

# Baronial Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events

# Meeting Minutes

## Baronial Meeting Minutes

*March 19, 2023*

The Sacred Stone Baronial Meeting was held at the home of Kathy & Adrian Alma in Winston-Salem at 2pm Sunday, March 19, 2023. There were 17 paid members and a few non-members present but no financial votes were taken.

Seneschal Master Otto von Schwyz led the meeting with His Excellency Alain

**Coronets' Report** – Her Excellency had a lovely time at Gulf Wars and is on route home as of the meeting. She retired from her modern position at the end of January and His Excellency will retire at the end of May; They have received bids for Below the Salt and Baronial Birthday and are looking forward to having more freedom to be active with the barony; They plan to attend Hawkwood's Baronial Birthday and several other events; They ask that the populace consider crafting bids for events.

**General Discussion** – The group discussed various kingdom events and traditional baronial events that could be bid for. His Excellency also encouraged members of the populace to create new events that may be smaller but that are unique.

### **OFFICERS:**

*Seneschal's Report* – Otto now lives in Wilmington, a 450-mile round trip and asked that anyone interested in becoming baronial seneschal to let him know.

*Chatelain's Report* – None

*Demo Deputy* – Master Achbar discussed upcoming demos that include ConCarolinas, June 2-4 where he will man a table from Friday at 3pm until Saturday at 8 pm. Anyone with items he could display and that they don't mind being handled by the public should contact Achbar directly.

*Herald's Report* – None; Society Sign Herald Deputy Mistress Suzanne de la Ferté invited anyone interested in learning to sign to contact her or join the regular online meetings

*Minister of A&S Report* – No report

*Marshal's Report* – Regular official fight practices are scheduled at various locations including Martha Rivers Park in Gastonia and St Paul Lutheran Church in Salisbury

*Minister of the Lists* – No Report

*Exchequer* – \$26,526.64 in accounts; reports filed and all current.

*Quarter Master* – No requests have been received; If you need access, contact him

**CANTONS:**

*Aire Faucon*: Lady Rekitza stepped up as Seneschal; Canton fighter practice is on Sundays; They are hosting Summer University

*Charlesbury Crossing*: The canton has a new Exchequer; first report is done and they are moving bank accounts

*Crois Brigitte*: Held a canton meeting after the baronial meeting; They are planning to bid for Gardens of Thyme & Oakwood; nothing else new

*Middlegate*: Nothing new

*Salesberie Glen*: Regular meetings and fighter practices; They've pulled out of the Cheerwine festival because the costs are too high

**EVENT BIDS:**

Bid for Below the Salt – June 23-25 at Elchenburg; Colin Bulla & Niccolina Mann – Gate \$14; Feast \$12; Break Even - 130

SSBB – Sept 1-4, Elchenburg; Colin Bulla & Niccolina Mann – Gate \$15; Break Even – 240; Korean culture theme with Clash of the Cantons

In A Phoenix Eye – Nov. 11 at Star of Bethlehem Church; Lady Alexandra Scott de Northumberland – Day Gate \$8; Dayboard \$6; Evening Bardic & Ball \$6;

**ACTION ITEM:** VOTE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL MTG

*General Discussion*: We need more bids, more people willing to work both the bids and the events. If you would like more information about what is needed to bid for or run an event, reach out to Their Excellencies, Otto or other members of the barony who are experienced at handling events. They will gladly answer questions and/or find a good match for a mentor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Chattel Storage at Elchenburg Discussion*: The suggestion was made that with rental costs rising for items like tables and chairs, if we are going to use Elchenburg more often that we should look into the feasibility of buying these items and storing them at the Castle or closer to site. History of the current storage unit and that they charge us much less than we can get a comparable new unit and concerns expressed in the past about storing on the Castle site were covered.

**ACTION ITEM:** His Excellency will get cost information for buying tables & chairs and for storage options.

NEXT MEETING: April 23

## From Their Excellencies

Baroness Azza's Gulf Wars 2023 report



Dear Phoenix Phamily,

Your intrepid baroness has returned from Gulf Wars invigorated and proud. His Majesty Abran graciously allowed me to hold a short baronial court to honor some of the outstanding folks whose service and prowess on the field of battle have enriched our phone Barony of the Sacred Stone.

1. Fearghus macAirt received a Baronial Award of Courtesy for opening his home to interbaronial fighter practices and his quickness to pitch in to help others.

2. Lady iul'iana Krasnaia received a Baronial Award of Courtesy for embroidering our Investiture garb, clothing many folks in the barony, and her personal service to me at Gulf Wars. Lady iul'iana helped me

in the mornings when my achy bones weren't working so well.

3. Magnifica Hildegard Bergerin received a Baronial Award of Courtesy for her work as co-land agent for Gulf Wars-coming out early to set the layout of camp and ridding the camp of pain-inducing fire ants. She has made largesse and pitches in to do jobs when others won't. She is the epitome of courtesy.

4. Lord Wang Wei Yuan gained membership into Our Order of the Phoenix Claw for his prowess on the battlefield in a number of weapons forms and for his siege engine work. He was co-land agent for Gulf Wars, as well, and pitches in to help when others won't. These are noble deeds indeed!

Please congratulate our award winners!

I represented the Barony of the Sacred Stone and the Kingdom of Atlantia in other ways as well. Since I was new to Gulf Wars, I took Magnifica Hildegard's advice and volunteered six hours driving golf cart taxi service routes. It was a wonderful way to serve and meet people. Some of my favorite memories were seeing the relief on tired riders' faces and hearing their stories. Folks were so grateful for the rides that one gave me Hot Hands (from NOVA: Nasty Old Vikings Association) and another gave me a cup of hot barley soup.

I met His Excellency Kelwin and Her Excellency Baroness Zoe (great name!) of our sister Barony of Wyvernwoode in the Kingdom of Trimaris. Her Excellency and I had much in common besides our name, Zoe. She is a laurel too and we had a lovely chat about our favorite art forms and how we serve our baronies.

I thank Lady Altani for her Newcomers to Gulf Wars tour of the site using all four golf cart routes. She told stories about the camps and we laughed so much on those carts!

I thank Paul and Tatiana Woodcutter for welcoming me into their meal plan and homey camp kitchen. I miss the Huddle House already! We were all Huddled around the fire pit every frosty morning and evening. My favorite memories come from chatting with folks from Camp Atlantia around that fire pit and in the kitchen tent. Paul had the coffee ready early every morning and was quick to start a new pot no matter the time of day or night if you needed it. Tatiana and I got to know each other better. I treasure the gift you gave me, my friend.

Thank you to my retainers: Baroness Kassandra Sousiádes, Syr Garan Halftrelson, Lady iuliana Krasnaia, and Lady Pagane. I didn't need you often, but you were there when I did. Thank you to my baronial court herald, Viscountess Marion Leoncina da Susa for your projection, skill, and humor. Thank you to Her Highness, Princess Yasamin Farrah for calling me 'the coolest baroness'. You made my night. It was a pleasure getting to know you and Prince Afshin better.

I think that will not be my last Gulf Wars. It was a truly special event. I hope you all can join me next year!

Until then, you will find Alain and me at the following events:

Spring Coronation-April 1, Duke Demo-April 8 (Alain), Official Fighter Practice-April 8 (Azza), Spring Crown Tournament-May 6, Day in the Park-May 13, and Hawkwood Baronial Birthday-May 20 (Alain's birthday weekend!).

Yours in Service,

Alain & Azza, Baron & Baroness of the Barony of the Sacred Stone

## Research from Lady Amathullah Luciano

Being Spanish, I began to wonder about the "other" New World commodity, Tobacco. I also started wondering about smoking in general. So, I stumbled down this rabbit hole and found out several interesting things.

Before 1492, nobody in Europe "smoked".

Incenses and herbs were burned. Opium was drink or eaten. In India, smoking was used for healing purposes and they smoked a variety of things from raisins and turmeric leaves to shed snake skin and bone, depending on what was trying to be cured for a couple thousand years. Soapstone pipes dating for around 1000 BCE were discovered in Tanzania and cannabis was introduced to Ethiopia and east Africa in the 13th century by Arab sailors. In the Americas people smoked pipes and made the precursor to cigars, as well as tea from tobacco However I couldn't find where Europeans did anything like it until after 1492.

That's when explorers Rodrigo de Jerez (Xerez) and Luis de Torres arrived with Christopher Columbus and saw "Cuban" natives "drinking the smoke of tobacco leaves wrapped in Maize leaves". Jerez picked up the habit and took it back to Spain where he was promptly imprisoned by the Spanish Inquisition. The first written report on tobacco in a European language was in 1492.

It was slow getting to get started and it seems to have begun its travels out of Portugal not Spain. In 1560, Jean Nicot, the French ambassador to Lisbon wrote about tobacco's medicinal properties and gave us the word "Nicotine". Also, in the 1560's tobacco arrived in England. The Portuguese and English traders and missionaries took tobacco to Africa, India, China and Japan. Pipes were being used everywhere. Tobacco was the "trendy" new "dry drink" and by 1590 tobacco was popular all over the world.

By 1690, tobacco was HATED all over the world.

Popes banned the use of tobacco in holy places. Asian emperors made it a crime to both use and grow the substance. Russian Tsars, Turkish Sultans and even the Greek church banned smoking. In Russia and most non-European countries the crime of smoking and the cultivation of tobacco carried a loss of property and life. King James, I wrote "A Counterblaste to Tobacco" in 1604 denouncing smoking (at the same time taxing it) and in 1619 the Privy Council forbid the planting of tobacco in England. (To protect Virginia's monopoly of the product)

On the bright side, tobacco was used as a cure-all for the Great Plague in 1665 all over Europe.

In China one "mu" of tobacco was worth ten "mu" of field grain. There in 1642 there was a tobacconist on every corner before the Imperial ban of 1676. Japan added the ritual of pipe smoking "kiseru" to their ceremonies and the "hookah" was created to "drink the smoke".

So, in period, if you want to smoke and you are in the 15th or 16th century, enjoy, but do it fast before the church finds out. Before or after that, meh. Not completely, period but pipes and cigars were being used for medicinal purposes outside Europe, so maybe you are... Avant Garde? In any case, cigarettes are a product of the late 19th century so there's that...

### **Bibliography**

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*A Historical Perspective on Smoking Bans* Jeremy Richards

*The Cigarette Book: The History and Culture of Smoking* Chris Harrald and Fletcher Watkins

*Tobacco: A Cultural History of How an Exotic Plant Seduced a Civilization* Iain Gately

*Smoke: A Global History of Smoking* edited by Sander L Gilman and Zhou Xun

<https://www.tusker.com/geografica/uncategorized/up-in-smoke>

## Women's History from a Medieval Lens

One woman who had a major influence on England was Aethelflaed. She was the daughter of Alfred the Great. Aethelflaed is also known as Lady of the Mercians. Here is a great article to learn more about this remarkable woman.

## Ask a Peer

Do you have a question for a Peer? Send your query to the Chronicler.

## Would you like to add something to the newsletter?

Message Tamara Babulski on Facebook with your entry.

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