

The Ayreton Newsletter

October, 2008



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This is the October, 2008 issue of the Ayreton Newsletter, the official newsletter of the Incipient Barony of Ayreton, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Ayreton Newsletter is published as a service to the membership of the SCA's Incipient Barony of Ayreton. Subscriptions are free.

For a hard copy of this newsletter, please contact Jennifer Small, 1424 W Balmoral Ave, Chicago IL 60640.

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Greetings from the Chronicler!

Welcome to the first official newsletter of the Incipient Barony of Ayreton! I'm very excited to be able to offer you such a rich and varied view of the activities and peoples of our area. In addition, we've focused this issue on the question "What is a Barony?" Now that we have moved forward on the path to becoming a Barony, it's good to hear from those who have some experience living in or running a Barony, to help us define what WE want to be.

Submissions and Publication

Thanks to everyone who sent contributions to this newsletter. I'm delighted to receive submissions of any sort for our newsletter. We'll be publishing on a quarterly basis, and our next quarter's issue will focus on the question "What is the job of a Baron and Baroness?" Please send me anything you'd like to say on this subject, as well as any other articles or announcements you'd like included. The deadline for the next issue will be December 15.

Name Contest

You may have noticed that this issue is merely entitled the "Ayreton Newsletter." That's because I'm looking for YOU to come up with a terrific name for our newsletter! Please send me any suggestions or ideas at jenssmall@yahoo.com. If we have lots of great candidates, I'll run them in the next newsletter and get your feedback. This is a great opportunity to be part of Baronial history!

-- Mistress Gianetta Andreini da Vicenza, Ayreton Chronicler

Officer Reports

Seneschal Report

Hoobah!!! for Ayreton. This is very exciting! Our first newsletter published under the name we have chosen for our Barony. And this will be just the first of many.

We've accomplished so much over the past years. First we worked as a Towne loosely combining the groups surrounding Chicago to work together in an unofficial manner. And as time proved we are a perfect fit to be successful collectively. Please hold on to our memories of this time. Part of our history is this transition period where we have learned so much about each other and how well we match.

Remember the time too before we were a Towne. Most of our combined traditions come from this time when we were living just as neighbors and not yet as family. The Baronial traditions that we come to form over the next years can only be enriched by respecting these times and including them as we grow and change.

Do not be afraid to suggest something new but also do not hesitate to remind us if there is a way we have done it in the past too. We have as much flexibility as we allow ourselves. And it is for us to make this land what we choose it to be.

In this first newsletter we are publishing the definitions of a Barony and anecdotes from our populace who have either lived in a Barony or experienced one as a visitor. This is just to help us all get a better idea of what we are looking for here in Ayreton. I hope you enjoy these stories and maybe you will come up with something completely new you would like to see here.

On a business note there are lots of things you can do as we work to becoming a full status Barony. If you are an officer, please report promptly and consistently. If you are a webminister, keep your group website up to date. Keep attending baronial meetings, guild activities, and fighter practices. And of course, tell your friends you are from Ayreton.

If you would like to help with our formal petition, please email me any stories of Ayreton's past and encourage your friends to write letters of support for our elevation to be a Barony.

Finally, congratulations to all of us for making it this far. We made a big step from Proto-Incipient to Incipient in what is relatively a short amount of time. We just need to keep our enthusiasm going over the next couple years as we continue this process to become a full status Barony.

Your Servant to Command, p.w.

Heavy Marshal Report

We actually fielded a force at Pennsic. I would like to thank the following people for getting armor and making it happen: Richard of Schooley, Christian Fournier, William of Atherton, Johannes Machiavelli, Hillary of Langforde, and Gareth Ostwestly. No force, no matter how small, can go without support. The following people went above and beyond the call by bearing water for the Ayreton force: Mistress Sarafina Sinclair, Lady Jane the Tall of Carlisle, Lady Anne de Alienor, and THL Jocelyn of Lutterworth.

I know that next Pennsic is 11 months away, but now is the time to start getting organized for it. I want to see the Ayreton force be more organized next year as well as larger. This means we will want to have surcoats and matching shields. I would like to see us have two war shields for every spear/polearm. Starting in January we will have one practice a month that will concentrate on melee for half of the practice. Then as we get into spring (April and May) we will go to every other practice being for melee.

Also, there has been interest expressed in fielding a siege weapon as part of our force. I would like to have a short meeting at the next baronial meeting to discuss this with all who are interested. Keep in mind we need to build this soon and work on the ammunition so that come Spring we can have the weapon and the crew authorized.

Beginning with October 5th, we will start with a basic sword and shield class at our Sunday practices. The classes will run approximately 1 hour and will go for 6-8 weeks. This will not be in armor so anyone who is just curious about fighting, this would be a good way to learn more.

-- Henry of Exeter, Ayreton Heavy Marshal

Minister of Arts and Sciences Report

Greetings!

We are a very busy and talented group as evidenced by the number of Arts and Sciences activities regularly posted to our schedule. Keep up the good work.

If there is anything that you want highlighted in my quarterly, report please send me the information. The next quarter's report is due November 1st. Copies of the local group MOAS reports would be appreciated.

Upcoming activities include the Ayreton Arts Academy on October 25, a demo on October 11 (it's not just fighting, we need artisans too!) and in January at the Tree-Girt Sea Twelfth Night – Ayreton's A&S Faire. (Many thanks to Tree-Girt Sea for hosting the Faire).

There are more details on the Faire being posted. Remember that this is a Faire not a competition. There will be no judging, just a good opportunity to show off what you are working on. The format is a Laurel Prize tourney, which means that the Laurels and members of the populace are invited to recognize the works they like with small tokens. Also keep in mind that at Tree-Girt Sea Twelfth Night we will be hosting royalty and there will be a number of folks attending from outside our area. This is an excellent way to show off your talents. If there are any questions, comments or suggestions on the Faire or other A&S matters please contact me.

-- In Service, Nicholaa

Exchequer Report

Greetings, citizens of Ayreton! I have created a draft of the Ayreton financial policy, reprinted in full in this newsletter for your review. If you have any questions or feedback, please send me an email and I'll be happy to address it.

**Financial Policy for the Barony of Ayreton
being the Greater Chicago Area, Illinois branch
of the Society for Creative Anachronism**

January 1, 2009

Introduction

The following Financial Policy serves as an addendum to the requirements set forth by the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA) Financial Policy, and the Middle Kingdom Branch Financial Policy. This policy is governed by Modern Law, Corpora, SCA Financial Policy, Kingdom Law, and Kingdom Financial Policy, and will be revised, as needed, to remain in compliance with these superseding documents.

I. Financial Committee

1. Members

- The Financial Committee shall consist of the Baronial Exchequer, Baronial Seneschal, and the Baron and Baroness (counting as one vote). A quorum of this committee is defined as the entire committee (3 total).
- The Financial Committee shall consist of the Baronial Curia, with each officer counting as one vote, and the Coronet counting as one composite vote. A quorum of this committee is defined as the Seneschal, the Exchequer, either of the Coronet, and two other Baronial officers (5 total).

Financial Committee members serve on the Financial Committee as long as they hold their offices.

2. Meetings

- All meetings of the Financial Committee shall be open to all members of the Barony of Ayreton.
- The Exchequer will chair the meetings of the Financial Committee.
- The Financial Committee shall meet quarterly, or as necessary to approve normal business operations of the Barony.
- Meeting minutes of the Financial Committee will be posted to the e-mail list within one week following the meeting. A full report of all Financial Committee meetings will be submitted at the next business meeting.
- The Financial Committee shall meet as needed for review of unbudgeted expenses.

3. Duties

- The Financial Committee shall meet annually to review the Ayreton Baronial Financial Policy.
- The Financial Committee shall meet during the 4th quarter of each year to prepare the Officer and Standard Expense budget for the next year for approval by the Barony populace.
- The Financial Committee shall meet at least quarterly to review any approved budgets, such as event or officer expense budgets.

II. Financial Policy Review and Revision

- The Ayreton Baronial Financial Committee shall review this Financial Policy annually.
- The Exchequer, with Financial Committee approval, shall publish any proposed changes to the Financial Policy in the next Baronial newsletter together with the date of the next month Baronial business meeting where the populace will consider and vote on the proposed changes.
- A majority vote of those paid members in good standing in attendance at the Baronial business meeting will determine if the proposed changes are adopted.
- A complete copy of the Financial Policy must be made available to any Baronial Citizen upon request.

III. Bank Account Signatories

The Baronial bank account will be a double signature account (regardless of whether the bank monitors the signatures), with the Exchequer, Seneschal, and one other Ayreton officer chosen by the Financial Committee being listed as signatories, as well as the Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer, or a designated representative.

Segregation of Duties

- The Exchequer will reconcile the bank statement monthly to the books of account, and provide a copy of the reconciliation and the current ledger to the Seneschal at the next business meeting.

IV. Financial Reporting and Disclosure

The Exchequer will review the required quarterly reports, including a copy of the bank statement, with the Seneschal. The Seneschal shall sign the original report, if acceptable, and return it to the Exchequer. The Exchequer will make a copy of the report for each member of the Financial Committee, and submit the original to the Regional Exchequer.

V. Expense Authorizations

The Barony of Ayreton operates on a Budget method of expense management. The Financial Committee creates and reviews budgets, and the Baronial populace approves the budgets. The Baronial Exchequer manages expenses according to the approved budgets. Unbudgeted requests for reimbursement will be published in the next Baronial newsletter and voted on at the next Baronial business meeting.

Officer and standard expense budgets are approved in the 4th quarter of a year for the subsequent year. Event budgets are approved after the successful event bid is accepted by the Barony.

1. Officer and Standard Budgets

The Baronial Exchequer will prepare the standard budget.

Standard income includes anticipated income from demos and fundraising activities, and any required event profit margins.

Standard expenses include meeting rental expenses, web hosting expenses, or any other regularly incurred non-event expenses.

Officer expenses include postage, printing, and supplies for their offices.

- A.** Each officer expecting to use Baronial funds, outside an Event related expenditure, should present a budget request by the October Baronial business meeting each year. This budget should include:
 - the anticipated amount needed for the year
 - The scope of items, materials or services that it is intended to cover.
- B.** The default annual budget for each Officer shall be \$50, unless otherwise requested by the Officer.
- C.** Any costs in excess of the approved budget or items not included in the budget must be submitted to the Financial Committee for review as an unbudgeted expense.
- D.** Reimbursement requests made against Officer budgets and not exceeding those budgets may be handled by the Baronial Exchequer without any further approvals needed.

2. Event Budgets

Prospective Autocrats for proposed events must follow the standard approval procedures and submit a bid sheet that includes the following information:

- A written description of the event, including activities and proposed site.
- A proposed event budget, detailing the estimated income and expenses for this event, and when these expenses will be required.
- Any profit splits required with other branches (such as for a Kingdom event) other than those outlined in section X.
- Estimated profit and the amount available for use as Baronial income to support the Baronial budget after any required profit splits.

Budget reports for upcoming events will be conducted at each Baronial business meeting prior to the event.

An event report will be prepared by the Baronial Exchequer and delivered once all anticipated reimbursement requests have been received. Any reimbursement request made after 30 days of the event will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for approval.

3. Unbudgeted Expenses

Unbudgeted expense authorizations will be conducted at the regularly scheduled Baronial business meetings. Requests for expense authorization will be published in the Baronial newsletter and on the Baronial email list, and decided on at the next Baronial business meeting. Authorizations will be approved or denied by consensus of the paid membership in attendance and documented in the minutes of the business meeting.

An emergency is defined by a) an unbudgeted event issue needing resolution within 24 hours where the full quorum of the Financial Committee cannot meet, or b) any other unbudgeted issue requiring resolution within 48 hours. The

Baronial Seneschal and the Baronial Exchequer may approve emergency expenses, such decisions to be reviewed at the next Baronial business meeting for final ratification.

VI. Expense Reimbursement

Receipts and requests for reimbursement must be turned in to the Baronial Exchequer within 30 days of the expense. Reimbursement requests received after this will be reviewed for approval on a case-by-case basis by the Financial Committee.

All checks written by the Barony and not cashed within 180 days will be considered a donation.

VII. Event Gate Management

The Autocrat of the Event is responsible for finding people to run the gate and collect any funds.

The Exchequer is responsible for training and approving all people that will be handling money at the event.

The Exchequer, in conjunction with the Autocrat of the Event, shall develop and implement a process to ensure adequate cash control at an event.

VIII. Complimentary Event Passes

Site fees to the Barony of Ayreton sponsored events shall be waived for the following:

- King and Queen of the Middle Kingdom and any visiting Crowns,
- Crown Prince and Crown Princess of the Middle Kingdom
- All current Middle Kingdom Great Officers of State
- the Autocrat of said Event
- the Head Cook of said Event
- the Head Gatekeeper of said Event
- up to 5 dedicated kitchen staff, approved by the Baronial Financial Committee.

The Financial Committee may approve other complimentary passes and site fees upon consideration. Approval of complimentary passes and site fees other than the preceding may be made by a quorum representation of the Financial Committee and must be reported at the next regularly scheduled business meeting

IX. Event Profit Splits

Events must be budgeted to cover expenses, plus an estimated \$600 in profit to be split equally between the 5 cantons and the Kingdom coffers. If the full profit amount is not realized by the event, the Kingdom coffers shall receive \$100 and the remaining profit will be split equally by the 5 cantons.

OR

Events must be budgeted to cover expenses, plus ½ of the annual Baronial Officer and Standard Expense budget. Profits over this amount may be distributed to the cantons equally.

OR

Events must be budgeted to cover expenses, plus the amount of the annual Baronial Officer and Standard Expense budget. Profits over this amount may be distributed to the cantons equally for decision to transfer the funds to the canton, keep the funds in the Baronial coffers, or transfer the funds to the Kingdom coffers.

X. Dedicated Funds

The Barony hereby sets up the following funds within the Baronial ledger:

A. Baronial Pavilion Fund

- a. Primary purpose: to purchase a Baronial pavilion, poles, ropes and stakes for use at events
- b. Secondary purpose: to purchase materials to create a Baronial shade fly, poles, ropes and stakes
- c. All funds not used for this purpose or after this purpose is realized revert to the Baronial General Fund

B. Baronial <X> Fund

C. Baronial Pennsic Camp Fund

- a. Primary purpose: to purchase supplies for the Baronial encampment at Pennsic, such as firewood or food for one open party each year.
- b. All funds not used for this purpose or after this purpose is realized revert to the Baronial General Fund

What is a Barony?

As we, the Incipient Barony of Ayreton, move closer to being a full-fledged barony, it's good to know what it means to live in a barony. We have all been playing and working together as a Towne for some time now, but we thought it would be helpful to hear from people who have lived and worked in baronies about their experiences. We solicited members of Ayreton and also members of nearby baronies to tell us their experiences. We hope that these stories will inspire you to think about what you want from a Barony of Ayreton and how you would like it to run.

Let's start with the official Corpora definition:

Barony, as defined by the Governing Documents of the SCA

Corpora (Section III. Branches. Subsection C. Branch Designations) defines a Barony as an area administered by a Baron and/or Baroness, the ceremonial representative(s) of the Crown.

III.C.5: Baronies and Provinces: Baronies and provinces are large branches within and subject to the administration of a kingdom (or principality, if any). They are alike in status and in the ability to administer other branches within their borders, but differ in that baronies possess a Baron and/or Baroness, ceremonial representatives appointed by the Crown, and therefore have the ability to create and administer awards, while provinces do not. A branch or contiguous group of branches may petition for baronial or provincial status at the members' option, subject to the approval of the Crown and (if applicable) the Coronet, if the resulting entity meets the requirements listed below:

- At least 25 members.
- A set of officers acceptable to the Crown (and Coronet, if applicable).
- A name and device registered with the College of Arms.
- Consensus favoring advancement in branch status, and favoring the type of branch (barony or province) specified in the petition. This consensus is determined by kingdom law and custom. If the branch is to be a barony, arrangements shall have been made with the Crown at the time of application for baronial status to select and appoint a Baron and/or Baroness in accordance with kingdom law and custom.
- A strong record of activity in a variety of fields of Society endeavor.

(<http://www.sca.org/docs/govdocs.pdf>) accessed June 28, 2008.

Thoughts on Baronies

From Baron Robyyan Torr d'Elandris, OL

I've lived in one shire, three baronies (with a tenure as territorial Baron of one of them), and a province in the past 30 years. There's no One True Answer to the question, "What is a Barony?" It depends on your perspective and frame of reference.

One answer is to look at a barony's physical form. The SCA Incorporated will administratively view a barony as a collection of zip codes. That collection of zip codes is assigned a name. Those zip codes will also be assigned to a kingdom, and many of them will, in our case, also be assigned to one of a number of cantons. That set of zip codes describes a physical area that is considered to be the barony.

Hot Button Digression: I dislike the "shell" or "umbrella" modifier I hear some people using. In the Modern world, Illinois is not a "shell" state because it has cities that govern themselves, each having their own individual character. The United States is not an "umbrella" country because it is comprised of individual states that govern themselves. In the same way, Ayreton can, will, and should be comprised of multiple cantons that each have their own history and character, and are also part of the barony. It is for us to decide at some point in the future whether there are any zip codes that belong solely to Ayreton, without also being part of a canton.

Considering the physical form is an interesting approach, because the baronies I've lived in were very different in this regard. At the time I lived there, Rhydderich Hael in the East was a shire, and became a barony just at the time I left. It had two population centers, one in a suburb of Buffalo, NY, and one at a college campus an hour and a half away. All of the intervening area was considered "unknown" lands. At the time I lived there, Northwoods was primarily East

Lansing, Michigan, with a Canton of Roaring Wastes in Detroit. All of the zip codes were assigned to the barony, while some in the Detroit area were also assigned to a canton. And at the time I lived there, Windmaster's Hill in Atlantia was central North Carolina, with 4 (or at times 6) cantons, one each in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville, Burlington, and/or Pittsboro. All of the zip codes were assigned to both a Canton and the Barony. There was no area that was assigned only to the barony.

All of these baronies functioned well, although very differently. Rhydderich Hael had a single charismatic leader as Baroness, who pushed and prodded the group. Northwoods had a mostly absentee Baron for many of the years I was there, but the senior people active were all committed to the idea of a Barony and kept it going, even while pursuing their own individual interests. Windmaster's Hill had a tradition of periodic change in leadership long before we got there, and were accustomed to slight shifts in style as the Baron and Baroness positions changed hands.

All of which leads to another answer to the question "What is a Barony?", and to my mind the better answer, which is to say that a barony is a social construct. The people who are in and around that physical area decide to work together, to play together, to bond and form a social group. We in Ayreton have been doing that, and should continue along that path, as it makes the social experience of participation in the Society richer for us all.

What's a barony good for? Lots of things, again depending on your perspective and frame of reference. A barony provides a framework for the implementation of a feudal veneer on our joint game. It gives us local figureheads (the Baron/ess) as a focal point for ceremony and ritual. (More in a later article on the job of the Baron/ess.) A barony offers a group identity to those individuals that are happier as part of a group. We get to play with Baronial regalia, decorations, livery, and whatever other artifacts and props strike our fancy. A barony also provides a middle sized training ground for people to develop skills in leadership, organization, and administration. A barony is (usually) larger than a shire, but smaller than a kingdom, which makes it a good place to hone developing skills.

Most of all, a barony is good for Fun! Fun with more people is Fun multiplied, and with more people in your social group, the better chance you have of finding people who share your definition of Fun! We have a rare opportunity to grow ourselves into an active and thriving barony with planning and forethought, making decisions about who we want to be and how to get there. Let us take advantage of it, and increase the Fun for all!

From THL Etienne le Couteau des Roches

Well, for me it all started in the SCA in the newly formed Barony of Ponte Alto in 1992 (AS...whatever) located in the North Virginia suburbs of Washington D.C. They were a young and energetic bunch, very Arts-y and Rapier-ish, and happy to have made this new beginning. The artisans of the area were known for the excellence in their crafts throughout the known world. One of their catchphrases was "Another Fine Product of Ponte Alto". The new Baron Niall and Baroness Talari were a very popular choice by the Atlantian Crowns, and ended up serving two terms of two years each. The Barony sponsored about two events each year on average, which were known for their killer feasts and silly interactive schtick. Never a dull court there whether Baronial or Royal. Special interest A&S groups were always well attended, and included the Leather Workers Guild, the Baronial Choir, and the local chapter of the "Sewing Circle and Terrorists Guild". They also featured their own version of the Herald at Home monthly consultations, and had a monthly Newcomers meeting which featured a different theme for each rotating location, varying with the hosts' specialty. Both of these were a great asset in the education of SCA life.

From Baron Master Sean o'Shaughnessy

These are exciting times as we work toward and await the birth of the Barony of Ayreton! My lady wife, Dame Nicholaa Halden and I have both lived in baronies in the past. Let me talk about my personal experience. I joined the SCA in AS 19 (1984) and attended Pennsic 13 as my first event. Talk about culture shock! I lived in the Dayton, Ohio area at the time and attended meetings at the Shire of Winged Hills and the Barony of Flaming Gryphon. At first, I was a little confused by the differences between the Shire and the Barony. Hopefully, we can do a better job of communication.

Flaming Gryphon is a shell barony, just like Ayreton is going to be. When I joined, it consisted of four shires – Winged Hills, Flaming Sword, Unicorn, and Fenix. When I joined, the Barony had about 100 SCA members in Southwest Ohio.

I lived in Flaming Sword (near Middletown, Ohio) which is named after the 100 foot tall flame on top of the blast furnace at the Armco Steel mill in Middletown. Flaming Sword had four active members and \$40 dollars in its checking account at the time. I took over as exchequer for two years and then as seneschal for two years. After 3 years, we had 44 members in Flaming Sword and usually met in my living room – it was real cozy! Eventually, Flaming Sword spun off two local groups which became part of Flaming Gryphon – the College of Saint Joan (located at the University of Dayton) and the Shire of Havenhold (near Springfield, Ohio.)

Flaming Gryphon and its local shires and college, held about 7 events per year. Nicholaa and I did most of the feasts at that time. They ranged in size from 80 to 350 feast guests. Comar and Lisa's first Crown Tourney was our largest feast. Our events drew on resources – people, funds, regalia, and talent from all the local groups. These events tended to run fairly smoothly. However, things can go wrong. Before I joined the SCA, the Shires of Winged Hills and Fenix had joined forces to co-host Talymar's second Coronation. The event's feast had major problems resulting in bad feelings between the two shires. Fenix split off of Flaming Gryphon and formed its own Barony a couple of years after I joined the SCA. Lesson here is that even though groups can work together, **the groups need to work at working together.** At one point, Nicholaa was the Minister of Arts and Sciences for both Flaming Sword and Flaming Gryphon. Several years after Nicholaa and I got married, we started playing with Fenix since they had achieved baronial status and we were closer to this group than to the rest of Flaming Gryphon.

The Shire of Flaming Sword's membership dwindled and it was eventually dissolved as a local SCA group. However, SCA interest in the southwest part of Ohio and northern Kentucky continued to grow. Flaming Gryphon ultimately added two more local groups – Norborough and Hawkes Keye. When we moved to Chicago two years ago, Flaming Gryphon had over 300 members and comprised six local groups spread over 12 counties in Ohio. Fenix was a stand alone barony and had about 100 members in Hamilton County in Ohio and Boone County in Northern Kentucky.

When we lived in Ohio, Flaming Gryphon went through three different barons and baronesses over a twenty year period. Christophe and Jemma are Fenix's third baron and baroness in 15 years. Both Flaming Gryphon and Fenix work, play and fight well together even after Fenix broke off and went its own way.

When Nicholaa and I moved to Chicago in 2006, I was surprised that Chicagoland did not have its own barony. I was serving on the SCA BOD at the time and was able to get an historical perspective on the Chicago groups from an SCA top down view point. I look forward to working with all of you as we build our barony and continue to build better relationships among all the groups.

From Master Philip White

Many of you have heard from my tales that I was born and raised in the Kingdom of Ansteorra before moving here to Ayreton. My first memories are of the Barony of the Steppes which was the Eastern half of the region where I lived. In the Steppes I learned to dance, I made friends, and I was taught about the landed gentry. After a few years I met people of the Barony of Elfsea, the Western half of the region, who also welcomed me into their group. I fondly remember some of their Baronial traditions.

The Steppes was one of the oldest and most august of groups of Ansteorra. There, I learned true nobility and grace. The Baron of the Steppes held his place with great dignity – leading the Barony to show honor to the Crown while showing appreciation for the works of his people. In the celebrated Steppes tradition, each Baronial Court and affair came with special ceremony. The artists of the Steppes created banners hung in Baronial court – banners of the Baronial device, the Cantons' devices, and of the past Baron and Baronesses of the Steppes. Tourney lists are decorated with the personal devices of all the past Steppes Warlords, more than thirty chivalric champions. The Baronial guard is dressed in heraldic tunics to wear into war. The champions of the Steppes are recognized by the beautiful regalia they carry to show their prowess – be it the heavily embroidered cloak of the Warlord, the appliquéd cloak of the Bard, or the collar of state for the Artisan. I loved the show of Baronial pride – it is one of the wonderful experiences I love about living in a Barony.

I learned from Elfsea that living in a Barony could teach me about protocol and etiquette. The Baron and Baroness held Moot, a small Baronial Court for just the local populace. Their Excellencies invited people to speak in Their Presence giving them a chance to practice speaking in front of a group. Newer members were invited to serve as guards or ladies-in-waiting giving them a chance to learn how a Court was run from behind the scenes. Aspiring gentles could also

volunteer to serve as Court Herald giving them a chance to practice Court ceremony they would not otherwise normally have in other situations. They extended this hospitality outside of the Baronial borders too. The Elfsea pavilion would be erected at many of the events I traveled too in the far reaches of Ansteorra where the Baron and Baroness would invite me to join them under their shade. Elfsea was a particularly good Barony to grow in not knowing as many people because of how the landed nobility cared for the populace.

I hope that some of what I learned in the Steppes and Elfsea will be a part of the Barony of Ayreton. I look forward to a future where our guard will be outfitted in our arms and our device will be flown high on a banner as we march to war. I imagine Baronial Champions that serve our populace and nobility which others try with all their might to become due to the great prestige that their titles convey. I anticipate a Baron and Baroness that welcome the populace as an extension of their family and guide newcomers to become an integral part of our Society and our Barony. It is an exciting prospect and one worthy of our endeavors. I love what we are as Ayreton – and I am elated at what we will do as a Barony.

From Mistress Nicholaa Halden

In my years in the SCA I have lived in a number of baronies. The first was Carriag Ban. I joined the shire of Carriag Ban during College at NIU in 1975. Immediately I became the group MOA a position I held until after they transitioned to Baronial status. It took a lot of work and events to get to that point. I remember it being a lot of fun and the friendships that were forged then I am happy to say are still there. Of note during this time period was an add hock organization that created its self to bring resources in the region together to host large events. This was County Dragonshire. The Chicagoland groups as well as Carraig Ban were participants. So we do have a history of coming together.

I then moved to Barony Northwoods for a while. This was a large barony, which at the time did not have any cantons.

My next Barony was Flaming Gryphon. The style of barony that exists there as well as in other areas of Oaken is similar to the barony we are trying to create. In that there were a number of shires with an overarching barony. The strengths of this are many. Available resources are increased and shared, there is more opportunity to interact with other groups, a larger group identity, and having a leadership helps to improve relationships between the areas. I liked having baronial events; the one problem I found was that with a density of events no one traveled outside the area.

The last barony was Phoenix. It was another independent barony. It had many of the same strengths as Gryphon but covered a smaller territory.

From The Honorable Lady Milesent Vibert, Third Baroness of the Cleftlands

When I was still a newcomer to our Barony I remember someone complaining once 'Why can't we be more like other Baronies?' Over the years I've come to realize that other Baronies aren't like other Baronies. Each is very unique and has it's own triumphs and challenges. Your Barony's unique identity and traditions will be shaped by you; its populace, the various groups which already have their unique identities and traditions and the Baron and/or Baroness who leads you. How exciting to be at the beginning!

What all Baronies have in common are that they have a Baron and/or Baroness who represents the Crown in those lands, can give Baronial Awards and have Champions. And more, the increased pageantry and potential for those special moments that transcend and transport us, make the gym walls and Styrofoam coolers fade into a mead hall of old, the parts that make it a real, living society and not just a club that gets together on weekends.

Being in a Barony means never being far from the Crown as you have your Baron and/or Baroness near at hand, representing the Crown even if the King and Queen live on the other side of the Kingdom. And also makes the Crown closer to you as They have a Baron and/or Baroness to ask for guidance or advice for issues that affect your Barony.

Baronial awards may not convey precedence, but they can mean more to the recipient than the highest award in the land, as they can be much more personal. In addition to awards, there are also Champion positions that encourage the various arts martial or otherwise and tokens or favors that can be given. In a Barony there are many outlets for encouragement and recognition! Also, I have heard many a person remark over the years how they preferred to get their Kingdom

awards from the hands of their Baron and Baroness; it was more special to receive the award from someone they knew and in front of their fellow Barony members.

Having a Baronial identity can draw separate groups and individuals together. In a Barony made up of many shires especially though even in a single group Barony like mine there are separate guilds and social groups that are drawn together by the simple fact that they are a Barony. Before that was Lady So-and-So from the shire next door, now she is a fellow member of your Barony and you can be proud to share that connection. Your separate shire officers will have more reason to network with the other shires inside the Barony to the benefit of all of their offices as well as having a Baronial officer they can go to for guidance instead of just the Regional who may not be local.

I might be a little biased, but I love being a part of a Barony and hope that should you make the move to Barony you will find it a joy!

Recent Ayreton Honors

From the Court of Their Royal Majesties, King Lutr and Queen Tessa:

Awards read into Court and presented at Crown Tournament on May 25th, 2008:

Award of Arms – William Atherbridge

Award of the Sappire – Etienne le Couteau des Roches

Awards read into Court and presented at Rose Tourney on June 21st, 2008:

Order of the Dragon's Barb – Wolfram von Waldersbach

Award of the Purple Fret – Jane Carlisle the Tall

Awards read into Court and presented at Simple Day on July 19th, 2008:

Order of the Greenwood Company – Dougal MacAlister

Court Barony – Thorvald Redhair

Awards read into Court and presented at Pennsic on August 7th, 2008:

Order of the Dragon's Heart – Nadezda Zezastrizl

Order of the Pelican – Acelina of Derelei

Remember to write in those you consider worthy of award for our upcoming royally attended events – All Souls and Twelfth Night are great opportunities to recognize our worthy citizens for their accomplishments. To submit an award recommendation online, go to <http://www.midrealm.org/op/recommend/>.

Ayreton Local Event Calendar

- 10/11 Home School Demo {Grey Gargoyles} [Chicago, IL]
- 10/12 Baronial Business Meeting {Foxvale} [Batavia, IL]
- 10/25 Ayreton Arts Academy {Rokkehealden}[Oakbrook, IL]
- 11/1 All Souls {Vanished Wood} [Roselle, IL]
- 11/8 Crystal Ball {Shattered Crystal} [Dupu, IL]
- 11/9 Baronial Business Meeting {Grey Gargoyles} [Chicago, IL]
- 11/22 Bardic Madness South {Grey Gargoyles} [Chicago, IL]
- 12/14 Baronial Business Meeting {Tree-Girt-Sea} [Chicago, IL]
- 1/17 Twelfth Night {Tree Girt Sea} [Chicago, IL]
- 3/28 Ayreton Carnivale {Ayreton} [Northbrook, IL]
- 4/4 Stone Dog Inn {Grey Gargoyles} } [Chicago, IL]

Ayreton Activities Calendar

NOTE: A detailed email with the week's activities is sent every Monday by the Chronicler to the Ayreton email list, and other interested parties. Here is a summary of the activities regularly scheduled in the Ayreton area.

Monday Activities

Barons Noyes: Any instrument is welcome. Absolute beginners please call first.

WHEN: Monday Nights from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Robbyan and Fern's. Address: 2506 W. Morse Ave, Chicago, IL 60645

CONTACT: Phone Number: (773) 764-1920

Silver Thimble Guild For Conspicuous Consumption: Join the Guild for sewing and garb research.

WHEN: Monday nights

WHERE: at Mistress Juliana's house, just Northwest of downtown

CONTACT: Mistress Juliana, 773-750-2180. Please call before coming.

Youth Boffer

WHEN: Oct 20th, Nov 10th, Dec 1st and 15th

WHERE: Hope Presbyterian Church in Wheaton

CONTACT: Acelina, djc137@aol.com

Tuesday Activities

Northbrook Dance Practice: Dance Practice, all are welcome

WHEN: every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

WHERE: Glenbrook-North High School in Northbrook

CONTACT: Kristiana

Weekly Project Night: Everyone is welcome to bring current sewing projects or just an idea with them

WHEN: Every Tuesday night 7:30pm – 10:00pm

WHERE: 1496 E. Algonquin Rd in Des Plaines

CONTACT: Sarafina 312-493-2255

Thieves Of Hearts Practice: Group as well as one on one instructions in rapier combat for both singles and melee.

WHEN: Tuesday evenings 6:30pm to 9pm

WHERE: Glenbrook North High School. Address: 2300 Shermer Road, Northbrook, IL

CONTACT: <http://thieves.ayreton.org/>

Wednesday Activities

Tree Girt Sea Scribal Night: Open to anyone in the Ayreton region who is interested in calligraphy and illumination.

WHEN: Meetings held the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month, 7:30 pm to 10 pm

WHERE: At the home of THL Jocelyn of Lutterworth (mka Vickie Rayhill)

CONTACT: 847-824-3814

Ayreton Dance Practice: Practice is open to any and all who wish to dance.

WHEN: Every Wednesday 7:00PM to 9PM

WHERE: University of Chicago, Ida Noyes Hall 1212 East 59th street, Chicago

CONTACT: Quintius de Folo (mka Chris Quinn) -- (773)576-4600 or (614)354-5062

Ayreton Archery Practice: Everyone is welcome -- please come out!

WHEN: Every Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

WHERE: 7240 West Madison, Forest Park

CONTACT: Range Phone: 708 366 4864

Thursday Activities

Rokkhealden Scriptorium: The Scriptorium is open to anyone who is interested in any aspect of the scribal arts.

WHEN: Upcoming dates are Oct. 23, Nov. 6, Nov. 20

WHERE: See Rokkhealden Moot location

CONTACT: For more information, go to: <http://www.midrealm.org/rokkehealden/>

The Pippins: The Pippins are an a capella singing group performing medieval and renaissance choral music

WHEN: Every Thursday, from 7:45 - 10 pm

WHERE: North side of Chicago (Andersonville)

CONTACT: Gianetta 312-259-6688

Friday Activities

Needlework/Fiber Arts Night: Bring a project to work on or the willingness to learn something new.

WHEN: Every third Friday of the month, 6 pm - 10 pm

WHERE: Gretchen's place

CONTACT: For more information, email: gschneid@oakton.edu

Sunday Activities

Heralds At Home: All area heralds, and any clients who wish to attend are welcome

WHEN: on the last Sunday of each month

WHERE: 3935 N. Kostner, Chicago

CONTACT: 773-286-5952

Science! Night: Bring a Science project to show off, work on, get help with, your science projects

WHEN: Alternating Sunday Nights from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Angus and Rosaline's

WHERE: 5224 Pennywood Drive, Lisle, IL

CONTACT: (630) 963-9128

Ayreton Fighter Practice

WHEN: Starts at 2 p.m. every Sunday.

WHERE: Ida Noyes Hall - 59th St. and Woodlawn Ave, Chicago

Grey Gargoyles/Ayreton A&S Afternoons: Come during fighter practice to do casual A&S, gab, et cetera. Timing coincides with the Ayreton fighter practices.

Ayreton Event Announcements

The Artisans of Ayreton Invite You to Join Us on Saturday, October 25th, 2008, 10am – 4:30pm

AYRETON ARTS ACADEMY III



Site: Oak Brook Public Library: 600 Oak Brook Road, Oak Brook IL 60523.

Admission is **free**. Site is DRY. No pets except for assistance animals. Also, please be respectful to the staff and residents who are also using the library.

Steward: Lady Philippa of Otterbourne (Patrice Ribando)
630-241-1609 (not after 9:30PM)
otterbourne@gmail.com

Activities

- ❖ **Craft Fair:** Visit with each other during the day to share your arts and sciences. Bring your latest project to display or work on in the company of friends. Or, bring something to teach on a one-on-one basis.
- ❖ **Entertainment:** Performers please come! Stroll the event and busk for favors, or claim the entire hall's attention in between classes.
- ❖ **Classes:** We do not have a separate room for classes but we do have outdoor areas for extra room. Come prepared to teach but keep in mind there will be other activities in the same room.
- ❖ **Food:** Bring something savory or sweet to share for our pot-luck side board. If you know what you are bringing, or if you need suggestions on what to bring, please contact the steward.



Roselle United Methodist Church
206 S. Rush Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172

King Henry VIII's crusade to capture Avalon for the English Crown will take place after the fall harvest in the Shire of Vanished Wood. Please join us in your best Tudor manner to return the Sword in the Stone to its rightful owner.

Site opens on the 9:00 in morning, and closes at 10:00 the evening.

Site Fees: Adults \$5, Children under 12 \$2.50, Family cap \$20

Feast: Pre-register \$10, \$12 at the door

Email: troll@vanishedwood.org

Mid-Realm Bardic Madness X – The Road Taken

This year's Bardic Madness will take place on November 22nd, 2008 (the weekend before Thanksgiving). Our hosts will be the College of Grey Gargoyles (Chicago, IL). Our theme this year is all about journeys - roads both taken and not.

Your response to the various challenges may be in many different forms. Song or story are the most obvious choices; however juggling, magic, instrumental, or dance can also express an idea or tell a tale. Our desire here is to be inclusive rather than exclusive. If you have something to share that doesn't quite fit or that stretches the definitions a little, then fire away.

It is our wish to create a "bardic safe zone" - a friendly place where you may feel free to experiment and try new things. If you've never performed before, now's your chance. You'll be hard pressed to find a friendlier and more supportive audience. We would be delighted to see lots of first time performers. Please remember, in order to make sure as many gentles get a chance to perform as possible, we ask that you limit your performances so that they run less than five minutes.

For more event information, see the website at <http://tilted-windmill.com/bms10/> Additional information will be posted there as it becomes available. For questions about the challenges or participating in the concert, please contact the provost, Cerian Cantwr, 630-272-8514, cerian@minstrel.com

For questions about teaching a class or serving as a patron, please contact the assistant provost: Lucia Elena Braganza kcoutinho@att.net

For questions about the site and logistics, please contact the autocrat: Etienne le Couteau des Roches 312-519-5350 spdesroches@att.net

A ROMAN MASQUE IN 16TH C. ITALY – TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION BY THE PROVINCE OF TREE-GIRT-SEA JANUARY 17TH, 2009

Activities: *Juno* a good time when you see one! Dancing, classes, performances, craftsperson faire, youth fighting, and more. Feast and lunch are both served. Feast reservations limited. Merchants contact HL Nadezda ZeZastrizl at 847-902-2961 or nadezda_z@earthlink.net.

Location: Irish American Heritage Center at 4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630. Site opens at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 10:00 p.m. Dry site, bar opens at 2pm. No pets, assistance animals only.

Directions: Northbound take I-90/94 to Wilson Ave. Right on Wilson and go one block East. Center is located on the left. Southbound take I-90 to Lawrence Avenue, turn left, and take a right on Kilpatrick Avenue. Center is a couple of blocks down on the left.

Site Fee: Adults \$8 before 1/7/08, \$10 day of, Children 6-12 \$5, under 6 free, family max \$26 pre-reg, \$30 day of (site only). Adult Feast \$10. \$3 non-member surcharge. Please make checks payable to Society for Creative Anachronism, Province of Tree-Girt-Sea.

Pre-Reg: Mail checks to Julia Needlman, 1027 Marshfield, Chicago, IL 60622 –or–
on-line by debit/credit card from our event website.

Steward: Master Philip White (Craig W. Shupeé) 817-313-7575, philipwhite@hotmail.com.

Co-Steward: Master Cerian Cantwr (Charles Grab)

More information, details, and updates are available at: http://tilted-windmill.com/12th_night

By *Jove* it'll be fun!

First Annual Ayreton Craftsperson and Performing Artist Faire

The Incipient Barony of Ayreton is sponsoring the first Ayreton Craftsperson and Performing Artist Faire.
The faire is hosted by Tree-Girt-Sea at Twelfth Night, January 17, 2009.

The format will be a Laurel/Populace prize tourney. There will be no formal judging as this is not a competition. Artisans are invited to display their work for feedback and commentary. This Faire is open to all.

We hope to see our many talented people exhibiting their works. You can exhibit a single item, a work in progress, or a body of work. Entrants are encouraged to be in the area to discuss their work but it is not required.

Single Entries- This can be finished work or work in progress. No documentation is required but basic information as to time; place and a description should be provided. Additional documentation can be provided at the entrants' discretion.

Body of Work- This is a display of a number of pieces produced over a number of years which shows the range and scope of the artisan. Please pre register so we may make sure that there is space for your works.

Performance- Those who cannot attend or would like to may submit a recording that can be played during the day (playing device will be required). Performance during the day will be just prior to Court. Performers will need to limit their time to a maximum of 5 minutes. Sign up will be at the Craftsman's Faire check in table and coordinated by the Master of Ceremonies.

The Laurels of Ayreton will be giving special attention to those displaying and are looking for exceptional efforts to recognize with personal prizes. Other members of the Order of the Laurel as well as the populace at large are encouraged to bring largess for those displaying.

For questions and pre registration please contact the Ayreton A & S minister, Dame Nicholaa Halden, nhalden@comcast.net, 630-229-0926

Officers of the Incipient Barony of Ayreton

Seneschal: Master Philip White

(Craig Shupee)

1062 West Bryn Mawr Ave #410 Chicago IL

philipwhite@hotmail.com

817.313.7575

Exchequer: Mistress Margherita Alessia

(Suzanne Early)

suzanearley@comcast.net

630.766.1162

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Dame Nicholaa Halden

(Nora London)

2505 Rosehall Ln, Aurora, IL 60503

nhalden@comcast.net

630.229.0926

Knights Marshal: Lord Henry of Exeter

(Terry Doner)

438 Thomas Ave Forest Park, Illinois 60130

Scribesquire@comcast.net

708.488.8368

Rapier Marshal: Master Christian Fournier

(James Klock)

4255 N Bernard Chicago, IL 60618

cf@klocktower.org

773.354.7261

Archery Marshal: Lord Wolfram von Waldersbach

(Terrence Fernbach)

521 W. Briar Pl. #508, Chicago, IL 60657

wolfram_von_waldersbach@hotmail.com

773.732.0289

Chatelaine: Lady Hillary of Langeforde

(Aggie Berger)

1738 N. 36th Road Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Jeffnaggie@aol.com

630.750.0965

Chronicler: Mistress Gianetta Andreini da Vicenza

(Jen Small)

Contact Gianetta for address

jenrsmall@yahoo.com

312.259.6688

Webminister: Mistress Sarafina Sinclair

(Harlie Des Roches)

sarafina.sinclair@gmail.com

Chiurgeon: HL Seathan Morchuiseach MacDhabhidh

(Jonathan Stoltze)

332 W. Cheryl Ln. Palatine, IL 60067

JStoltze@comcast.net

847.934.2459 (Before 9:00 PM CST)

Herald: HL Phebe Bonadeci

(PJ Reaney)

3539 N Kostner #2 Chicago, IL 60641

reaneypj@yahoo.com

773.443.9632

Group Information for the Incipient Barony of Ayreton

The Incipient Barony of Ayreton
(Chicagoland area)
Website: www.ayreton.org
Email list: groups.yahoo.com/group/Ayreton
Seneschal: Master Philip White (philipwhite@hotmail.com)

The Incipient Shire of Foxvale
(Aurora IL area)
Website: www.foxvale.org
Email list: Contact Lady Hillary of Langforde for information (jeffnaggie@aol.com)
Seneschal: Lady Fiona ni Chiardubhain (jobear_4@yahoo.com)

The Shire of Grey Gargoyles
(South Side of Chicago)
Website: grey-gargoyles.uchicago.edu
Email list: groups.yahoo.com/group/GreyGargoyles
Seneschal: Lord Guy Dawkins (dvalenta@ameritech.net)

The Shire of Rokkehealden
(Southwest Chicago Suburbs)
Website: www.midrealm.org/rokkehealden
Email list: groups.yahoo.com/group/rokkehealden
Seneschal: Lord Henry of Exeter (scribesquire@comcast.net)

The Province of Tree-Girt-Sea
(North Side of Chicago)
Website: www.treegirtsea.com
Email list: groups.yahoo.com/group/SCA-Tree-Girt-Sea
Seneschal: Lady Nadezda ZeZastrizl (nadezda_z@earthlink.net)

The Shire of Vanished Wood
(Northwest Chicago Suburbs)
Website: www.vanishedwood.org
Email list: groups.yahoo.com/group/vanished_wood
Seneschal: Honorable Lady Acelina of Derelai (djc137@aol.com)

Emma by Nadezda ZeZastrizl

