chronicle, Elizabethan England was particularly rank with troublemakers, from snooty needlers who took aim with a cutting "thee," to lowbrow drunkards with revolting table manners. Goodman draws on advice manuals, court cases, and sermons to offer this colorfully crude portrait of offenses most foul. Mischievous readers will delight in learning how to time your impressions for the biggest laugh, why quoting Shakespeare was poor form, and why curses hurled at women were almost always about sex (and why we shouldn't be surprised). Bringing her signature "exhilarating and contagious" enthusiasm (*Boston Globe*), this is a celebration of one of history's naughtiest periods, when derision was an art form. 100 black and white images; two 8 page inserts



Liveright

ISBN: 978-1631495113

Rome: A History in Seven Sackings

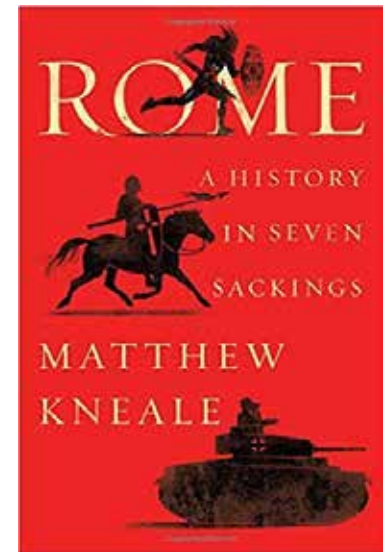
by Matthew Kneale

Novelist and historian Matthew Kneale, a longtime resident of Rome, tells the story of the Eternal City—from the early Roman Republic through the Renaissance and the Reformation to Mussolini and the German occupation in World War Two—through pivotal moments that defined its history.

Rome, the Eternal City. It is a hugely popular tourist destination with a rich history, famed for such sites as the Colosseum, the Forum, the Pantheon, St. Peter's, and the Vatican. In no other city is history as present as it is in Rome. Today visitors can stand on bridges that Julius Caesar and Cicero crossed; walk around temples in the footsteps of emperors; visit churches from the earliest days of Christianity.

This is all the more remarkable considering what the city has endured over the centuries. It has been ravaged by fires, floods, earthquakes, and—most of all—by roving armies. These have invaded repeatedly, from ancient times to as recently as 1943. Many times Romans have shrugged off catastrophe and remade their city anew.

Matthew Kneale uses seven of these crisis moments to create a powerful and captivating account of Rome's extraordinary history. He paints portraits of the city before each assault, describing what it looked like, felt like, smelled like and how Romans, both rich and poor, lived their everyday lives. He shows how the attacks transformed Rome—sometimes for the better. With drama and humor he brings to life the city of Augustus, of Michelangelo and Bernini, of Garibaldi and Mussolini, and of popes both saintly and very worldly. He shows how Rome became the chaotic and wondrous place it is today. *Rome: A History in Seven Sackings* offers a unique look at a truly remarkable city.



Simon & Schuster

ISBN: 978-0061947032

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

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/PAEG

(Sundays 4-8pm; Contact Lady Reyne Telarius home, 472 Winterberry Dr, Edgewood, MD check for exact dates or check calendar)

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 Regester Avenue just over peak of a hill. (If you miss Regester Ave. don't despair: at next light make a right onto Loch Hill Rd., then left at stop sign onto Regester Ave. If you've gone too far on Loch Raven, you will reach Northern Parkway – a huge intersection.) Our house is at 1020 Regester – 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 Regester 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

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.

Armory

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

Gold Key

To Access Gold Key garb,
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,

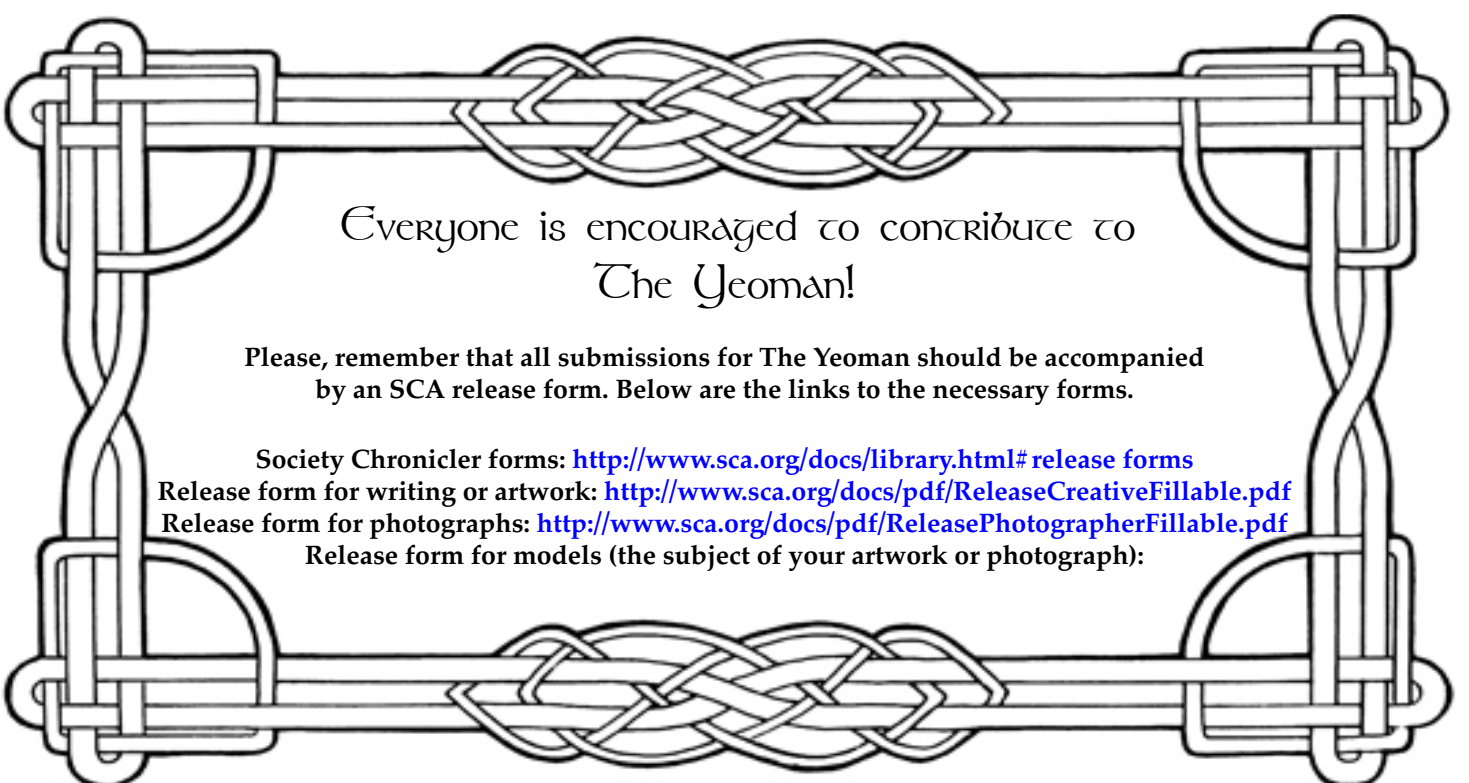
Dagný austkona at rmknoblauch@gmail.com

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, and Dagný austkona at rmknoblauch@gmail.com

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 Freydis sjóna <i>Casey Keener</i> 410-852-0621 frejya2004@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Exchequer Lady Wanda Ostojowna <i>Wanda Kinnie</i> 443-398-5100, wandaostojowna@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Ueðminister Dagný austkona <i>Rachael Knoblauch</i> 301-481-1949 rmknoblauch@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Seneschal</p> 	<p>Deputy Exchequer Lord Cairell mac Cormaic <i>Howard Carl Jacobson</i> 443-416-8356, cairellmaccormaic@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Ueðminister</p> 
<p>Chronicler Lady Scholastica Joycors <i>MyLinda Butterworth</i> 443-817-2129 totallystories@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Steward/Deputy Exchequer Master Chirhart Blackstar <i>Truman Barnes</i> 410-239-8794 chirhart_1@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Châtelaine Maestra Barbara Giumaria diRoberto <i>Barbara Kriner</i> 443-244-0432 bjokriner@yahoo.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Chronicler</p> 	<p>Baronial Clerk Signet Lady Alexandria Wright <i>Andrea Scott</i> 410-952-4808 ladyalexandriawright@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Châtelaine Lord Wrad of Ce <i>Wade Whitlock</i> 410-272-8407 wadewhitlock@hotmail.com</p> 
<p>Herald Master Richard Wyn <i>Richard Muti</i> 443-615-1025 RickWyn@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Youth Minister Baroness Katarzyna Witkowska <i>Katherine Hawkins</i> 443-813-1436 k_hawk_us@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Minister of Arts & Sciences Lord Alexander de Burdegala <i>Larry Jones</i> Appolodelsol@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Deputy Herald Lady Deirdre O'Bardon <i>Debbie Eccles</i> 410-356-0028 deirdre_obardon@yahoo.com</p> 	<p>Deputy Youth Minister Bridget of Bright Hills <i>Wilda Hawkins</i></p> 	<p>Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences Baroness Tatiana Ivanovna of Birchwood Keep <i>Claudia Bosworth</i> 410-437-7090 crbosworth@aol.com</p> 

Minister of Lists Lord Alexander Fowler <i>Hunter Fowler</i> 443-538-2220 hunterfsca@yahoo.com 	Knights Marshall Lord Randver Askmodr <i>Randy Feltman</i> 410-877-1735 randver_askmodr@verizon.net 	Archery Deputy Marshal 
Deputy Minister of Lists Lady Livia di Samuele <i>Sherrill M. Abramson</i> 301-807-5476 Abramsonsm@yahoo.com 	Deputy Heavy Marshal Master Heinrich Kreiner <i>Robert Stephen Kriner</i> lands_heinie@yahoo.com 443-789-8109 	Rapier Deputy Marshal Lord Stephen Bridewell <i>Stephen Cavano</i> 410.235.3590 stephenbridewell@yahoo.com 
	Thrown Weapons Deputy Marshal Lady Beatrice Shirwod <i>Annelise Bauer</i> 843-312-5971 spindlebird@gmail.com 	

Current Baronial Champions:

Archery: Master Janyyn Fletcher of Lancastreschire

Arts and Sciences: Lady Freydis Sjona

Bardic: Lord Faolan Mac Raghnaill

Baronial Warlord: Lord Randvar Askmodr

Brewer: Lord Michel von Schonsey

Equestrian: Mor Inghean Ui Dochartaigh

Heavy Weapons: Lord Grimkel

Thrown Weapons: Lord Trygvvi

Rapier: Lord Conrad Muni

Children's Archery- Cedric and Moira

