

The Althing

A quarterly publication of the Barony-Marche of the
Debatable Lands in the Kingdom of Æthelmearc
Located in these modern times in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and
surrounding areas
Third Quarter 2026, AS LXII

Upcoming Local Events

Agincourt	October 24	Baroness Vika Vyborskaia (vikavyborgskaia@gmail.com)
Harvest Revel at the Castle	November 15	Duchess Ariella of Thornbury (caram@pitt.edu)
Twelfth Night	January 16, 2027	Forveleth Dundee (Forveleth@gmail.com)

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Upcoming Events of Interest

These events occur outside of our barony.

Crown Tourney	October 17	Sir Aengus MacBain (siraengus@zoominternet.net)
Queen's Rapier Championship and Cut and Thrust Championship	October 31	Cindy Speer (gabbywinter@gmail.com) and Amanda Coldren (amandagillenford@gmail.com)

Regular Meetings, Third Quarter 2026, AS LXXI

Please check with the activity contact before traveling to the location. Activities might change dates and/or locations depending on weather, religious observances, and/or other unforeseen circumstances.

Business Meetings (First Wednesday of even months, 8pm)	October 7, 8pm December 2, 8pm	Contact Hara Kikumatsu for location.
General Barony Meetings (Third Sunday of odd months, in conjunction with martial practices)	October 18 at Buffalo Inn South Park	Contact Hara Kikumatsu to confirm location and timing.
Debatable Lands Choir Practice	Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm	18 Schubert St. Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Contact Arianna of Wynthrope (ariannawyn@gmail.com) to confirm.
Debatable Consort Practice	Tuesdays, 8:35-9:30pm	18 Schubert St. Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Contact Alaric MacConnal (alaric@pobox.com) to confirm.
Heavy Weapons Practice	Sundays, 1-5pm	Highland Park next to the Northeast Parking Area through November 8th . Contact Patrokles Athenaios for heavy weapons and Robert MacEwin of Thornhill for fencing.
Fencing Practice		
Archery Practice	Sundays, 11am-2pm	Highland Park next to the Northeast Parking Area, at the northern end of the Cat Tail Trail. Contact Niall Mac Raedwulf for archery and Meinulfr Grimsson for thrown weapons.
Thrown Weapons Practice		
Scriptorium (Monthly)	Varies	Contact Lisabetta di Rossi for date and location.
Dance Practice (First Friday of every month, 7-9pm)		100 Borough Park Dr, Pittsburgh, PA Contact Gwendolyn the Graceful (gwenlygrace@gmail.com) to confirm.
Cook's Guild	October 11, 5:30pm	755 Stonegate Dr. Wexford, PA 15090 Contact Duchess Ariella of Thornsby for information.
Brewer's Guild (Second Thursday of every month, 7-10pm)		Contact Brehyres Muirgheall inghean Dubhgaill (brewing@debatablelands.org) for location and to confirm dates.
A&S Night (Fourth Thursday of every month, 6:30-9:30pm)		Contact Elinor Walden for location and to confirm dates.

Seneschal's Report

1. **Election:** We are in the process of electing new Baronage. Baronessa Violeta and Praetoria Prima wish to retire. We encourage folks to vote. If you were a citizen according to the SCA membership list (shortly before), or were an official non-resident citizen, or requested a ballot before or at the nominating meeting and were approved, you should receive a ballot. The selection committee of Violeta, Prima, Hara, Patrokles, Gerschon and Niall worked two evenings to print and fold ballots, to address return envelopes, and to address envelopes and add postage.
 - a. Ballots were mailed on **Thursday Sept 10th**. Only resident citizens according to SCA membership list, official non-resident citizens, or folks who requested ballot by nominating meeting will receive ballots.
 - b. **How to return a ballot:** I have already received some!
 - i. In person by handing them to me at Sunday marshal practice or another time.
 - ii. Put ballot in my mail slot in my front door. The address is on the envelope you received with the ballot. Note that there are two slots in my front door and they are pretty stiff, but you can return to my mail slot and save a stamp.
 - iii. Mail the ballot in enclosed envelope. You will need to put a stamp on it. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS ON RETURN ADDRESS. (Editor's note:** you are required to put a return address on any letter mailed through the United States Postal Service; please put 1105 Shady Ave Pittsburgh PA 19232 as the return address.) This should be an anonymous vote.
 - iv. Come to the ballot count day October 18th before 2pm and put it in the ballot box in a sealed envelope.
 - c. **Ballot return deadline and ballot count:** We have the Buffalo Inn in South Park reserved for ballot counting, crafting, hanging out, and fencer/fighter practice. We have it reserved all day, but counting will start at 2pm. Come hang out, craft, fence or fight and find out who will succeed Baronessa Violeta and Praetoria Prima.
 - d. Investiture date TBD - We don't know this yet.
2. Upcoming events / social meetings
 - a. Sunday October 18th: **Barony Social** at Buffalo Inn South Park, noon-6pm, barony social, ballot count, fencer & fighter practice, craft day. No food provided. You are welcome to bring food and/or drink; if you bring something to share please bring an ingredient list.
 - b. Saturday October 24th: **Agincourt** at 336 Grange Road, Rochester, PA 15074 from 9:00am to 10:00pm. See the event announcement for all the fighting, A&S, family, lunch and feast information.
 - c. Sunday November 15th: **Harvest Revel at the Castle** at 755 Stonegate Drive, Wexford PA 15090 from 11:00am to 6:00pm. Martial practices will be held there. Potluck barony social and a pie contest.
 - d. Saturday January 16th: **Barony 12th Night** at The Buffalo Inn and the Home Economics buildings in South Park from 9:00am - 7:30pm. It is a free event, potluck with choir performance, auction, A&S display, champions competition, baronial bardic champs, cookie contest, and various fun activities.

- e. Friday May 28-Mon May 31st - **Known World Commedia Symposium** (<https://aethelmearc.org/event/known-world-commedia-symposium/>) at LaRoche University, 9000 Babcock Blvd, Pittsburgh PA 15237. It is an all weekend event. You can make arrangements to stay at the university, in nearby hotels or just commute. The event will focus on classes about and performances of 16th Century Commedia dell'Arte shows, including topics like working with sources from history, how to create a script, stage combat, blocking, character development, and vocal projection. There will also be other activities related to 16th Century Italy, including rapier classes from Italian manuals, dancing, Venetian costuming, cooking, and scribal classes. See the event page for more information and to register. We will be looking for people to help with troll, teaching, and running the event in addition to inviting anyone who is interested to attend.
3. **Baronial Business meeting(s)**
 - a. October 7th, 8pm, at 1105 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh PA 19232 or in Google Meet online
 - b. December 2nd, 8pm, at 1105 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh PA 19232 or in Google Meet online
 4. **Other activities:** refer to baronial calendar for dates and locations (<https://debatablelands.aethelmearc.org/calendar.php>)
 - a. **Martial practice** on Sundays at Washington Blvd through **November 8th**. Archery & Thrown weapons from 11:30-2pm, fencing at 1pm, and heavy weapons at 2pm. All practices will be at Harvest Revel on Sunday November 15th. Heavy weapons and Fencing will move inside after November 15th. Archery may continue outdoors longer.
 - b. **Choir & Consort practice** on Tuesdays at 7pm and 8:35 respectively at St Peters Church of Christ, 18 Schubert St. Pittsburgh, PA 15212
 - c. **Brewer's guild** on 2nd Thursday of the month and other times.
 - d. **Scribal night:** see calendar for more information as these will be scheduled
 - e. **Arts & Sciences night:** usually 4th Thursday of the Month (maybe not November)
 - f. **Fiber guild:** next meeting Sept 28th 7pm
 - g. **Dance practice** on 1st Friday of the Month and special Thursday practice October 15th
 5. Possible upcoming events
 - a. Virtual Known World Heralds and Scribes Symposium: If this is accepted, it will be January 29-31st 2027 online.
 - b. Scribal Retreat: planning stages only.
 6. **Call for letters:** There is a call for letters for chatelaine. Letters should be sent to seneschal and chatelaine. bmdl@aethelmearc.org and chatelaine@debatablelands.aethelmearc.org.

From the Chronicler

Welcome to the third issue of 2026! Now that a few issues have been published under my editorship, I am reaching out to the populace to ask what you think. Please let me know if there is anything you would like to see added (or subtracted) from our newsletter.

In Service,
The Honorable Lady Emilia Mazzo de Novella

Event Announcements

Crown Tourney Shire of Sunderoak October 17, 9am-7pm Royal Progress Event



Oyez, oyez, oyez! The future of Æthelmearc must be secured. The Royal line must continue uninterrupted! To that end, on Oct. 17, 2026 starting at 9am and ending at 7pm, the Shire of Sunderoak will be hosting Fall Crown Tournament.

In the spirit of our ancestors and thier penchant for tournament culture, we are going to try including period dancing and bardic performances during the day to add to the pomp and circumstance.

For those without a pavilion, Maitresse Yvianne de Castel d'Avignon will be hosting a Gallery for the populace to observe the days activities.

Site Information: The event will be held at Camp Lutherlyn, 500 Lutherlyn Ln., Butler PA 16001.

Site Fees and Registration:

Fees for the day are \$20 for members, \$10 children 5-17 years old and children under 5 are free. Non-members 18 and older will be charged an additional \$10 non-member fee. Checks should be written out to SCA PA INC- Shire of SunderOak and mailed to the Tollner. NOTE – Crown competitors please identify yourselves for expedited check in! This is a dry site, so please refrain from bringing alcoholic beverages.

If you plan to join us, **even if you don't pre-register**, please email the head cook, THL Sorcha Mackenzie at kcursitti@gmail.com and include Fall Crown in the subject (this is so we can more accurately estimate needs to prepare for the sideboard).

Tollner:

Mistress Mahin Bantu Tabrizi
Selena Kaplan
143 Remil Drive, Butler, PA 16001
exchequer@sunderoak.aethelmearc.org

Autocrats:

Sir Aengus MacBain
siraengus@zoominternet.net
assisted by
Baroness Wilhelmina Boddenham
mina_bodnar@yahoo.com

If there is anything the Shire can do, please reach out and let us know!



<https://ancientpedia.com/advances-in-medieval-knight-armor/>

Agincourt XIX

Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands and Shire of Steltonwald

October 24, 9am-10pm

Royal Progress Event



Nobles! Welcome!! The feast of St. Crispin is upon us and the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands wishes you to join us for a day of fighting, fun, art, and food. A&S is back again this year so I ask all teachers to bring your knowledge to others. We have room for displays and hands-on activities. Heavy Weapons and Rapier combatants, take to the field and fight until your arms ache from your weapons. What would Agincourt be without archers? Target archers, get your bows! Sharpen your throwing weapons, we have plans just for you! Did you hear rumors of combat archery and siege weapons joining in the fun? Yes they can! There will also be a family activity tent.

Site Information: The event will be at Big Knob Grange, [336 Grange Road, Rochester, PA 15074](#). Day Shades are welcome. No Pets!! Service dogs are welcome. This site is one level with a zero elevation entry. There are paved areas on the outside to get around the building. A designated parking area will be provided for easy access. Hotels closest to the site are located in Cranberry, PA 16066. If you have any questions, please contact the event steward, Baroness Vika Vyborskai at vikavyborgskaia@gmail.com.

Site Fees and Registration:

Adult Non-members: \$20 Site Only; \$30 Site + Lunch; \$40 Site + Feast; \$50 Site + All Meals.

Adult Members: \$10 Site Only; \$20 Site + Lunch; \$30 Site + Feast; \$40 Site + All Meals

Children 0-17: Free Site Only; \$10 Site + Lunch; \$20 Site + Feast; \$30 Site + All Meals

Please preregister. Make checks payable to: SCA PA Inc. BMDL and send to the event registration clerk.

Pre Registration Google form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTeFtuVTZDhMXBiaaeHHRd1kqc5BGa38MiSH5U89lBHB8eBQ/viewform>

Lunch & Feast Information:

This year's feast is being prepared by A Company of Cooks: Dame Olyf Moorcroft (Kitchen Manager); Signora Benedicta di Venetia (Feast Cook); Signore Giovanni Alberici (Lunch Cook); Drotin Eamonn na Laimhe (Prep Cook); Baroness Adelyn Idesbourne (Prep Cook) and Baron Liam mac an t'Soir (Prep Cook). We will be providing box lunches rather than a sideboard. You will pay for lunch either when you arrive at the event or when you pre-register. There is a link below to reserve a box lunch. You can also pre-register for feast using the link below. There are 50 spaces available at \$20 each.

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4Y0VR3EBwL6RMOl_YfBZUwPPqEgc6a_POF6tjvHYWXNEgBw/viewform

For questions about either lunch or feast, please send email to acompanyofcooks@gmail.com. As always, we can accommodate food allergies and sensitivities; however, we can't promise no cross-contamination. We do our best to keep it to a minimum, but we don't have cooking facilities that are fully allergen-free.

Event Registration Clerk

Forveleth Dundee

Miranda Gavrin

326 Lincoln Ave. Carnegie, Pa 15106

Forveleth@gmail.com

Autocrat:

Baroness Vika Vyborskai

vikavyborgskaia@gmail.com

Fall Queen's Rapier Championship and Cut and Thrust Championship

Shire of Sunderoak
October 31, 9am-7pm
Royal Progress Event



Fencers of Aethelmearc, hear my plea! Our Most Exalted Queen Julianna is in need of champions! Will you step up to the challenge? The College of Silva Vulcani is honored to host both the Queen's Rapier Championship and the Cut and Thrust Championship on the most propitious date of October 31st, 2026. Doors open at 8:00, warm ups start at 9:00, 10:00, the grand procession begins, the tournament to begin soon after. Event ends by 7:00 — anyone left will be considered sacrifices for the monster that lives in the tunnels under the campus.

Site Information: The event is at Hamer Hall at Pennwest California University.

Directions: Take your best route to Pennwest California, 250 University Ave., California, PA 15419. At the red light, if the gas station is on your right and you did NOT come down the steep hill to the light, go straight. If the Kwik Fill is on your left and you came down a steep hill, turn right. Go past the two towers and immediately turn left. Go left past the Parking lot, and then right. Go across the rail road tracks, turn right. Keep driving until you reach the second rail road crossing, find a place to park. When you cross the railroad crossing to the main road, Hamer is across the road and a little to your left.

Site Fees and Registration: Cost is \$10.00 per member, \$20.00 per non-member. Populace 17 and under are guests of the College. Lunch is an additional \$10. We have a preregistration form: <https://forms.gle/Zewathm9yjo5yuud6>. Here you will be able to let us know lunch choices, if you're fighting, etc. Please make checks payable to SCA Shire of King's Crossing and send to the event registration clerk.

Lunch: Please preregister if you would like a boxed lunch. Includes Choice of Sandwich, One Piece of Seasonal Whole Fruit, Chips, Fresh Baked Cookie, Condiments, Cutlery Kit, and Bottled Water. Note: The schedule is going to be super tight, please consider either bringing food or buying a lunch. You need to let me know by **October 25th** if we are to order a lunch for you.

Lunch Sandwich Options:

- Ham and Swiss Cheese: Thin Sliced Ham and Swiss Cheese on a Fresh Kaiser Bun
- Roast Beef & Cheddar Cheese: Thin Sliced Roast Beef and Cheddar Cheese on a Fresh Kaiser Bun
- Vegetarian House Wrap: Hummus, Spring Mix, Quinoa, Roasted Vegetables, and Balsamic Aioli in Garlic Herb Wrap

Event Registration Clerk:

Master Sven Tyrvisson
James Boyd
107 Donley RD Eighty Four PA 15330

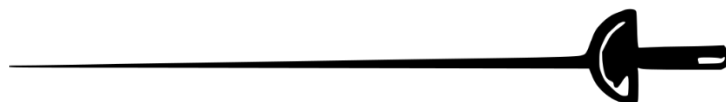
Co-Autocrats:

Comtesse Gabrielle de Winter
Cindy Speer
gabbywinter@gmail.com

Lady Nea Kimball
Amanda Coldren
amandagillenford@gmail.com

Marshal-in-Charge is Baroness Rachaeldis of Swansmere (Swanmonkey@gmail.com).

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Harvest Rebel at the Castle

Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands

November 15, 11am-6pm

Come to this baronial social! Food is potluck; please bring food and drink to share and a list of ingredients to place near the food. Garb is encouraged but not required. There will be fencing, archery, and heavy weapons fighting, weather permitting. Bring your arts and sciences project to work on as you socialize.

Please park efficiently on the street by following the parking signs. Service animals are welcome; pets are welcome outside but not in the house.

Site Information: The Castle, 755 Stonegate Drive, Wexford, PA 15090

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/p4FDn56Y5pcxG3du6>).

For information contact:

Duchess Ariella of Thornbury

(Cara McCandless)

755 Stonegate Dr., Wexford, PA 15090

caram@pitt.edu

Court Reports

Court Report of the Barony-Marche of the
Debatable Lands

Violeta da Valencia and Aurelia Argentia Prima

July 12, AS 61 (2026)

Garb Swap

Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

The report of the Court of Praetoria Aurelia Argentia Prima and Baronessa Violeta da Valencia, ninth Baronage of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held on the 12th day of July, Anno Societatis 61 at Garb Swap, as recorded by Oyama Shichi-i Michiharu, Comet Pursuivant.

Following a warm summer day of garb exchange, crafts, fencing, and socialization, Their Excellencies proceeded with a court to address their populace. Upon opening of court, Baronessa Violeta addressed the populace, praising the newcomers and the joyous atmosphere of the day. With that, the presence of **THLady Arthes** was requested. Their Excellencies spoke endearingly of her skills with the bow, recognizing her many recent achievements and successes on the range. For her victory in the Baronial Championship and for her acceptance of the position as Archery Champion, Her Ladyship was presented with a scroll. This scroll was illuminated by Magister Owen Tegg, Wordsmithed by Boyarin Godzimir the Golden, and Calligraphed by Oyama Michiharu-san.

In a similar fashion, Their Excellencies then called upon **Lord Ingvar Sviatoslavich**. They reminded our populace of his excellent craftsmanship, for

which he will represent the Barony as our Arts and Sciences champion, before recognizing his stalwart ferocity upon the list fields. In recognition of his Heavy Fighting representation, he was presented with a scroll. The scroll was illuminated by THLady Elinor Walden, Calligraphed by Oyama Michiharu-san using a hand developed by Magister Kieran MacRae, who also provided the wordsmithing.

Next, Their Excellencies asked Master Clewin Kupferhelbelinc to speak on the results of the Baronial Fencing Championship. After a long and fierce series of battles upon the list field, the results were as follows. The fencing champion was **Duke Thomas Byron of Haverford** with THLord Genshin no Shugenja as the second. The scroll was presented in musical format by THLady Elinor Walden, Magister Owen Tegg, and Oyama Michiharu-san. Illumination by Owen, Calligraphy by Michi, Words “borrowed” from Breherys Gwendolyn the Graceful’s “Banners of Scarlet”.

Finally, Their Excellencies addressed the populace once more, thanking them for their attendance and reminding them of the immediately following baronial business meeting, as well as the Baronage nominations. With that, the Court was closed.

Faithfully Submitted,

Oyama Shichi-i Michiharu

Comet Pursuivant

Court Report of the Barony-Marche of the
Debatable Lands
Violeta da Valencia and Aurelia Argentia Prima

July 19, AS 61 (2026)

Martial Practice

Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

The report of the Court of Praetoria Aurelia Argentia Prima and Baronessa Violeta da Valencia, ninth Baronage of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held on the 12th day of July, Anno Societatis 61 at Martial Practice, as recorded by Oyama Shichi-i Michiharu, Comet Pursuivant.

With cleaner air and cooler temperatures, it was a remarkable day for martial activities. The sound of sharpened steel piercing targets could be heard across the fields. With copious amounts of practice completed, the Baronial Thrown Weapons championship was held. 8 competitors competed across a multitude of forms and targets to decide who would represent the Barony at Seven Pearls and Pennsic.

After witnessing such displays of skill and dexterity, Their Excellencies opened a short court. Baronessa Violeta and Praetoria Prima praised the accuracy and deadly precision of our throwers, having enjoyed their front row seats to the competition.

With that, Their Excellencies invited Master Kumagaya Kentarou Masamoto, the former Baronial Champion, to speak on the results. After a short rundown of the tournament format and the competitors, **Lord Joshua of the Debatable Lands** was invited up. Their Excellencies spoke with him, asking him to represent them for the next year. Lord Joshua was presented with a scroll illuminated by Lady Eliza Allison, with wordsmithing and calligraphy by Kuria Odessa.

Additionally, Their Excellencies requested the presence of Noble Melodia Beaupel to ensure that they would accept the mantle of second for thrown weapons.

There being no further business at this time, the court of Their Excellencies was closed.

Faithfully Submitted,

Oyama Shichi-i Michiharu

Comet Pursuivant

Court Report of the Barony-Marche of the
Debatable Lands
Violeta da Valencia and Aurelia Argentia Prima

August 2nd, AS 61 (2026)

The Great Pennsic War 53

The report of the Court of Praetoria Aurelia Argentia Prima and Baronessa Violeta da Valencia, ninth Baronage of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, held on the 2nd day of August, Anno Societatis 61 at The Great Pennsic War 53, as recorded by Oyama Shichi-i Michiharu, Comet Pursuivant.

Prior to the opening court, Their Excellencies issued a warrant for the seizure of one Maister Emrys Eustace - more commonly known as **Broom**. Having been brought before this baronial court by Maighstir Liam and Baron Brandubh, Broom was set aside to await his sentencing.

Having set aside the issue of Maister Broom for the time being, the court of Their Excellencies was opened. Baronessa Violeta and Praetoria Prima spoke fondly of the War so far, remarking upon all of the classes, martial activities, and representation that the Debatable Lands had brought forth. They were thoroughly impressed at the tenacity of their populace and the pride they brought to the barony.

With that being said, Their Excellencies requested the presence of their two time champion - **Lord Ingvar Sviatoslavich**. Baronessa Violeta lauded him for his skill upon both the fields of battle and arts, reminding our populace of his upcoming representation at Seven Pearls - as both Heavy champion and Arts and Sciences champion. With that, they awarded him a rare double **comet** of both **Lapis** and **Hematite**. Calligraphy by Oyama Michiharu-san. Wordsmithing by Lady Kolfinna and "Deadward" based on *Fulgrim* by Graham McNeil. Illumination by Lady Kolfinna le Blanc inspired by The Izbornik of Sviatoslav, 1073.

Next, Their Excellencies called up Lady Maire ni Cathai O'Connor or one who could accept an award for her. Knowing that Mistress Graidhne ni Ruaidh was nearby enjoying the scribal tea party, one was sent to fetch her.

In the meantime, Their Excellencies invited **Étaín ingen Áeda** before them. They spoke to her of her many arts and sciences - citing her musical abilities, her sewing, her block printing, her

calligraphy, and her willingness to learn, teach and grow. For her countless endeavors into the arts and sciences of our society, They awarded her a **Lapis Comet**. Calligraphy by Oyama Michiharu-san. Wordsmithing and Illumination by Magister Owen Tegg based on the Gelasian Sacrementary.

Having acquired a Mistress Graidhne, **Lady Maire ni Cathai O'Connor** was once again called up. Their Excellencies remarked to Mistress Graidhne and the populace of Lady Maire's artistic abilities and how she is frequently seen dancing and illuminating. In acknowledgment, Lady Maire was awarded a **Lapis Comet**. Illumination by THLady Aibell Shuluaine, Calligraphy and Wordsmithing by Kuria Odessa.

Before Mistress Graidhne could leave, Their Excellencies asked her to be joined by **Lord Sean O'Connor**. Once more, they spoke of the arts and sciences, as well as how Lord Sean can often be found working with our youth to create loving works of art and scrolls. In recognition of his artistry and compassion for the youth, he was awarded a **Lapis Comet**. Illumination by THLady Aibell Shuluaine, Calligraphy and Wordsmithing by Kuria Odessa.

Next, Their Excellencies proceeded to drag **Mistress Constance Glyn Dwr** away from her forestry work and before them. Their Excellencies spoke of her work with the foresters, as well as with other fiber arts and in the field of medicinal plants. For this valuable artistry and more, Mistress Constance was awarded a **Lapis Comet**. Calligraphy and Illumination by Étaín ingen Áeda. Wordsmithing by Oyama Michiharu-san.

Their Excellencies then called before them **Noble Thomasyn Fletcher** - who was trying their best to hide behind the walking taco bar. Their Excellencies regaled the populace of their abilities and devotion to archery and of their exponential growth within the fencing community. In recognition, Thomasyn was awarded a **Hematite Comet**. Scroll by Mistress Sumayya al Ghaziya.

Next, Their Excellencies requested the presence of **Lord Vital Visconti** or one who could accept an award on his behalf. Their excellencies spoke of his undeniable prowess upon the fields of rattan. So much so, that he could not be present due to his obligations to the kingdom at large. As such, Lord Vital was awarded a **Hematite Comet**. Scroll by Mistress Graidhne ni Ruaidh and Lady Maire ni Cathai O'Connor.

Wanting to delay Maister Broom's sentencing just a moment longer, Their Excellencies requested the presence of **Ishiyama-Shonagon Gen'tarou Yori'ie**. They enlightened our population about the incredible woodworking skills of Ishiyama. Specifically, they thanked him for the gorgeous archway that had been provided to the Barony Camp. A lovingly crafted wooden structure that served as a beacon of our community. As thank you for this work, Their Excellencies displayed a hand carved brass placard to be adorned upon the gate. Baronessa Violeta de Valencia carved, wrote, and read this placard to our populace in Japanese.

With no other distractions available, **Maister Emrys Eustace hight Broom** was brought before Their Excellencies for judgement. Baronessa Violeta was tasked with listing his countless crimes to our Barony. Everything from teaching our populace of brewing techniques, to hosting educational experiences within his own own, to guiding gentiles on his weed walks, to pulling every thistle within the lands of our barony camp, to helping run and maintain the camp year after year, to helping put up tents and the infrastructure of our camp. Needless to say, his crimes were endless and uncountable. As such, Their Excellencies decreed that he would be unable to handle the severity of his sentencing on his own, and called upon the members of the Order of the Copernicus to stand and be recognized alongside him. Finally, judgement was laid bare before the court. Maister Emrys Eustace hight Broom was inducted into the **Order of the Copernicus** for his ceaseless service to our Barony. The scroll depicted the previous year's map of the barony encampment, scribed on parchment provided by Lord Phoebus Craythorn. The scrolls design was conceived of and drawn out by Praetoria Aurelia Argentia Prima, and transcribed onto the parchment by Magister Owen Tegg. The Calligraphy and Wordsmithing was done by Their Excellencies, Praetoria Prima and Baronessa Violeta.

Having quelled the raucous fanfare of the populace, Baronessa Violeta took a moment to address the populace once more. She praised all of those who helped with the baronial social, and all who helped with the scrolls for court. The social was no small feat, and required the work of many to prepare the space and the food, to clean and organize, and to move tables and chairs. She also wanted to thank the many scribes who provided

their skills to make sure our populace was recognized appropriately.

With there being no further business, this Court of Their Excellencies was closed in preparation for the

arrival of Their Royal Majesties and the opening of their court.

Faithfully Submitted,
Oyama Shichi-i Michiharu
Comet Pursuivant

Inter-Kingdom Roundup

From the August 2026 issue of the Avantgarde (Abacal)

Discretion is the better part of valor on Facebook

by His Jonkership Allert Rodriguez Pierson

"Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife." -- proverbs 26:20-21

It's honesty hour with Cousin Allert, everyone! I, like a lot of people, have a habit of getting really passionate when I debate. This is a particular scourge on social media: people with whom I would never, ever argue with face-to-face or have a conflict with, in person suddenly feel very distant and imaginary. It's easy to feel as though the internet is a personal and private battleground between wills. Unfortunately, that can sometimes lead to an abundance of energy being spent on trying to convince people that I am a) correct and b) i have the most logical approach. I have (especially in my younger days) spent entire evenings checking my phone for the next comment on a discussion thread, carefully crafting a cutting reply, and waiting anxiously for others' approval instead of living in the moment and spending my limited free time with my family and friends.

Has this practice ever, in the history of my time on social media, genuinely changed somebody's mind? Probably not, if you struggle or have struggled as I do, I offer this rigorous line of questioning I have developed (over many years of mistakes) before involving myself in lively social media debates:

1. Is what I am about to say an accurate representation of my own feelings on the subject, or I am I trying to rile somebody up/make somebody approve of me? If it is my accurate feeling, is this the right time and place to share it?
2. Is what I am about to say intended to be helpful, instructive or constructive, or is it a "cheap shot" that I hope will make me look like the "winner," holding a superior moral/intellectual position? How is what I am going to say meant to make the people on the receiving end feel about themselves and about the situation?
3. Has what I have to say been said already? Is it necessary that this position be restated or am I just joining a "mob?" can I maintain a balanced and fair position which considers both perspectives before making a conclusion?
4. Is there a more efficient way to communicate my feelings or question through another avenue of communication - private message, email, or face-to-face - if I'm really directing my comment at a specific person or group?

5. Does this discussion actually matter to me or impact me? Do I have something to say that will add useful information to this discussion, or an important point that has not yet been considered? Am I the best person to introduce this information?
6. Do my actions reflect my morals, ethics, and virtues? Do they reflect well on the people who are associated with me, formally or informally?
7. Am I speaking for someone or a group of people whom I did not consult first, or should be given space to speak for themselves on this topic?
8. Would I say this exact same thing in a crowded town square?

Social media is wonderful in so many ways, and it's a real blessing to be able to stay connected to so many people all around the world 24/7, however, it is always our responsibility to take accountability for what we put out on social media and the impact it has on ourselves and others, SCA or otherwise.

From the September 2026 issue of the Avantgarde (Abacal)
"Thank you," "you're doing a good job," and other priceless awards
by His Jonkership Allert Rodriguez Pierson

I was chatting to someone at an event recently, and the topic of longevity in the SCA came up. Since very shortly after I joined, I've been told that the average SCAdian lasts around 3-5 years before quitting. I've heard a few reasons for this - internal politics, failure to integrate into one group or another, event burnout, etc. - but this person had a slightly different perspective. In your first 1-5 years in the Society, it's common to receive quite a lot of recognition fairly quickly for the things that you do. If you're active, you'll probably get an Award of Arms, maybe a baronial award for service, combat, and/or arts and sciences, and possibly even a Grant-level award for those accomplishments.

After that, there's quite a long gap. Everyone knows that you make beautiful largess or run the best events around, and since you've been recognized for it, there isn't much more to say - at least, not unless you receive a peerage some years down the road for it. You can start to feel forgotten or underappreciated after a while. People know you do good work, so it doesn't feel necessary to point it out. That can make many small annoyances seem larger. Fatigue sets in. Now, I'm not sure that I totally agree with this person's perspective, but the heart of the argument there (in my opinion) is gratitude. If people leaving the SCA is at least partially caused by feeling underappreciated by your community, this problem is entirely fixable. It's good practice in general to express appreciation for the people around you. After I submitted my last quarterly report, someone went out of their way to tell me that they thought I'd been doing well in my office. I respect this person massively, and that small comment was worth as much to me as any award I've ever received. It may have only taken that person a minute to write, but it's the small things that matter. The simple courtesy of just saying "thank you," "you did a wonderful job," or even "I love how you do 'x'" in a meaningful, sincere way can be even more important than an award recommendation to someone whose energy is flagging.

Here are some of the ways I intend to show more gratitude and appreciation for others in the SCA in the future:

1. After eating my meal, I will make a point of thanking at least one member of the feast team for taking dozens of hours out of their busy schedule to cook for the populace.
2. When I check in at gate, I will thank whoever is sitting in the cold, wet, or blazing heat (the three seasons of Avacal) for taking the time out to check people in.
3. When I notice people moving tables, thrones, erics, or other heavy items, especially on a regular basis, I will thank them for the hard physical work that they do so that we can all enjoy the event. We don't get to see their bruises, sore muscles, and stubbed toes the next day - but we can all appreciate the ability to sit and watch court or take shelter under the pavilions they put up!
4. I will clean up after myself, and if possible, stay late to help the tear-down team. It's an incredibly difficult job, especially after a long day, and even one more set of hands makes it go so much faster. If I am unable to stay to clean up, I will thank the people tearing down for sacrificing their time to do it for the rest of us.
5. I will make a note to thank royalty and landed barons/baronesses for their incredibly important service at some point during their reign. Through my bits and pieces of service, I've seen a glimpse of how difficult these duties are and how much of a sacrifice it is to serve the entire kingdom as royalty or a landed peer.
6. I will thank officers as they step up and step down for their service. Their administrative work in the background makes it possible for us to organize ourselves and play this game. I promise to never say "poor you" or "what a sucker" when someone takes an office. I will not speak sarcastically about officer positions, complain that nobody has taken an office, or make disparaging remarks about an officer's service unless I am willing to pitch in myself.
7. I will thank people who regularly host activities in their own home, and those who organize activities, championships, prize competitions, and tournaments with their own time and energy. Without them, we simply wouldn't exist.
8. I will thank the event stewards every time I attend an event for all of the sleepless nights, hours of planning, and stress involved in putting an event together. If I need to communicate with an event steward during the event planning process, I will speak to them with the kindness, gratefulness and respect that I would if someone was doing me a personal favor. They are doing everyone in the kingdom a personal favor by taking on the responsibility of hosting the event.
9. I will speak about the research, arts, martial activities, or service which other people enjoy with the greatest respect and enthusiasm. I will not fool myself into thinking that the activities and tasks I like to do in the SCA are more important, essential, or interesting than anyone else's. I will not suggest that what I enjoy should take more precedence than what someone else enjoys.
10. If I like what someone is doing, I will say so. If I appreciate what someone has done, I will say so. If someone has inspired me through their actions or words, I will tell them.

How do you show your appreciation for the people in your shire, barony, or across the kingdom?

Love,
Allert

From the August 2026 issue of the Crier (An Tír)
Walking in the Weeds
Wild Violet

“Walking in the weeds” is written by Her Ladyship Ailynn Catriona Moireabh of Crow’s Gate, a canton of the Barony of Glymm Mere. She enjoys foraging, gardening, sewings, inkle weaving, and some scribal arts. She thinks that plants that were originally foraged, eventually were cultivated and have become the garden staples we rely on today.



Wild Violet- *Viola odorata*. Also common violet-*Viola sororia*. These small fragrant beauties have appeared in illuminated manuscripts, materia medica, poetry, and lists of plants by Walafrid Strabo’s 9th century monastery garden.

William Shakespeare mentions violets 11 times in his plays. In *Hamlet*, Act IV, scene 5, Ophelia says “I would give you some violets, but they wither’d all when my father died.” In *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* Act 2, scene 1, Oberon says, “I know a bank where the wild thyme blows, where oxlips and the nodding violet grows”

Pansies, called ‘hearts ease’ in medieval times, are also in the violaceae (violet) family and are edible. Mmmm flower salad!

Description: Violets like shady, moist soil. They have small heart shaped leaves, are hairless and either light or dark green depending on the variety. This perennial plant grows about 6 inches tall, and forms clusters of serrated leaves with flowers raised slightly above the leaves. Each flower has its own leafless stalk. The sweet scent is unmistakable in the early spring. The edible flowers range in color from blue to purple and white and yellow. Do not eat the yellow ones as they can cause stomach issues. Each ¼-½ inch flower has 5 rounded petals, 2 on each side and one lobed petal facing down often with stripes on it. The seedpods develop with 3 valves that when dried erupt to disperse the tiny seeds. You can eat the flowers, stems and young leaves. The roots cause diarrhea. Don’t eat those!

Nutritional info- Good source of vitamin A, C, and K. They contain antioxidants and phytochemicals

Culinary Uses- Flowers can be added to salads, pickled, used to garnish drinks and desserts. To thicken soups, harvest the leaves anytime. Can be eaten raw, dried, and steeped into teas.

Historical and Medicinal Uses- to boost the immune system by producing antibodies. Skin soothing. The mucilaginous quality of violet helps with respiratory ailments and sore throats. It can help lower cholesterol and balance the intestinal flora.

Nicholas Culpeper has lots to say in *The Complete Herball and English Physician*, 1653, “Violets, (to wit, the blue ones) cool and moisten, provoke sleep, loosen the belly, resist fevers, help inflammations, correct the heat of choler, ease the pains in the head, help the roughness of the wind-pipe, diseases of the throat, inflammation of the breast and sides, plurisies, open stoppings of the liver, and help the yellow jaundice.”

“Violet is a little hearbe in substance, and is better fresh and newe, then when it is olde, and the flower thereof smelleth most, and so the smell thereof abateth heate of the braine, and refresheth and comforteth the spirites of feeling, and maketh sleepe, for it cooleth and tempereth and moysteneth the braine; and the more virtuous the flower thereof is the more it bendeth the head thereof downward.” Bartholomaeus Anglicus, *De Proprietatibus Rerum*, 1240

John Gerard’s *The Herball or General Historie of Plantes*, 1597, “The floures are good for all inflammations, especially of the sides and lungs; they take away the hoarsenesse of the chest, the ruggednesse of the winde-pipe and jawes, and take away thirst. There is likewise made of Violets and sugar certaine plates called Sugar violet, or Violet tables, or Plate which is most pleasant and wholesome”

From “The Queen-like Closet” or “Rich Cabinet”, Hannah Wooley, 1670, 149: To keep flowers all the year “Take any sort of pretty flowers you can get, and have in readiness some Rosewater made very slippery by laying Gum Arabick therein. Dip your fingers well, and swing it out again, and stick them in a sieve to dry in the Sun, some other of them you may dust over with fine flour, and some searced Sugar, after you have wetted them, and so dry them. Either of them will be very fine, but those with sugar will not keep so well as the other; they are good to set forth Banquets, and to garnish Dishes, and will look very fresh, and have their right smell.”

Here is a modern Recipe for Sugared Violets by Kaity Farrell, fareisle.com

- 4 dozen fresh violet flowers with stems for handling
 - 1 egg white
 - 100 grams superfine sugar
1. Lightly beat egg white in a bowl until frothy.
 2. Working with one flower at a time, use a small paintbrush to paint a thin layer of egg on the front and back of each petal.
 3. Hold the flower by the stem over the bowl and sprinkle sugar over the flower. Completely cover the front and back of the flower.
 4. Place the flower onto a sheet of parchment paper or waxed paper to dry for at least 24 hours in a warm dry spot (or dehydrator).
 5. Snip off the stems and place the fully dried flowers in an airtight container to store for up to 6 months.

From the October 2026 issue of the Sage Advice (Artemisia)
Random Carp that I have learned: A look at modern practices and their medieval
sources

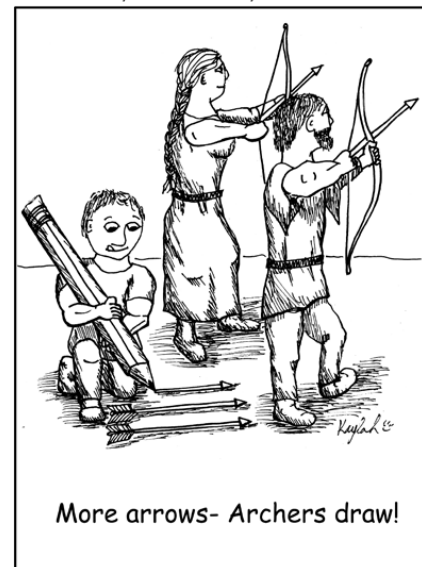
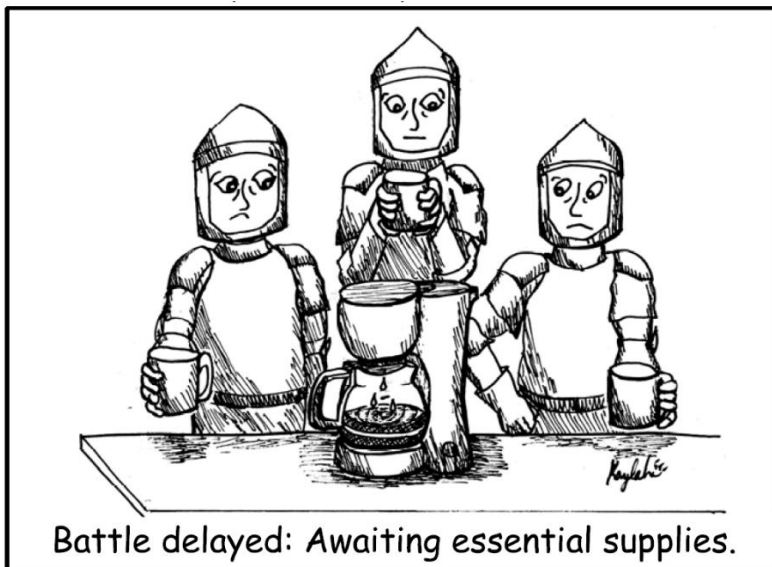
by K. Braden von Sobernheim

Boo! Why do we say “boo?” It comes from the Middle English “bo,” which was used to surprise or frighten someone. A 16th century example goes (translated) “Lo, evil health, said he. Will you not young be? Speak now, let me see and say ‘bo’!” But that’s just a more modern use than the original Latin for ‘roar’ or ‘cry’ which is, in fact, “boo.” Do ghosts say “boo” because Latin is a dead language? And now you know more Random Carp.

From the September 2026 and October 2026 issue of the Northwinds
(Northshield)

Parallax

by Queen Kayla the Cheerful



<https://www.rawpixel.com/image/6676723/png-sticker-vintage>

From the October 2026 issue of Popular Chivalry (Meridies)
Who Was Richard, the Hermit of Newbright?
A Forensic Genealogical Prosopography
 by Óengus mac Gilla Dubain (mka Christian Cotton)

In 1938, antiquarian William Palmer published “Landwade and the Cotton Family,” a study of the Cotton family of Landwade in fifteenth-century Cambridgeshire, England. Palmer based much of his reconstruction upon three bodies of evidence: the medieval Landwade Chartulary (a collection of charters and deeds of estate), the Cotton family muniments (documents that enable one to defend the title to an estate), and the monumental inscriptions in Landwade Chapel.¹ His study remains, so far as I have been able to determine, the only substantial treatment devoted specifically to the medieval Landwade Cottons. For nearly a hundred years, it has functioned as the principal scholarly account of this family.

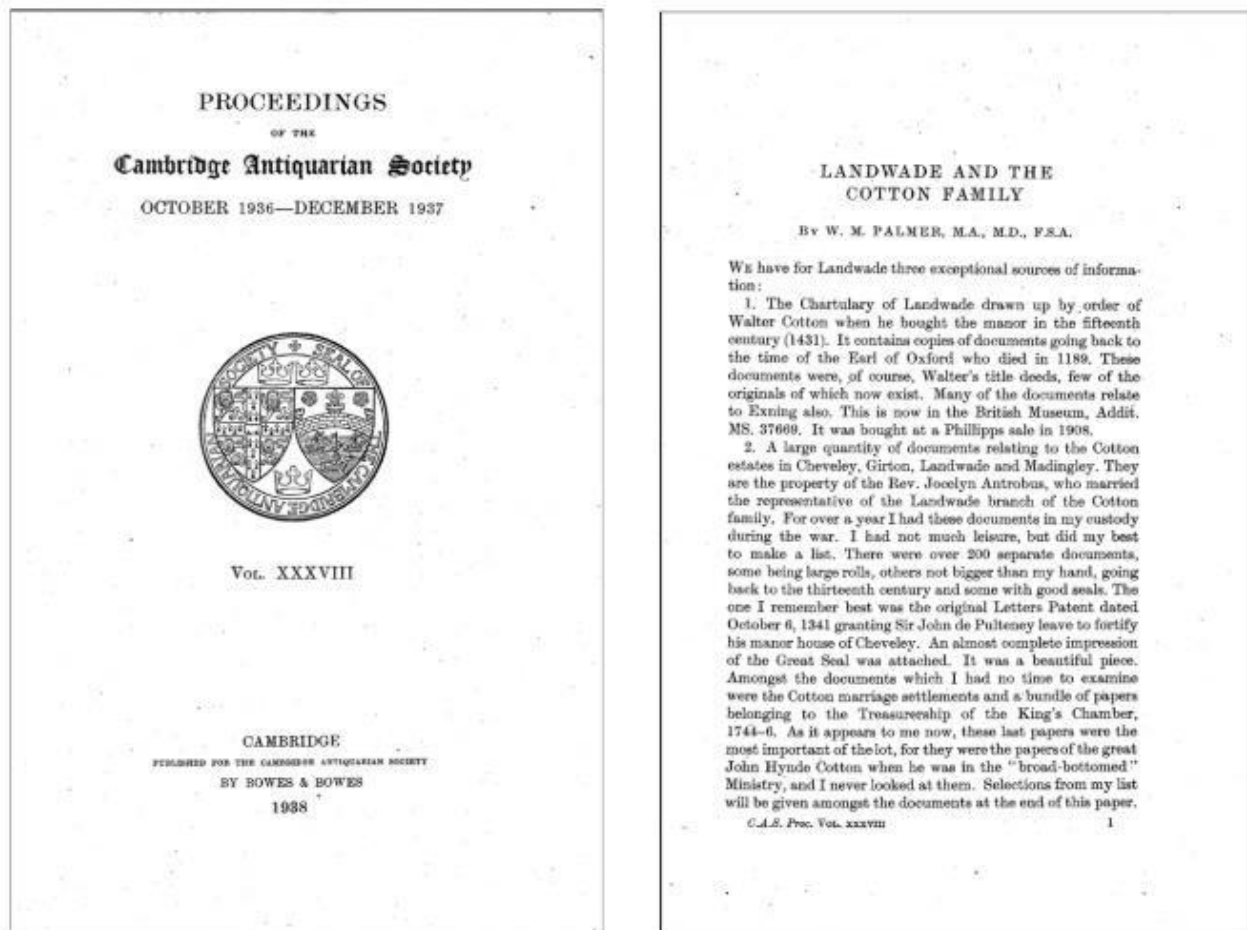


Figure 1: Palmer's “Landwade and the Cotton Family,” PCAS XXXVIII, 1938.

A Burr in the Saddle

I had been acquainted with Palmer's work for some time in the course of researching the family and had returned to it repeatedly. Recently, however, one small, seemingly insignificant entry in the documentary abstracts appended to the article became something of a burr in the saddle. Among the documents Palmer abstracted was the will of William Cotton, esquire. William made his will on 20 October 1450 and died before it was proved on 2 August 1455.² He belonged to the first generation of the Cotton family firmly established at Landwade, the manor having been acquired in the preceding decades by his father Walter and uncle Thomas.³

In the abstract, Palmer relates a particularly curious bequest: "To Richard the heremyte of Newbright his breviary (portiforium) with missal." More curious still, after disposing of William's lands, goods, and provisions for his children and servants, there is a second provision for this Richard: the residue of William's estate was to be used at his executors' discretion "for the easement of Richard the heremyte aforesaid."⁴ These provisions seemed to me quite personal, almost familial, and they raised an obvious pair of questions: who was this Richard, the hermit of Newbright, and who was he to William Cotton, the lord of Landwade?

A Clue in Palmer

The character of the bequest suggests more than casual charity. The breviary, or portiforium, is a liturgical book containing the offices said throughout the canonical hours, while the missal contains the texts necessary for the celebration of the Mass.⁵ These were specialised texts, well-suited to a clerical or religious vocation.

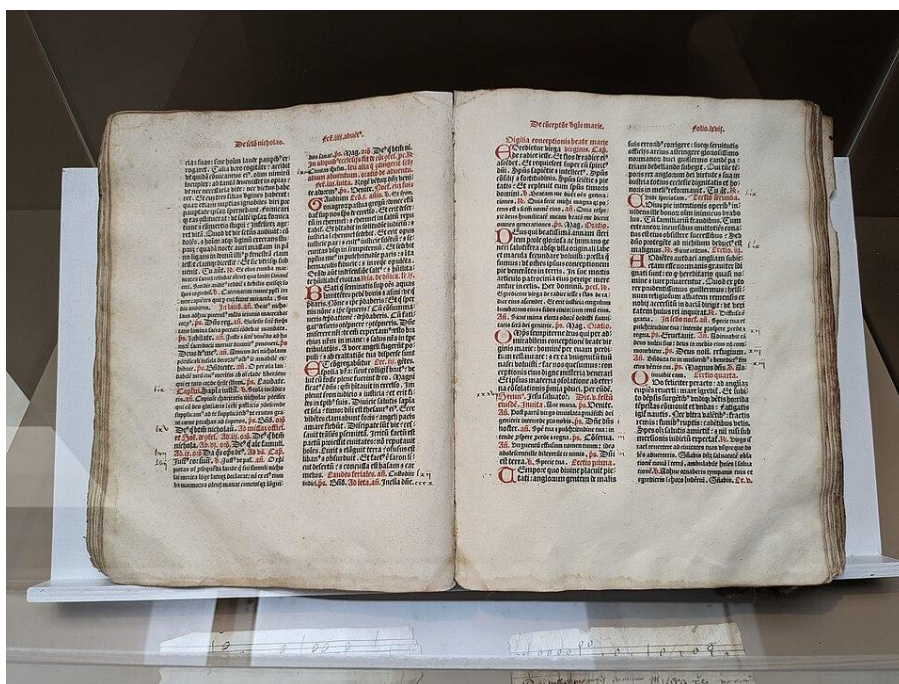


Figure 2: Bréviaire de Lyon (1498-1499) - Musée de Fourvière - Lyon 5e. Image source: [File:Lyon 5e - Musée de Fourvière - Bréviaire de Lyon \(1498 - 1499\).jpg](#) - Wikimedia Commons

More suggestive still is the additional direction concerning Richard's "easement" or support. Neither provision proves kinship, but together they make it reasonable to ask whether Richard belonged to William Cotton's personal network and perhaps even to his family. A brother, cousin, or other close relation who had entered the eremitical life would provide one explanation for the specificity of William's concern. However, to identify this Richard, a more basic problem had to be solved: where was Newbright?

The Search for Newbright

Palmer's abstract naturally presents Newbright as a place-name. If the place could be located, Richard's identity might follow. Searches for a medieval Newbright produced nothing convincing. I found no convincing medieval settlement, bridge, hermitage, hospital, or religious foundation of that name within the geographical world surrounding William Cotton. Searches combining the elements Richard, hermit, and Newbright were similarly unproductive.

At first this was not especially alarming. Medieval place-names vary in spelling, and some have disappeared altogether. Newbright might have been an obsolete form, a minor locality poorly represented in surviving records, or simply a name transformed beyond easy recognition. What the searches did turn up, however, was instructive. Records from fifteenth-century Norfolk contained a Richard who was a hermit at a place called Newbrigge at Ickburgh.⁶ In 1446, only four years before William Cotton made his will, a Richard was instituted there as hermit and chaplain. The resemblance to Palmer's abstract was striking: Richard, hermit of Newbright and Richard, hermit of Newbrigge.

Further searches for a Richard associated with Newbrigge yielded a second contemporary Richard associated with a second Newbridge, this one located in Norwich. Kirkpatrick preserves references from the 1440s in Norwich civic records to a "Richard, Hermyte of Newbrygg."⁷

At this point the problem had shifted. Perhaps the difficulty wasn't that Palmer's Newbright was nowhere to be found in the documentary record. Perhaps there was never a Newbright in the will.

Back to the Source

The surviving Prerogative Court of Canterbury register copy of William Cotton's will is now held by The National Archives as PROB 11/4/63.⁸



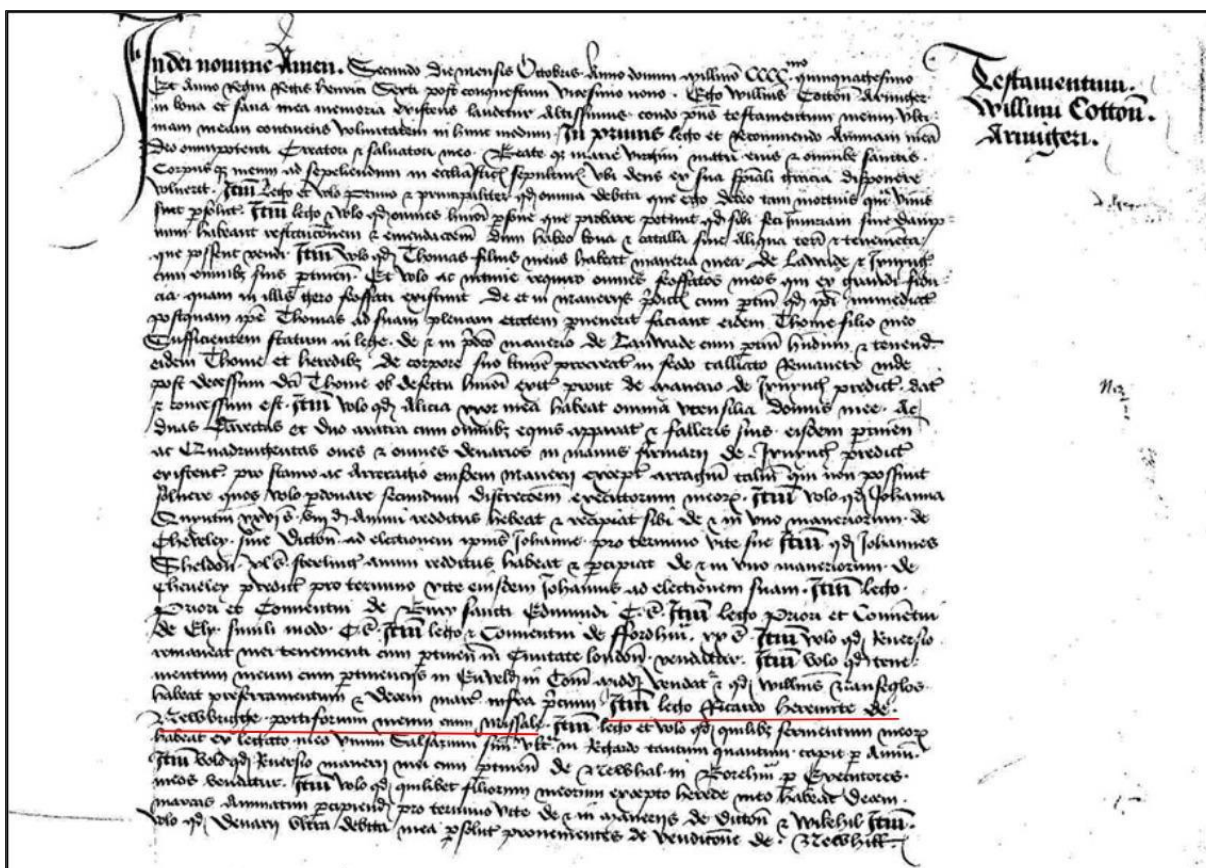


Figure 3: Register copy of the will of William Cotton, 1450, detail of the bequest to Richard, The National Archives, PROB 11/4/63.

A direct examination of the registered copy confirmed the suspicion raised by the external evidence. The relevant clause does not appear to read Newbright. Instead, it reads:

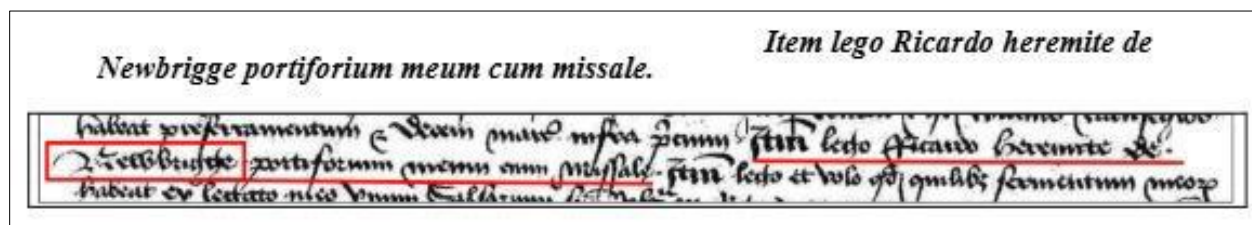


Figure 4: Closeup of the will of William Cotton, 1450, detail of the bequest to Richard, The National Archives, PROB 11/4/63.

That is to say, “Likewise, I leave to Richard, hermit of Newbrigge, my breviary with missal.”

Looking closely at the manuscript, the second element of the place-name is best read - brigge, a common Middle English form of “bridge,” rather than Palmer’s -bright.⁹ The doubled -g- and final -e- are particularly significant, while comparison with the later place-name Newhal helps clarify the construction of the initial element New-. When overlaid, the capital -N- and distinctive -w corresponded very closely in both words.

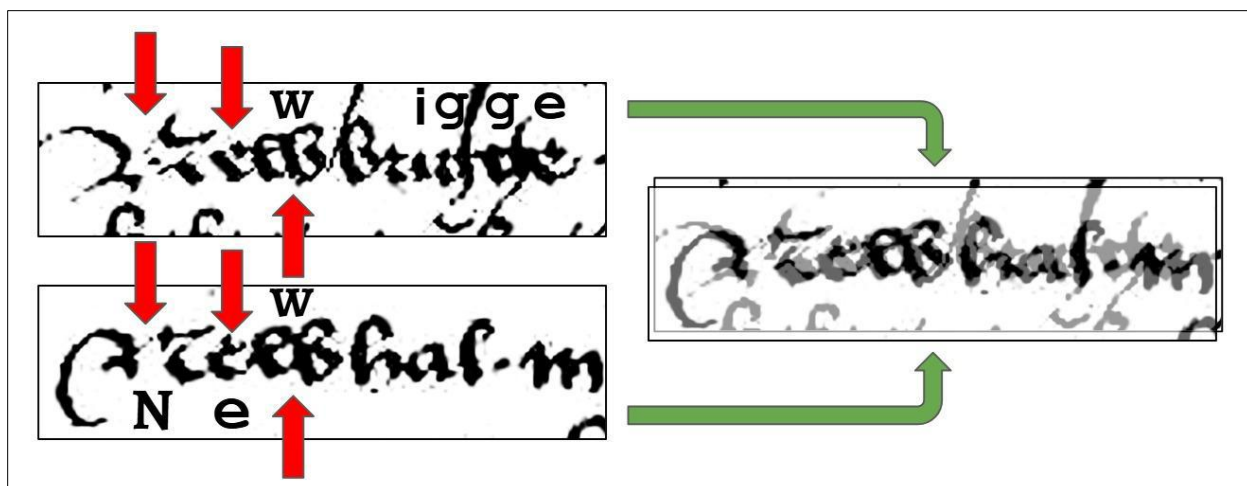


Figure 5: Detail from the will of William Cotton, showing the palaeographical construction of **Newbrigge**, with an overlay on the less ambiguous **Newhal**.

A fuller palaeographical demonstration belongs in a companion study. For present purposes the important point is methodological as much as textual: the documentary search had independently produced Newbrigge before the manuscript was reread. The manuscript then strongly supports the conclusion that Palmer's Newbright was Newbrigge, transforming an apparently untraceable place-name into a familiar medieval toponym. But that didn't solve the mystery outright. There were now two Richards, both hermits at separate locations named Newbrigge/Newbrygg.

Finding Newbrigge

The first stood at Ickburgh, northwest of Thetford. Here, on the north side of the River Wissey, was a religious foundation variously described as a hospital, hermitage, and chapel. The Victoria County History describes the hospital of Ickburgh as originating in a grant made during the reign of Edward I for the maintenance of a chaplain celebrating in the chapel of St Mary of Newbrigge. The chapel stood on the north side of the River Wissey in Ickburgh parish, beside a bridge leading toward Mundford. The bridge itself was integral to the institution. By the early fifteenth century the older leper hospital and the hermitage associated with the bridge had evolved together. The hermit apparently bore responsibility for the bridge and its approaches while also ministering to travellers passing along the route. Eventually the office of bridge hermit became united with that of the chantry chaplain.¹⁰

The second Newbridge lay some thirty miles farther east, within Norwich itself, at a crossing of the River Wensum. Norwich sustained an unusually conspicuous community of hermits, anchorites, and other religious recluses during the later Middle Ages, and its civic records repeatedly refer to a hermit associated with Newbridge. Norman Tanner identifies this Newbridge specifically as one of Norwich's Wensum crossings.¹¹

Richard Emerges

The Ickburgh evidence lies extraordinarily close to William Cotton's will. According to the Victoria County History, the Norwich episcopal registers preserve several fifteenth-century institutions to the joint office of "hermit and chaplain of Newbrigge." The first named

occupant in that sequence is simply Richard, instituted in 1446. Francis Blomefield independently records the same man, stating that “Richard was hermit or chaplain here in 1446” and adding that Lady Joan Bardolph left him 13s. 4d. in her will.¹² Four years later, William Cotton left his breviary and missal to Richard, hermit of Newbrigge.

The nature of William’s gift provides another point of correspondence. The Richard at Ickburgh was not merely a solitary religious recluse. He was also a chaplain. A breviary and missal would therefore have been working liturgical books directly suited to his office. William’s bequest makes particular sense if its recipient was the man serving simultaneously as hermit and chaplain at Newbrigge.

None of these facts alone proves identity. Nevertheless, the cumulative fit is strong. Of the candidates discovered, the Richard instituted at Ickburgh in 1446 provides an exceptionally close match for William Cotton’s beneficiary. Ickburgh, however, gives us only a first name.

The Norwich trail gives us something more.

A Surname?

Among Norwich’s religious recluses was a long-lived hermit named Richard Ferneys, also rendered Fernys. He can be traced at least as early as 1429. In that year Robert Baxter, a former mayor of Norwich, left the extraordinary sum of £40 to “the hermit and priest Richard Fernys” to undertake a vicarious pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem on Baxter’s behalf.¹³ Norman Tanner identifies this as the earliest known reference to Ferneys as a hermit and reconstructs a religious career extending over several decades.

The aforementioned Norwich civic evidence subsequently records a “Richard, Hermyte of Newbrygg” in 1441 and 1442. Ferneys himself remained alive until 1464, when he made his own will. That testament survives in the Norwich Consistory Court register Jekkys.¹⁴

The Norwich antiquary John Kirkpatrick, working in the early eighteenth century from civic and ecclesiastical records then available to him, explicitly joined these strands. After noting the references to “Richard, Hermyte of Newbrygg,” he observed that this was, in his judgment, the same man as “Richard Ferneys, Hermite, some time of Newbrigg.”¹⁵ Tanner likewise places Ferneys at the end of his career as the hermit of Norwich Newbridge.¹⁶

Who, Then, Was Richard?

We can now answer part of that question with confidence. He was very probably Richard, hermit and chaplain of Newbrigge at Ickburgh, documented in 1446. Whether that Richard can also be given the surname Ferneys remains an open question.

The difficulty is geographical. The Newbrigge of the 1446 institution stood at Ickburgh on the Wissey River, whereas the Newbridge associated with Richard Ferneys stood within Norwich on the Wensum. Nothing yet located identifies the Ickburgh hermit with Richard Ferneys, just as nothing yet located places Ferneys at Ickburgh. Thus, the weight of the evidence favours Ickburgh at this stage.

What Remains to Be Found

The most important next step is examination of the 1446 episcopal institution at Ickburgh in its original register context. A fuller entry may preserve something omitted by Blomefield and the Victoria County History: a surname, previous residence, patron, witness, or other detail capable of identifying Richard more precisely.

The Norwich evidence should likewise be reconstructed from its primary sources rather than solely through Kirkpatrick and Tanner. The civic records underlying the 1441 and 1442 references to “Richard, Hermyte of Newbrygg,” Robert Baxter’s 1429 will, and Richard Ferneys’s own will of 1464 may contain names and associations capable of linking—or decisively separating—the Norwich and Ickburgh hermits. Finally, Richard must be pursued from the other direction: through William Cotton’s network. William’s executors, religious benefactions, Norfolk associations, and personal relationships may explain why an esquire of Landwade should have taken such particular interest in a hermit at Newbrigge.

For now, the documentary trail stops just short of a surname.

Notes

1. W. M. Palmer, “Landwade and the Cotton Family,” *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 38 (1938): 1–49, esp. 1–2.
2. The National Archives (TNA), PROB 11/4/63, will of William Cotton, register fol. 37; Palmer, “Landwade and the Cotton Family,” 38–39.
3. Palmer, 5–6.
4. Palmer, 39.
5. Christopher Wordsworth and Henry Littlehales, *The Old Service-Books of the English Church*, 2nd ed. (London: Methuen, 1904), 69–70.
6. “Hospitals: Ickburgh,” in *A History of the County of Norfolk*, vol. 2, ed. William Page (London, 1906), 440, British History Online.
7. John Kirkpatrick, *History of the Religious Orders and Communities, and of the Hospitals and Castle, of Norwich*, written c. 1725, ed. Dawson Turner (Yarmouth: C. Sloman, 1845), 51.
8. TNA, PROB 11/4/63, register fol. 37.
9. A. L. Mayhew and Walter W. Skeat, *A Concise Dictionary of Middle English from A.D. 1150 to 1580* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1888), s.v. “Brigge.”
10. Page, 440; Francis Blomefield, *An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, 2nd ed., vol. 2 (London: W. Miller, 1805), 232–241.
11. Norman P. Tanner, *The Church in Late Medieval Norwich, 1370–1532*, *Studies and Texts* 66 (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1984), 60–62.
12. Blomefield, 241; Page, 440.

13. Norfolk Record Office (NRO), Norwich Consistory Court (NCC), Register Surflete, fol. 86v, will of Robert Baxter (1429); Tanner, *Church in Late Medieval Norwich*, 60–62.
14. Kirkpatrick, 51; NRO, NCC, Register Jekkys, fols. 15v–16r, will of Richard Ferneys (1464); Tanner, 60–62.
15. Kirkpatrick, 51.
16. Tanner, 60–62.

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The National Archives, Kew. PROB 11/4/63. Prerogative Court of Canterbury register copy of the will of William Cotton, made 20 October 1450.

Norfolk Record Office, Norwich. Norwich Consistory Court, Register Surflete, fol. 86v. Will of Robert Baxter, 1429.

Norfolk Record Office, Norwich. Norwich Consistory Court, Register Jekkys, fols. 15v–16r. Will of Richard Ferneys, 1464.

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Fun Pages

Once Upon a Time

by Anon

“Well,” Lady Elizabeth sighed, “Another day of being Lady Elizabeth the Chaste. You would think, at Pennsic, a girl could have some fun.”

The Queen didn’t answer; she just rolled her eyes and returned to her needlework. She was used to her lady-in-waiting’s snark. It was a small price to pay for Elizabeth’s dedicated service. Elizabeth was only a few years younger than her, and the two were close friends.

It was mid-morning. The two ladies were sitting together in the royal pavilion, watching the battlefield. The opening ceremonies of Pennsic were complete, and beautiful choral music drifted from the performance tent, where the Pennsic Choir were practicing. The weather was mild, and the Queen thought the day was progressing most pleasantly. Although she was happily married to the King, Her Majesty appreciated the display of knights and squires of all genders honing their skills on the field. Today was no exception. Armored gentles gathered in clusters to spar and discuss strategy, as the Queen and Lady Elizabeth watched.

Suddenly, Elizabeth grasped the Queen’s arm. The Queen was surprised by the gesture. She was about to reprimand Elizabeth for the lack of formality when the lady, eyes wide, asked

“WHO is THAT?”

“Who?” the Queen asked, perplexed.

“HIM!” Elizabeth pointed.

Standing on the field, watching his comrades practice, was a man. And oh, what a man! Dark curly hair with red highlights shining in the sun. A chiseled face and tall, fit body clad in gleaming armor. He stood casually, shield at his side, with a look of concentration as he watched his squires.

Yes, Elizabeth thought, *they must be his squires. Such a noble, handsome man must be a knight.*

“Do you know him?” Elizabeth asked the Queen excitedly.

The Queen’s eyes were narrowed as she peered at the battlefield.

“No....” she said, hesitantly. “Elizabeth, I don’t even recognize his arms. He could be fighting with the enemy.”

“Oh.” Elizabeth was disappointed. *Still, I suppose I could move to a different kingdom...*

“Elizabeth,” the Queen stated firmly. “You have a career here, with me. Would you really want to give that up to chase a man?”

How does she always know what I am thinking? Elizabeth pondered, chagrined.

“I can read it on your face,” said the Queen.

Aaagh! Elizabeth was turning a bit red in the cheeks. But she knew the Queen was right. He might be a fine-looking man, but she didn’t know a thing about him.

Lady Elizabeth the Chaste sighed again, disappointed. It looked like she would be remaining “the Chaste” for the

foreseeable future. She returned to her needlework.



Sir Roland the Noble was having a mediocre day. The weather was fine, he was on the battlefield, and his squires appeared to be in fine fighting form. He watched them spar, but his mind was far, far away.

Sir Roland was, in a word, lonely.

Oh, he had plenty of friends, success in his career (he was a knight, after all), and didn't have any trouble finding a willing partner for a roll in the hay.

But the older he got, the more Sir Roland longed for a more permanent relationship. A home. Children, maybe.

How does one go about finding someone to marry? he thought as the sword clanged in front of him. He wanted a love match but knew no one that put butterflies in his stomach. Although he did know some gentles that gave him indigestion. Plenty threw themselves at him, wanting the glory of marrying a knight and, potentially one day, becoming his Consort if he won a Crown Tourney.

Sir Roland wanted to find someone who loved him for himself. Someone loyal, who wouldn't leave when he got old and went bald. But where to find this paragon of virtue?

Sighing, Sir Roland the Noble turned his attention back toward his squires, leaving his quest for love to be continued another day.



The market was still cool during the next day's mid-morning rush when Elizabeth accompanied the Queen for some

perusing of the wares. As usual, when the conversation lulled, Elizabeth was drawn into thoughts about her lack of a "romantic" life.

"I am so tired of being Lady Elizabeth the Chaste. Why can't I be Lady Elizabeth the Chased for once?"

As usual, the Queen responded with an eye roll. "You are beginning to sound like a broken wagon wheel."

"A broken wagon wheel?" Elizabeth queried. "That doesn't even make any sense. A broken wagon wheel just stops, no?"

By this point, Elizabeth had turned around and was walking backward so she could scowl directly at the Queen. Elizabeth had never been known for her foresight. As she walked backwards, she moved directly into a tent guylines and started to fall backwards. The startled Queen watched as Elizabeth began to windmill her arms in an effort to stay upright. In her constrictive clothing, the Queen could not move quickly enough to catch her lady-in-waiting, and she feared for Elizabeth's head as the hapless lady started to topple backwards.

Elizabeth herself was in a state of panic. She shut her eyes and quickly sent up a prayer to whatever deity was listening as she waited for the pain that never arrived. Instead, she landed on softly padded but firm arms. Slowly, she opened her eyes to find beautiful, chocolate-colored irises staring down at her.

Time stood still. It was him. The knight from the battlefield.

"Are you hurt, my lady?" the knight asked as he helped her back up to her feet.

"I...I am well, " Elizabeth stuttered. Then she recovered enough to present a curtsy to the tall, handsome knight.

"I am glad. My name is Roland... Sir Roland the Noble. And I am grateful to be of service." He lowered himself into a gentle bow and looked up briefly. "Your Majesty," he continued, and managed to bow even lower.

"Sir Roland," the queen responded, thinking quickly. She too recognized that this was the knight from the battlefield, and like any good Queen, she enjoyed a bit of matchmaking. Anything to keep Elizabeth from her continuous complaining. "You have been of great service this day. Please honor us with your presence at the Royal Encampment tonight for our feast."

Sir Roland was staring at Lady Elizabeth, who was staring right back. The Queen thought for a moment that perhaps Sir Roland had not heard her, but he finally turned to her, bowed again, and stated "It would be my honor."

"Good," the Queen stated, as she turned to Elizabeth. "Shall we?"

Sir Roland bowed yet once more. "Your Majesty. My lady." He then took Elizabeth's hand and gently kissed it before striding off.

Elizabeth stared at her hand for a moment as if in shock. Then she turned to the Queen.

"Did that just really happen?" she asked, dazed.

"Yes, I believe it did," the Queen answered, amused.

"Do you know what this means?" Elizabeth asked breathlessly.

The Queen smiled. "A good, honorable knight is interested in wooing you and, perhaps, a marriage is in your future?"

"Oh, yes, perhaps. That too." Elizabeth was now jumping up and down in little hops, her face aglow. "But what it really means is that I can finally **not** be 'the Chaste'!"

The Queen shook her head. Some things never changed.

❧

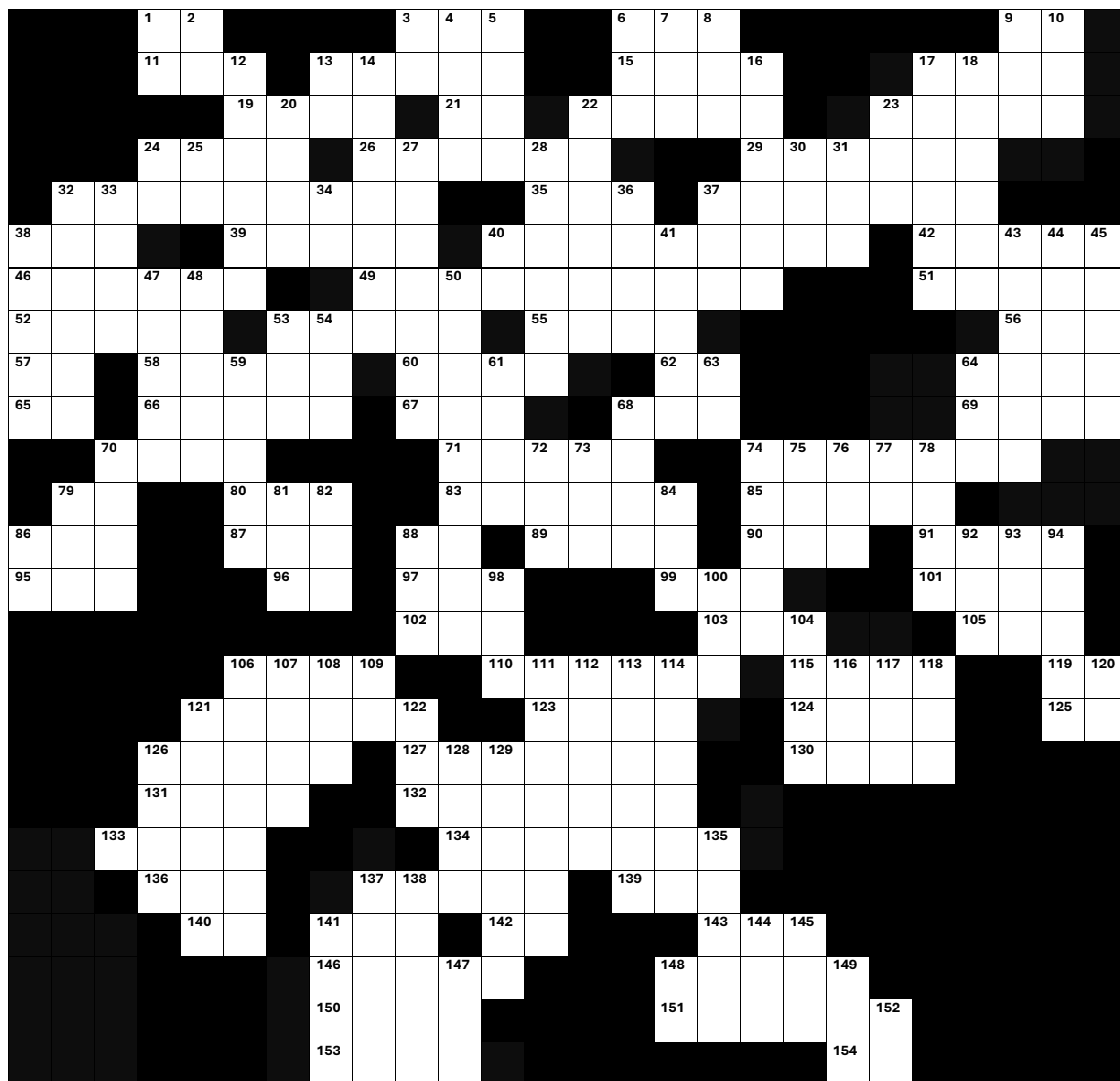
Will Sir Roland show up at dinner? Will there be a love match? Will Elizabeth finally be un-chaste? Tune in next issue of The Althing!



<https://ak2.picdn.net/shutterstock/videos/1012985462/thumb/1.jpg>

Heralds and Scribes Puzzle

by Her Ladyship Emilia Mazzo de Novella



Many of the words in this puzzle are related to what heralds and scribes do in the SCA. Anything that starts with “to a herald” is either a direct quote from the SCA Armorial or a definition based on a heraldic dictionary. Most of the words are words that were around during the Middle Ages. Have fun!

ACROSS

- 1. not isn't
- 3. an old-time euphemism for gods used as an interjection

- 6. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a plumber
- 9. note in Solfeggio scale
- 11. ____ and then

- 13. to a herald, a triangle that has one side on the edge of the device
- 15. as well

17. what tells you that you are invited into a SCA-level order
 19. where it happens
 21. an informal term for father
 22. might appear as part of the heraldic device of someone from Holland
 23. to a herald, having a silver and blue pattern similar in pattern to red squirrel furs
 24. at what time?
 26. to a herald, a term used for a charge in its “natural” or “standard” color
 29. a person who works on some aspect of armorial design and/or regulation or delivers messages to attendees at events
 32. a journey might be one
 35. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a shepherd
 37. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a jeweler
 38. a really good pilot
 39. it is on the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands badge
 40. containing vehemence or passion
 42. a bad thing to have on your skin or in your stomach
 46. it is the badge for the Order of the Laurel

49. to a herald, a name or piece of armor that is presented to the College of Arms for registration
 51. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a dentist
 52. to a herald, an animal that represents strength
 53. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a diver
 55. where a bird lives
 56. a Greek letter used by statisticians
 57. not them
 58. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a clergy member
 60. a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing
 62. an interjection expressing surprise or wonder
 64. what a flower is attached to, sometimes
 65. to a herald, *Lingua Societatis*
 66. to a herald, the shape of an annulet
 67. abbreviation for our society
 68. sometimes confused with gender
 69. to a herald, a plant or floral element depicted in a coat of arms or heraldic design
 70. not boy
 71. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a chef

74. might appear as part of the heraldic device of an entomologist
 79. not pa
 80. home for a baby bird?
 83. a part of a personal name other than the given name
 85. to a herald, a combination of metals and colors used in a heraldic device
 86. goes with “neither”
 87. in heraldry, this is represented by *barry wavy azure and argent*
 88. gay and straight at the same time?
 89. what should be on the floor if you are called into court
 90. faint
 91. processes flax by soaking to remove the fiber to make linen
 95. diminish
 96. not your
 97. sphere
 99. a body part
 101. English noble
 102. much ____ about nothing
 103. to a herald, a tree that represents longevity and resilience
 105. to a herald, a plant that represents sustenance and agricultural abundance
 106. might appear as part of the heraldic device of an ichthyologist

110. heraldic design that becomes arms when a SCAdian receives their AOA
 115. black and white and covered in sea water all over
 119. not ma
 121. appropriate for use at SCA events
 123. round Middle Eastern bread
 124. in heraldry this symbolizes a valiant warrior
 125. note in Solfeggio scale
 126. characteristic
 127. a person with an award of arms
 130. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a soldier
 131. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a milliner
 132. when mayday happens
 133. Scottish for oath, sounds like one of the ordinal numbers
 134. without ash
 136. used to indicate the former name of a woman
 137. something your tongue does
 139. the reason we change our clocks twice a year
 140. the prefix for someone with a PhD or MD
 141. Scottish word for an alder tree

142. generic singular pronoun
 143. sweet potato
 146. indicates the branch of heraldry related to cities, towns, and boroughs
 148. apportion
 150. a long narrative poem recounting the deeds of a hero
 151. no longer nursing
 153. Middle Ages word for good fortune that sounds like the word for giving something for money
 154. not yes

DOWN

1. a word that means inclusion
 2. note in Solfeggio scale
 3. to a herald, gold
 4. dummy bird
 5. quieter than a clap
 6. a Greek letter
 7. everything
 8. a Greek letter
 psychologists like
 9. Christmas tree
 10. consumed
 12. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a mechanic
 13. game from China using black and white stones
 14. to heralds, a device with a motto
 16. in Greek mythology, the first (titan) king of heaven

17. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a squirrel
 18. mystifying, misleading, or puzzling question posed as a problem to be solved
 20. to a herald, on top of
 22. alternate spelling for a word meaning walk
 23. Portuguese word for empty, futile or worthless
 24. The southernmost state in our kingdom (abbreviated)
 25. not she
 27. heraldic devices that didn't quite work out
 28. to a herald, one of the furs
 30. French for water
 31. acronym for postal service of England established in 1516!
 32. one of the two categories of clues in this puzzle
 33. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a hunter
 34. interjection you use when you don't know what to say
 36. you clean to make this go away
 37. twosome
 38. terrible
 40. I am
 41. to a herald, it indicates the rank of the person using it

43. in period, another word for certainly that sounds like a modern round breath mint
 44. air of the heavens
 45. in period, a parallelogram with four equal sides
 47. a seventeenth century word for a mite
 48. a section of the choir
 50. there are 24 of this baked in the pie
 53. the tool of the scribe
 54. in period, old age
 59. to a herald, red
 61. a large number
 63 might appear as part of the heraldic device of a farmer
 64. not he
 68. to a herald, strewn with identical charges
 70. what we wear to SCA events
 72. the fluid of the scribe
 73. in period, a device for winnowing grain but now it is something to help you keep cool
 74. you need to register this with the heralds to make it official
 75. priest who took care of Samuel in the bible
 76. type of tree
 77. ___ and fro
 78. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a musician
 79. a disorderly crowd

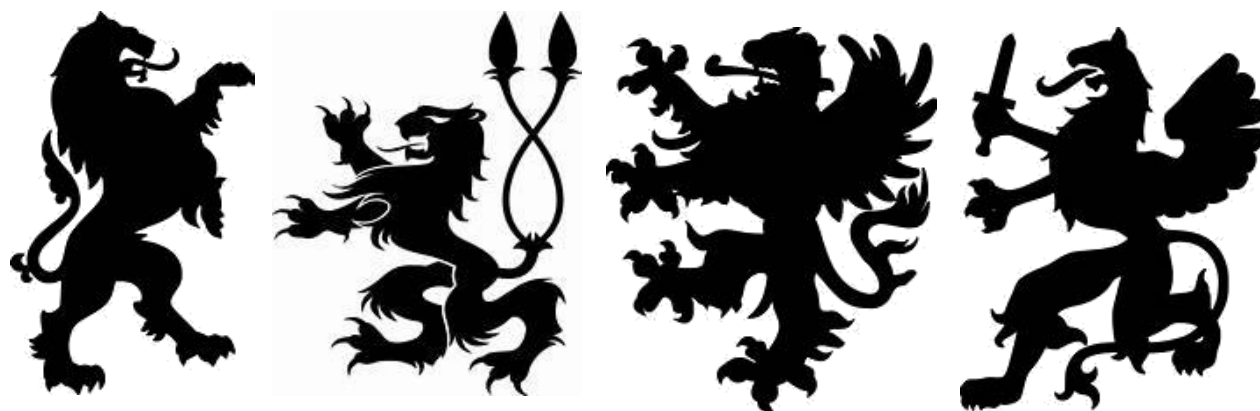
81. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a geologist
 82. rainbow happy!
 84. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a sniggler
 86. used to indicate the former name of a man
 88. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a herpetologist
 92. might appear as part of the heraldic device of an audiologist
 93. ___ or ___ not. There is no ___
 94. rested
 98. they make the rules for the entire SCA
 100. might appear as part of the heraldic device of an optometrist
 104. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a lupologist
 106. an element in the chronicler badge
 107. Greek goddess of the rainbow
 108. a chair helps you do this
 109. land ___
 111. to a herald, a descriptive byname
 112. an event during which an SCA person contemplates elevation
 113. an archaic term for computed or listed
 114. a mother's touch
 116. Spanish for river

117. an ancient Hebrew measurement used for dry goods that sounds like the center of an apple
 118. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a person that loves picnics
 120. a current concern for doomsdayers
 121. chattered
 122. might appear as part of the heraldic device of a beaver
 126. through thick and...
 128. noises made by baby lions
 129. having a spiritual meaning or reality
 133. a one-letter word
 135. to a herald, the way elements are combined to form a complete name or armory submission
 137. a cow's stomach when used as food
 138. might appear as part of the heraldic device of an armorer.
 141. found in a deck of cards
 144. found at a pub
 145. Japanese armorial insignia
 147. frozen water
 148. what you might say when you see a puppy
 149. X
 152. see 93 down

Solution to “We All Fit In Here” Places Please Puzzle

by Her Ladyship Emilia Mazzo de Novella

1	A	L	A	R	I	C	A	2	N	I	A	L	L	I	A	V	E	R	3	P	
	I	L	A	H	C	S	E	N	E	4	S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E	A		
	L	O	5	C	O	R	N	E	L	I	A	N	R	A	6	T	E	N	T	T	
	I	I	O	E	I	T	V	R	D	L	P	O	R	7	A	N	E	A	R		
8	M	A	U	9	L	I	S	S	O	N	A	A	E	O	S	G	D	N	O		
10	E	A	R	L	A	N	11	T	A	U	D	B	V	I	D	F	R	E	12	K	
	I	L	T	V	S	U	D	U	13	O	O	14	S	C	A	R	Y	A	E	L	
	N	E	I	A	R	15	E	R	R	16	R	E	R	E	G	V	T	17	Y	A	E
	U	18	P	A	N	A	C	H	E	I	L	A	T	N	E	19	S	E	A	S	
	L	E	A	U	20	O	Y	E	Z	L	C	O	O	I	T	T	A	A	H		
	F	L	I	21	T	W	R	E	A	R	A	22	H	U	O	O	R	R	T	T	
	R	I	R	A	E	23	M	A	R	K	C	U	N	24	G	O	R	Y	T	E	
	E	C	E	N	N	N	A	C	S	R	E	N	U	H	25	K	E	E	L		
	G	A	T	G	N	W	T	R	L	L	26	I	S	T	A	N	I	B	E		
	I	N	S	A	A	O	E	I	V	E	27	S	H	A	P	E	S	A	V		
	M	N	I	A	R	28	G	A	R	N	E	T	T	V	29	P	A	N	S	R	
	R	R	30	L	O	V	E	L	I	N	G	L	O	I	E	D	E	I	O		
31	A	U	R	E	L	I	A	T	E	L	O	I	32	V	R	U	E	33	L	34	F



Classifieds

This section of The Althing is available for any reason you wish to reach out to other members of the barony. There is no cost; however, the Chronicler reserves the right to reject announcements if they are inappropriate.

Activity: Barony Social, Potluck, A&S, Heavy& Fencing practice, Ballot count - Sunday Oct 18th. Buffalo Inn South Park. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/gqpDG2yXH6ShwG37> Potluck. Come hang out inside to do A&S or perhaps go outside for fencing or heavy fighting. Meanwhile the selection committee will be tallying votes. Votes must be turned in by 2pm if hand carrying.

Help Wanted: Greetings, friends! Kings Crossing and Silva Vulcani are teaming up to do a demo on **Saturday, October 10th**, 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm in Donora, at Palmer Park as part of their Carnival! We get time on the stage, and we can, depending on who wants to come hang out, do dancing, fencing and fighting in turns.

If you would like to take part in this community outreach, please facebook me — tell me what you would like to do.

As always, we are so grateful for the help we get!

Here's a link to the event: <https://monvalleyevents.com/events/mon-valley-fall-festival>.

News: From the Forester's Guild. Tristyn (Jean Keene) has been elevated in rank to "Forester" and is the first official forester in our barony! Once our barony has a forester as well as four underforesters for a year, our charter will be considered an official charter. We do have at least four members working towards being underforesters currently, so by next Pennsic we will have an official charter!

News: Help Shape the Future of SCA Advertising

The Society Communications team has developed a draft Advertising Opportunities Menu designed to help kingdoms explore potential advertising and promotional campaigns that support local and Society-wide goals. This menu and approach was

approved at the recent BOD meeting. The draft outlines several potential approaches, including goals like:

- Member Acquisition: Campaigns focused on attracting new participants
- Event Attendance Promotions: for major kingdom, principality, and baronial events (among others)

For each option, the proposal includes estimated investment levels, potential Society and kingdom cost-sharing models, success measurements, readiness requirements, and considerations for implementation.

Because advertising strategies, digital platforms, and local needs vary significantly, we are planning to hold information sessions.

Attendees and interested parties may be kingdom or local officers, event stewards, or anyone interested in helping grow participation in the SCA. In the sessions we will:

- Review possible advertising options
- Discuss potential funding and partnership models
- Explore readiness timelines and approval requirements

Our first session is Saturday, 8/22 at Noon Eastern Time. To attend email Sarah Chapman (Communications Officer) at communications@sca.org

Additional sessions will be set based on need. Custom sessions can be set for a specific kingdom or group. Please note the speaker is a native English speaker and is not fluently multi-lingual. If translation needs are required please inquire when emailing.

We look forward to a collaborative discussion about how we can best support growth, awareness, and engagement across the Known World.

Help Wanted: The Society Marshal and the Society Equestrian Deputy are pleased to make available for commentary the draft of the new Equestrian Handbook. Commentary will be

accepted through November 23, 2026.

This new Equestrian handbook is part of the ongoing modernization effort, which is updating ALL the marshal handbooks in conjunction with updates to the marshal related sections in Corpora. The goal is to better reflect the current structure, culture, and safety best practices we use today in our SCA martial activities.

One of the most significant changes is the modernized format, designed for easy online access and usability. With clear and common layouts, improved navigation, and consistency across all marshal handbooks, this new format makes it easier for both newcomers and experienced participants to find the information they need quickly and confidently.

The new online Equestrian handbook and supporting material can be found at https://society-rules.fullmesh.co.nz/index.php/Society_handbooks. (scroll to the bottom of the page for the FAQ and

Cliff notes). This site includes:

- **A link to the online version** of the proposed new handbook (PDF also available)
- **Cliff notes on the Equestrian Handbook**, with a summary of the key changes.
- **An FAQ** on the overall rules moderation process, the new handbooks and format.
- After commentary closes, a FAQ on the Equestrian Handbook will be posted that will include comments and answers that we believe the larger community might be interested in.

Kingdom versions of all the marshal handbooks are in process. Layout and any completed versions can be found on the main page: https://society-rules.fullmesh.co.nz/index.php/Main_Page.

Important Dates: A multi-month process for major changes to handbooks is being used to improve communication and

transparency, and allow time for kingdoms to incorporate changes.

- **Aug 23 thru Nov 23:** Proposed draft of the Equestrian Handbook is open for commentary. This draft version has been approved by the BoD for commentary for 90 days.
- **Dec:** Updates to the handbook will be developed based on the commentary.
- **Jan 1 (or Feb 1, depending on the extent of the updates):** The new handbook, with

updates based on received commentary, will be submitted to the BoD for final review and approval.

- **~Feb:** Kingdoms will begin to develop their kingdom specific versions.
- **March (or April):** The new Equestrian handbook will be in effect, if approved during the BoD meeting. The 60 day window between the BoD approval and the effective date is to allow kingdoms time to incorporate changes.

Please email all commentary to marshal@sca.org and equestrian@sca.org, and use the title “New EQ Handbook commentary” in the subject line. CC’ing your Kingdom Equestrian Officer is highly recommended.

Commentary must be received no later than November 23, 2026.

In Service,
Arabella da Siena
Society Marshal

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