

# Baronial Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events

January 13 [Atlantian 12th Night](#) (Yadkinville NC)  
January 19 – 21 [Nottingham Coill Baronial Birthday & Investiture](#) (Bennettsville SC)  
January 26 – 27 [Ravens Cove Baronial Birthday and Investiture](#) (Richlands NC)  
January 27 [Holiday Court of Volodymyr the Great](#) (Lothian MD)  
January 27 [Tourney of Manannan Mac Lir](#) (Harleyville SC)

For more events and happenings, please take a look at Atlantia's  
Kingdom Calendar of Events: <https://atlantia.sca.org/calendar/>



## Baronial Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2023  
Traust Brewery, Mt. Holly North Carolina  
Canton of Aire Faucon

### Baronage Baron Alain & Baroness Azza

30 people attended! Among those, there were three new folks: Welcome Loy, Colin, and Chris!

Baroness Azza awarded prizes of stuffed seahorses to the most phestively phashioned Phoenixes in attendance. Congratulations to Erik, Master Robert, and Colin! We will attend 12th Night, Nottingham Coill Baronial Birthday, Ymir, KASF, and Gulf Wars. We need retainers-contact Head Retainer, Lady Cassia.

**Seneschal:** Master Patris - He made it through his first month of being seneschal.

**Exchequer:** not in attendance. The new exchequer will be Countess Brithwyn Artur, formerly of Trimaris with deputy Meisterin Jdeke.

**Chronicler:** not in attendance. We welcome three deputies: Ladies Ailis and Slaine, and M'lord John Brice.

**Chatelaine:** Honorable Lord Gawain - Lady Ysoria is interested in becoming the chatelaine and so was asked to complete a letter of intent.

**Herald:** Lord Domnall - The kingdom heralds are switching to electronic submissions. There will be no charge for resubmissions to failed attempts.

**Marshall:** not in attendance - Syr Garan is looking for his replacement. Interested folks should contact him.

**Minister of Arts & Sciences:** Honorable Lady Eva - Please take advantage of the many classes, contests, and displays at upcoming events: Nottingham Coill Baronial Birthday, and the Quarterly Arts Workshop.

**Minister of the Lists:** Honorable Lady Niccolina - She may need to step down next month and so is looking for her replacement. Interested folks should contact her.

**Webminster:** not in attendance

## Canton Reports

**Charlesbury Crossing:** not in attendance

**Aire Faucon:** Honorable Lady Rikissa - Canton meetings are 1st Thursdays at Books-a-Million. Arts & Sciences Gatherings are 3rd Thursdays. Fighter practices are Sundays at noon in Rankin Park. Canton marshal stepped down.

**Crois Brigitte:** Haelfdige Annora - We are restructuring our meetings and officers. Arts & Sciences gatherings start in January at Annora's & Robert's home, near a used bookstore! Master Robert is scouting out Parks & Rec for archery practices.

**Middlegate:** not in attendance

**Salesberie Glen:** Lady Ysoria - Fighter practices are Sundays, 1pm at Kelsey Scott Park. We vote for a new seneschal in January.

## Old Business

### **Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday 2024 (42nd birthday)**

Mistress Aine will submit a bid and be event steward. Anyone wishing to be a part of the staff and planning, please contact her.

**Raiders & Traders:** Viscount Fearghus is the event steward for this September 14th event at his home in Nottingham Coill. It will be a weekend of camping, games of chance, martial exercises, and more. Winners will receive pennants and a bragging-rights banner.

**SAAD/Gardens of Thyme:** M'lady Muirhean & Baroness Asta  
There will be classes and demos. They intend to contact the North Carolina Beekeepers' Association for a demo. Planned for September.

## New Business

### **Baronial Lands Fencing Practice & Arts & Sciences Weekly Gathering:** Lady Colette

We are starting Thursday rapier practices for the winter at Bethel Lutheran Church in Claremont. It is \$25/week. We are starting January 4. Colette has spoken to Allyson about also hosting A&S nights there. Colette is asking for donations from the attendees but would like the barony to consider reimbursing her if enough funds are not raised each month as this will be an official practice. We will vote at the January meeting about the barony paying the whole \$25/week since this is inexpensive for an indoor gathering place.

**Bardic Madness:** HL Gawain & HL Niccolina - Multi-kingdom event: Weekend of June 29, 2024 at Morningstar Lutheran Church, Charlotte. There is a nautical theme in honor of Atlantia. Folks who wish to sponsor a 'fyt' or performance should be prepared to provide about twelve tokens to give to participants of the fyt. Examples of fyts you could sponsor: first time performing in public, original sea shanty, dramatic performance about life on a ship, performance about Kraken, Aspidochelone, Spike, etc. Get creative! Contact Gawain or Niccolina if interested in sponsoring a fyt. Groups may sponsor these as well as individuals.

### **Future meetings are planned in rotation between the Cantons as follows:**

All meetings are at 2:00pm unless stated otherwise

January 21, 2024	Charlesbury Crossing	<b>North County Library: 16500 Holly Crest Ln, Huntersville NC</b>
February 18, 2024	Middlegate	
March 24, 2024	Crois Brigitte	<b>House of Cards: 4007 Country Club Rd #C Winston Salem NC</b>
April 14, 2024	Salesberie Glen	
May 19, 2024	Aire Faucon	
June 23, 2024	Charlesbury Crossing	
July 14, 2024	Middlegate	
August 18, 2024	Crois Brigitte	
September 22, 2024	Salesberie Glen	
October	Aire Faucon	

## History of Yule (Winter Solstice) Celebrations



““Yule” comes from Old English *geol*, which shares a history with the equivalent word from Old Norse, *jól*. Both these words referred to a midwinter festival centered around the winter solstice, which traditionally marked the halfway point of the winter season. After the solstice—the shortest day of the year—the days again begin to grow longer, so it’s thought that Yule was a celebration of the re-appearance of the Sun and the fertile land’s rebirth.”

Yule is normally celebrated by cultures as the festival before Christmas, which includes feasts, dancing, and caroling (or wassailing). As Christianity began to spread from central Europe to the rest of the world, those cultures who celebrated Yule began to incorporate Christian traditions into old world ones. Indeed, ancient cultures such as Rome celebrated Saturnalia or the celebration of the Roman god Saturn the week leading up to the winter solstice. “Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down. For a month, enslaved people were given temporary freedom and treated as equals. Business and schools were closed so that everyone could participate in the holiday’s festivities. Also, around the time of the winter solstice, Romans observed Juvenalia, a feast honoring the children of Rome.”

The Norse celebrated Yule for 12 days (December 21st-January) and began the idea of burning the “Yule log” which would be burned for the entire duration of the festival. “The Norse believed that each spark from the fire represented a new piglet or calf that would be born during the coming year.”

Other cultures have winter solstice celebrations as well such as the Japanese in a tradition called “Toji,” in which bonfires are lit near Mount Fuji to celebrate a new year with good health. The Iranians celebrate “Shab-e Yalda, (which translates to “Night of Birth”), Iranians all over the world celebrate the triumph of the sun god Mithra over darkness. According to tradition, people gather together to protect each other from evil, burn fires to light their way through the darkness, and perform charitable acts.”

The Chinese celebrate Dong Zhi or “winter arrives” in which families celebrate the coming year with celebration. In “southern China [are] is the glutinous rice balls known as tang yuan, often brightly colored and cooked in sweet or savory broth. Northern Chinese enjoy plain or meat-stuffed dumplings, a particularly warming and nourishing food for a midwinter celebration.”

However you plan to spend the holidays remember traditions are not relegated to one culture or place, everyone has their own unique way of celebrating and we encourage the education and inclusion of these cultures when re-envisioning ourselves in SCA culture. Happy Holidays from the staff at the Barony of the Sacred Stone!

Sincerely,

Edward Peary  
*Deputy Baronial Chronicler*

Sources taken from <https://www.history.com/topics/natural-disasters-and-environment/winter-solstice> and <https://www.almanac.com/content/what-yule-log-christmas-traditions>

## **Notes on the First Ever Knowne World Chatelaine Symposium**

The first ever SCA Knowne World Chatelaine Symposium took place on December 30, 2023, beginning at 7am Central Time. The event served as a series of formal seminars, across multiple tracks, which assisted warranted and unwarranted members of SCA in how to recruit, retain, inform, and access segments of the SCA population in order to better excite the membership. As

someone who is not a warranted chatelaine, I still found the information invaluable as both a cantonal, baronial, and kingdom-level officer because I wanted to know how to share my experiences in the organization with non-members in order to increase membership.

The website can be found here:

[https://sites.google.com/view/kwcs2023/home?fbclid=IwAR0EnM7OKyIYqVpW9h6N3KnUeqoFY0N3zY-Yaono0AGD7raOul\\_PyOzMklQ](https://sites.google.com/view/kwcs2023/home?fbclid=IwAR0EnM7OKyIYqVpW9h6N3KnUeqoFY0N3zY-Yaono0AGD7raOul_PyOzMklQ) and in the next couple of

weeks the website will be updated to include ALL of the recorded sessions from the symposium, so do not worry if you could not attend as all the information will be accessible soon. Even those members who attended could not go to every session, so I will look forward to watching the webinars of the events I could not make.

There also promises to be more symposia in the future that will be announced by the Chroniclers office as more information becomes available. Everyone have a pleasant New Year's, and we look forward to seeing you at events coming soon!

Edward Peary  
Deputy Baronial Chronicler

*Edward Peary is the Deputy Exchequer of the Canton of Middlegate and serves as Deputy Baronial Chronicler for Lady Fyen van Amsterdam. He also serves as Deputy Kingdom Chronicler for Releases to Lady Caitrina inghean Fhearghuis. He is a resident of Archdale, North Carolina and serves as a Chemist Assistant (Pharmacy Technician) at the local CVS in Archdale. You can find him biting his nails waiting for the next Star Trek series to start streaming on Paramount Network and serving in five other fandoms.*



## Baronial Member Spotlight



Well met, friends! I am Argent of Sacred Stone. I am a textile enthusiast and fiber pusher (first one's free!). You can generally find me at events with a distaff in my belt and a murder ballad on my tongue. Look for the red cap and you'll find me!"

Argent has been in the SCA for almost ten years. Since joining, she has served as the MoAS for the Canton of Middlegate and the Barony of the Sacred Stone. She has recently been elected as the Seneschal of the Canton of Middlegate for the 2023-2025 term.

### 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.



## Sacred Stone's Baronial Officers



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