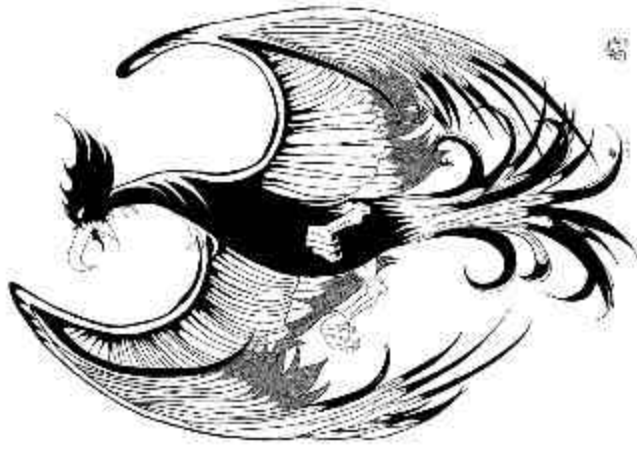


The Phoenix

The Barony of the Sacred Stone



*January 2005 ASXXXIX
Volume 19, Issue 1*

Barony of the Sacred Stone, SCA, Inc.
Kathryn Evans
4493 Leepers Street
Iron Station, NC 28080

Unto the Populace

From the Baroness

Greetings to the populace of Sacred Stone! I hope that each of you had a safe and fun holiday season. Now the new year is upon us and it is time to plan our goals for 2005.

I would like to see all our Canton officers and our Baronial officers get deputies. This allows us a safety net of having someone to help out no matter what scheduling problems occur. Being a deputy is a good way to learn an office that you are curious about and a good way to help your group out. We have a lot of people in this Barony, so there is no reason why people are holding three and four offices. Please think about this.

I want to remind people about the pavilion making day in January. Alesia and Robear are opening their house for a work day. We need people to come out and help us make the pavilion. It is our goal to have the new pavilions ready for Ymir.

Also at Ymir we will hold our heraldry competition there as well. I would love to see any person who has heraldry to come out and display it. There will be prizes and some wonderful food from Baroness Fiona. Please come out and show your colors!

For those that do not have heraldry, please make an effort to work on that this year. We have several heralds available for consultation. I would love to see everyone work on that this year.

Thank you all for your work in 2004. I look forward to working with each of you in 2005.

In Service,
Kisaiya Zingara

From the Seneschal

As I write this the end of the year is upon us. A lot has changed over the past year within the Barony and I am certain that this coming year will bring many, many more. Before we move on to all the new things that are up and coming I wanted to take a moment and remember everyone that have assisted me with my duties as Seneschal over the past year.

To our Baronial Officers, I could not ask for a better staff to work with while organizing and running this Barony. To each of you who have stepped down and those of you who are currently in office, I thank you!

Countess Bera	Madonna Apollonia
Baron Achbar	Lady Louise
Baroness Fiona	Master Robear
Lord Christian	Lord Galen Storm
Mistress Susanna	Lady Neca Makai
Lady Caterine	Lord Salvadore
Lady Katerina	Lord Talorgen
Lord John	Lord Menua
Lord Cyriac	Lady Marryn
Lady Lidia	Lady Manya

To our Canton Seneschals and their supporting officers, you guys are the heart of the Barony and you all work so hard to keep yo ur own Cantons growing and thriving.

Lady Maeve of Aire Faucon
Baron Giles and Mistress Azza of Baelfire Dunn
Madonna Apollonia of Salisberie Glenn
Lady Louise and Lady Aleisia of Charlesbury Crossing
Lady Sorcha of Crois Brigitte
Lady Bronwen of Hindscroft

To those of you who have helped me on a personal level throughout this year:

Mistress Susanna	Master Robear	Mistress Jessamyn
Duke Logan	Lady Aleisia	Nightshade Faire
Lady Cassandra	Lady Reyna	Clan Ebonwoulfe
Lady Margaret	Lady Katerina	The Soul Reavors
Sir Dagonet	Lord Humfrey	The entire staff of Baronial Birthday
Lord John	Dame Anneand many, many others
Baron Achbar	Lady Caterine	

I also want to thank our own Baroness Kisaiya for continually looking for ways to improve our enjoyment of the SCA and encouraging us along our paths.

A New Year has now begun and there are lots and lots of things up-coming for the New Year.

Please watch The Phoenix and e-list for announcements on the Heraldic Competition for Ymir, the Baronial pavilion making day, the autocrat class, and Novice Tourney.

YIS,
Asszony Bessenyei Rozsa

From the Castellan

Things are looking up. The cantons of Charlesbury Crossing and Aire Faucon now have Chatelaines. We have new people in our Barony. Now, we have to make sure that these new people are having fun. Let us make the SCA a hobby to be enjoyed.

Achbar

From the Chronicler

Greetings all,

Well, going with the theme of the birth of the new year, this month's newsletter has an article on Phoenixes and contains some interesting little facts that perhaps not everyone knows. I hope you enjoy!

Remember, I'm always looking for articles and stories from people in the barony. Perhaps you're new to the barony and you want to tell about your first event. Perhaps you've been in the SCA for years and still want to tell about your first event or how the SCA has changed since you started playing. We welcome stories about anything. Don't be shy!

Katerina

From the Minister of Arts and Sciences

Seasons Greetings from THL John von der Velde, Baronial Minister of Arts and Sciences,

I want to wish everyone the warmest holiday greetings and hope that your New Year is even better than last year. Over the last year we have seen the parting of old friends and have been introduced to new ones. We celebrated, mourned, and fought together. We found new inspiration, built upon old skills, and discovered we can do that which we believed impossible.

With this spirit, I call upon all artisans living in the Barony to create one item to be given to Her Excellency for her to pass on as a gift. She is in search of gifts appropriate for the Royals and Her Baronial Peers. At the upcoming Tournament of Ymir, She has challenged the other baronies to put on their best. Let us do the same for her. Let us put on our Barony's finest. Let us create such a stir as has not been seen since the great days of Sacred Stone's Shield Wall.

In service to His Grace and Her Excellency,
John

Regnum

Baroness, Kisaiya Zingara

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Regnum

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December 19, 2004
Barony of the Sacred Stone
Baronial Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 by Asszony Rozsa, Seneschal.

Baroness Kisaiya

- The Coronets are here. They need storage boxes. Please contact Her Excellency if you would like to donate them.
- Baroness Fiona, with the Barony's agreement, is writing a bid to submit for June 2005 University.

Officer Reports

Seneschal - Asszony Bessenyei Rozsa

- Please send commentary for the following Officer nominations to Asszony Rosza and Baroness Kisaiya: Knight's Marshal - Lord Galen Storm, Duke Logan Ebonwoulfe (include Baroness Fiona, FionaSCA@hotmail.com); Archery Marshal - Christophe of Gray, Lord Conall Mac an Druiadh; Herald - Madonna Apollonia Margherita degli Albizzi, Baron Achbar ibn Ali. (There were no nominations for Minister of Minors positions; Baroness Kisaiya will continue as baronial contact.) Deadline for commentary is Jan. 10.
- Bids for Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday and for In a Phoenix Eye are due Dec. 31. The Baronial website has bid forms.
- The Baronial Pavilion Sewing Day is Jan. 15 at Lady Alesia Gillefaly's home. Please contact her at alesia@juno.com for directions. A potluck meal is planned.
- The Autocrat Class taught by Asszony Rosza and Mistress Jessamyn will be Feb. 19 from 10-5 in Iron Station. Contact Meisterin Susanna (NeedleznPinz@charter.net) for directions and RSVP. Bring \$5 to cover the cost of soup and sandwiches for lunch.

Exchequer - Lady Lidia de Ragusa

- Our current balance is \$9103.66. We will be sending \$456.52 to Salisbury Glen. Our balance is \$400 less than it was at the beginning of 2004.
- Exchequer recommends that events held at the Elkin site require prepaid reservations for feast.

Castellan - not present

Herald - not present

Chronicler - Lady Katerina Sina Samovicha

- We currently have 8 paid subscriptions to The Phoenix. Officers and Seneschals are invited to send in monthly letters with updates on their office or canton activities.
- Subscription forms will be available at next month's meeting.

MoL - not present

Knight's Marshall - Baroness Fiona MacLeod

- "We're fighting! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!"

Rapier Marshal - not present

Archery Marshal - not present

MoAS - not present

Webminister - Lord Cyriac Grymsdale

- Please send updates directly to Lord Cyriac (Valmersage@carolina.rr.com), conversations on the e-list do not guarantee that the changes will be seen and executed.
- Report from Unevent includes a reminder that Canton webministers need to check that permission has been given by officers to include personal contact information on the Canton and Baronial webpages.

MoM - This position is still open. The Kingdom of Atlantia has a handbook available for youth activities.

Canton Reports

Aire Faucon

- Inn on the Road is March 26. The theme is Remember the Mermaid Tavern of Olde London. There will be a Boastful Challenge, plan to bring your Herald to sing your praises!

Crois Brigitte

- On a holiday break.

Baelfire Dunn

- Cristian Rosado de Bayamon is warranted as a heavy marshal.
- Below the Salt is May 14, 15, 16 at Fort Defiance.
- A&S is every Thursday night at Mistress Azza's beginning Jan. 13.

Charlesbury Crossing

- Seneschal sent her proxy, in Cincinnati for the holidays.

Salisbury Glen

- Madonna Apollonia (by proxy). We have still decided nothing on the next event. Right now, Axel is working on a series of educational demos for the Rowan County YMCA's after school program, and he's also giving some thought to next year's St. Urho's Tourney (which is held in March). We did not have a business meeting this month, because not enough people showed, which is common when it's so cold out.

Hindscroft

- Lady Bronwen of Hindscroft (by proxy) Nothing really is new in Hindscroft, except that their Majesties agreed to announce the change in status for Hindscroft as of Saturday Court, and by Sunday, we should be a full Canton.

Old Business

- Coronets are here, will be worn at Ymir, need protective boxes. Please contact Baroness Kisaiya.
- A motion was made, and passed, to change the Baronial Charter that the business meetings are led by the Baronial Seneschal.

New Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 2:40.

Notes taken by Susanna von Schweissguth, OL

Phoenixes

By Lady Katerina Sina Samovicha

(MKA Kathryn Evans)

The Phoenix has been a symbol of rebirth and immortality for thousands of years in many different cultures. In Egyptian mythology it is known as *Bennu*, in China it is called *Feng-Huang*, in Japan it is *Ho-oo*, and in Slavic culture it is known simply as the *Firebird*. The name *Phoenix* actually comes from the Greek word for 'fire'.

According to the most commonly known tradition, there was only ever one Phoenix alive at a time. It lived in Paradise, which was somewhere past the horizon in the direction of the rising sun. They say the Phoenix could live for anywhere from five hundred to a thousand years and when it felt its death approaching it would build itself a funeral pyre from aromatic herbs and spices. Once the pyre was built the Phoenix would nestle inside and at the moment of its death the entire thing would burst into flames and consume the bird completely. In the ashes would be born a tiny worm which would eventually grow and burst forth as a new Phoenix and fly away east to Paradise.

In *The History of Herodotus* (440 B.C.E.) he says, "*They have also another sacred bird called the phoenix which I myself have never seen, except in pictures. Indeed it is a great rarity, even in Egypt, only coming there (according to the accounts of the people of Heliopolis) once in five hundred years, when the old phoenix dies. Its size and appearance, if it is like the pictures, are as follow: The plumage is partly red, partly golden, while the general make and size are almost exactly that of the eagle.*" Sir John Mandeville (1366) also describes the Phoenix, "*This bird men see often- time fly in those countries; and he is not mickle more than an eagle. And he hath a crest of feathers upon his head more great than the peacock hath; and his neck is yellow after color of an oriel that is a stone well shining, and his beak is colored blue as ind; and his wings be of purple color, and his tail is barred overthwart with green and yellow and red. And he is a full fair bird to look upon, against the sun, for he shineth full gloriously and nobly.*"

In the Middle Ages the Phoenix was closely associated with the death and resurrection of Christ. It was also used as a symbol for the warrior maiden Joan of Arc, who was burned at the stake and then later canonized, and was even used by Queen Elizabeth I as her heraldic emblem.

In China the Phoenix was the imperial emblem of the Empress and was often paired with the Dragon, the emblem of the Emperor. In Chinese mythology the Phoenix and the Dragon were said to represent both conflict and wedded bliss and were portrayed either as mortal enemies or as lovers. The Phoenix appeared only rarely and would descend from the heavens to mark a new era, the birth of a virtuous ruler, for example. It would appear only in peaceful and prosperous times and so was a symbol of harmony for the Empire.

The Phoenix also appears in a number of Russian folktales as the fabled *Firebird*. The most well known is that of *Ivan and the Gray Wolf*. Every night the Firebird would fly into the King's garden and eat the golden fruit from the King's most prized tree. The king set his three sons the task of finding the Firebird and bringing it back to him. After many various and dangerous adventures young Prince Ivan eventually succeeds in obtaining the Firebird, as well as the love of a beautiful princess and many other treasures.

Bibliography

Afanasev, Aleksander, *Russian Folk Tales*, Random House, Inc.

The History of Herodotus, <http://classics.mit.edu/Herodotus/history.html>

Information on Chinese and Japanese myths, <http://www.onmarkproductions.com/html/ho-oo-phoenix.shtml>

Information on Phoenix myths, <http://www.winshop.com.au/annev/Phoenix.html>

Announcements

Baronial Meeting and Practice

The Baronial Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 16, 2005 at the Salisbury, North Carolina practice site. Baronial Fighter Practice will follow immediately afterwards.

Baronial Pavilion Making Day

The Baronial Pavilion Making Day will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2005 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Lady Alesia and Master Robear. Please contact Lady Alesia at alesiaglfyn@juno.com for directions. The entire Barony is invited to come out on this day to assist with the building of the new pavilion.

Autocrat Class

The Autocratting class will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2005 at the home of Mistress Susanna beginning at 10:00. If you are interested in autocratting an event within the Barony or would like to learn how to autocrat an event, please attend this class. Asszony Rozsa will be going over Baronial forms and procedures while Mistress Jessamyn will be going over the finer points of autocratting. Please contact Mistress Susanna at needleznpinz@charter.net for directions.

Inner-Baronial Heraldic Display Competition

Asszony Rozsa will be sponsoring an Inner-Baronial Heraldic Display Competition at Ymir. We will be looking for banners, livery, garb, pavilions and any other possible place you can think of to stick your heraldry on. Prizes will be provided including a Chocolate Pie by Baroness Fiona. If you are interested in entering please notify Asszony Rozsa at qchell@earthlink.net. This competition is only open to the populace of the Barony of the Sacred Stone. If you need any help or suggestions please feel free to contact Asszony Rozsa as well. Documentation is *not* required.

Novice Tourney 2005 - Livery Competition

Asszony Rozsa will be sponsoring a "Best Novice Livery" and "Best Three-Man Team Livery" competition at Novice Tourney this year. So begin work on getting your tabard, torse, mantle, and shield all matching! No documentation required.

Baronial Officer Letters of Intent

The following persons have submitted Letters of Intent for the following Baronial Offices:

Knights Marshall - Lord Galen Storm; Duke Logan Ebonwoulfe
Archery Marshall - Christophe of Gray; Lord Conall Mac an Druiadh
Herald - Apollonia Margherita degli Albizzi; Baron Achbar ibn Ali
Minister of Minors - none

At this point in time we will enter the "Commentary Phase" after which Baroness Kisaiya, Asszony Rozsa, and the outgoing officer will submit one name to Kingdom for approval of their warrant.

If you have any commentary you feel should be considered before the decision is made as to who to submit to Kingdom, please send that commentary **directly** to Baroness Kisaiya, Asszony Rozsa, and the outgoing officer. Contact information can be found at the front of The Phoenix and on the Baronial website.

Commentary will be accepted until January 10, 2005 at which time a decision will be made and submitted to Kingdom to ask their approval.

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