

The background is a complex stained glass design. At the center is a shield with a green field containing a white eagle with spread wings, perched on a laurel wreath. The shield is set within a circular frame with red and blue segments. The entire design is surrounded by a pattern of green vines with yellow berries and grey geometric shapes.

# PHOENIX

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Volume 27, Issue 15



# THE PHOENIX



Barony of the Sacred Stone

April, 2013

Volume 27, Issue 15

## From the Seneschal



Good day to you  
Sacred Stone,

I am pleased to  
announce that I have  
had a willing

volunteer step up to be my deputy. Lord Etienne Le Mons d'Anjou will become my deputy officially at the April Baronial meeting. I want to thank Etienne for his interest in learning the office of Seneschal and for his willingness to serve.

That is one down! We have a number of other offices which are in need of a deputy or of a person that can fill them now.

Exchequer - Lord Edmund is in need of a deputy that he can train to take over the books when he steps down at the end of his Warrant in January.

Chatelaine - Lady Nuala will be stepping down at the end of May and is in search of a replacement.

MoL - We have been without a Baronial MoL since February. I would like to see this office filled as we are always in need of MoLs.

Chancellor of Youth - Lady Ealasaid has done a wonderful job but life has dictated that she step back a bit and her term in office is coming to an end soon. We will be looking for a good gentle who likes working with children to step into that position.

As you can see there are many ways to be involved in the running of the Barony. These I have listed are just a few of the many offices in the barony. Check out the Baronial Officers Regnum in this newsletter and if you see an office you want to know more about, contact the officer. They will be glad to share their knowledge with you!

I hope to see you all at the upcoming Events in the Barony.... Drums of War and SAAD. Both are wonderful events and filled with things to do and people to see.  
Until then have a happy, health, and busy April!

Yours in service to the Barony,  
Lady Murienne l'aloiere,  
Seneschal Sacred Stone

## In this issue:

From the Seneschal	2
Baronial Schedule	3
Canton Schedules	4
Article: Writing Effective Award Recommendation Letters	5
Baronial Regnum	8
Baronial Appointments	9
Baronial Order Appointments	10
Canton Seneschals and Disclaimer	11

## Gulf Wars

Many of our Sacred Stone citizens ventured to Mississippi for a week of fighting and general war goodness, only to freeze their tails off. However, much fun was had!

Photos and stories are always welcome, especially for inclusion in the newsletter!

# April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## Baronial Schedule

- 12 - 14      **Drums of War** - There will be fighting, archery and thrown weapons, and a few new things. There will be a wine tasting, an Art moot and A&S activities. Watch our website and Facebook page.. <https://sites.google.com/site/drumsofwariv/home>
- 21st      **Baronial Meeting**
- 26 - 28      **Southern Atlantian Archery Day (SAAD)** - Target archery and thrown weapons. A&S—Letters home from the Crusades. Quivers and Cases competition as Static A&S. The theme is Bubba goes to the Crusades. Primitive garb competition.

# Canton Schedule

## Meetings

Aire Faucon— N/A

Baelfire Dunn - N/A

Charlesbury Crossing - First Monday of every month

Crois Brigitte - First Wednesday of every month, 6:30 PM

Middlegate - Second Friday of every month, 7:00 PM

Salesberie Glen - N/A

## A&S

Aire Faucon - Tuesday evenings at rotation locations

Baelfire Dunn - N/A

Charlesbury Crossing - Location to be announced.

Crois Brigitte - Dates and locations will be published

Middlegate - Tuesday 6-9- contact A&S Officer for address

Salesberie Glen –Occasional Wednesdays, contact Lady Mari for dates

## Practices

Aire Faucon - Will be held on canton nights as location allows

Baelfire Dunn - Rapier practice Sundays at Bunker Hill HS

Charlesbury Crossing - N/A

Crois Brigitte - Archery Practice on Sundays at rotating locations

Middlegate - Wed. and Sunday Heavy Fighter Practice

Salesberie Glen - N/A

The Phoenix  
April, 2013

## WRITING EFFECTIVE AWARD RECOMMENDATION LETTERS by Countess Berengaria de Montfort de Carcassonne.

Gentle readers, I am sure that the more experienced among you have read numerous articles and checklists on this topic of writing award recommendation letters. For newcomers, all of the information contained herein will be fresh news. However, this article will be slightly different than most articles in that it will go beyond the mere form of the letter and how to set it up, and will go into what to say, and effective ways of saying it.

First of all, it is worthwhile to consider how we decide when an individual is ready to be recommended for reward in the form of an award. Don't overlook expressions of thanks and personal tokens as ap-



propriate gestures for "being nice", for singing a good song at a bardic, for helping you to move. If you sit down to compose an award recommendation and find yourself drawing on vague stock phrases like "always in the background", consider the notion that it's perhaps a bit early to be making the recommendation.

Educate yourself about the awards out there. Read up on the award structure of your kingdom from articles that run in Tournaments Illuminated and from various sources on the WWW. Observe holders of the awards around you. Ask friends, acquaintances and officers what they believe to be the requirements.

Having made this assessment, it is up to you to write to the Crown or Coronet when you feel that someone you know is deserving of an award. Do not wait for others to do it; do not assume that anyone else has taken care of it, nor that anyone else can say exactly what you have to say. Loud griping in earshot of perceived "powerful people" will avail you not at all.

Now, having stockpiled some substance, it is time to consider the form of your letter. A wise bit of advice: it is worthwhile to discover the preferences of the Crown or Coronet you will be addressing in terms of form and medium. Some titled heads will accept e-mail; others will not. Some prefer to use forms that they make available. Some prefer to receive calligraphed recommendations. It is possible to discover these preferences, either by approaching the ruling noble in question, or by approaching a member of their court.

The Phoenix  
April, 2013

It is worthwhile, and respectful, to observe the preferences as far as you are able. Some of the preferences may be generated by such concerns as inadequate printing facilities or access if both members of a noble couple do not have e-mail; trying to file and keep track of recom-

mendations (much easier when there is a single page, or single letter, for each individual); or wanting a more period feel.

The basics: clearly identify the recommendee by SCA name, mundane name, and SCA group. Be very clear as to what award you're recommending the person for; don't just dither on for pages about everything they've done and hope the Crown or Coronet will pick out something appropriate. Identify the awards the person already has, if any.

The meat of the matter: essentially, you must build a convincing case on which the ruling nobles can make a decision about someone they possibly have not met. Toward that end, use very specific examples: what have they done? Where have they done it? For how long? How did their actions impact the group they live in, or the kingdom as a whole? Operate under the assumption, as you write, that the Crown or Coronet does not know everything the person has done—especially if it's a Crown from far away—and it is up to you to illuminate their worthiness. The SCA as a whole tends to have a "local myopia" and assume that the hometown expert is widely known and recognized. This is simply not the case. The ruling nobles are not omniscient.

Some things to avoid: do not use petitions unless the Crown has said they will consider them, nor photocopied form letters sent as a packet. The results will vary if you do; there is sometimes the concern on the part of the reader that some of the signators may have felt pressured, or may have been too new to understand what they were signing. Like school, it's best to do your own work. If you feel that you have a problem adequately expressing yourself in writing, by all means seek the assistance of a friend in setting your thoughts down; but let the thoughts be your own.

Do not spend any time in the letter apologizing for your perceived shortcomings as a person or as a writer, or "lack of courtly phrases". Strive to write plainly and clearly, but respectfully.

On the matter of problem children: if there has been some sort of problem, real or perceived, with the recommendee in the past, mention head-on how the problem has been addressed. (If the problem has not been addressed, should you really be recommending them for an award?)

The Phoenix  
April, 2013

Whatever you do, do not rant about how the person has been overlooked for political reasons, or make any caustic remarks about how the person will never be recognized because they don't play political games. Most of the time, you will be in error about the role of "politics" as opposed to inappropriate actions or, more often, misunderstandings. Correcting a behavioral problem is not a political game, it is making a personal improvement.

Date and sign the letter. Don't forget your own SCA name, mundane name, address and other contact information as you feel appropriate—phone number and e-mail are nice additions.

Mail the letter. There is some sort of perception that it is better to take letters to an event and press them into the hand of royalty or nobility personally. If this is okay with them, it will work, but it's not necessarily more effective. There's a good chance of things getting lost or mislaid at an event. Surface mail is not nearly as bad as it is cracked up to be, but you must actually put correct postage on it and put it in a mailbox. If you prefer to send the letter by an expedited fashion, once again find out the recipient's preferences in the matter: some people can accept expedited deliveries like Federal Express at work, others cannot.

Keep a copy. If you're sending e-mail, be sure to keep some sort of copy for yourself as well.

Persistence: Sometimes, the Crown doesn't act on your recommendation in a given reign. What to do? The least effective course of action is to go around and tell people that you recommended the person and obviously they were "overlooked" or snubbed because of politics. It is downright damaging to say this to the recommendee. What to do? Write, write again. And again if necessary. This is why keeping a copy of your letter in an electronic format, if that's what you've used, can be a time-saving measure. As time goes on, you will have more activities and accomplishments to add to your recommendation. Perhaps more people will get in on the recommendation act in the next reign, or your comrade will cross the threshold of consideration in terms of activity, accomplishment and service.

Don't give up writing. The bottom line is, most people would be amazed if they knew how few recommendation letters crowned heads actually receive. Everyone assumes someone else is taking care of it. The power is in your hands to achieve that special notice for deserving gentles of merit.

-Countess Berengaria de Montfort de Carcassonne, OP

# Baronial Regnum

Coronets	Baron Matsudaira Kentarou Toshiyori & Baroness Sine ni Dheaghaidh	baron@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org, baroness@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
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Exchequer	Lord Edmund Hawksworth	excheq- uer@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
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Herald	Lady Prudence the Curious	herald@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Chatelaine	Lady Nuala ingen Magnusa (336) 508-0803	chatelain@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Minister of A&S	Lord Etienne LeMons	moas@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Minister of the Lists	Lady Amye Elizabeth Barrington	mol@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Webminister	Lady Annora Hall	webminis- ter@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Knight's Marshal	Lord Symon de Ipswich	knightsmar- shal@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Rapier Marshal	Ghaltai Jida (Phillip Jones)	
Archery Marshal	Lord Edward De Witt	acherymarshal@sacredstone.atlantia.sca.org
Chancellor of Minors	Lady Ealasaid Mac Donald	
Chirurgeon	Lady Elizabeth (Shrewlet) of Rosewood	



# Baronial Appointments

**BARONIAL HEAVY CHAMPION** Lord Dubhghall mac Donnchaidh (David Stewart)  
[profstewart AT gmail.com](mailto:profstewart AT gmail.com)

**BARONIAL RAPIER CHAMPION** Vincenzo d'Este (Bradley Mills)

**BARONIAL ARCHERY CHAMPION - OPEN**

**BARONIAL CAVALRY CHAMPION** THL Azenari Basandere (Jacquelyn Brown)  
[selene1090 AT aol.com](mailto:selene1090 AT aol.com)

**BARONIAL BARD** Lady Thamira ha Sopheret (Tammy Barr)  
[mamabookelf AT yahoo.com](mailto:mamabookelf AT yahoo.com)

**BARONIAL ARTISAN** Lady Prudence the Curious (Esther Scott)  
[prudencecurious AT aim.com](mailto:prudencecurious AT aim.com)

**BARONIAL SCRIBE - OPEN**

**BARONIAL BREWER** Lady Isabelle Lafara (Alexandra Stratton)  
[ceara AT houseberra.com](mailto:ceara AT houseberra.com)

**BARONIAL COOK** Lady Murienne l'Aloiere (Nikole Harrington)  
[dragonfly78 AT gmail.com](mailto:dragonfly78 AT gmail.com)

**BARONIAL BEEKEEPER** THL Lorelei Greenleafe (Lorelei Elkins)  
[loreleielkins AT aol.com](mailto:loreleielkins AT aol.com)

**BARONIAL YOUTH COMBAT CHAMPION - OPEN**

**BARONIAL YOUTH ARCHERY CHAMPION** Lord Vilhjálmr bani

**BARONIAL YOUTH ARTISAN** Hamsa of Middlegate

**PHOENIX GUARD**

**Captain:** THL Christophe of Grey (John Atkins)

Lady Davina de Bruce (Diana Parsons)

Lord Jean Bartt (Bart Armstrong)

Lord Tim Arrowfinder (Tim Kincaid)

THL Lorelei Greenleaf (Lorelei Elkins)

# Baronial Order Principals

## **PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE SACRED STONE**

Lady Miriel Crawford (Tracey Ellis), 704-262-7124

[miriel.crawford AT gmail.com](mailto:miriel.crawford@gmail.com)

## **PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE PHOENIX' EYE**

Lady Annora Hall (Kathy Murphy)

[annorahall AT yahoo.com](mailto:annorahall@yahoo.com)

## **PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE PHOENIX' CLAW**

Lord Symon de Ipswich (Troy Peterson)

## **PRINCIPAL, ORDER OF THE YEOMEN OF THE SACRED STONE**

THL Christophe of Grey (John Atkins)

# Canton Seneschals

## **Aire Faucon**

Lord Rurik Lebedov  
Ryan Matthews  
rurik@att.net

## **Baelfire Dunn**

Till Cambell  
tillfirehorn@yahoo.com

## **Charlesbury Crossing**

Lady Zafira bint Miriam  
Susan French  
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## **Crois Brigitte**

Lord Robyn A' Dearg  
Robin Ried  
twolfpax@yahoo.com

## **Middlegate**

Lord Symon de Ipswich  
Troy Petersen  
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## **Salesberie Glen**

Sir Axel  
Wayne Remes

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