

# Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## The Quill of their Excellencies of Skraeling Althing



Greetings to the Barony of Skraeling Althing from Their Excellencies, Baron Shahid and Baroness Catherine,

Spring has finally arrived in Our Barony, and with it, comes the passion of new experiences and explorations within the SCA. What better time to bring in a newcomer and show them around; introduce them to what the SCA has to offer, whether it is arts and sciences or martial activities. We challenge each of you to introduce a new person to what our Society has to offer. Inspiration can be found in some of the most unlikely places.

Conversely, We challenge each experienced member to try something new this year. If you are a fighter, try an art or a science. If you are a patron of the arts, try a new activity. One will often find that activities within the SCA are complimentary and ultimately, enhance the overall medieval experience.

We wish you all a great season, and may you find a new activity that enhances the society and rekindles the spark within you.

Yours in Service

Baron Shahid al Hasan  
and Baroness Catherine  
Townson





## New People and Demos Issue

The Skraeling Althing Chronicle is the newsletter for the Barony of Skraeling Althing.

Published quarterly, the Chronicle is a source of information about news and activities from across the Barony.

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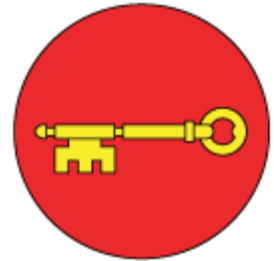
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## Letter from the Baronial Seneschal

Greetings to the citizens of Skraeling Althing,

As was announced at Practicum, I've had the honour to step up to serve as the Seneschal for the Barony for the next two years. After a period of multiple changes we now have a full set of members on the Baronial Council.



This fall, Border Spat is to be hosted as a Baronial level event. Bids to host the event should be forward to myself so they can be reviewed by the Baronial Council. If you have any questions about the event or various issues within the Barony please feel free to contact me.

I can be reached at [Skraeling.Seneschal@gmail.com](mailto:Skraeling.Seneschal@gmail.com)

Many thanks.

Yours in service,  
The Honourable Lady Eluned verch Angor





## Letter from the Baronial Chatelaine

Greetings Skraels.

The summer approaches, and this means that we're doing more and more in the public eye. It isn't just our formal demos that provide an opportunity to recruit, practices in parks and even one-on-one contact are excellent openings that should not be undervalued.



When talking with potential members, and also new members, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- keep it light. You might be super interested in the internal politics surrounding the decision to X, but all your audience is going to hear is \_Drama\_, possibly with jazz hands and everything.
- keep it fun. Talk about the thing that is your passion right now. Your excitement will shine through.
- keep it accessible. Many people may be intimidated by a perceived start up hurdle - ie. all the things you "need" to start participating. Be open and generous, and stress the community, and teaching aspects of the Society.
- keep it accurate. It is entertaining to tell an apocryphal tale about the origins of something, or how something was done in the Middle Ages. I've done it, we've all done it. We should keep in mind that we are an educational organization. We have no idea what the background is of the person we are talking to, and certainly, anyone can fact-check our stories. Telling an entertaining tale may deter someone who would be a really good fit in the Society.

Tips for Demos:

- Staff the display with the type of people who will be attending the Event. For example, our cousins in Septentria sent a number of their artisans to the Creativ Festival this past weekend.
- Have it be as interactive as possible. Even if you are demonstrating heavy armoured combat, which inherently cannot be participatory - engage the audience. Have them cheer or "bet". Include them as much as possible. If it's a family event, have something for the kids to get their hands onto and do.
- Have something pretty to hand out. Give it to everyone.

There are many excellent resources out there on recruitment. I strongly encourage everyone to carry some kind of literature with them at all times. Even if it is just business cards for the Chatelaine's office. If anyone would to obtain business cards, or other materials, please contact me. In the mean time, go watch this series on recruitment: <http://youtu.be/64UzvDZB9DM>

In Service

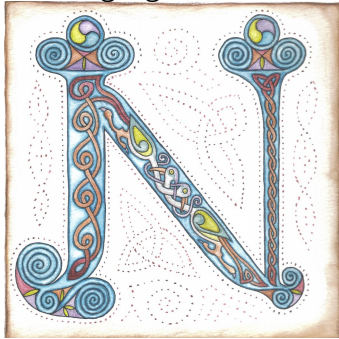
Constance of Caldrihtig



## Letter from the Baronial Web Minister

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Greetings, good Gentles all, from your Baronial Web Minister.



Newcomers to the SCA might be interested in knowing that the internet is probably one of the best tools at your disposal for learning more about the society, and medieval history in general. In particular, social media is becoming one of the best ways to explore the SCA's activities and culture.

To start, the SCA has a site dedicated to welcoming newcomers. It provides an excellent overview to who we are and how to join in the fun.

[welcome.sca.org](http://welcome.sca.org)

Recently the society has also been using social media as a way to help members stay connected. If you are familiar with Facebook and other sites you may want to check out the SCA's spaces online:

- [Facebook.com/currentmiddleages](https://www.facebook.com/currentmiddleages)
- [Twitter.com/SCASocial](https://twitter.com/SCASocial) (@SCASocial)
- [Pinterest.com/SCASocial](https://www.pinterest.com/SCASocial)
- [Google+ \(SCAorg\)](https://plus.google.com/SCAorg)
- [YouTube.com/SCASocial](https://www.youtube.com/SCASocial)



Closer to home, the [Kingdom of Ealdormere](https://www.facebook.com/Ealdormere) Facebook page ([facebook.com/Ealdormere](https://www.facebook.com/Ealdormere)) and the "I live in the Kingdom of Ealdormere" group are good sources of news in the realm. Ealdormere has a strong email distribution system through Yahoo Groups that brings current discussions right to your inbox. Visit <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Ealdormere/info> to join.

In terms of research, naturally the internet has a wealth of information for you to sift through. Here are some classic and well-known nooks on the net to take a look at.

- [Stefan's Florilegium](http://florilegium.org) ([florilegium.org](http://florilegium.org)) – A clearing house for a lot of good SCA topics
- [Medievalists.net](http://medievalists.net) – Regularly churns out great articles from key papers in medieval studies
- The [Larsdatter pages](http://larsdatter.com) ([larsdatter.com](http://larsdatter.com)) – A great search site and blog on medieval and renaissance material culture
- The [Viking Answer Lady](http://vikinganswerlady.com) ([vikinganswerlady.com](http://vikinganswerlady.com)) – A neat and knowledgeable little site full of info for Viking/Norse enthusiasts
- The [Armour Archive](http://armourarchive.org) ([armourarchive.org](http://armourarchive.org)) – An excellent starting point for armour and martial tips and resources, including patterns and a marketplace
- [Code Cookery](http://godecookery.com) ([godecookery.com](http://godecookery.com)) – Some of the tastiest, well researched and popular feast recipes online

Blogs are other ways so many folk in the SCA are sharing stories of their projects, research and accomplishments. Ask around, and no doubt you will find some great bloggers in your own canton or in the Barony to follow. Good hunting!

In Service,  
Lady Avelyn Wexcombe of Great Bedwyn

# Skraeling Althing Chronicle

## Letter from Baronial MoAS

If you tried to imagine yourself at a medieval festival, there might be tournaments and games of skill. But what would make it truly medieval would likely be the outfits, the music, the banners and environment, and even the food. These are the things that add atmosphere to a festival, and that's why the arts and sciences are so important to what we do in the SCA.



For newcomers, I think one of the best things about the arts and sciences in the SCA is that so many of the crafts and hobbies we do modernly can also be done in the SCA. How better to get settled in than to “talk shop” with people about your favourite craft? If you knit, so do we. If you like to cook, you can most definitely cook with us. Needlecrafts, painting, sewing, woodworking, pottery all carry over really well. Plus, there so many other interesting things to learn.

We've got some new tools to help share information about the work being done here in Skraeling Althing, and to let people know about Arts & Sciences days and classes from around the Barony.

On Pinterest, the Barony now has a page to help share pictures of the work of our artisans. Check it out to see people's work, and share your pictures to be added. Just look for Skrael Arts & Sciences on Pinterest.

I've also created a new Twitter account that I plan to use to promote A&S activities being done in our local groups. Follow @Skrael\_AandS to find out more about what activities are happening across the Barony.

So welcome to all of our newcomers! You can also always talk to me or to your local A&S Minister if you need help with a project or are looking to meet people interested in similar things. There's no end to the fun that you can have and the things you can learn.

Yours in Service,  
Lord Dafydd ap Alan  
Baronial Minister of Arts & Sciences





## Letter from the Baronial Herald

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Unto the noble Armigers of this great Barony do I, your Herald, send warm Greetings and Salutations.



This is a great time within the Barony. Their Excellencies have asked us, the populace to show our presence. What better way to do that then banners, shields, garb and other accoutrements decorated with our arms, badges, and awards! Remember that in our Kingdom there are currently few sumptuary laws, namely those used by Society. What this means is you can have fun with a full achievement of arms. A full achievement includes a base, motto, single supporter, device, helm, mantling, and crest. This is a great way to show off your arms to known world.

On the subject of awards, I am most pleased to report good tidings. After much debate, the council of this illustrious Barony has decided on the badges to be worn for the various awards which are issued to the populace. The badges of the Orders are on their way to Kingdom as we speak, for approval by the College of Heralds. Until now, the Barony has had only one badge that was passed by Laurel (the Black Hare). Soon, if all goes well, we will have five. The badges have been attached so the populace can identify them, and if all goes well, use them if they have been made a member of the Barony's Orders. The Awards and their badges are:

- The Order of the Black Hare – for recognition of a subject in the fields of arts and science
- The Order of the Hare Salient – for recognition of a subject who has done service
- The Order of the Hare Valiant – for recognition of a subject in the martial arts
- The Order of the Tantony Bell – for recognition of a youth who has been noticed
- The Order of the Friends of the Hare – for those outside the Barony which have come to the attention of Their Excellencies

These awards have been a proud part of our Barony and soon, the badges that identify them may be in place. I will keep the populace up to date as this develops.

On a similar matter while speaking of badges, I ask of the populace a boon. Send to me your ideas for a populace badge. We have nothing official, and I believe it is high time that we did. Ideas can be emailed to [skraelingherald\\_at\\_gmail.com](mailto:skraelingherald_at_gmail.com).

Until next we meet, good journeys unto each of you, and remember to show your presence.

Ever in Service,  
Nathaniel

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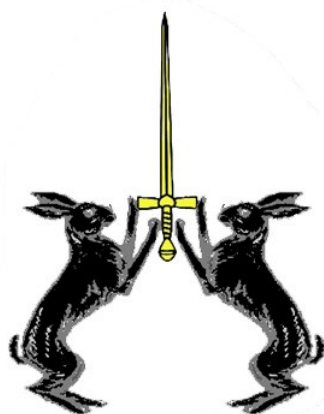
## **Badges for the Baronial Awards**

A good article in regards to sumptuary laws is written by Tomas the Lapidary and can be found here.

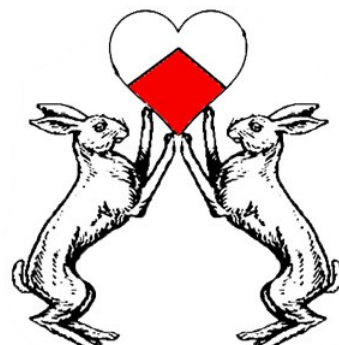
<http://www.tomasthelapidary.net/store52/html/documentation/Sumptuary%20Laws%20Compiled.pdf>



*Illustration 2: Order of the Black Hare: The Lyre for the arts, which our Barony is well known for*



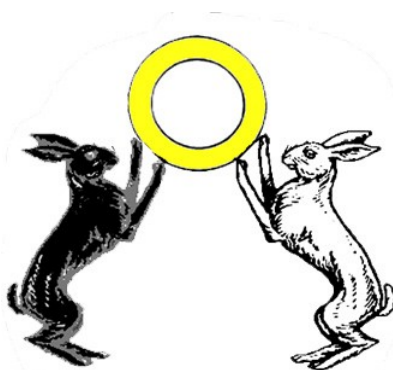
*Illustration 1: Order of the Hare Valiant: The sword for the martial arts*



*Illustration 3: Order of the Hare Salient : The heart for service, the same as the Kingdom's Maiden's Heart, and to show that one has put their heart into their duties, the heart divided in the Barony's colours*



*Illustration 4: Order of the Tantony Bell: The Tantony Bell is the smallest bell in a churches clarion, but an important member none the less, just as the Barony's youth are important to the Barony*



*Illustration 5: Order of the Friends of the Hare: The ring to show never ending friendship, the two different coloured hares to show diversity*





## Letter from Baronial Signet

Greetings unto the populace of Skraeling Althing, from your Baronial Signet, Lady Catherine Rose Lamont.

As I enter my second year of service to the Barony, I wish to pay tribute to those Calligraphers, Illuminators and Wordsmiths whose time, dedication and thoughtfulness, make Skraeling Althing a truly blessed Barony in the Scribal Arts.



This past year was a busy one for the scribes of the Barony with the introduction of the Scribal Althing.

A chance for the Scribes of Ealdormere and the Knowne World to get together, take classes, exchange ideas, knowledge and techniques. Scribes came from near and far and a wonderful day was had by all who attended. I'd like to thank the Cantons of Greyfells and Caldriethig whose cooperation to make this event a reality was inspirational.

As Nigel II and Adrielle II step down, and Sir Siegfried Brandboern and Mistress Ragni Dzintara step up to take Ealdormere's reins, the Kingdom finds itself in need of scroll blanks. So here is a chance for Skrael illuminators to shine. For those that have never made a scroll before and would like to try, look up one of our regular Scribal Nights held in Harrowgate Heath. For those who are familiar with the art of scroll making, here is a chance to try a new period, or better yet set up your own regular scribal night and invite others to work on projects. It's a great way to exchange ideas, learn new techniques or teach others something you know. It's also a great way to keep in touch with other artists. Any scroll blanks can be given to either myself or the new Kingdom Signet THL Marguerite Gingras.

I look forward to seeing more lovely scrolls in the future and am always humbled by the talent and generosity of our Scribes. Thank you.



Yours in Service,  
Lady Catherine Rose Lamont, Baronial Signet.

# Skraeling Atching Chronicle

## Always Opportunities To Spread The SCA

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This past summer my wife and I took a trip around parts of Ontario as part of our honeymoon. While on our vacation we had a few opportunities to speak to people about the SCA, what it is, and some of the aspects of it. We found people who were thoroughly intrigued by our descriptions of the best parts of the SCA. From armoured fighting to arts and science they were curious about what we did and who we were.

# The Skraeling Atchining Chronicle

One evening while seating outside our motel room in Huntsville, we struck up a conversation with a couple in the room next to us. At some point the conversation moved to hobbies we spoke about being part of the SCA. This lead to a description of the SCA and our involvement including my wife's A&S projects, my A&S projects and being a heavy fighter. We spent a couple of hours regaling events we attended and the enjoyment we get from being in the SCA.

Another day while in Perth we stopped at a local shop where they advertised the Perth Kilt Run. While talking with the owner about the Kilt Run our conversation turned to the SCA. We spoke about our involvement with the SCA.

On a stop in Merrickville while talking to an old friend about our hobby, the waitress overheard our conversation about the SCA and wanted more information. We were happy to give her one of the canton's business cards with our web address and let her know about the links in our website to the Skraeling and SCA websites.

More recently while returning from a vacation in Quebec, we stopped in Dorion at a medieval boutique while looking at the clothing we struck up a conversation with the owner, again we were overhead by another customer who was looking for what the SCA had to offer. We were happy to put her on to Dragon Dormant's name as the closest group to where she lived.

Any time we travel we take the SCA with us and are trilled to talk about the SCA and what we enjoy about it.

Lord Stephen of Cornwall and Lady Bridget of Cornwall





## **Am I ready to Authorize? What can I expect?**

An Authorization is a test to see if you are able to perform a Martial activity (Rapier or Armoured Combat) safely, and with an understanding of the rules of the list and of the basics of the sport. One does not need to be the best fighter; one just needs to be able to show some basic knowledge and application of the basic required skills. The requirements for an Authorization are not a secret, as they are laid out in the Ealdormerian Armoured Combat Rules and the Rapier rules. It is suggested that a candidate review these rules prior to attempting their authorization.

For an Armoured combat authorization, one must have a membership card, or signed waiver for the event. Each authorization will be run by a minimum of 2 warranted marshals. The candidate must be practiced in the attempted style as well. An initial authorization must be performed with single handed weapon and shield. Thrusting is also part of this initial authorization.

Directly from the Armoured Combat Rules:

A primary authorization bout shall, at a minimum, consist of:

- i. Sparring, calling all blows
- ii. More sparring, with the opponent 'pressing' the candidate.
- iii. Candidate on their knees, fighting a standing opponent.
- iv. Candidate with a weapon in their off hand with no shield, fighting a fully armed opponent.

Also, generally, the authorization will be concluded with the fighters fighting a full speed bout taking all wounds and displaying a proper protective death at the end.

Why are we looking for these different components? What are we watching for? Glad you asked, we are looking for the following components:

- Knowledge of how to throw a basic blow with sufficient force, but not excessive
- Knowledge of the legal target areas
- Knowledge of the difference between a light and good blow
- Individual reaction when placed under stress
- Ability to defend and protect self when at a disadvantage
- Ability to keep blows in legal target areas when at a disadvantage
- Knowledge of field protocols and commands such as "Hold"



For Rapier and Cut and Thrust, a basic authorization is very similar as to Armoured combat. The two or more marshals will again be looking for knowledge and safety when performing and receiving blows. For both Rapier and Cut and Thrust, the basic authorization will be performed with a single weapon.

Directly from the Rapier handbook:

- i. The candidate will fence against an experienced and authorized fencer, who may be one of the marshals running the authorization;
- ii. The two will fence and acknowledge, but not take (e.g. don't lose arms or legs), all valid blows. The candidate shall call these out loudly so that the marshals can verify the candidate's ability to detect and accurately judge the blows;
- iii. Non-valid blows which might have appeared good should also be acknowledged verbally;
- iv. The candidate shall show good control at all times whether being pressed or on the attack;
- v. The candidate shall demonstrate ability in both defence and offence; and
- vi. The candidate shall demonstrate the ability to respond properly to a hold

A Heavy Rapier authorization will follow the procedure above, and shall demonstrate proficiency with the Heavy Rapier:

- i. with both fencers standing,
- ii. with the candidate fighting with the off hand,
- iii. with the candidate fighting from the ground while the authorized fencer is standing,
- iv. with the candidate standing while the authorized fencer is fighting from the ground.

A Cut and Thrust authorization will follow the procedure above, with the following stipulations:

- i. The candidate will demonstrate valid cuts to both sides of the head, at least one arm, both legs and the torso.
- ii. The candidate will demonstrate valid thrusts to various parts of the body.
- iii. The candidate will demonstrate valid cuts to at least two target areas using the off-hand.
- iv. All cuts must be of acceptable calibration; even one percussive cut that is excessive will cause the candidate to fail.

Congratulations! Once one has met and been tested of the criteria for each discipline and been approved by the testing marshals, you have passed! Go forth and fight! Do the Barony Proud!

Baron Shahid al Hasan

# Skraeling Atchiving Chronicle

## How to Become a Marshal

Marshals are an integral part of any Marshal activity. They run practices, marshal and run the martial/combat portions of events and ultimately, the Kingdom and Society Earl Marshals are responsible for all martial activities at the Kingdom and Society, respectively. Marshals are responsible for both the safety of the sport participants, but also for the safety of the bystanders and observers. It is a very vital role to play within the society, and also a serious one.

So how does one become a marshal then? Where does one start on this path? Well, the first place to start is to become a Marshal-in-training (MiT). To become a MiT, one needs to be 18 years of age or older, and contact the Deputy Kingdom Marshal for the preferred discipline one wants to become a Marshal for. At this point the Deputy Kingdom Marshal needs to sign a MiT form, which the prospective MiT will keep with them for the duration of their training.

Once permission has been given, then the new MiT needs to bring their form to various events and contact the Marshal in Charge for the preferred discipline. The Marshal in Charge will then test the candidate's knowledge of the discipline that the MiT is training for, followed by then delegating appropriate duties based on the MiT's experience level. At the end of each Event, the Marshal in Charge shall add a signature to the MiT appointment form if they deem that the MiT performed their Marshalling Duties adequately. At this point the Marshal in Charge shall also record the names of all the Marshals who participated that day, and submit that to the appropriate Deputy Kingdom marshal.

Once the MiT gets 4 (or more) signatures, they are able to submit their form to the Deputy Kingdom Marshal for an application to become a fully warranted Marshal.

Congratulations! Now you can run activities, train MiTs and apply to be a Deputy Kingdom Marshal.

Baron Shahid al Hasan  
(Warranted Armoured  
Combat Marshal)





## Youth Combat for the Non-Youth

So you have a child interested in Youth Combat within these current middle ages. As a good parent, you want to get involved with the activities they are interested in, and as the rules state, you have to supervise anyways, so why not get more involved? Well, there are a variety of ways to join the Youth Combat program, and all of them are fun and easy. Our program requires volunteers in all aspects, but we are often short of Constables, Marshals in Training, and Marshals.

So what do you need to do to become a Constable or Marshal?

- Go to the Ealdormere website ([ealdormere.ca](http://ealdormere.ca)) and click on the Library link and find the Youth Combat Handbook. Download and read through it and ask any Youth Combat Marshal or the Earl Marshal if you have any questions.
- Speak to the Kingdom Youth Combat Marshal and ask about becoming a Constable or Marshal in Training. He'll provide you with a MiT or CiT sheet to get signed off.
- Get involved in marshaling whenever there is youth combat taking place at an event. If there isn't any, contact the MiC (Marshal in Charge) and see if you can help get some going. For every event you are involved with, the local Youth Combat marshal will sign off one of your tourney signatures, getting you ever closer to a full marshal.
- After 3 events that you are involved in Youth Combat, you can potentially become a full Marshal or Constable and run Youth Combat at any event you attend that has room for it.

Here are a few things to remember when it comes to Youth Combat:

- Youth Combat is designed to be SAFE and FUN. If either one of these goals is not met, we're not doing it right.
- We want to help children understand heavy combat from the chivalry and honour, not from the competitive standpoint. Focus on the how, as opposed to the results.

If there is any confusion, speak to the Earl Marshal or Deputy Earl Marshal of Youth Combat, but if all else fails, refer to the first bullet.

Thank you for your interest,  
Sir Baldric Leeman of NewCastle Emlyn  
Deputy Earl Marshal of Youth Combat



## Baronial Event Flyers

### The Barony of Skraeling Althing Trebuchet Day and All Things Marshalled Regional Practice

May 31 2014 (Rain Date June 1st 2014)

Plan on attending a day of outdoor practice as we utilize Upper Canada Village's Medieval Festival grounds. Participate in Heavy fighting, Rapier, Archery, and thrown weapons practices. Throughout the day you will not only witness the operation of siege engines, but receive first hand instruction in their operation. This event is hosted at Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg on their medieval site. Do not go through main gate, the event is outside of village gates.

Contact Lord Duncan at [walkergarya@yahoo.ca](mailto:walkergarya@yahoo.ca)

### Upper Canada Village Demo

June 7, 8, and 9

Volunteers wanted for this yearly demo. Contact Mistress Helen ([helen@damehelen.com](mailto:helen@damehelen.com)) and THL Constance ([Chatelaine@skraelingalthing.com](mailto:Chatelaine@skraelingalthing.com)) for more information

### Summer Siege

June 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

Theme: The Celebration after the Siege

Autocrat: Lady Kaðlín of Harrowgate Heath ([moas@harrowgateheath.com](mailto:moas@harrowgateheath.com))

We are at the same site we were last year, and once again there is camping Saturday night. The Baronial Archery, Thrown Weapons, and Youth Combat Championships will both be held at the Siege this year.

### Baronial Muster Camping Event

July 5-6

Dirty A&S classes, armoured combat, swimming, bardic circle all at Raven's Knoll campground in Eganville. Baron Giovanni is autocrat, contact him ([jenzinass@gmail.com](mailto:jenzinass@gmail.com)) for more information.

New this fall: 'Feast of the Beasts' archery event in **Tor Brant**. Details **TBA!**



## Baronial Officers

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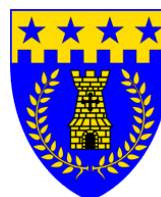
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## Send me your content!

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We're always looking for stories and content for upcoming issues of the Chronicle.

Theme issues coming up:

### **Theme: Harvest**

**Sept 1** (deadline for submissions August 22)

Article ideas: seed swaps or collecting, pictures of your gardens, recipes, preserving methods, animal husbandry, up coming events



### **Theme: Holidays**

**Dec 1** (deadline for submissions Nov 28)

Article ideas: Christmas or other holiday cards, holiday poems, winter scenes with people in garb outside, book reviews, armour reviews and gift wish lists

### **Theme: Children, Families, and Households**

**Feb 1** (deadline for submissions January 25)

Article ideas: class ideas for kids, your child's artwork, how to make small people garb, opinions on family cap fees for events, how to form a household, stories about households, youth armoured combat, your fighters, growing up in the SCA

Send artwork, pictures, poetry, recipes, and 100 to 500 word articles on the above subjects, or other articles, like event reports, to the [Chronicler](#). The ideal article length is between 200 and 400 words, although for special issues longer articles may also be needed. Send it all in!

In your service

Baroness Lucia de Enzinas

Baronial Chronicler



## Getting the Chronicle

There are many ways you can get a copy of the Chronicle.

In addition to the PDF posted on the Baronial web page, (starting with the May 2010 issue), you can subscribe to receive an e-mail when the latest issue of the Chronicle becomes available. All you have to do is send an e-mail to the Chronicler: [chronicler@skraelingalthing.com](mailto:chronicler@skraelingalthing.com)

You can join our Facebook group - Skraeling Althing Chronicle - to stay in touch and find out when new issues are published.

### In this issue:

Photos from A&S 2014 provided by Alex Anderson

Photos Hare 2013 provided by David Gotlieb

Photos from Wedding photo provided by Bridget Larkin

Photos of Scrolls from Catherine Rose Lamont

Photos of Armoured Fight Practice from Cadrithig Armoured Combat facebook page

Photos of Baron and Baroness from Jéhanne de Bretagne

gifts of Baronial Awards from Nathaniel the Dane

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