

# The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## DRAGON DORMANT AND SKRAELING ALTHING RESUMING HOSTILITIES

By Lord Dafydd ap Alan

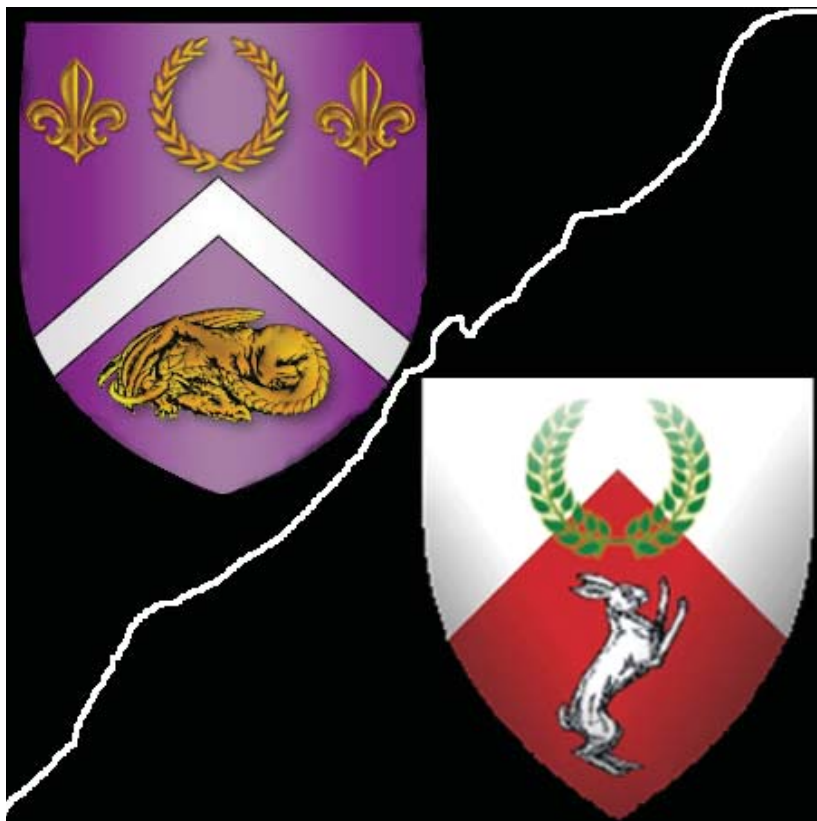
Long simmering tension between Skraeling Althing and Dragon Dormant appear to be bubbling to the surface once again.

The neighbouring baronies have a history of border disputes, and it would appear that another Border Spat is on the verge of erupting. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, the tradition will be revived with a new Border Spat event.

The event will take place in Harrowgate Heath, in the burgeoning area of Cornwall – home of one of Skraeling Althing's fastest growing armoured combat communities (they must be there to guard the border).

A full slate of activities are being planned, with war points going to the victors of rapier, armoured combat, A&S and various other activities. Both baronies are expected to begin calling in their allies from the surrounding areas any time now. Full details will be forthcoming in the coming weeks on the Harrowgate Heath web site ([www.harrowgateheath.com](http://www.harrowgateheath.com)).

To build on the excitement, Skrael-



ing Althing will also be honoured to host the Ealdormere Academy of Defence at the Border Spat event. The Academy will be bringing in top-flight fencers from around the known world in order to challenge two Academy members to become the first to reach the peak of the Academy – the title of Dean.

This could easily be the biggest rapier event seen in Skraeling Althing in many years, and will be a fabulous opportunity for area fencers to cross blades with some of the best in the society. For more information on the Ealdormere Academy of Defence, visit their web site at <http://ealdormereaod.maven.ca>

LETTER FROM THEIR  
EXCELLENCIES

PAGE 3

A BARONIAL MEMORY  
FROM YEARS PAST

PAGE 5

BOOK NOOK - ONLINE  
RESOURCE EDITION

PAGE 8



## BARONIAL OFFICERS

### Baron and Baroness

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### Signet

Lady Elsebeth Fferberyn

### A&S 50 Coordinator

Lady Emelote of Calais

## UPCOMING GATHERINGS IN THE BARONY

### Practices and Meetings

Please contact the local group to confirm details about specific scheduled gatherings.

### Harrowgate Heath

Canton Meetings  
First Sunday of the month

### A&S Days

Scribal nights - 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of every month

Armouring & General A&S – 7:30 to 9:30 pm every Monday

Armoured Combat Practice  
Thursdays at 7 pm

Archery  
Schedule varies month to month

Dance Practice  
Schedule varies month to month

### Greyfells

Canton Meetings  
Meetings (which often include

A&S and other activities) are held from 2:00 to 6:00 pm every Sunday.

Rapier Practice  
Tuesdays at 7 pm

### Caldriithig

Armoured Combat Practice  
Wednesdays at 7 pm

Rapier Practice  
Thursdays at 8 pm

Choir Practice  
Sundays at 1:30 pm

Canton Meetings  
Second and fourth Sunday's of the month at 4 pm

Instrumental Practices  
Sundays at 12:00 pm

### Tor Brant

Gatherings vary from month to month. Please contact the group to confirm the next scheduled activity.

## LOCAL SENESCHALS

### Seneschal of Caldriithig

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# The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## FROM THE QUILL OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES OF SKRAELING ALTHING

Greetings unto our friends and neighbours in the beautiful Barony of Skraeling Althing from your fellow pilgrims, Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia Lia Lámh;

One of the many surprises that becoming your Baron and Baroness has revealed to Us is that We love to travel. Each Canton and Shire within Ealdormere holds events, and each of those events are as unique and special as the host group running them. Each place has its own personality, and its own way of being SCAdian, so that We discover something new and joyful at every gathering, and meet a new 'old friend' We are thrilled to know.

*"He who does not travel does not know the value of men."* – Moorish proverb

We travel to support the King and Queen, and Their Heirs. We travel to promote the talented population of Skraeling Althing. We travel to entice the Lords and Ladies of the Kingdom to reciprocate, and visit Our Lands. We all find our own reasons for travelling, as We hope that you do.

*"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."* – St. Augustine

Your taxes this year are "Pilgrim-

age". We wish that our populace take the opportunity to savour all that the Known Worlde has to offer. We wish to hear tales and see the tokens of your travel to other Cantons, Shires, Baronies, and Kingdoms.

*"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles."* – Tim Cahill

Skraeling Althing, as a Barony, is blessed with an abundance of active minds and generous spirits. We also wish others to come on their own pilgrimages to Skraeling Althing and the many sights of wonder which are within our borders.

As such, We also wish for hospitality to be the other side of the pilgrimage coin and, again, tales and tokens of those with whom you have shared Our beautiful lands are what We desire.

If neither of these options is available to you, but you have the means, perhaps you could act as the patron of another who wishes to take a voyage of discovery.

Until we meet again,

In your service  
**Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia**



Lady Eluned ferch Angor, winner of this year's Pentathlon at Kingdom A&S, receiving her honours during court

Photo courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan



## A WORD FROM THE CHRONICLER

Just as I started out my time as Chronicler with a letter to the Barony, this marks my final issue as Baronial Chronicler for Skraeling Althing. How better to mark that but with another letter?

As Chronicler, I have been blessed to have so much news happening on a regular basis to share with readers.

Whether it was the change to Kingdom-level newsletters, or the SCA census, there has been no shortage of happenings to report over the past two years.

At the same time, we've made some important changes to the way we distribute the Chronicle so that more people (both within Skrael and elsewhere) can keep up-to-date on the goings-on in the Barony.

The new online Chronicle seems to have been a huge success based on the number of people reading the online version, and new distribution tools like Facebook have also helped to more than triple our number of regular readers.

Of course, the Chronicle is not really my newsletter. It's our newsletter.

I have to thank everyone who has provided content over the past two years and I ask (and/or beg, plead and grovel) that the great artists and writers of Skrael continue to support Dame Helen as she takes over

as our Chronicler.

Without the help of the rest of the Barony, who are the ones actually DOING what we report on, the Chronicle would become very slim indeed.

Send your artwork, your comics, your pictures, your articles, your news and your questions, so that the Chronicle continues to be *our* newsletter about *us*.

That said, thank you for reading the

Chronicle over the past years. I hope that it has served Skraeling Althing well and that you have enjoyed it as much as I have enjoyed being able to deliver it to you.

I look forward to reading the next issues as Dame Helen takes over and makes it even better!

Yours in Service,

**Lord Dafydd ap Alan**  
**Baronial Chronicler of Skraeling Althing**

## COURT REPORT

The following awards have been given out to members of Skraeling Althing at recent events both in the Barony and at outside events.

Wassail to all of the recipients!

### **Feast of the Hare**

Award of Arms  
Lady Bridget of Cornwall  
Lady Kaðlín of Harrowgate Heath  
Lord Stephen of Cornwall  
Lord Ivor Duncanson

Maiden's Heart  
Lady Marie l'Englois  
Lady Emelote of Calais

Award of the Orion  
Lady Thora Volundsdottir

Bunny Tails

Lady Catherine Rose Lamont  
Chalice of Skraeling Althing  
Baron Raymond Constable

### **Kingdom A&S**

Bunny Tails  
Lady Pasha (AKA Gypsy)  
Lord Guillaume Dangeau

Maiden's Heart  
Lady Avelyn Wexcombe of Great Bedwyn

Pent Winner  
Lady Eluned ferch Angor

### **Baronial 12<sup>th</sup> night**

Bunny Tails  
THL Varakii Varenko Vlkavich





## OUR ANNIVERSARY - A GLIMPSE AT THE PAST

FIRST BARONIAL COURT IN SKRAELING ALTHING -- LOTS OF BUSINESS, A LITTLE HOOPLA, A FROLIC WITH DAME ELLEN AND A GOOD TIME

A year minus a day from when we first determined to apply for Baronial status, we held our first Baronial Court in Skraeling Althing. The day dawned fair but muggy. Actually, for some of us it simply dawned too early --- strange doings had been afoot until 5 am the night before. The day began (I understand) with a fighting practice and a dance lesson from Dame Ellen.

At five we set up tables for a medieval pot luck, complete with a monstrous salad, fixings for which were brought by Lady Thora, and labour provided by most of the Barony (...there I was, innocently going into the ladies washroom...), non-poisonous ratatouille, jam things and heavenly almond cookies...

Just before court, Jorunn and Thomas were fetched, with the first native born Skraeling -- Sarah Laurel -- who became, not unnaturally, the centre of attention.

When people were finally seated, we processed in, Aelflaeda leading off in a beautiful court tabard made by Nain, Thora resplendant in Countess Caitlin's brooches, and myself.

The first order of business was to present on behalf of the Crown, their AoA's to Lord Thomas of Nil and Lord Hieronymous di Cavana. Lord Thomas was the first person called at the last court of their majesties Moonwulf and Takya, and received his award for his long and varied service to Skraeling Althing, while Hieronymous received his for his contribution to music.

Next Dame Ellen and Lady TSivia presented beautiful tabards to Aelflaeda (for field use) and Thora -- a work which consumed the greater part of twenty-four hours -- I know, for the vigil was held at my house, and would not have been successful save for the added hands of Searu and Stepan.

Aelflaeda then presented the key entrusted to her by Lord Thomas last May to be given to the Baronial Seneschal. (That's Linlithgow, of course -- now we have two Lord Thomas's).

I then made Mordain Baronial Champion and entrusted the Baronial favour to him (look for it - you can't miss it). I gave him my sword to bear in court - when he drew it from its scabbard there was a faint noise - the sword singing to itself in satisfaction.

Lord Hieronymous and Lady Thora then presented their surrogate son Pieter, to be taken as a page into the Baronial household. Pieter having affirmed that this was also his wish, took his place on a cushion to the right of the baronial chair. (I forgot to mention that it was Pieter who made the delightful hare badges that were being circulated earlier in the day.)

Next some presentations: Thora giving Dame Ellen one of Searu's bunny scarves as a thank you from the Barony, TSivia giving her Fret necklace to Aelflaeda and a pendant to Sarah Laurel as a promissory tunic, Nain presenting me with an elegant brooch set with pearls, and Searu who presented the Baronial note cards (all right: Baronial Bunnygrams !) that she somehow found time to design, make and keep secret while preparing for the Spring show.

In honour of the 30th anniversary of the Canton of Skraeling Althing becoming a Barony, the article to the left is being re-published with permission from the author, Baroness Enid Aurelia of the Tin Isles, first Baroness of Skraeling Althing.

This article reports on the first court held by Her Excellency Enid in the spring of 1998. Originally published in the May/June issue of the Skraeling Althing Chronicle in 1982.

CONTINUES.. PAGE 6

# The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## OUR ANNIVERSARY - CONTINUED

Bunny tails were presented to Ivy (who had been sharing one with Yusef) and Pieter and in a baronial first, to Searu and Stepann and to Dame Ellen for their exceptional efforts on our behalf. Dame Ellen went around for the balance of the evening with the tail tucked into her dress and the scarf as a wimple.

Next Lord Yusef and Ivy were called and the Ceremonial Guard was instituted with Yusef as Captain and Ivy as Quartermistress (see proclamation elsewhere in this newsletter) and Thomas, Hieronymous and Elessar were made members of the guard.

To conclude, the complementary orders of the Hare Salient and the Friends of the Hare were instituted (see proclamations) and Ladies Aelflaeda and Thora were admitted to the first and Lady TSivia (the exception proves the rule) to the second.

Court was concluded and there was much rejoicing (especially from those who spent the whole time on their feet).

The evening wound down with a folk sing outside under the still muggy skies, a good end to a good day (eh).

Above: Part two of the report on the Barony of Skraeling Althing's first Baronial court in 1982.



Right: A discussion about the might of the new Skraeling Althing catapult during court at Kingdom A&S. The catapult tied for first place in Category III: Technological Sciences.

Photo courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan



# The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### In Skraeling Althing

Apr 3 - Break the Back of Winter  
Hosted by the Canton of  
Greyfells (Kingston, ON)

May 5 - Dandelion Festival  
Hosted by the Stronghold of Tor  
Brant (Petawawa, ON)

May 12 - Baronial Border Spat  
Hosted by the Canton of  
Harrowgate Heath (Cornwall, ON)

### Out of Barony

Mar 3 - Ealdormere Winter War  
Hosted by the Shire of Trinovantia  
Nova (London, ON)

Mar 3 - Baronial Investiture  
Anniversary and Arts & Sciences  
Championship  
Hosted by the Barony of L'Ile du  
Dragon Dormant (Montreal, QC)

Mar 24 - Late Winter Shoot  
Hosted by the Canton of Petrea  
Thule (Peterborough, ON)

Apr 28 - Spring Coronation  
Hosted by the Kingdom of Ealdor-  
mere (Hamilton, ON)

May 5 - Aethelmearc Spring  
Crown  
Hosted by the Barony of Delft-  
wood (Brewerton, NY)

May 26 - Spring Crown  
Hosted by the Canton of Caer  
Draeth (Barrie, ON)



His Excellency Angus McHaley and Her Excellency Tadea Isabetta di Bruno, Baron and Baroness of L'Ile du Dragon Dormant, present a grievance against a member of Skraeling Althing during court at Feast of the Hare.

Photo courtesy of Lord Dafydd ap Alan

This is the Skraeling Althing Chronicle, the quarterly news-  
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cler, [Lord Dafydd ap Alan](#).

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You can subscribe to the Chroni-  
cle by e-mailing the Chronicler.

The Chronicle also has a Face-  
book page. You can follow news  
about the Chronicle, and be noti-  
fied when new issues are avail-  
able, by following the Skraeling  
Althing Chronicle on Facebook.

# The Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## AVELYN'S BOOK NOOK

By Lady Avelyn Wexcombe of Great Bedwyn

We have arrived at my final Book Nook column for the *Chronicle*. I hope you have enjoyed some of my recommendations over the last few issues and may have even read a few of the books.

For my final word, I'd like to leave you with a few different thoughts. Books are an important part of historical learning, to be sure. But I'd like to share with you a few of my favourite other resources where I get some of my research snippets. Most of these resources are free.

One of my favourite online resources for up-and-coming historical research is of course SCAtoday.net. Many of you are already regular readers of this fabulous catch-all site for SCAdians. But if you haven't yet checked it out, I do recommend taking a few minutes to have a look and see some of the articles they publish. <http://www.scatoday.net>

Another favourite site that I subscribe to both by RSS reader and by Twitter is the blog Medievalists.net. This hard-working blog captures a great number of the newest academic articles being published about the Middle Ages. I find that a good number of the posted articles contain more than just the abstracts, but include links to the full piece. An excellent resource in



Image from The Ormesby Psalter (Bodleian Library MS. Douce 366). Found online at Chimaera: The bestiary blog. <http://bestiary.ca/chimaera/>

my mind. Note that SCAtoday.net cross posts some of these articles. <http://www.medievalists.net/>

If you're interested in reading some early texts in languages such as Middle English, I suggest hopping over to In Parentheses, a free, online library from York University that houses many early texts from different cultures. <http://www.yorku.ca/inpar/>

Perhaps you're into illumination and calligraphy, or you just enjoy perusing early books. You can visit images of many medieval manuscripts available through the University of Oxford, including the Bodleian Library. <http://image.ox.ac.uk/>

In terms of tools for the leisurely medievalists, I also recommend A Beginner's Guide to Reading Latin (primary sources) by the UK National Archives.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners/tutorial/default.htm>

Finally, a moment to remind readers that recordings can be excellent resources too. In this day, that usually means "podcasts" that you can download online. My favourite podcast is from the BBC History Magazine, which offers medieval topics fairly frequently. <http://www.historyextra.com/podcast-page>

I have considered hosting an information session on the various web resources I tap for research. If that's something you might like to attend, please contact me so I can see if there is an interest out there for it.

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