

# The Yeoman



Newsletter of the Barony of Bright Hills  
September 2019 ❖ Volume 33, Issue 10

## The Story Behind the Cover Image

This is a segment of the Carta Marina, a wall map of Scandinavia featuring sea monsters and magnificent ships. The original map is 49.2 inches x 66.9" in length. The caption reads : Marine map and description of the Northern Lands and of their Marvels, most carefully drawn up at Venice in the year 1539 through the generous assistance of the Most Honourable Lord Hieronymo Quirino. This map has a multitude of things like Icelanders drying cod, Pagan Sami praying in Lappland. Hanburgers fighting Scots in the North Atlantic. Folks skiing across the Gulf of Finland. Bears doing questionable things in Lithuania. A translation of the Latin title page goes: "Olaus Magnus Gothus', the Upsala Archbishops', history of the Nordic people's different manners and camps, also about the wonderful differences in customs, holy practices, superstitions, bodily exercises, government and food keeping; further on war, buildings and wonderful aids; further on metals and different kinds of animals, that live in these neighbourhoods (...)" Image Source: Wikimedia

## In This Edition

The Story Behind the Cover Image .....	2
A Note from your Chronicler .....	2
Greetings from your Vicar .....	3
Minutes of the Bright Hills Board Meeting .....	4
Atlantian Calendar .....	7
Upcoming Events .....	8
Harvest War Ad .....	9
Curiosity Corner: Here Kitty, kitty, kitty ... ..	10
Lore from the Larder: - Ravioli .....	11
Here There be Dragons: .....	13
Bard's Corner: Sigurd the Dragonslayer .....	16
Practices & Meetings .....	18
Electronic Connection .....	18
Officers and Deputies .....	19



## A Note from Your Chronicler

School is starting, and the weather is finally trying to cool off. The Fall months are bringing lots of events that you will not want to miss in the month of September alone and then Coronation and new Excellencies. This fall looks to be action packed.

Great news for the Barony or at least to me, I now have a deputy to help with the newsletter and she has started her own column called Curiosity Corner, I for one can't wait to see what she has to add to our monthly endeavors.

Hope your this next month brings a smile to your face.

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



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# THE BARONTY OF BRIGHT HILLS

## Unto the Populace of Bright Hills

As the night turns cool, I take my position at the bellows. This is a position I have set before. It's almost comforting in the memory but I know I will not be here long for another will take their seat to keep the fires burning. Soon enough.

I sit here upon this place, reminiscing. Curious of course, for who wouldn't be. But time will tell as the saying goes. We will know.

Soon enough.

I have the confidence those that come will be fierce in their defense of their people-our people. Gentle in their demeanor to those that have need-our needs. Encouraging the ones still learning-as we all continue our search of knowledge.

Soon enough.

But enough of this idle thought. The embers require attention. There is plenty to be done and the old saying goes, many hands make lighter work.

The travels ahead will include but not limited to: Battle on the Bay the weekend of September 7th, followed quickly by the Royal Archery event we are hosting on the 14th. Hot on the heels of these two events is Stierbach's Baronial Birthday on the 21st with the following weekend being our own Harvest Wars on the weekend of the 27th. My tenure will conclude at Atlantia's Coronation of Cuan and Signy, our upcoming Majesties. To take place the first weekend in October. Where we will greet our new Excellencies as they take their seat and strive to serve you well.

Come and join me for both joyous revelry and well deserved homage. It's going to be an exciting time. I look forward to sharing it with you.

Yours in Service,

*Baronen Rebecca von Zweckel*

**Vicor of Bright Hills**



# Minutes of the Bright Hills Business Meeting August 16, 2019 - 7: p.m.

**Attendees:** Casey Keener, Rebecca Kepple, MyLinda Butterworth, Becky Ritterhouse, Debbie Eccles, Claudia Bosworth, Randy Feltman, Erin Scimeca, Karen Whitlock, Victoria Wank, Barbara Kriner, Robert Kriner, Jay Nardone, Amy Nardone, Rachel Knoblauch, Wanda Kinnie, Erin Markel, Richard Muti, Jill Crowther Peters, Wade Whitlock.

**REPORT FROM THE VICAR.** (Rebecca Kepple) Pennsic was awesome, thanks for the company for Opening Ceremonies, St. Sebastian shoot was heartwarming.

## Officer Reports:

**Seneschal:** Freydis sjona (Casey Keener) — We will continue using the church until the end of January. Question as to whether we will be using church on December 27th for practice, we will not, so we let the church know. Five letters of intent were received and will be sent out electronically tomorrow with the timeline. The mailing of polling letters will be sent out on August 26th. There will be no meet and greet so if someone has questions they should email them to the candidates.

**Chronicler:** Lady Scholastica Joycors (MyLinda Butterworth) — A deputy has been approved in Amelia Rosa. Special polling edition will be sent to the populace tomorrow August 17.

**Exchequer:** Lady Wanda Ostojowna (Wanda Kinnie) — We have money. The coronet and youth funds remain the same.

**Webminister:** Lady Dagný austkona ( Rachael Knoblauch) — The website is up to date to the best of my knowledge. As a reminder, please cc our new deputy, Winifred Carruthers, on any webminister-related emails.

**Herald:** Master Richard Wyn (Richard Muti) — Volunteer hours were given at Herald's Point at Pennsic. No other new news.

**MoAS:** Baroness Tatiana Ivanovna of Birchwood Keep (Claudia Bosworth)— Two individuals taught classes in July in conjunction with fighter practice.

Kalara taught class II on Hebron of Alexandria (4 in attendance)

Daniela taught limp book binding (6 working on books, 5 interested on-lookers)

Sandra Anderson and I both brought cars full of fabrics for "give away to good home" June 21, 38, July 5, 12, and 19. Sandra has left me with more fabric to re-home before October. This is in addition to the fabric re-homed at Dummer University.

In conjunction with Pennsic, Scholastica Joycors functioned as Dean of Performing Arts, shepherding and scheduling hundreds of hours of classes and entertainments as well as being seen in 3 on stage performances. She also taught two classes.

Mistress Daniela taught classes on book binding, as well as made the book for Faye's Laurel vigil

Mistress Katryzhena taught classes on fun with herbs and and Polish poetry, and displayed in the KW A&S with information about Polish folk tales.

Mistress Faye de Trees (Roxbury Mills) as well as Bright Hills, taught Peer Coaching as well as many yoga sessions--in addition to her Laurel elevation.

Baron Tristan Alexander, Lady Freydis and Lord Randver were merchanting items and skills at Pennsic.



Godai and Jaynan were involved with hosting the Saint Sebastian's Archery shoot,

There also were many other good gentles that participated in the classes, entertainments and martial activities, as well as pictorially archiving the events for the rest of us.

Due to transportation issues, I do not have a head count for Baronial folk who attended Pennsic, but can assume it was in the scores. It would be an interesting thing to really know.

**Chatelain:** Baroness Barbara Giumaria diRoberto (Barbara Kriner) — Chatelain's office received 3 inquiries by e-mail, and my P.T. equals 4 contacts. Oh, and the clerk at the Super 8 checked us out some years ago and was wondering if she could still join.

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

**Minister of the List:** Lord Alexander Fowler (Hunter Fowler)— No activity

**Youth Minister:** — VACANT - .

**Baronial Steward:** VACANT.

### Guild Reports:

**Cooks Guild:** Reports for August 2019

*Greetings from Jeanne Tenneur de Bec, Mistress of the Bright Hills Cooks' Guild.*

On Sunday, August 18, the Guild met at the home of Lady Deirdre O'Bardon and Lord Llywelyn. We also welcomed a newcomer to the Barony, Aine inghean Lochlann (Kirsten Cunningham), who arrived in Maryland a week ago.

First on the calendar is the Battle on the Bay (9/7). Her Excellency Rebecca has requested hospitality. Members of the Guild have also committed to provide items for the vigil of Lady Alexandria.

The next weekend, the Royal Archery Competition will be held on September 14, 2019, at the Baltimore Bowmen. The Guild is planning to provide lunch as a fundraiser. Mistress Wynne has offered to organize the lunch this year. The menu will be sandwiches (tuna salad by Mistress Wynne, egg salad and cucumber sandwiches from Mistress Cordelia, vegies, fruit and dessert).

The weekend of September 21, the Guild has been asked to provide a light lunch for Her Excellency at Steirbach's Baronial Birthday. Mistress Wynne and Mistress Brienna are the organizers.

And the last weekend of the month, 9/28, brings the Baronial Harvest Wars event. The Guild, under Mistress Wynne's able guidance, will provide the feast. The menu has been pretty much finalized. The main change will be to replace the beef roast with a venison sausage. (Note: Mistress Brienna has casings available.)

The pre-cook will take place on Sunday, 9/15, at the home of Mistress Wynne. The focus will be the venison sausage (same recipe as Baronial Birthday 2018) and stuffing and brining the pork roast. The monthly meeting will be held at the same time. Since I will be out of town, Mistress Wynne will chair the meeting.

The weekend of 10/5 will bring Coronation and the Investiture of our next Baron and Baroness. We have not yet been asked to provide anything, but Mistress Jeanne will check with the Vicaress about providing hospitality.

At the baronial meeting in July, Lady Ailis submitted a bid for Baronial Birthday, with Lady Rebekkah as her deputy. The bid was to be voted on during the next Business Meeting and the Guild was asked to prepare the feast. The bid includes a per head fee of \$10 / person, with an expected headcount of 80 (since this is not a Royal Progress, we may drop the head count to 60.) After discussion, the Guild agreed to provide the feast. Once a Head Cook is identified, the menu will be discussed.



At the Business Meeting (8/16), it was announced that Lady Ailis may be leaving (moving out of state), so the vote on the bid will be delayed until the next Business Meeting (9/20). The Guild will delay further discussion of the head cook and menu until the event bid is reviewed and approved.

We also discussed the upcoming Celebration of Life for Master Chirhart Blackstar, which will be held on 8/24. Mistress Cordelia is organizing the table, so if you plan to bring something please contact her. Other questions can be directed to Tim Dahl (tdgm298@yahoo.com) or to Mistress Jeanne.

The next meeting will be Sunday, September 15, at Mistress Wynne's during the pre-cook.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact me directly. I can be reached by phone at 410-239-8794, or by e-mail at bekyritterhouse@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact me directly. I can be reached by phone at 410-239-8794, or by e-mail at bekyritterhouse@yahoo.com.

### **Old Business:**

Royal Archery - Mostly have things in order. We will need a 20 x 20 Pavilion, a water hose, and help with breakdown. Someone will bring the sink for hand washing. A check for seed money is needed.

Harvest Wars - We still don't have a youth marshal. We have one merchant so far and feast is on point.

Birthday - Ailish is pretty sure that they are moving by the end of the year. Do we still want her as an autocrat. Feb 8, 2020. Victoria is still willing to co-autocrat. The theme is based on the Unicorn tapestries. Motion was presented to postpone the vote on bid for autocrats and to have a vote on line for officers.

Gold Key. A printed list of items to sell and things to keep. It was felt that we should pare down by 1/3. Lochmart was canceled for Battle on the Bay. Think about a possible yard sale at coronation. Whoever sells articles must give funds back to exchequer.

A motion was presented to sell garb listed at any upcoming events for prices listed with sales going back into the baronial general account. Passed

### **New Business:**

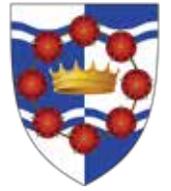
An email from Caroline County wants to know if we want to reserve a space for 2020. If we lock in now we get this year's prices. We can start scouting out dates.

Dagny would like to start a word fame recommendation for doing new things - positive comments and post it in different types of social media. Gather information online or officers meeting and then make small posts. Those items would be basically drawn out of a hat to promote.

Next meeting: September 20, 2019 Adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



# Atlantian Calendar of Events



## September 2019

6-8	Battle on the Bay in the Tyrrhenian Sea	Lochmere	Upper Marlboro, MD
6-8	Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday (R)	Sacred Stone	Boonville, NC
7	Festival of Elvagast --The Wedding of Isabella and Oratio	Elvegast	Hillsborough, NC
13-15	Rip, Rap War III: Guts, Gold, Glory (R)	Marinus	Courtland, Va
14	Royal Archery Tournament	Bright Hills	Glen Arm, MD
21	Fall University		
27-29	Harvest Wards	Bright Hills	Denton, MD
27-29	Border Skirmishes (R)	Cydllan Downs	Trenton, SC
28-29	Clash with Bacchus	Black Diamond	Lynchburg, VA

## October 2019

4-6	Fall Coronation (R, H)	Storvik	Upper Marlboro, MD
12	The Wild Hunt	Ponte Alto	Annadale, VA
16-20	War of the Wings	Atlantia	Boonville, NC

## November 2019

1-3	Fall Crown Tourney (R)	Hidden Mountain	Bennettsville, SC
2-10	Read Mountain Mead Hall	Isenfir	Charlottesville, VA
2-10	Highland Havoc	Higland Foorde	Ijamsville, MD
9	Buckston Birthday	Buckson-on-Eno	Hillsborough, NC
9	Dun Carraig Baronial Birthday - Bounty of the Spanish Empire	Dun Carraig	Waldorf, MD
9	Heralds' Workshop	Nottinghamhill Coill	Spartansburg, SC
16	Medieval Art in the Park	Ritterwald	Aiken, SC
23	Holiday Faire	Stierbach	Manassas, VA

## December 2019

7	Unevent	Atlantia	
13-15	Yule Toy Tourney XIV	Nottinghamhill Coill	Pickens, SC
14	Celebration of Yule	Ponte Alto	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Battle on the Bay in the Tyrrhenian Sea

September 6-8, 2019 • Barony of Lochmere

Summer comes to an end and the warriors of Storvik and Lochmere return home with tales of glorious battle and honor. The Baronies of Lochmere and Storvik, however, continue to thirst for wordfame and glory and invite all to join us for a great melee event.

Eponalia was the festival day celebrating the goddess and her domains of influence but particularly in Roman Gaul. The original feast day traditionally lay on December 18 on the second day of Saturnalia. It was celebrated by all horse lovers where festivities emulated Saturnalia with feasting, dancing, displays and offerings of roses and the bending of social customs.

Website: <http://battleonthebay.storvikevents.org/>

### Blades & Bows 5th Ed

September 06 - 08, 2019 • Canton of Brockore Abbey

This year we are going back to basics! If it has to do with swinging a sword or throwing something we want you. Please come out and learn about SCA fighting in all it's glorious splendor! We also hope to have things for those of you who do not have interest in the marshal side of things. Come out and learn! If you are interested in teaching any class, please feel free to go to the event web page and register as a teacher or contact the autocrats.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/bladesbows5thed/home>

### Festival of Elvegast - The Wedding of Isabella and Oratio

September 7 2019 • Canton of Elvegast

On September 7th, come celebrate the Italian 16th century marriage of Isabella and Oratio! As many of you have seen in the Commedia dell'Arte plays portraying the lives of Isabella, her father Pantalone, her true love Oratio, her servant Arlecchino, and their many friends and neighbors, you know that Isabella and Oratio have been deeply in love and ready to get married for a long time! And now, the marriage day is upon us!

The Canton of Elvegast, being filled with generous and romantic souls, has decided to throw a wedding celebration for Isabella and Oratio! Come join the festivities and celebrate true love!

Website: <http://the-festival-of-elvegast.windmastershill.org>

### Rip Rap War III: Guts, Gold, Glory

September 13 - 15, 2019 § Barony of Marinus

The year is 1561 and WAR has once again descended upon Riprap Island, a rocky plot of land at the mouth of the River Powhatan. Legend has that it guards the key to the Northwest Passage, a fabled direct line to all the gold and treasures of the Orient, feverishly sought by every explorer since Giovanni Caboto.

After two years of fighting over the possession of our much-coveted island, and two years of having it stolen out from under us, the Baronies of Marinus and Tir-Y-Don have decided to join forces to fight off newly arrived bands of marauders who sail under suspicious flags. Join us in defending our island or attempt a naval invasion if you dare!

Website: <http://www.riprapwar3.yolasite.com>

### Harvest Wars

September 27 -29 2019 Barony of Bright Hills

Hear the beat of the war drums, Atlantia's borders are under threat of invasion! The summer is over and the harvest is in now is the time to raid your neighbor's bounty. An invitation is extended to Aethelmarc, Kingdom of the East and Atlantia to come and enlarge their own harvest by raiding their neighbors. There will be cattle and food raids, siege engine pumpkin chucking (bring your own pumpkins), along with many battles. There will be A&S displays and contests, children's activities and a daytime bardic circle of bone-tling tales, not to mention a fabulous feast featuring our bounteous harvest.

Website: [www.brighthills.atlantia.sca.org](http://www.brighthills.atlantia.sca.org)

# Harvest Wars

October 27-29, 2019

*We invite you to join our Campaign to save the harvest from invaders.*

## **We Promise:**

**Heavy Fighting Competitions**  
**Youth Martial Activities**  
**Seige Pumpkin Chuck**

**A&S Displays and Contests**  
**A&S Triathlon - pit your SCA survival skills against your neighbor**

**Children's & Youth Activities**

**Bardic Fyts**

**Potluck Dinner on Friday**

**A Bounteous Feast**

**Free Camping Available**

**Merchants Welcome**

**Barony of Bright Hills**  
**Caroline County 4-H Center**  
**Denton, Maryland**



*for more information contact autocrat at [crbosworth@aol.com](mailto:crbosworth@aol.com)*

# Curiosity Corner



Here Kitty, kitty, kitty...  
by Baroness Aemilia Rosa

**D**id you know...that domestic cats started way before the Middle Ages and that cats in the Middle Ages were treated far differently than a cat is today? The cat had high standings in countries such as Egypt, China and Rome, but in Europe, cats were used for hunting vermin and not much else. Like most things back in the day, religion played a big part in how they were regarded.

It is thought that some of the domestication of cats actually resided from the island of Cyprus, where archeologists found a cat's jawbone in 1983 dating back 8,000 years. However, that is not where it started, as we well know Cats were very popular in the Middle East and it is speculated to be even longer, 12,000 years ago. The Egyptian love for the cat is well known, and scientists discovered a cat cemetery in Beni-Hassan with 300,000 cat mummies! That is a lot of cats! In Rome, cats were pampered, as weasels did the rodent hunting for them. It wasn't until the Middle Ages that cats were associated with the devil and witches. Many were killed in efforts to ward off evil, or killed along with the person charged with witchcraft.



Luttrell Psalter, 1320-1340

Pope Gregory IX in 1233 CE denounced cats, especially black cats – as evil and in league with Satan. It was not good if you owned a cat, especially if you were a woman. Eighty percent of those charged with witchcraft were women.

It was not good if you owned a cat, especially if you were a woman. Eighty percent of those charged with witchcraft were women.

The bubonic plague started in 1348 and the cause was actually blamed on the widespread killing of all of the cats. Without the cats, there were more vermin which spread the plague. Unfortunately this way of thinking continued until the The Protestant Reformation (1517-1648 CE) which broke the power hold over people's lives and allowed for people to think for themselves and rethink how they thought about cats. People started keeping cats as pets and it was not until the Reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901 CE) that cats were once again in the social status that they had been accustomed to in Egypt. Today there are 47.1 million domestic cats in the United States alone that are "people owners."

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/a-brief-history-of-house-cats-158390681/> <https://www.ancient.eu/article/1387/cats-in-the-middle-ages/> <https://www.dailydogstuff.com/us-pet-ownership-statistics/>



Dating from 664 B.C. - 395 A.D., An Egyptian Mummified Housecat

# Lore from the Larder



illumination from The Luttrell

## Ravioli

by Scholastica Joycors

The history of pasta is a somewhat debated subject. It may date back as far as the 4th Century Etruscan and Ostrogothic periods<sup>1</sup>. There are records of it in Chinese, Indian, Mongol, Persian, and Arabic cuisine going back to at least the 9th Century and a thousands before that, mostly in the form of noodles, according to the Oxford Companion to Food.<sup>2</sup> The popular belief is that explorer Marco Polo brought pasta back home to Venice after his travels to China in the 13th Century. However, according to Tannahill, noodles were introduced into Venice from the Middle East as early as the 11th Century; for instance, Sicilian inheritance records from that time include “one basket full of maccheroni.”

Ravioli is stuffed pasta. It could be as simple as mixed cheeses and herbs, meat stuffed or a combination of vegetables and meats. The recipes I found began in the 14th century Anglo-Norman collections and continued into Italy.

To make Ravioli you need to start by making fresh pasta dough and let it rest for 30 minutes before rolling out. For the most part any pasta recipe will do as the recipe has not changed in centuries, flour, eggs, a pinch of salt and splash of oil. The filling is why we eat ravioli.



*Get a pound and a half of old cheese and a little fresh creamy cheese, and a pound of bacon or of loin of veal that should be well boiled, then chopped; get ground fragrant herbs, pepper, cloves, ginger and saffron, adding in a well ground breast of chicken; mix all of this well together; make a thin dough and wrap the mixture in it the size of a nut; set these ravioli to cook in the fat broth of a capon or of some other good meat, adding a little saffron, and let them boil for half an hour; then set them out in dishes, garnished with a mixture of grated cheese and good spices.*

## Redaction of the Filling

2 1/4 (or so) ounces of shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
1 ounce cream cheese at room temperature  
2 slices thick bacon, cooked to slightly crispy and well-drained  
1 tablespoon shallot, finely chopped  
1/4 tablespoon fresh parsley, finely chopped  
1/4 tablespoon fresh oregano or marjoram, finely chopped  
1/2 teaspoon Poudre Fines (see recipe below)  
1 boneless, skinless chicken thigh, about 4 ounces  
2 pinches of salt



## Poudre Fines

1 teaspoon black pepper  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon ginger  
1 teaspoon mace  
1 teaspoon grains of paradise or cardamon

Mix together and store in a sealed container.

**Filling:** Mix the cheddar and cream cheeses well. Chop the bacon into small pieces and mix with the cheeses. Add the shallot, parsley, oregano, and spices; mix well.

Cut the chicken into chunks and saute' in the bacon grease until no longer pink. Put in food processor or mortar and process until a paste. Mix with the cheeses.

Taste for salt and add a pinch or two as needed. The bacon and cheese might be salty enough. After everything is mixed well, put into covered container and refrigerate. Makes about 3/4 of a cup.

**Making the Ravioli:** After your dough has rested for 30 minutes, divide in half and roll one half out till it is thin enough to see through. Cut into equal squares. Place a dollop of your filling in the center of each square, leaving enough room to seal them. Rub water around the filling and place a second square on the top and press together.

Drop each ravioli one at a time into the broth-flavored water, strongly simmering water. Boil for about two minutes they were removed, drained, and tasted. It is said if they float to the top they are done.

## References:

Ravioli from The Neapolitan Recipe Collection, 15th Century Italian

<http://www.katjaorlova.com/PastaClass.html> Medieval Pasta: History, Preparation, and Recipes

<http://historicalrecipes.blogspot.com/2014/09/historical-raviolis-second-filling-italy.html>

The Medieval Kitchen, pg. 13.

*The Original Mediterranean Cuisine*, pg. 29. The standard way of cooking pasta was in stock, or in water with salt, butter, and oil; it was served with grated cheese, and sometimes spices as well... Alternatively, pasta could be cooked with sugar and almond milk, or with goat's milk. Fresh pasta was used to make ravioli and tortelli, which were filled with a thick puree of meat, chicken, or vegetables, often combined with fresh cheese and bound with egg. Like other forms of pasta, these were usually cooked in stock and accompanied by grated cheese." *The Original Mediterranean Cuisine*, pg. 29.



# Here there Be Dragons

by Lady Scholastica Joycors



Just the mention of the word dragon elicits images of winged serpent like creatures. Dragons have been recorded in both religious and scientific documents, in legends, folklore, medicine,

literature, sculpture, illuminated manuscripts and history. There have always been dragons in fact you can find the words “Here Be Dragons” found on the map Magnus Carta (1539) showing where to avoid dragons and sea serpents. Whether they are real or imagined they are part of our past and seen even today in anthropology, literature, movies, and art. Dragons depending on where you are in the world are considered, magical, mystical, powerful creatures who should be both feared and respected. (Neal)

No one knows exactly where these myths of dragons originated, but we can find references to them in the book of Job in the Bible (Job) as the Leviathan (believed to be the sea-monster Cetus, the same mythological whale sent by Poseidon to attack Ethiopia) is described like a dragon in fantastic detail:

“I will not fail to speak of Leviathan’s limbs, its strength and its graceful form Who can strip off its outer coat? Who can penetrate its double coat of armor? Who dares open the doors of its mouth, ringed about with fearsome teeth?...

Its snorting throws out flashes of light; its eyes are like the rays of dawn. Flames stream from its mouth; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke pours from its nostrils as from a boiling pot over burning reeds.

Its breath sets coals ablaze, and flames dart from its mouth...

When it rises up, the mighty are terrified; they retreat before its thrashing. The sword that reaches it has no effect, nor does the spear or the dart or the javelin. Iron it treats like straw and bronze like rotten wood...

Nothing on earth is its equal—a creature without fear. It looks down on all that are haughty; it is king over all that are proud.”

Many archaeologists believe that the myths of dragons originated from ancient peoples’ discovery of unfathomably large, long-necked dinosaur fossils. For instance, the Qijianglong was a dinosaur that lived 160 million years ago and measured approximately 49 feet (15 m) long. Its fossil was discovered by construction workers in China. One by one, they uncovered the massive vertebrae stretched out in a row in the earth. Is it then hard to imagine that people in ancient China finding these skeletons and creating stories to explain their origin, it has been suggested that the Chinese have been finding and studying dinosaur fossils at least as far back as the 4th century B.C. (Sullivan)

The Chinese seem to have embraced the dragon as part of their culture more than any other. They believe the dragon to be a just and benevolent creature. It is for this reason dragons became associated with rulership and especially the emperors of China who, in their capacity as the holders of the Mandate of Heaven as God’s representative on earth, must always rule in a just and impartial manner for the good of all their subjects, for this reason you will find the dragon motif found not only on their robes but on all royal furnishings and architecture.



It is also believed that Chinese rulers should emulate dragons because they are considered one of the four most intelligent animals (along with the phoenix, unicorn, and tortoise)

in creation. One famous myth tells of a dragon actively helping a ruler, Yu the Great (c. 2070 BCE), the legendary founder of the Xia dynasty, who was helped by a dragon (or actually was a dragon) and a turtle to manage the floodwaters which were devastating his kingdom and so control them into a better irrigation system. (Cartwright)

While the Chinese may have found dragons to be benevolent, not everyone felt the same way you can find tales of heroic dragon slayers in folklore which was passed down for generations. In medieval Europe, depictions of dragons showed up in flags, coat of arms, and across the pages of history books. (Neal) You can find places across the world where what people supposed to “real” dragons are preserved and on display, or immortalized by statues, sculptures, or painting. Here are a few places which display their dragons:



**Brno Czech Republic:** The most popular legend tells of a large beast, which the people called a dragon, which came to Brno and ate all the livestock, the people were terrified and merchants stopped coming to the city and women not go to the market. One day a visiting butcher had a brilliant idea. The butcher took an ox hide and filled it with a large amount of caustic limes and sewed it up to make it look like a juicy meal for the dragon. As predicted the beast came and ate the ox and this made the dragon very thirsty and so it drank a large amount of water at the river which caused its stomach to expand and it burst. The citizens celebrated by preserving the dragon hide (which looks like an enormous alligator) and hung it in the Old Town Hall, where it hangs to this day. Truth or legend you decide. (Old Town Hall of Brno and the legends of the Dragon and the wheel)



The Dragon of Brno



The Wawel Dragon, in Sebastian Münster's Cosmographie Universalis (1544)

**Krakow, Poland:** Poland’s Wawel Cathedral holds the remains of a number of Polish royals as well as some of the country’s most famous religious art, but the real attraction is the hanging bundle of bones which are rumored to have belonged to a local dragon. Legends of the Wawel dragon have similarities with the biblical story about Daniel and the Babylonian dragon. Similar stories are told about Alexander the Great the Krakow story has its own pre-Christian origins. It seems that King Krakus ordered his men to stuff the flesh of a calf skin with sulfur and placed it outside the dragon’s lair. The dragon ate it and became so thirsty, it turned to the Vistula River and drank until it burst.

Hanging next to the cathedral’s entrance are the “real” bones of Smok Wawelski, the local dragon, who before the city was founded was said to live in a cave under one of Wawel’s rolling hills. The bones are chained together in a random jumble, hanging high above the main doors, legend has it that the end of the world will come when the bones fall to the ground.

**Atessa, Italy:** A preserved “dragon” rib memorializes the legend of the founding of the city of Atessa. The large bone is held behind glass in a viewing case that is itself behind iron bars. The long, curved bone is believed by skeptics to be a part of a mammoth skeleton, but this has no more been vilified than its belonging to a dragon. (Neal)

The local legend says that Atessa was once two different villages, Ate and Tixa. The two small villages were separated by a marsh or river which was nearly impossible to cross due to the dragon that lived in there. After spending years giving tribute to the dragon in the form of food and livestock, the two villages decided to seek the help of a specialist: Leucio, Bishop of Brindisi and dragon-buster, who had already supposedly already killed a dragon in his city. The man went into the lair by himself and subdued the vile creature with only his glance

and willpower, chained the monster for seven days to satisfy folks' curiosity, then killed it. The dragon's magical blood was used to cure diseases and to turn the marsh into fertile farmland. After this epic struggle, the two villages merged together and a church was built directly over the dragon's lair to honor Saint Leucio.

**Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Austria:** According to the legend, in the 13th century a dragon, Lindwurmbrunnen, was wreaking havoc in Klagenfurt until a brave man caught it like a fish. In 1335, the dragon's skull (unfortunately in the 1800s zoologists realized it belonged to an Ice Age woolly rhinoceros) was found in a nearby quarry aptly known as Dragon's Grave. For decades the skull was proudly displayed in the capital city of Carinthia's town hall. Later, it was brought to life in a medieval sculpture and fountain still seen today. The woolly rhino's jawless skull is still on display at the State Museum of Carinthia.

**Königswinter, Germany:** Nibelungenhalle, a stone temple decorated with scenes from Richard Wagner's fantastic Opera "Ring of the Neibelung" was based on the legend of Siegfried and the dragon Fafnir. Both living and sculpted, they recall the famous giant-turned-dragon, Fafnir. The story is the centerpiece in the epic Volsunga Saga, in which Siegfried kills Fafnir, who had been transformed into a hideous dragon by a powerful curse. In the legend, Fafnir guarded a hoard of golden treasure. The dragon was so huge that the very ground shook when he walked. At Drachenfels ("Dragon Rock"), Königswinter on the Rhine, a large statue of a typical dragon lurks near the ruins of a castle built on the summit of the hill in about 1150. A cave below was believed to be Fafnir's lair.

In legends and folktales, dragons are magical--yet early naturalists often treated these creatures as part of the natural world. Biologists in Europe once wrote accounts of the behavior and habitat of dragons, along with lizards and snakes. Chinese scholars have classified the dragon as one of the 369 animal species with scales. It was not the live dragons that inspired all the stories, but the fossils of these extinct reptiles

Things that have been said have been recorded in so many places, here are just a few:

"For using dragon's bones, first cook odorous plants; bathe the bones twice in hot water, pound them to powder and put this in bags of gauze. Take a couple of young swallows and, after taking out their intestines and stomach, put the bags in the swallows and hang them over a well. After one night take the bags out of the swallows, rub the powder and mix it into medicines for strengthening the kidneys. The efficacy of such a medicine is as it were divine!" --*Chinese medical scholar Lei Xiao* (AD 420-477)

"The dragons of the mountains have scales of a golden color, and in length excel those of the plain, and they have bushy beards, which also are of a golden hue; and their eye is sunk deep under the eyebrow, and emits a terrible and ruthless glance." --*Greek scholar Philostratus* (c. AD 170-245)

So yes, dragons have dotted our past but we can't let go of the idea of dragons as they appear in so many of today's movies, books, and more. Stories and legends are filled with the fighting of dragons from Beowulf to St. George and the Dragon even back to the Bible. What are we to do? I say dragons are real and we should let those dragons fly even if they are just dragonflies.

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# The Bard's Corner

Where story, poem and song gather together for the sharing

## Sigurd the Dragonslayer

A Norse Saga

**S**iegfried\_from\_WagnerSigurd, also known as Siegfried, is the slayer of the dragon Fafnir, a great hero of Germanic myth, a member of the eponymous family of the Saga of the Volsungs, and (as Siegfried) one of the stars of Richard Wagner's famous Ring Cycle. There are many tales and relationships and adaptations and analyses to make about Sigurd and his role in myth; we'll start today with his slaying of Fafnir, and branch out from there in future posts.

Sigurd was the son of Sigmund, a great and wise king. King Sigmund and another King, Lyngvi, had both pursued a young, beautiful princess named Hjordis, daughter of King Eylimi. In the end, Hjordis chose Sigmund over Lyngvi despite his advanced age, because of his age and renown. Lyngvi, infuriated, mustered an army and lay siege to Sigmund and his lands. Eventually Sigmund fell, but Hjordis was already pregnant, and she found refuge with King Alf, leader of a band of Vikings who had been nearby when Sigmund fell.

In King Alf's court, Sigurd was raised by a man named Regin, son of Hreidmar, and taught in all the skills and traditions of the high-born. As Sigurd approached manhood, Regin pointed out to Sigurd that his situation had resulted in very little wealth of his own, and Regin was aware of a hoard of gold that would help him build his own home. The quest to get this treasure would result in much glory!

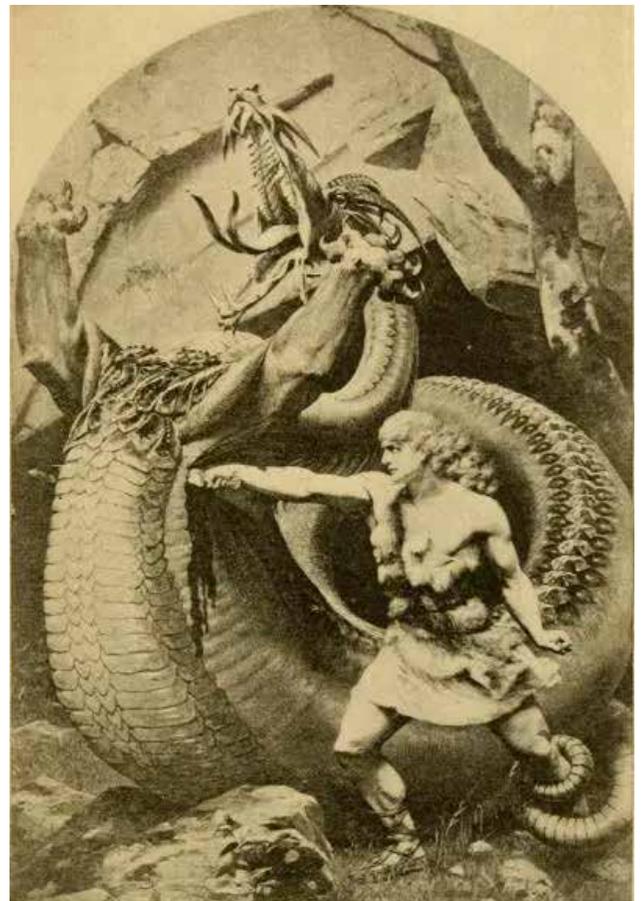
Regin went on to explain that the treasure was guarded by a dragon called Fafnir. Fafnir was once a man, and the oldest son of Hreidmar – Regin's father. Hreidmar had once been a wealthy fisherman, who succeeded because of his ability to change shapes to an otter. But one day the gods, Odin, Loki, and Hoenir had come across Hreidmar's son Otr in the form of an otter, and killed him. Hreidmar and Fafnir convinced the gods to compensate them for the loss of Otr, but the dwarf, Andvari, who helped supply the gold was unhappy with his part in the transaction, and cursed the gold so that the treasure would be the death of whoever owned it.

And so Hreidmar died, and Fafnir transformed into a foul dragon, leaving his horde only for food and water.

Regin convinced Sigurd to help him retrieve the treasure from his crazed, shape-shifted brother. Sigurd first consulted a seer, who told him of the tasks he must perform, and afterwards told Regin that he would help him with the treasure, but that first he must avenge his father's death.

Sigurd then tried to find an adequate sword but could not. He tried to have Regin forge a new sword capable of withstanding his mighty blows, but those swords failed as well. He then had Regin re-forged the sword Gram, a powerful sword passed down through the Volsungs. This time, the sword was right.

Sigurd went to the lands of his enemy King Lyngvi, accompanied by all those in King Alf's lands who knew him and supported his cause. They quickly took Lyngvi's lands, and Sigurd personally slayed Lyngvi with the



re-made sword Gram once owned by his father.

Upon his return, he went with Regin to scout the dragon's territory.

The dragon walked every day from the cave where the treasure was kept to a nearby pond for water. But Sigurd saw that this dragon was much larger than any man, and that this would be no easy task. Regin recommended that Sigurd should lay a trap for Fafnir: rather than face him in open combat, dig a hole and strike the dragon under the shoulder as he passes the hole rather than risk the poison and anger of a dragon who sees him clearly.

Sigurd agreed, but as he was digging this hole, grew worried that he had made a different kind of trap – one for himself. But a passing stranger, with wide-brimmed hat and long, gray beard, pointed out that if he made several holes, Sigurd would be able to stab from one hole and the poison and blood of the dragon could spill out elsewhere, improving Sigurd's odds of survival. This was likely the second time Odin himself had come to visit Sigurd, one of many he showed favor to the Volsung family.

The battle went as hoped: Fafnir, even more malignant than imagined, with a foul, acrid stench and covered in grime and dripping poison from his mouth, walked right over the trap Sigurd had made. Sigurd struck, and the wound was fatal.

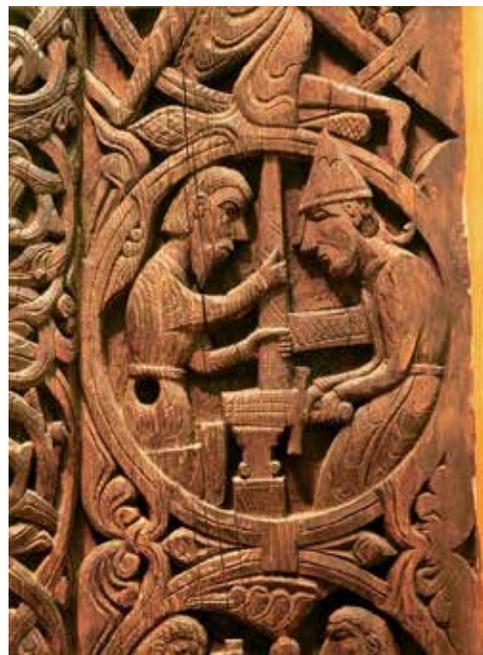
Fafnir lived long enough after the blow to speak to Sigurd, and the dying beast asked his murderer's name. He knew, though, that it was his brother who was behind his death. He advised Sigurd to take his horse and ride far from the treasure, for it would be his death.

Regin arrived shortly after Fafnir died. Sigurd cut out the dragon's heart, apparently a tradition, and Regin drank of his blood. At Regin's request, Sigurd went to cook the heart so that they might make a meal of it. But he tasted of the dragon's blood and found himself with new powers: the ability to understand the language of animals, and especially that of the birds who were flittering about nearby, talking to one another about all that they had seen. Sigurd learned that Regin intended to kill Sigurd so that he wouldn't have to share his shiny treasure, and that the only way to survive was to kill his foster father.

And this Sigurd did, cutting off Regin's head. He then ate part of Fafnir's heart, saving the rest for later. He went to the dragon's lair and loaded his newfound riches into two trunks, and set off for further adventures.

*Many other tales are told of Sigurd which is part of the Volsung Saga.*

<https://throwbackthursday.wordpress.com/2016/05/05/sigurd-the-dragonslayer/>



A portion of the Sigurd Portal where the saga of Sigurd the Dragonslayer is told. Not all stories were written down in history some of them were elaborately carved into wood.

# 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](http://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

#### Cook's Guild

Baroness Wynne ferch Rhodri ap Hwytell,

[jay\\_wynne@hotmail.com](mailto:jay_wynne@hotmail.com)

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

### 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](mailto: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 [robbynbecker@comcast.net](mailto:robbynbecker@comcast.net), and Dagný austkona at [rmknoblauch@gmail.com](mailto: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):

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseModelFillable.pdf>

# Officers and Deputies of the Barony of Bright Hills

Please try not to call after 9 PM



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### Deputy Youth Minister

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### Deputy

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<p><b>Deputy Minister of Lists</b>          Lady Livia di Samuele  <i>Sherrill M. Abramson</i>          301-807-5476          Abramsonsm@yahoo.com</p> 	<p><b>Deputy Heavy Marshal</b>          Master Heinrich Kreiner  <i>Robert Stephen Kriner</i>          lands_heinie@yahoo.com          443-789-8109</p> 	<p><b>Rapier Deputy Marshal</b>          Lord Stephen Bridewell  <i>Stephen Cavano</i>          410.235.3590          stephenbridewell@yahoo.com</p> 
	<p><b>Thrown Weapons          Deputy Marshal</b>          Lady Beatrice Shirwod  <i>Annelise Bauer</i>          843-312-5971          spindlebird@gmail.com</p> 	

**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

