



THE ZEPHYR



April 2023/Jun3 2023- Anno Societatis 57/58

Greetings from our Baron and Baroness



Hello Ayreton!

We have a lot to look forward to this spring: Better War through Archery, the Canton of Rokkehealden's, Day of Play in the first week of April, visiting the Barony of Shattered Crystal at Crystal Chamfron, Spring Coronation and Crown followed by summer events and Pennsic 50. This summer we hope to resume the Baronial Party at Pennsic and can't wait to see many of you there. With the return of warmer days (we promise it will happen) we will make sure to have water, and sunblock with us at all events in case anyone is in need. Please join us at events. All are welcome at day camps and under day shades. We would also like to throw this out there, our schedule fills up quickly but if there might be an event you would like to see us at that may not

be on our radar, reach out and if possible, we will try to add it to our "to go" list. We would love to support your endeavors and watch Ayreton people doing Ayreton things.

We would also like to resume the "Family Photos at events and are reaching out to see if anyone wants to volunteer to take photos. We prefer someone who can be in the photo they are taking, which means knowing how to set timers and has access to a tripod. Until then, we will try to ask innocent bystanders if they would be willing to take a picture using our cameras. The Ayreton family photos are a wonderful way to commemorate an event that we are all attending. It could lead to an Ayreton calendar at some point!

We are excited to welcome the Ayreton Leatherworkers Guild into the official Ayreton guilds and are hoping to see established guilds and new groups expanding and sharing their ideas and energy with the people of Ayreton and beyond. Thank you everyone for all you do, you are all rock stars. Gareth and Hillary

Hilary & Gareth
Baroness & Baron, Ayreton



Greetings from the Seneschal

Greetings gentle cousins,

Spring is in the air! As I write this, I have some beautiful purple crocus blooming in my yard. It won't be long before warmer weather pulls us out to outdoor events.

I would like to take a moment in this letter to ask that we all as a Barony and as cantons take a moment and think about what it is we appreciate about our SCA involvement (whether that be our martial activities, our research, or our time with friends etc.), and the ways in which we can think about reengaging and reinvigorating our SCA participation. What are some ways in which you can help the Barony (and the cantons) grow and thrive?

We are at a unique moment here, as we slowly and cautiously enter this phase of the pandemic which gives us opportunities to think about our hobby and our own contributions. I am trying to rekindle my spark of enthusiasm. I wish enthusiasm on us all.

YIS,

Mistrovska Evzenie
Seneschal, Ayreton



Greetings from the Chronicler

Greetings fair cousins of Ayreton,

I hope you are all enjoying this advent of spring and will be able to enjoy the many outdoor events that begin happening this time of year. Please note that due to health reasons, I am not seeking reelection as Baronial Chronicler so please let me and Evzenie know if you wish to seek the office when my term is up this Fall.

The next issue of The Zephyr will be published July 1st so the deadline for submissions will be June 22 2023..

NOTE: There is a now HARD DEADLINE for submissions that is the 22nd day of the MONTH PRIOR to publication. Exceptions will NOT be made, and I will no longer be begging people for their letters, articles, etc. If the information is not turned in by the 22nd of the month prior, it will not be published and the area, column, feature, etc. will be left blank. As usual, submission reminders will be sent out 2 months prior, one month prior, and 2 weeks prior to the deadline.

I was excited that Their Excellencies call for content.meant I was able to highlight some other A&S features. Unfortunately no one wished to get “introduced” to the populace for this edition so you will find that section blank this issue. Please consider filling this form out for next issue: <https://forms.gle/Y1v1NUJNrYn9Cefv5>

While not required, I would appreciate submissions being formatted in Word (whenever possible) using the Garamond Font Size 12. I can reformat if this is not possible, but it will be helpful if I don't have to. Please send submissions to ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

YIS,
THL Philippa of Otterbourne
Chronicler, Ayreton



A Medieval Miscellany

By Librarian Alexandria

Horsing Around

Part 2 – Ahorse is a Horse, Of Course, Of Course

When we hear the phrase “wild horses,” I think we all tend to imagine the herds of beautiful animals racing across the plains, their manes and tails flowing in the wind.

We’re wrong.

The horses grazing the open lands of the American West aren’t wild. They’re feral. They are the descendants of domesticated horses that escaped from the Spanish conquistadors. They aren’t native to the Americas; they were brought here. (Though horses did originate in the New World, they had long been extinct here when the Spanish brought their descendants.)

There is, in fact, today only one breed of wild horse—the Przewalski’s Horse of the Eurasian steppes—incidentally, the place where horses were probably first domesticated, some 4-6,000 years ago. But Przewalski’s Horse wasn’t them. In fact, while it IS a true horse, genetically it is no better than a cousin to the domestic breeds we all know and love, the same way a donkey or a zebra is. (Donkeys and zebras are actually much closer to each other than they are to horses. A cross of a donkey and a horse—a mule—is sterile, since they’re two separate species. Horses don’t mate with zebras because zebras are MEAN.)

But the original domesticated horses probably looked rather like Przewalski’s, going by the cave paintings from 30-40,000 years ago. They have reddish coats, cream-colored underbellies, large heads, and stiff black manes. And they were quite small, not much more than 14 hands high, which today would be classified as a pony. It was through human intervention that horses developed the different coat patterns, flowing manes and large sizes that we’re familiar with.

(Interestingly, there’s some argument that Przewalski’s Horses are also feral—archaeologists discovered ruins of a tiny settlement in Western China that seemed to have domesticated them. But other scientists point out that the physical evidence of domestication can also be attributed to natural causes and possibly hunting of the animals for food. Time will tell...)

(Also interestingly, Przewalski’s Horse almost went extinct itself. At one point in the ‘60s, there were actually only a total of about 15 of them living, all of them in zoos. Conservationists and zoologists worked to breed more of them, trading them from zoo to zoo to keep the gene pool as open as possible. They were successful, and currently there are about 5000 in the wild of the Eurasian Steppes today, all descendants of the zoo-bred horses.)

So, yeah, you can see what the ancient ancestor of the domesticated horse looked like. Just Google “Przewalski’s Horse.”

You can also see examples of what medieval horses looked like, too. In paintings from the period, you’ll notice them—shorter, large-barreled, with heads that look just a tiny bit too small for their bodies. These are the classic warhorses of the Middle Ages.

Moreover, the battle techniques that were the hallmarks of a well-trained destrier—leaps, kicks, fancy footwork to evade the enemy, and being able to “read” the rider’s signals without the use of reins—are still used. This is called “dressage” nowadays, and while many horses are trained for dressage, the best still perform them the way the warhorses did. They’re called Lipizzans, and while this breed originated in the Hapsburg Empire in the 1500’s, their “airs above the ground” are exactly the movements that a good fighting horse could claim.

(

The Spanish Riding School in Vienna is where the Lipizzans are headquartered and perform (named for the fact that Spain was part of the Hapsburg Empire and was also known for having quality horses), but Ayretonians have a much closer example—Tempel Lipizzans in Old Mill Creek, Illinois, near the Wisconsin border, breeds and hosts performances during the summer.

It's quite an experience to see these horses in action—the rider sits perfectly still, seemingly immobile. Just so would a knight need to ride, cuing his mount with his legs and bum while he manages sword or lance and shield. The horse was an extension of the knight, its feet and teeth and body as effective as the weapons the man wielded. A knight in battle had no time to mess around with reins. And yet, he needed to communicate complex instructions to his horse, and the horse had to be trained to understand and perform under pressure. Is it any wonder a good warhorse was worth more than a knight's yearly income?

So even today, you can see both a truly wild horse, so very similar to the ones our ancient Indo-European ancestors domesticated six or seven thousand years ago, and one a partner to mankind, so very similar to those who carried our medieval ancestors into battle—and fought beside them.

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 (no one volunteered this edition)

Would you like to introduce yourself in the next edition of The Zephyr? Click this link to fill out the questionnaire. <https://forms.gle/upr9Kc1vYjFytMAy9> and then send a picture of you in garb to ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

Name:

**How long have you
been in the SCA?**

**What drew you to
the SCA?**

**What activities do
you participate in?**

**A bit about your life
outside of the SCA?
Job? Hobbies?**



The A&S "Craft Faire"

Featuring the original works of our talented populace. If you would like Your work or project featured here, please send a copy of the item and what it was based on, time period, country if known to ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

Zanie's Playing With Pots

By Mistrovska Evzenie Apolena Vitkovic

Triopds ceramic pots have been a staple item of cookware for millennia. Used to cook and warm things, examples of these can be found all over the world. I've been playing around with making versions based (loosely) on pots like this one in a British Museum collection.

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1996-0601-1



Mine are still works in progress, but I'm getting happier with them and learning a lot. Here are some pictures of my work.



This is the first one I made.



Attempt at decoration.



Lidded Pot



All three of them together.

I hope to keep working on improving my throwing skill as well as my research into these forms. The next challenge is handles!

Would you like to feature your project here?

Please send submissions to

Ayreton.chronicler@midrealm.org

Adventures in Exotic Early Music

By Mistress Amelie d'Anjou, OL (Emilysue Reichardt)

So, my current research project has been early medieval Indian music. Turns out there were a lot of treatises written, and a few of them notated the pitches of some ragas. I've been trying to turn this into something resembling playable music, and it's not going well. Here are some of the issues I've had.

Indian culture has a bias against written vs oral teaching, which includes music notation. While their version of solfege (that's do re mi fa etc. in Western culture, Sargam for sa re ga ma etc. in Indian) is a thousand years older than ours, they didn't develop it into a usable written teaching device like our staff notation. They didn't see the need; you would of course have a teacher to guide you. They also had the onomatopoeic drum sounds very early, but again, it tells you which type of drum strike yet not the rhythm. So, what to do? I've tried writing out the sargam notation on staff lines, making all the notes the same value (and guessing at which octave said note should be in), and I have to say it sounds like crap.

The other reason it sounds bad I'll blame on my music software: it won't let me write music without rhythm. Well okay, I can use that medieval package I added, but then I can't use treble clef, just medieval ones that people can't read, and it all looks like Gregorian chant, which it isn't. It may be possible to do what I want, but I haven't yet figured it out. And it's surprisingly hard to ignore a rhythm on the page, even when you know it doesn't mean anything.

It's frustrating. I've learned a lot about early Indian music, some of the Sanskrit terms (because no one will directly translate these terms, even if we have a term for exactly the same idea), and can even recognize the sargam notes in Devanagari script (thanks Duolingo!), but I want something to play, and I don't have anything that sounds good yet. It probably doesn't help that I decided to start with the oldest stuff we have first, which is late 1st millennium (Brhaddesi by Matanga), and have just moved on to the 13th century (Sangita-Ratnakara by Sarngadeva). I should probably move on to the 1610 treatise (Somanatha's Raga-vibhoda) but I don't think I'm ready yet. I feel like I ought to be able to get something musical out of the 13th century, right?

And for those of you wondering, North or South India, well, it's actually early enough that it seems to be both. There are ragas that are attributed to various tribes in different locations, but no way to know if it's really representative of their actual music. Eventually I'll write up something more scholarly about what I've learned, but I sure would like something to play.

New Groups Forming

Announcing some new groups forming in the Barony:

Dramatis Personae

If there isn't already enough drama in your life, come join us and make some -- in a good way! We are looking for experienced theatrical types of all varieties -- actors, directors, writers, and crew -- as well as those who are interested in learning, regardless of formal training or background, or lack thereof. We envision a flexible ensemble that will adapt to a variety of event venues and performance niches, from dramatic monologues at Feast to 'flash mob' scenes in the Populace Room to fully staged plays. For more information, contact Caitilin Maxuell de Calderwood at michaellemcclowry@gmail.com.

Ayreton Leatherworks Guild

The Leatherworkers Group is now an official Baronial Guild of Ayreton

The Guild has a Facebook Page. Here is the link, feel free to join and share some of the leatherwork you do and tell us a little about yourself when you join the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/299956151570591/?ref=share>

Ayreton Scriptorium Baronial Scribal Nights

Ayreton Scribes are meeting at Union Church of Hinsdale, 137 S. Garfield, Hinsdale, IL. A place for scribes and aspiring scribes to hang out and work on scrolls together. No experience necessary, there are supplies to share if you are just getting started or wanting to dip your toes in the scribal arts.

Contact Baronial Signet, Ambr Stormwatch at ayreton.signet@midrealm.org for more information or meeting schedule..





Ayreton Activities

Always check with the organizer of an activity before attending. **DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE! And many are not holding these meeting/activities because of COVID.** 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

Grey Gargoyles Fighter Practice

Contact: THL Susanna the Short (Susan Mickelson) – mickel14@att.net

Monday

Consort Music

Contact: Master Robyyan Torr d'Elandris (Dennis Sherman) - (773) 797-9506 or – robbyan@gmail.com

Tuesday

Fencing Fighter Practice in Glen Ellyn

Contact: Katrina dei Herrliche (Rachel Kerner)- ayreton.rapier@midrealm.org

Wednesday

Court and Country Music Group

Contact: CourtAndCountry@gmail.com

Archery Practice

Contact: Forester Renzokuken of Ayreton (Miguel Villa) - ayreton.archery@midrealm.org

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 GianettaAndreini da Vicenna (Jen Small) – Jenrsmall@gmail.com

Ayreton Groups Online

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) The Barony is in the Midlands region (Illinois) of the Middle Kingdom (MidRrealm, 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. Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/71826746135>

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 vinting. You do not need to be a member of the Barony to be a member of the group. We discuss all matters pertaining to brewing 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.

Ayreton Metalworkers and Jewelers Guild:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AyretonJewelersMetalworkersGuild>

This group is for all those gentles who are interested in creating jewelry and or doing metalwork.

Ayreton Scriptorium : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AyretonScriptorium/>

This group is for all those gentles who are interested in the Scribal Arts and/or producing Award Scrolls

Ayreton Leatherworks Guild: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/299956151570591/?ref=share>

The Ayreton Leatherworks Guild group on Facebook will be a place to build a community within our community and offer a place to teach, chat, and show off the fun things we make. Feel free to join and share some of the leatherwork you do and tell us a little about yourself when you join the group.

Baronial Officer Reporting Schedule

Archery Marshal	Mar 1, Jun 1, Sep 1, Dec 1
Chatelaine	Feb.1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1
Chronicler	Apr 1, Jul 1, Oct 1, Jan 1
Equestrian Marshal	Feb 14, May 14, Aug 14, Nov 14
Exchequer	Jan 31, Apr 30, Jul 31, Oct 31
Herald	Mar 31, Jun 30, Sep 30, Dec 31
Knight's Marshal	Mar 1, Jun1, Sep 1, Dec 1
Minister of A&S	Mar 5, Jun 5, Sep 5, Dec 5
Minister of Youth	Jan 15, Apr 15, Jul 15, Oct 15
Rapier Marshal	Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1
Thrown Weapons Marshal	Mar 1, Jun 1, Sep 1, Dec 1
Seneschal	Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1
Social Media	Jan 1, Apr 1, Jul 1, Oct 1
Webminister	Feb 15, May 14, Aug 15, Nov 15

Calendar of Selected Events

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

Group Information for the Barony of Ayreton

The Barony of Ayreton (Chicagoland area)

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

Ayreton Seneschal: Mistress 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/>

Seneschal: Lady Alys of Grey Gargoyles (greygargoyles.seneschal@midrealm.org)

The Canton of Rokkehealden (Southwest Chicago Suburbs)

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

Seneschal: Lord Keaton Caitdroven (aelfreda6@gmail.com)

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

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

Seneschal: THL 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)

Baronial Office Election Cycle

Office Title	Election Cycle	Next Election	Notes
Archery Marshall	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2023	Announce 2 nd meeting 2023
Chatelaine	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2024	Announce 2 nd meeting 2024
Chronicler	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2023	Announce 2 nd meeting 2023
Exchequer	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2023	Announce 2 nd meeting 2023
Herald	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2024	Announce 2 nd meeting 2024
Knight Marshal	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2023	Announce 2 nd meeting 2023
MoAS	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2023	Announce 2 nd meeting 2023
Rapier Marshal	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2024	Announce 2 nd meeting 2024
Seneschal	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2024	Announce 2 nd meeting 2024
Thrown Weapons Marshall	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2024	Announce 2 nd meeting 2024
Webminister	Even Years	3 rd Meeting 2024	Announce 2 nd meeting 2024
Youth Minister	Odd Years	3 rd Meeting 2023	Announce 2 nd meeting 2023

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: Mistrovvska 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

Officer of Social Media: Raedsman Andreas Blacwode

(Drew Nicholson)

ayreton.socialmedia@midrealm.org

708-606-9490

Minister of Arts & Sciences: Sgt. Hjalmr Njalsson

(Shawn Geppert)

ayreton.moas@midrealm.org

Knights Marshal: Lord Godfrey of Clovenshield

(David Tidball)

ayreton.marshal@midrealm.org

Archery Marshal: VACANT

ayreton.rapier@midrealm.org

Fencing Marshal: Katrina dei Herrliche, Armiger

(Rachel Kerner)

ayreton.rapier@midrealm.org

Thrown Weapons Marshal: VACANT

ayreton.thrownweapons@midrealm.org

Chatelaine: Captain Arnora in Skarpa

(Becky Hubert)

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: THL Ambr Stormwatch

(Kerry Lynch)

ayreton.signet@midrealm.org

Minister of Youth: Lady Alys of Foxrose

(Amanda Stark)

ayreton.youth@midrealm.org

*Baronial Monthly Virtual Business Meeting**

Date:	3 rd Thursday of Each Month
Address:	Link will be provided via Ayreton Email Group and Facebook Group/Event
Contact:	ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org
Meeting Time:	7 :00 – 8 :00 PM
Important Highlights:	TBA

*Baronial Quarterly Business Meeting & Socail**

Host Location:	Vanished Wood
Date:	June 25, 2023
Address:	TBA
Contact:	ayreton.seneschal@midrealm.org
Gathering Time:	1:00 – 5:00 PM
Meeting Time:	1:00 – 2 :30 PM
Important Highlights:	TBA

**Updates will be posted on the Facebook Group and on the*

Ayreton 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule

When	Where
Vanished Wood	June 25th
Tree-Girt-Sea	September 24

Updates will be posted on the Facebook Group and on the Ayreton Email.

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fresco_showing_a_woman_so-called_Sappho_holding_writing_implements,_from_Pompeii,_Naples_National_Archaeological_Museum_\(14842101892\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fresco_showing_a_woman_so-called_Sappho_holding_writing_implements,_from_Pompeii,_Naples_National_Archaeological_Museum_(14842101892).jpg)

This is the April 223 issue of the Zephyr, the official newsletter of the Barony of Ayreton, a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

The Zephyr is published as a service to the membership of the SCA's Barony of Ayreton.

Subscriptions are free.

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

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