

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto-Volume 16, Issue 11℃ November 2007



Detail from Feasting Romans and animals representing the seven deadly sins. Maître François (illuminator), in the Hague

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Table of Tontents

-rom the Chronicier	III
Baronial Officers	4
Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto	4
Seneschal (President)	4
Chamberlain	4
Archery Marshal	5
Minister of Arts & Sciences	5
Chatelaine (Newcomers)	5
Gold Key (Loaner Costumes)	5
Herald	5
Minister of the Lists	5
Chronicler (Newsletter)	5
Web Minister	5
Members of the Baronial Guard	5
Baronial Noteables	6
Baronial Meeting Minutes	7
Monthly Calendar	9
Events	10
Baronial Progress for November	10
Neekly Activities	11
he Real Middle-ages	13
Medieval Music—Part I, Early Music Until 1150	13
Game	16
Seek and Find—Kingdom, Nobility and Officers	16





From the Spronieler...

Well, another month has come and gone, and a busy one it was indeed! We enjoyed some of the last of the late summer warmth as well as a bit of chilly fall temperatures at Kingdom Crusades and Fall University, and the pageantry of War of the Wings II as well as the varied other events around the Kingdom. And events for the month of November promise to be just as exciting.

Of course, we will be welcoming our new Prince and Princess the first week of the month at Fall Crown Tournament. There are two Baronial Birthdays within a short drive in Dun Carraig and Marinus. And of course, who could pass up the fun, fighting, A&S exhibits, and bargains to be found at the annual Holiday Faire in neighboring Stierbach! Come spend the day with friends and get a jump on your holiday shopping; it's just a short drive to the Prince William County Fairgrounds.

Hopefully, everyone returned their forms for the Baronial Polling – every one counts. If you forgot or didn't receive yours, you can still send a recommendation to TRM's at trm@atlantia.sca.org. We're planning on making the Ponte Alto Investiture a day of celebration, camaraderie, fun and good food that we've enjoyed at the Tournament of Love and Beauty the last two years. The theme this year is 14th Century Italy, and we've got some wonderful things in the works, and a wonderful Italian feast is going to be served. You won't be disappointed!

I've had the pleasure of meeting some new additions to the populace of Ponte Alto recently and want to welcome them to the Barony. Being new can be a bit confusing, so please don't hesitate to ask questions; we're all there for you and will be happy to answer your questions or lead you to the person that can help. And of course, you're always welcome to come to the Baronial Business Meeting the last Sunday of the month. It's a great way to meet people and get a bit more insight into the working of the Barony. You can find directions in the Weekly Activities section of the Il Tempo.

Lady Wulfwyn AElfwines dohtor Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto

November 2007 Riii R







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November 2007 lpha 480





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November 2007 R 5 80





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MEETING October 28, 2007 Time: 6pm

Officers

Seneschal

In the absence of Lady Katharine Devereaux, our current Seneschal, her Deputy Master Tirloch of Tallaght conducted the meeting for this month.

Exchequer

Currently have \$10,442.00 in account.

Beginning balance \$10,753.72 end balance \$11,399.35. A gain of \$645.63

3rd quarter report has been sent.

Marshall

Waivers have been sent and received, confirmed for quarter. Trying and get the gym at Lemon Rd Elementary during the winter on Sunday's. No cost quote yet as we are in the preliminary stages of discussion. Rapier has not yet been confirmed as the site is probably not big enough for both.

Rapier

Practice continues. We have phased out Sunday practice as not enough people have been coming. No practice Nov. 8th as there is an event at the school.

Archery

Archery continues. Currently trying to close the Archery range when the outdoor ski range shuts down. Be sure to watch the list closely to make sure practice is scheduled.

Arts & Sciences

Anna Von Ausenburg has moved to England. Therefore, we have no dance mistress.

There will be a Saxon and Viking clothing workshop Nov 10 in La Plata held by James and Katharine. Please contact them for information.

Chatelaine

N/A - not present

Herald

Nothing new this month. Report is done and waiting to be sent.

MOL

N/A - not present

Chronicler

Not present

(From Chronicler) Third quarter report has been sent. Please send in any news, articles or photos for publishing.

Report given by deputy chronicler, Lady Marie-Therese Normand

Web Minster

N/A - not present

Baron and Baroness

Excellency went to Kingdom Crusades with a contingent of Pontoons that showed themselves on the heavy and fencing fields to be cohesive and well trained.

At War of the Wings II, there was a rapier contingent and A&S was entered. We did very well and left with honors.

Will be attending Dunn Carraig Baronial Investiture and Holiday Faire

Events

Chalice of the Sun God—Belphoebe would like to autocrat Chalice of the Sun God. Have some good ideas, and have been talking to Tirloch about cooks, giving new people a chance to do things such as cook, autocrat or work troll. The theme would be "Journey to the Underworld", and would be related to the story of Persephone.

December Event—Tirloch well be the cook. We have the site at King of Kings. There is a wedding that weekend. We have a smaller space and will be using a different entrance. There is really no place for children's activities due to smaller area. The event will be a feast and a get together where people visit and play games as the activities. Flora will be handling reservations and troll. Site will be discreetly wet. There is a question if a wedding will be scheduled that day and if so, the place and time. Questions are being followed up by Mistress Anne. There will be a Chess tournament and silent auction. Representatives of Lockmere will be coming to sing. The Feast is set for 50 with a German theme.

Ponte Alto Baronial Investiture—N/A - autocrat not present Bloodbath—Autocrat Delphina not present to discuss the event, but concern was voiced by those present. The concern being that the Acorn lists both Estrella and Gulf Wars as a nonconflict event even though they are out of Kingdom, meaning St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath may not happen if the weekend before or after Gulf Wars is considered a conflict The Acorn noted the King and Queen made this a Kingdom level event with no conflict. Scheduling for site isn't a concern until park opens its calendar for scheduling in January. That is when this conflict will be sorted out.

Pennsic—Miles will not be running the camp this year. Plenty of assistance in getting the camp going is on hand. The other option to being our own camp would be to sublet from another camp. This year and last we had the chance for seniority; we still do, but need to be in the camp for the full two weeks, and seniority is necessary to keep the land we choose. Someone would need to be there and be responsible, therefore, we need a land agent.





Old Business

Pennsic gear is still at Luce and Miles, so we are currently looking for a storage unit. Prices range from \$85 for a 5x15 which should satisfy us for local gear, or 10x10 for \$126 and 10x10 for \$116. There is escalator access. We currently have a 10x10 unit.

New unit is needed for Baronial Gear. There is a 150 sq ft first floor unit for \$155. First floor unit at Herndon Parkway is \$177, the current unit is \$158 in Herndon. Will need further space requirements. Luce questioned if what we make in income every year will cover it? Yes from Exchequer.

With the current length of items current space will be a crunch. Lease. Discount because of length. Call this week and make this reservation. Voted and accepted. Question raised on the money, motion made to accept current location first floor unit. Voted and accepted. We need to remove the Pennsic items before Thanksgiving. There was a call for help needed to move items, and there were volunteers present.

Announcements

Belphoebe has scrolls and will distribute to the owners at a later time.

Renata's e-mail is not currently working.

Oddie and Alison have another child, a baby boy named Tristan.

Count Eldrid has been opening his house on Monday's in Sterling for fighter practice, hoping to draw people.

Meeting ended: 6:51 Attendees: 20

November 2007 To 8 8





Monthly Galendar

November 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	2 Fall Crown Tourney (R) 4:30 pm Archery Practice	3 Fall Crown Tourney (R)	4 Fall Crown Tourney (R) Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice
5 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	6 7 pm Scriptorium 7 pm New Comers Meeting	7	8 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	9 4:30 pm Archery Practice	10 Dun Carraig's Baronial Birthday Marinus Baronial Investiture (K)	11 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice
12 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	13	14 7 pm Weaving Night	15 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	16 4:30 pm Archery Practice	17 Holiday Faire (Q) The Pilgrimage	18 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice
19 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	20	21	22 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	23 4:30 pm Archery Practice	24	25 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice
26 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	27	28 7 pm Armor Night	29	30 Known World Academy of the Rapier 2007	1 Known World Academy of the Rapier 2007	2 Known World Academy of the Rapier 2007

^{* =} Baronial Progress

November 2007 Royal Roya







Baronial Progress for November

Date	Event
10	Dun Carraig's Baronial Birthday
17	Holiday Faire (Q)

November 2007 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
2-4	Fall Crown Tourney (R)	Falcon Cree	Blacksburg, SC
10	Dun Carraig's Baronial Birthday	Dun Carraig	Waldorf, MD
	Cancelled Autumn Harvest Festival	Ponte Alto	VA
10	Marinus Baronial Investiture (K)	Marinus	Virginia Beach, VA
17	Holiday Faire (Q)	Stierbach	Manassas, VA
17	The Pilgrimage	Cyddlain Downs	Batesburg- Leesville, SC
30-2	Known World Academy of the Rapier 2007	Northshield	

November 2007 R 10 80







Weaving night will resume in March on the Second Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

Armoring night will resume in March on the Fourth Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

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	SUNDAY							
Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting	Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idlywood Rd., Falls Church. Take your best route to I-66. Get off at the exit for Route 7 West (Tysons Corner). Turn left at the first light after the interchange onto Idlywood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.							
Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice	Weather permitting, Noon - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Please contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for information. Sunday Fight Practice Directions. Practice is behind the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). The library is on the left about 1 mile. Park in the library lot and go down the hill to the park.							
	MONDAY							
Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)	Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon. Contact Mistress Anne of Carthew (anne AT ravenstreet.org) For more information or directions. Music files can be found at http://www.ravenstreet.org/ Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.							
Asian Night (Exploration of all things Asian)	Second Monday of every month, starts at 6:30 in Centreville. Contact Lady Áine Sindradóttir (ellen.m.davis AT att.net, (703) 815-0310 (H)) or Lord li Saburou Katsumori (logan AT modzer0.cs.uaf.edu) for information or directions.							
	TUESDAY							
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for information and directions.							
	WEDNESDAY							
Weaving Night	Second Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions.							
Armoring Night	Fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions							
	THURSDAY							
Rapier Practice	Every Thursday at Shrevewood Elementary school from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Please contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information. Indoor Rapier Directions. This is a school location activity.							
Heavy Weapons Practice	Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6 pm - 9 pm. Practice is geared to developing beginning and intermediate fighters through intensive hands on training with experienced instructors, as well to providing ample opportunity for more advanced fighters to sparr with knight level combatants. All are welcome. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity.							

November 2007 R 11 8





	FRIDAY							
Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	g							
Ponte Alto A&S Night	May meet on a Friday during the month, as posted at the top of this page. Contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (dwatsonirwin AT cox.net, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for information and directions.							
Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic	Come and share your songs and stories! Meets the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Contact Baroness Briana Maclukas (darbyjanieAT hotmail.com) for information.							
	MONTHLY							
SCA Newcomer Meetings	Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony. Contact the Baronial Chatelaine for information, or check out the top of this page for the recently posted information.							
Embroidery Night	Their Excellencies of Ponte Alto host a monthly embroidery night starting at 7:30 pm. Contact the Baron and Baroness for more information, or check out the top of this page for the recently posted information.							

^{*} Note on school locations for activities: There will be no activities at schools during school holidays or on other days when Fairfax County schools are closed or all nighttime school recreational activities are cancelled. Notification of cancellation or alternate site location will be posted on the web as soon as possible. You can visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Emergency Announcement page for school closure status: http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm

November 2007 R 12 8





the Real Risble-ages

Medieval Music-Part I, Early Music Until 1150



Musician plays the vielle in a 14th century illuminated manuscript

An introduction and history...

The term medieval music encompasses European music written during the Middle Ages. This era begins with the fall of the Roman Empire (476 AD) and ends in approximately the middle of the fifteenth century. Establishing the end of the medieval era and the beginning of the Renaissance is admittedly arbitrary; therefore, 1400 is used here.

Styles and trends

The only medieval music which can be studied is that which was written down, and survived. Since creating musical manuscripts was very expensive, due to the expense of parchment, and the huge amount of time necessary for a scribe to copy it all down, only wealthy institutions were able to create manuscripts which have survived to the present time. These institutions generally included the church and church institutions, such as monasteries; some secular music, as well as sacred music, was also preserved by these institutions. These surviving manuscripts do not reflect much of the popular music of the time. At the start of the era, the notated music is presumed to be monophonic and homorhythmic with what appears to be a unison sung text and no notated instrumental support. Earlier medieval notation had no way to specify rhythm, although neumatic notations gave clear phrasing ideas, and somewhat later notations indicated rhythmic modes.

The simplicity of chant, with unison voice and natural declamation, is most common. The notation of polyphony develops, and the assumption is that formalized polyphonic practices first arose in this period. Harmony, in consonant intervals of perfect fifths, unisons, octaves, (and later, perfect fourths) begins to be notated. Rhythmic notation allows for complex interactions between multiple vocal lines in a repeatable fashion. The use of multiple texts and the notation of instrumental accompaniment developed by the end of the era.

Instruments

The instruments used to perform medieval music still exist, though in different forms. The medieval cornett differed immensely from its modern counterpart, the trumpet, not least in traditionally being made of ivory or wood rather than metal. Cornetts in medieval times were quite short. They were either straight or somewhat curved, and construction became standardized on a curved version by approximately the middle 15th century. In one side, there would be several holes. The flute was once made of wood rather than silver or other metal, and could be made as a side-blown or end-blown instrument. The recorder, on the other hand, has more or less retained its past form. The gemshorn is similar to the recorder in having finger holes on its front, though it is really a member of the ocarina family. One of the flute's predecessors, the pan flute, was popular in medieval times, and is possibly of Hellenic origin. This instrument's pipes were made of wood, and were graduated in length to produce different pitches.

Medieval music utilizes many plucked string instruments, such as lute, mandora, gittern, and psaltery. The dulcimers, similar in structure to the psaltery and zither, were originally plucked, but became struck in the 14th century, after the arrival of the new technology that made metal strings possible. The hurdy-gurdy was (and still is) a mechanical violin using a rosined wooden wheel attached to a crank to "bow" its strings. Instruments without sound boxes such as the Jew's harp were also popular. Early versions of the organ, fiddle (or vielle), and trombone (called the sackbut) existed as well.

Troubadours and trouvère

The music of the troubadours and trouveres was a vernacular tradition of monophonic secular song, probably accompanied by instruments, sung by professional, occasionally itinerant, musicians who were as skilled as poets as they were singers and instrumentalists. The language of the troubadours was Occitan (also known as the language d'oc, or Provencal); the language of the

November 2007 R 13 R





trouvères was Old French (also known as langue d'oil). The period of the troubadours corresponded to the flowering of cultural life in Provence, which lasted through the twelfth century and into the first decade of the thirteenth. Typical subjects of troubadour song were war, chivalry, and courtly love. The period of the troubadours ended abruptly with the Albigensian Crusade, the fierce campaign by Pope Innocent III to eliminate the Cathar heresy (and northern barons' desire to appropriate the wealth of the south). Surviving troubadours went either to Spain, northern Italy or northern France (where the trouvère tradition lived on), where their skills and techniques contributed to the later developments of secular musical culture in those places.

The music of the trouvères was similar to that of the troubadours, but was able to survive into the thirteenth century unaffected by the Albigensian Crusade. Most of the more than two thousand surviving trouvère songs include music, and show a sophistication as great as that of the poetry it accompanies.

The Minnesinger tradition was the Germanic counterpart to the activity of the troubadours and trouvères to the west. Unfortunately, few sources survive from the time; the sources of Minnesang are mostly from two or three centuries after the peak of the movement, leading to some controversy over their accuracy.

Early medieval music before 1150—Early chant traditions

Chant (or plainsong) is a monophonic sacred form which represents the earliest known music of the Christian church. The Jewish Synagogue tradition of singing psalms was a strong influence on Christian chanting.

Chant developed separately in several European centres. The most important were Rome, Spain, Gaul, Milan, and Ireland. These chants were all developed to support the regional liturgies used when celebrating the Mass there. Each area developed its own chants and rules for celebration. In Spain, Mozarabic chant was used and shows the influence of North African music. The Mozarabic liturgy even survived through Muslim rule, though this was an isolated strand and this music was later suppressed in an attempt to enforce conformity on the entire liturgy. In Milan, Ambrosian chant, named after St, Ambrose, was the standard, while Beneventan chant developed around Bebevento, another Italian liturgical center. Gallican chant was used in Gaul, and Celtic chant in Ireland and Great Britain.

Around 1011 AD, the Roman Catholic Church wanted to standardize the Mass and chant. At this time, Rome was the religious center of western Europe, and Paris was the political center. The standardization effort consisted mainly of combining these two (Roman and Gallican) regional liturgies. This body of chant became known as Gregorian Chant. By the 12th and 13th centuries, Gregorian chant had superseded all the other Western chant traditions, with the exception of the Ambrosian chant in Milan, and the Mozarabic chant in a few specially designated Spanish chapels.

Gregorian chant-Early polyphony: organum

Around the end of the ninth century, singers in monasteries such as St. Gall in Switzerland began experimenting with adding another part to the chant, generally a voice in parallel motion, singing in mostly perfect fourths or fifths with the original tune. This development is called organum, and represents the beginnings of harmony and, ultimately, counterpoint. Over the next several centuries organum developed in several ways.

The most significant was the creation of "florid organum" around 1100, sometimes known as the school of St. Martial. In "florid organum" the original tune would be sung in long notes while an accompanying voice would sing many notes to each one of the original, often in a highly elaborate fashion, all the while emphasizing the perfect consonances (fourths, fifths and octaves) as in the earlier organa. Later developments of organum occurred in England, where the interval of the third was particularly favored, and where organa were likely improvised against an existing chant melody, and at Notre Dame in Paris, which was to be the center of musical creative activity throughout the thirteenth century.

Much of the music from the early medieval period is anonymous. Some of the names may have been poets and lyric writers, and the tunes for which they wrote words may have been composed by others. Attribution of monophonic music of the medieval period is not always reliable. Surviving manuscripts from this period include the Musica Endhiriadis, Codex Calixtimus of Santiago de Compostela, and the Winchester Troper.

Liturgical drama

Another musical tradition of Europe originating during the early Middle Ages was the liturgical drama. In its original form, it may represent a survival of Roman drama with Christian stories—mainly the Gospel, the Passion, and the lives of the saints—grafted on. Every part of Europe had some sort of tradition of musical or semi-musical drama in the Middle Ages, involving acting, speaking, singing and instrumental accompaniment in some combination. Probably these dramas were performed by traveling actors and musicians. Many have been preserved sufficiently to allow modern reconstruction and performance

November 2007 Royal State of the State of th





Goliards

The Goliards were itinerant poet-musicians of Europe from the tenth to the middle of the thirteenth century. Most were scholars or ecclesiastics, and they wrote and sang in Latin. Although many of the poems have survived, very little of the music has. They were possibly influential—even decisively so—on the troubadour—trouvere tradition which was to follow. Most of their poetry is secular and, while some of the songs celebrate religious ideals, others are frankly profane, dealing with drunkenness, debauchery and lechery.

Next month: High/Late Medieval Music 1150 to the Renaissance

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November 2007 R 15 80







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Find all of the words listed below to win the game.

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