

The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

CELEBRATING A BIG BARONIAL BIRTHDAY

By Lord Dafydd ap Alan

The Barony of Skraeling Althing has a major anniversary approaching. How are you going to celebrate?

In March 2012, the Barony will be celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Skraeling Althing has a long and illustrious history, starting from the days when it was known as the Canton of Skraeling Althing. In 1982, the Canton of Skraeling Althing officially became the Barony of Skraeling Althing.

Since that time, we've grown to having four unique groups within the Barony.

Over the past year, the Chronicle has published a number of articles about the history of our Barony and its groups.

But with the Baronial anniversary on the way, we have a chance to celebrate what it is that makes us Skraels and show our pride in our Barony.

For some, it could be to celebrate the Barony through song, for we have always been strong in the Bardic arts.



Courtesy Marc Starwolf Lajoie, a photo of most of the cast of "An Evening at Castle Althing" performed by members of the CANTON of Skraeling Althing (Caldrithig) in approximately 1978, Carleton University. The play was fundraiser for the canton, and a great deal of fun! Galen played 'Father Arbeau'. Yusef and Ivy played the visiting 'Barons South Tower'. Thora was the seneschal, Aelflaeda was the cook, and TSvetan and Enid played the owners of 'Castle Althing'.

Others may choose to sponsor prizes for anniversary tournaments, or A&S displays, to demonstrate the skill and might of the Barony.

Displays of our history, and of the people who have made our Barony what it is could be done.

There will, I'm sure, be official celebrations of our Barony's

anniversary.

But that doesn't stop each of us in celebrating in our own way, and together showing the known world the greatness that is Skraeling Althing!

For my part, stay tuned for more tidbits and Baronial history in the next issue of the Chronicle!

LETTER FROM THEIR EXCELLENCIES

PAGE 3

SKRAELING ALTHING'S NEW TOY

PAGE 5

UPDATE ON THE CENSUS

PAGE 6



BARONIAL OFFICERS

Baron and Baroness

Giovanni and Lucia d'Enzinas
skraeling.althing@gmail.com

Seneschal

Lady Constance of Caldriþing
Seneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Exchequer

Brayla La Viennette
Exchequer@skraelingalthing.com

Pursuivant (Herald)

Lady Gina Dragoni
Pursuivant@skraelingalthing.com

Armoured Combat Marshal

Lord Maunus Sataielkanpoika
Marshal@skraelingalthing.com

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Mistress Ælfwyn et
Langanwuda
BMoAS@skraelingalthing.com

Chatelaine

Lady Eluned ferch Angor
Chatelaine@skraelingalthing.com

Baronial Web Minister

Lord Aurik Burnsson
Webminister@skraelingalthing.com

Editor of the Chronicle

Lord Dafydd ap Alan
Chronicler@skraelingalthing.com

Signet

Lady Elsebeth Fferberyn

A&S 50 Coordinator

Lady Emelote of Calais

Youth Representative

Lady Asha

UPCOMING GATHERINGS IN THE BARONY

Practices and Meetings

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

Harrowgate Heath

Armoured Combat Practice
Thursdays at 7 pm

Archery

Schedule varies month to month

Canton Meetings

First Sunday of the month

A&S Days

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 7:00 to 9:30 pm on Tuesdays each week.

Rapier Practice

Tuesdays at 7 pm

Caldriþing

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.

If you are interested in attending Tor Brant scheduled activities, please contact the group to confirm their next scheduled activity.

LOCAL SENESCHALS

Seneschal of Caldriþing

Lord Michael Corviser
CaldriþingSeneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Seneschal of Greyfells

Baroness Xristina Viaceslavibna
GreyfellsSeneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Seneschal of Tor Brant

Lord Duncan Gabh MacLeod
TorBrantSeneschal@skraelingalthing.com

Seneschal of Harrowgate Heath

Lady Gina Dragoni
HarrowgateHeath@skraelingalthing.com

The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

FROM THE QUILL OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES OF SKRAELING ALTHING

To our many splendored populace of the Barony of Skraeling Althing from your paternal feeling Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia Lia Lámh;

Here in Skraeling Althing, we are lucky to be part of the family that is our Barony.

From our thrones we have watched our barony grow, not just in population as new members join and families are blessed with children but also grow in skill as our warriors and artisans perfect their skills and in heart as we all do our part to improve our Barony and also our Kingdom.

We are well blessed to have people like you who inspire us every day.

However, as you all well know, this has been a hard year for the Kingdom. Too many of our friends and kin have been taken from us.

Our cousins to the south especially have lost too many bright lights far too soon. We send our condolences to our extended family in their time of need. Each loss is one we all feel very deeply, especially in such a close Kingdom as ours.

Winter is coming. Now that the days turn colder and dark we know it is easy to feel that the warmth of the sun is very far away.

Thankfully we have each other. We sing songs and tell stories of those who inspired us both here and absent.

We make things to inspire us to look from the past towards the future. Finally we appreciate each other just for being others who share this dream with us.

Each and every one of you is vital part of the Barony and the Kingdom and it couldn't be what it is now without you and your efforts. Know you are an important part of the now, and the future, of our group. We would celebrate our life together and have this time in unity. No man knows how much time we have together.

Thank you for all you give us.

In your service,
Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia



The Honourable Lady Kersteken Janzdochtere being presented with her coronet as she becomes Her Excellency Kersteken Janzdochtere, Baroness of the Court at Coronation.

Photo courtesy of Lord Alexander



IMPORTANT DECISIONS FROM THE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Chronicle Staff

At the latest SCA Board of Directors meetings this past month, several decisions were made related to the ongoing discussion around same-sex ruling consorts within the SCA.

The decisions help clarify the current status of Corpora (the society-wide rules within the SCA).

The following information is based on the President's Report of the August 2011 Board meeting.

Territorial Baronages

With respect to landed Barons and Baronesses, it was pointed out that the definition of Baron and Baroness in Corpora does not include any reference to "consort of the opposite gender", but refers to the laws and customs of the Kingdom.

As a result, the Society Seneschal, upheld by the Board of Directors, ruled that:

"It is up to the individual Kingdoms and said Kingdom's law as to how this section of Corpora is interpreted. Kingdoms have the right to decide by insertion in their own Kingdom law the gender qualifications of the territorial baronage."

Essentially, this means that there is nothing in Corpora prohibiting same-sex Baronial rulers, and that the decision rests with each individual Kingdom.

Royalty

With respect to same-sex royal consorts, the situation is more complicated.

Corpora, as it is currently written, expressly states that "Each competitor in a Royal list must fight for a prospective consort of the opposite gender."

As a result, the Board of Directors

agreed with the Society Seneschal's conclusion that any change to allow same-sex consorts must follow the established process for changes to Corpora.

As part of the SCA 2010 Census, information was gathered related to opinions on same-sex consorts (see article on page six for more information on the results).

As part of that process, the Board of Directors is seeking comments on both the data gathered in the Census and possible options to address the issues.

For more information, please see the President's Report of the August 2011 Board meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In Skraeling Althing

Nov 12 - Feast of the Hare
Hosted by the Canton of Caldrithig (Ottawa ON)

Nov 19 - Kingdom Arts & Sciences
Hosted by the Barony of Skraeling Althing (Kingston, ON)

Out of Barony

Dec 3 - Yule in Delftwood
Hosted by the Barony of

Delftwood (Syracuse, NY)

Jan 14 - Septentrian 12th Night
Hosted by the Canton of Petrea Thule (Lindsay, ON)

Jan 28 - Tournoi du Couer de Glace
Hosted by the Inceipient Shire of Bastille Du Lac (Belleville, ON)

Feb 25 - East Kingdom Winter War
Hosted by the Shire of the Northern Outpost (Potsdam, NY, USA)

The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

SKRAELING ALTHING'S NEW TOY LAUNCHED

By Lord Aurik Burnsson

Enemies of Ealdormere; Hear now and Tremble! The engineers of Skraeling Althing have erected a weapon of war, ready to rain rocks and boulders upon your lands!

For upon the 15th day of October our siege engineers -- Lords Duncan Gabha MacLeod and Ethan l'Espoire de Bruce -- performed trials of our Kingdoms' new trebuchet within the lands of Harrowgate Heath.

As a novice to such things, I was wholly inspired and in awe of this great machine.

From base to shoulder, the beast stands a mighty 12 feet tall. Upon the shoulder joint, is attached the 14 feet long throwing arm holding the sling and counterweight basket.

Its structure is made from trees native to our lands, hand-hewn and built using period techniques (and further strengthened using mundane techniques, for safety) and lashed together with sisal rope.

Much to my surprise and pleasure, I was soon inducted into the elite group of engineer assistants by Lord Ethan himself, after having met the two strict requirements for both title and position:

1) Being a burly man with a chest measuring 54 inches or more; and

2) In possession of a mental acuity measuring 54 or less.

Thenceforth, official trials began.

Markers were placed down range, starting at 200 feet and at every 100 feet after that.

Test launches began with no counterweight ballast - and even empty, the counterweight is 580 lbs heavy.

At this weight, our 10 lbs stone was hurled consistently around 190-220 feet.

Out activities must have been a most wondrous sight as a traveling minstrel - Lord Stu Mills of Caldriithig (CBC Radio Ottawa) -

happened by.

This charismatic fellow chatted with our engineers at length, gathering facts about our trebuchet. He was even allowed the great honour to loose the weapon and bore witness to the cheers and merriment made by all, as our imaginary foes scattered before our onslaught of great, orange gourds!

All in all, the trebuchet is a success! Its best throw during this event was recorded at 480 feet using 1250 lbs of counterweight!

Be sure to see this weapon of war in action at its official demonstration at Kingdom A&S in Greyfells!



Close-up of some of the mechanical parts of the trebuchet.

Photo courtesy of Lord Aurik Burnsson



LATEST ROUND OF SCA CENSUS DATA

By Chronicle Staff

The SCA Census Committee has released its second round of data from the 2010 SCA census. This round includes results on two key topics for members of the society – development of Peerages focussed on the other martial activities (rapier, archery, thrown weapons etc.) and the issue of same-gender consorts.

New Martial Peerage Options

The Census asked a variety of questions looking at the issue of recognizing Rapier, Combat and Target Archery, Equestrian, Siege Weapons, and Thrown Weapons. This recognition could be as an independent peerage, in some combination, or as part of existing peerages.

Overall, there was general support to expanding the peerages to include other martial activities, with 70 per cent of respondents supportive.

Of the listed activities, three received more than 50 per cent support to be recognized as a peerage: rapier at 65 per cent, equestrian at 56 per cent and archery (target and combat combined) at 54 per cent.

When looking at the levels of support, the trend was that newer members and those with fewer awards tended to be more supportive of recognizing other martial activities with a peerage. Former ruling nobles (both Royal and Baronial) as

well as the Chivalry tended to have the greatest level of concern with regards to expanding the peerages, with the majority being against all options. In all categories, rapier had the most support (or least resistance) of the martial activities.

The census also explored how any additional martial peerages should be recognized. As with much of the data, opinions were generally divided.

Same-Gender Consorts

When asked as part of the census whether they supported changing corpora to allow same-sex couples to fill the roles of Sovereign and Consort, general opinion was strongly divided. The number of people supportive and opposed were almost the same (41 per cent

were opposed to changing Corpora and 39 per cent were in favour, with 21 per cent neutral or without an opinion).

Ealdormere was actually one of the Kingdoms with the most support for this idea, somewhat above the level of support across the SCA. In Ealdormere, 43 per cent were in favour of changing Corpora, while 37 per cent were opposed.

When asked about same-sex Baronial rulers, the SCA as a whole was slightly more in favour (43 per cent in favour with 35 per cent opposed). Again, Ealdormere had a much higher level of support (51 per cent in favour and 31 per cent opposed).

The full summary of the census results can be found on the SCA Census page: <http://www.sca.org/sca-census2010/>

This is the Skraeling Althing Chronicle, the quarterly newsletter for the Barony of Skraeling Althing in the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. There is no subscription fee.

The Chronicle is not a corporate publication of the SCA Inc, nor does it delineate SCA policies. All rights remain with the original author, photographer or artist.

Questions or concerns may be

directed to the Baronial Chronicler, [Lord Dafydd ap Alan](#).

Issues of the Chronicle are posted to the Skraeling Althing web site. You can subscribe to the Chronicle by e-mailing the Chronicler.

The Chronicle also has a Facebook page. You can follow news about the Chronicle, and be notified when new issues are available, by following the Skraeling Althing Chronicle on Facebook.



MAILBOX: QUESTIONS FROM THE POPULACE

This issue we are trying something new. We received a question from one of our readers looking for input from some of the more experienced members of the Barony.

So we sent out the question and here are some of the responses:

Question: How do you go about prioritizing/triaging all the different SCA projects you want to tackle...not just A&S but armour repair and event planning, all that stuff?

Response from Mistress Ælfwyn et Langanwuda

I tend to work to deadlines, i.e. something needs to be done by a certain event.

Armouring tends to happen when something breaks or needs to be replaced.

On rarer occasions there will be the spontaneous flurry of activity when, for example, I suddenly decide to make that war axe that I've had sitting around for two years. So, on a global scale, my time is divided between things I have to do by a certain date, and random acts of construction.

Response from Lady Constance of Caldrihtig

I only volunteer for jobs if I know I can give the time that it's going to take. Usually taking on a job means increasing the time I spend on SCA stuff.

My creative projects get worked on when it moves me to.

I think the secret is multi-tasking. All of my TV/movie watching is done in my sewing room, while I am working. If I have an SCA sewing project that is currently inspiring me, I work on the SCA project.

You know, I keep going back to that phrase "SCA time". That phrase implies that one has to limit the time spent with the SCA or on the SCA. The question is why? Often people talk about balance, usually not SCA

vs non-SCA. We should be looking at it: things you do for yourself vs things you do because you have to. The SCA is full of fun relaxing activities, like marshal practices or dance or music, or A&S days, it's not all doom and gloom and exchequer reports.

Do you have a contribution to this question? Why not add a comment to the Chronicle Facebook page? Or, take part in the conversation on the Barony of Skraeling Althing Yahoo group.

Do you have a Question you'd like answered? Why not send it to the Chronicler and we'll publish the responses!

BARONIAL BUSINESS

Baronial Council Notes

Since the last issue of the Chronicle, the Baronial Council has not met.

Lady Eluned ferch Angor has taken over the position of Baronial Chatelaine as of Feast of the Hare.

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!

Bonfield

Maiden's Heart:
Lady Krystal of Flaming Sky

Coronation

Orion:
Lady Eluned ferch Angor

Court Barony:
Her Excellency Kersteken
Janzdochtere

The Skraeling Atching Chronicle

AVELYN'S BOOK NOOK

By Lady Avelyn Wexcombe of Great Bedwyn

Terry Jones' Medieval Lives
Terry Jones and Alan Ereira

I simply couldn't avoid it. How could I resist such wonderful temptation? I have always been a Python lover, since my first view of *The Holy Grail*.

So naturally, when I saw that Terry Jones of "Monty Python" fame had penned a non-fiction, totally legitimate book on medieval history in England how could I not pick up a copy?

Jones' [Medieval Lives](#) did not disappoint as a fun little read.

It's definitely one of the lighter books on general medieval history I've read lately. Authors with purely academic backgrounds tend to have a heavy tone; Jones was anything but, in his book. He explores the social culture of medieval England in a way one would expect from a bright fellow who is at heart an entertainer.

He guides us through some of the different archetypes of the era: peasant, monk, minstrel, outlaw, philosopher, knight, damsel, and king. Each chapter includes some interesting little morsels of fact and what I thought were interesting anecdotes.

Make no mistake, his tone may be light but he takes his history seriously.

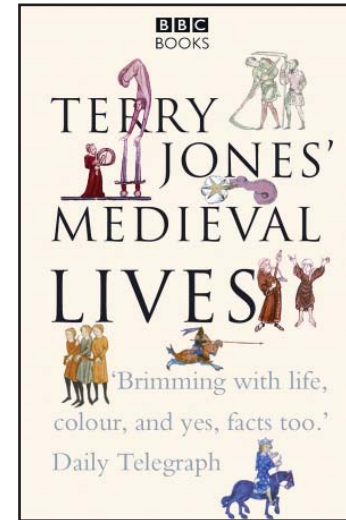
Part of me suspects that historians and academics might scoff at some of Jones' conclusions. I think it's easy to sidestep this though, just for the sake of absorbing what he has to say. His presentation of the lives of medieval people made me think.

If you are looking for a more in-depth history discussion, you may want to look elsewhere. But, as an appetizer *Medieval Lives* is a treat.

The book itself is actually a companion piece to Jones' Emmy-nominated BBC documentary series of the same name. I was fortunate enough to pick up a copy while on honeymoon this summer in the UK. The DVDs are as much fun to watch as the book was to read (complete with Gilliam-esque animation).

The book was originally published in full colour hardcover. If you can nab a used copy, I highly recommend it. Nice piece; includes some of the illustrations from the film.

Otherwise, the current edition (pictured above) is just as useful but perhaps has a bit less pizzazz. It's currently available at bookstores. The film series, I'm happy to say, is available for FREE (I love the BBC) on [YouTube](#).



You could watch the episodes before committing to the book. Either way, you win.

Really, how could I not recommend a book on medieval history that validates the usefulness of minstrels and rogues? Or shows that damsels weren't particularly damsel-like?

He challenges a lot of the stereotypes and myths—it's what it's all about, folks. And in the end, who doesn't enjoy a proper history book that quotes phrases like "...the leap, the whistle and the fart"? Exactly. (BBC Books/Ebury Publishing/Random House, 2005)

AVELYN.WEXCOMBE@GMAIL.COM
~Please visit my library online at [Library Thing](#)

Cover image by [Random House Books, Australia](#).