



THE ZEPHYR



January 2021/April 2021- Anno Societatis 55

Greetings from our Baron and Baroness



Greetings Ayreton,

We wish that spring is bringing a sense of renewal and new hope to all of you. We also wish that you have all weathered the winter in safety and in good health. While we still need to continue to mask up, be vigilant in hand washing and be careful to protect ourselves and others. With the increase in vaccinations, and a return to warmer weather we hope that we may begin to see each other in person, rather than only on a computer screen. We appreciate the support and participation that everyone in the barony has shown over this last year.

We have learned during this time that there are ways to increase the ability for people to participate in other ways than in person, and we hope to continue to use what we have learned in the future to enable greater ongoing inclusion in the barony and beyond. This could be using Zoom or other platforms to open up in person meetings to those who can't attend or having video of event activities that people can enjoy at home. We are only limited by our creativity and imagination. We know for a fact the barony is full to the brim of creative and imaginative people.

We also wish to bring attention to the upcoming Ayreton May 1st event; **Visions of Future Past**, headed up by the incomparable Ladyship Evzanie and Ladyship Philippa. The event will focus on returning to the SCA and what that new normal may look like. There are a lot of people who have been meeting in planning sessions and working hard to make this event not only enjoyable, but a way to help us all transition back to in-person events. While we would love to shout out every person who has been planning and striving to make this event a success, we would hate to miss someone, so know that you all have our gratitude and our respect. We promise more personal shout outs during court and throughout the day during the event.

While we all continue to slowly move forwards, please remember to be patient with each other, be kind to each other and be gentle to yourselves. Ayreton, you are in our hearts, always. Please, if you have concerns, if you have ideas, or if you need a hand, please reach out to us.

Hilary & Gareth



Greetings from the Seneschal

Greetings good cousins,

First, I was remiss in my last (first) seneschal's letter in not thanking Rædesmann Andreas for his service to the Barony as Seneschal. He stepped in in a time of need and has served our Barony and our Baron and Baroness in a way that I can only hope to emulate. Thank you, Andreas.

Next—how's everybody doing? I hope everyone is hanging in there. As we start to think about things opening up, slowly, and according to the guidance of the SCA Board of Directors, I hope our excitement at getting back to our hobby and our friends and our SCA lives grows.

Speaking of looking forward, I hope everyone can join us for our virtual event **Visions of Future Past**, happening on a Zoom channel near you on May 1st. The event is focused on getting ready to get back to in-person events, both physically and mentally. There will be classes on physical conditioning, freshening up martial gear and a “stitch and bitch” session to get some sewing done. There will also be a couple of sessions on our mental state as we get ready to be back together. You can find information on how to join us on Zoom on Facebook or on the Barony website.

I also didn't explicitly say this last issue (there was a lot going on) but I want to make sure I am clearly saying that I am here for each and every member of the Barony. If you have something you'd like to talk about or an issue you need help with, please reach out. You can find me on Facebook (Peg Cook) or email me at ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org.

Hang in there, friends, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Just a little longer.

YIS,
THL Evzenie Apolena Vitkovic
Seneschal, Ayreton



Greetings from the Chronicler

Greetings fair cousins of Ayreton,

I would like to thank THL Evzenie for all her hard work as our Chronicler. This is my first issue of The Zephyr since taking over the office of Chronicler.

Beginning with this issue there is a new regular column feature “A Medieval Miscellany by Librarian Alexandria.” Our resident Librarian Alexandria will endeavor to answer your burning history questions. I hope you enjoy, and I hope to add more features as time passes. This all depends on your participation. If you have anything you would like to submit for publication or any ideas you'd like to see featured, please let me know at ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

I look forward to keeping you informed on what people are doing in our barony.

YIS,
THL Philippa of Otterbourne
Chronicler, Ayreton

Attention Ayreton and Friends!

It has been a long time since we have been able to be together in person. We have huddled by our hearths and longed for the days when we could return from our exile. The COVID Plague is still here but weakening in threat as vaccines are rolled out. We long for the days when we can see each other again and hope now that day will be coming soon. In preparation for getting back to in person events, Ayreton will be holding a virtual event on May 1st.



As we await the end of the Plague, we look forward to and prepare for when we can be together in person again!

Join the Barony of Ayreton for their Virtual Event: Visions of Future Past as we ready to brush off our armor, mend our garb, delve into our crafts (or learn a new one).

Event: Visions of Future Past

Group: The Barony of Ayreton

Date: May 1, 2021

Times: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Bardic following after at 7:00 PM

Site: Virtual Event: ZOOM link on website

Registration: None, Virtual via ZOOM

Website:

<https://ayreton.midrealm.org/2021/02/22/visions-of-future-past/>

Event Stewards:

Peg Cook (Evzenie Apolena Vitkovic)
Email: pegcookol@gmail.com Phone: 847-417-4978
Patrice Ribando (Philippa of Otterbourne)
Email: otterbourne@gmail.com Phone: 630-241-1908

Baronial Business Meeting

When: Sunday May 23
Host Location: Rokkehealden (but online)
Address: Zoom (call info below)
Contact: ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org
Gathering Time: 3:00pm
Potluck & Meeting Time: Online this time
Important Highlights: Ongoing Online Activities

Ayreton 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

When	Where
5/23/21	Rokkehealden
8/29/21	Tree-Girt-Sea
11/29/21	Vanished Woods



A Medieval Miscellany

By Librarian Alexandria

Bluetooth & Handguns: Is There a Connection?

A lot of people have heard of Harald Bluetooth, who reigned over Denmark and, briefly, Norway in the tenth century. But not many know that he's the inspiration for the technology called Bluetooth—as well as its trademark.

Who was Harald, anyway? Born Harald Gormsson, the son of King Gorm, he ruled over Denmark from 958 to 986—a heck of a long time for the era. His nickname of “Bluetooth” probably came from a conspicuous bad tooth; the Old Norse word “blar” can be translated as either “blue” or “black.” He was a Christian convert, but that didn't stop him from expanding the Danish kingdom. From roughly 940 to 986 A.D. (as usual with this time period, dates are approximate) he also ruled Norway, after the assassination of the Norse king. (Convenient!) Probably because of that, he's not a shining star in the Norse Sagas. But he is given credit for converting Denmark to Christianity—such as it was in that warlike time!

Jim Kardach, an Intel engineer working on wireless technology, was reading a book about Harald when he, like many in the field during the '90's, was trying to build a way to unite the different wireless platforms that were springing up. He noted that Harald was the first to unite the Scandinavian countries of Denmark and Norway, even if only briefly. Kardach called the results of his tech effort

“Bluetooth,” after the Danish king who so interested him.

The blue logo for Bluetooth is actually a combination of the futhark runes initials of Harald Bluetooth.

As for Guns:

One of the more documented women's names at this time was Gunnhild, or Gunhilda, or Gunnhildr, and is in fact the name of two well-known queens of Scandinavian origin. The name comes from the Old Norse words *gunne* (war) and *hildr* (battle). The earlier Gunnhild is notorious in the Sagas as a witch and a poisoner—but given that few women had any political power in that era, one can take this with a grain of salt... The wife of King Eirik of Norway—possibly the same Eirik as “Eric Bloodaxe,” who conquered the kingdom of Jorvik (York) in Northumbria in Britain—she has been identified as the sister of Harald Bluetooth. She and Eirik were overthrown and exiled, but after her husband's death, she returned to Norway when her sons were able to regain the throne. Her son Harald Greyhide (or Greycloak) became king, and during his reign was politically active, dominating the court, but Harald was assassinated, probably with the connivance of his uncle, who ruled Norway for four or five years (see above). She was eventually killed, probably around 980, at the order of Harald Bluetooth, probably for supporting her other sons' raids on the territory.

Incidentally, Harald Bluetooth's wife was also named Gunnhild.

The other Queen Gunhilda or Gunnhild was actually the daughter of King Cnut and Emma of Normandy; her half-brothers included kings Harald Harefoot, Harthacnut, and Edward (the Confessor). She actually the granddaughter of Harald Bluetooth.

She was married to the heir to the Holy Roman Empire but died before he inherited the throne. While less spectacular than her namesake, she still had some political clout, during an age when women were almost invisible.

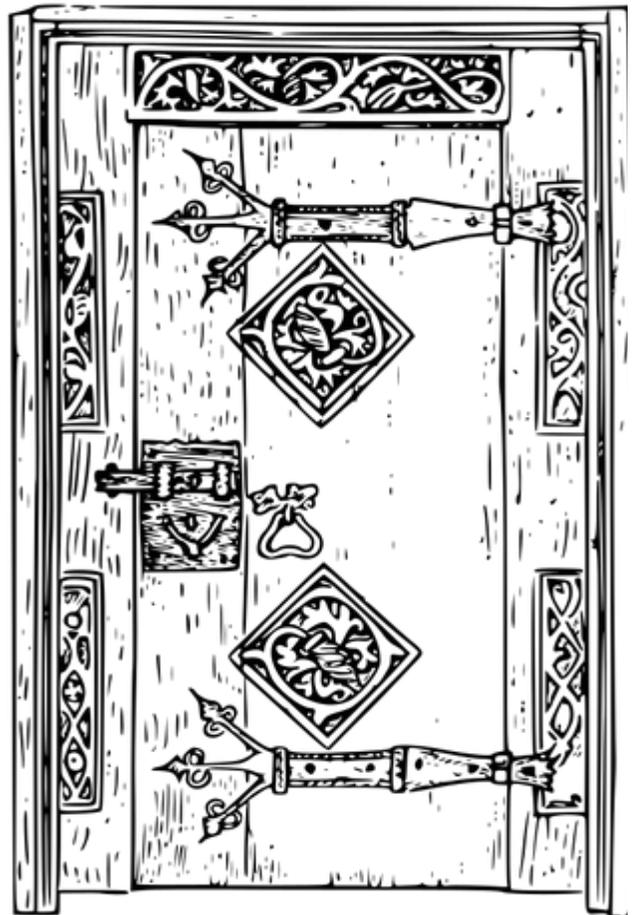
So, what do they have to do with anything? Well, in the 1300's, a large ballista was set up at Windsor Castle (a ballista being a sort of catapult that threw bolts like a crossbow, for us non-military types). The soldiers named it "Domina Gunilda," or "Lady Gunhilda." They may have named it after one of the famous queens, or just because the name translates to "war battle." (Hm. Does that mean Gunnhilda was the first old battleaxe?)

Eventually, the name just got shorted to "Queen Gunna," and then when gunpowder was introduced in Europe, smaller, handheld cannons were called "hand-gunnas" – or handguns.

So, if we go with the hypothesis that the ballista at Windsor was named after one of the two most famous Queen Gunnhild (or Gunhilda, or Gunnhildr...), then we have a connection to Harald Bluetooth. The first was probably his sister; the second his granddaughter.

Have a question about some aspect of medieval history or culture? Let your Librarian help!

*Contact us at:
ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org*





Ayreton Gathering

Get to know your Ayreton Populace



Introducing THL Dunstan Bramlette (pictured above).

Thank you, Dunstan for your participation!

Would you like to introduce yourself in the next edition of The Zephyr? Send your answers to the questions below and a picture if so desired to ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

Name:	Rob Hicks
How long have you been in the SCA?	21 Years
What drew you to the SCA?	I have been going to the Bristol Ren Faire since I was 10 or so and it was called King Richard's Faire. I like to sing and specifically wanted to sing Madrigals. The Pippins were what drew me in at first.
What activities do you participate in?	From early on the SCA has been adding hobby after hobby onto my schedule. I think from a chronological perspective: chainmaille, leatherwork, woodwork, dance, beekeeping, brewing (mead), webwork, acting, knitting, and period cooking.
A bit about your life outside of the SCA? Job? Hobbies?	I've been a Software Quality Assurance Specialist for a little longer than my time in the society. I am also soon to be training to be an ADHD coach giving back a little of what the Society has been giving me for years.

The Quill and Brush

The Quill and Brush

Featuring the original work of our talented and industrious scribes. If you would like a scroll of your creation featured here, please send a copy of an unawarded scroll (no calligraphy) or a completed scroll that has already been presented in court. Send submissions to ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org



Scroll created by THL Philippa of Otterbourne (Patrice Ribando) and based on a page in the The Visconti Hours, late 14th Century Italy



Ayreton Activities

NOTE: In-person activities are suspended through May 2021. Check out our Facebook page (link below) for info on virtual activities.

Always check with the organizer of an activity before attending. **DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!** The best way to find updated info about Baronial Activities is to check out the Barony website (<https://ayreton.midrealm.org/>) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/baronyofayreton>).

Sunday

Silver Thimble Guild for Conspicuous Consumption

Contact Mistress Juliana – (773) 750.2180

Ayreton Authentic Cooking Guild (4th Sundays unless noted)

Contact: ayretoncooks@yahoogroups.com

Grey Gargoyles Fighter Practice

Contact: Lady Susanna – mickel14@att.net

Monday

Consort Music

Contact: Master Robyyan - (773) 764.1920

Tuesday

Rapier Fighter Practice in Glen Ellyn

Contact: Lord Tedesco - tedesco@ayreton.org

Wednesday

Court and Country Music Group

Contact: CourtAndCountry@gmail.com

Archery Practice

Contact: Forester Renzokuken of Ayreton ayreton.archery@midrealm.org

Vanished Wood Sewing Circle

Contact: Mistress Katherine – knwkwf@yahoo.com

Rapier Fighter Practice in Chicago

Contact: Kevin Purtell kpurtell@yahoo.com

Renaissance Dance

Contact: Rob Hicks darclan28@yahoo.com

Thursday

The Pippins – Madrigal and Early Music Singing Group

Contact: Mistress Gianetta – (312) 259.6688

Group Information for the Barony of Ayreton

The Barony of Ayreton (Chicagoland area)

Website: <https://ayreton.midrealm.org/>

Ayreton Seneschal: THL Evzenie Apolena Vitkovic (ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Foxvale (Aurora IL area)

Website: <https://foxvale.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: THL Yamamura Kitsune (foxvale.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Grey Gargoyles (South Side of Chicago and Southeast Chicago Suburbs)

Website: <http://greygargoyles.midrealm.org/>

(greygargoyles.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Rokkehealden (Southwest Chicago Suburbs)

Website: <http://rokkehealden.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: Lady AElfreda aet AEthelwealda (aelfreda6@gmail.com)

The Canton of Tree-Girt-Sea (North Side of Chicago)

Website: <http://treegirtsea.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: Lady Lette de Cherselawe (treegirtsea.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Vanished Wood (Northwest Chicago Suburbs)

Website: <https://vanishedwood.midrealm.org/>

Seneschal: Mistress Aclina of Derelei (vanishedwood.seneschal@midrealm.org)

Ayreton Groups Online

Please note: this info is undergoing review. If you see any errors, please let the Chronicler know. *If your group has an online presence, let us know and we'll list it here!*

Barony of Ayreton: <https://www.facebook.com/baronyofayreton/>

The Barony of Ayreton is the name for the Chicago area within the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a non-profit historic research and educational organization devoted to the study and reenactment of past people and cultures, concentrating on pre- seventeenth century Europe during the Medieval, Middle-Ages, and Renaissance periods, and to reproduce the skills and arts of this era. This is in the Midlands region (Illinois) of the Middle Kingdom (Midrealm, the Great Lakes area of the Midwest of the United States). Go to <http://www.ayreton.org> and <http://www.sca.org> for more information.

Ayreton Archers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/118977078211315/>

This is a group to help spread information to the Ayreton Area Archers. Practice times are listed under the Calendar link. Shooting hints and tips are under the Files link.

Ayreton Brewers Guild: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/334422661748/>

This group is for all those gentles who wish to get together and pursue their interest in brewing and vintning. We are located in the Barony of Ayreton, in the Kingdom of the Midrealm. You do not need to be a member of the Barony to be a member of the group. Here we discuss all matters pertaining the brewing of ales, mead, wines or cordials. We share recipes and tips, support and encouragement. This list is also the primary method for the guild to plan and disseminate information about upcoming meetings and workshops. So, whether you are an expert brewer or complete beginner, come join us, ask questions, learn, teach and share your experiences with those around you.

Baronial Office Election Cycle

Office Title	Election Cycle	Next Election	Notes
Archery Marshall	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Chatelaine	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Chronicler	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Exchequer	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Herald	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Knight Marshall	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
MoAS	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022
Rapier Marshall	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Seneschal	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Thrown Weapons Marshall	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Webminister	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2021	Announce 2 nd meeting 2021
Youth Minister	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2022	Announce 2 nd meeting 2022

Upcoming Officer Reporting Schedule

Archery Marshal	March 1
Chatelaine	May 1
Chronicler	April 1
Exchequer	April 30
Herald	March 30
Knight's Marshal	March 1
MoAS	April 1
Baronial MoAS	April 15
Minister of Youth	April 15
Rapier Marshal	Feb 1
Equestrian Marshal	Feb 14
Seneschal	Feb 1
Baronial Seneschal	Feb 15

Calendar of Selected Events

Go to the Midrealm calendar at <https://midrealm.org/> for a complete list.

In-person events have been cancelled until the end of May 2021. Stay safe, everyone.



Baronial Officers

Baron: Master Gareth Ostwestly

(Jeff Berger)

ayreton.excellencies@midrealm.org

630-699-4987

Baroness: Banamhaighstir Hillary of Langeforde

(Aggie Powell-Berger)

ayreton.excellencies@midrealm.org

630-750-0965

Seneschal: The Honorable Lady Evzenie Apolena Vitkovic

(Peg Cook)

ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org

847-417-4978

Exchequer: Lady Matilda Ann Stevyn Slyfield

(Grace Strauss)

ayreton.exchequer@midrealm.org

630-803-4501

Minister of Arts & Sciences: Lord Balthazar the Painter

(Mark Stevens)

ayreton.moas@midrealm.org

Knights Marshal: Lord Zygarr

(Lucas Becker)

ayreton.marshall@midrealm.org

Archery Marshal: Forester Renzokuken of Ayreton

(Miguel Villa)

ayreton.rapier@midrealm.org

Rapier Marshal: Lady Anna Jokinen

(Jana Howson)

ayreton.rapier@midrealm.org

Thrown Weapons Marshal: Master Gailen Alric Ros

(Perry Dyer)

ayreton.thrownweapons@midrealm.org

Chatelaine: THL Yamamura Kitsune

(Keena Gray)

ayreton.chatelaine@midrealm.org

Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Philippa of Otterbourne

(Patrice Ribando)

ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

630-241-1908

Webminister: The Honorable Lord Dunstan Bramlette

(Rob Hicks)

ayreton.webminister@midrealm.org

773-512-1498

Herald: Mistress Nadezda ze Zastrisl

(Merril Miller)

ayreton.herald@midrealm.org

Signet: Mistress Heather Hall

(Heather Rocci)

ayreton.signet@midrealm.org

Minister of Youth: Lady Alys of Foxrose

(Amanda Stark)

ayreton.youth@midrealm.org

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This is the April 2021 issue of the Zephyr, the official newsletter of the Barony of Ayreton, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

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For a hard copy of this newsletter, please contact Patrice Ribando at ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

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