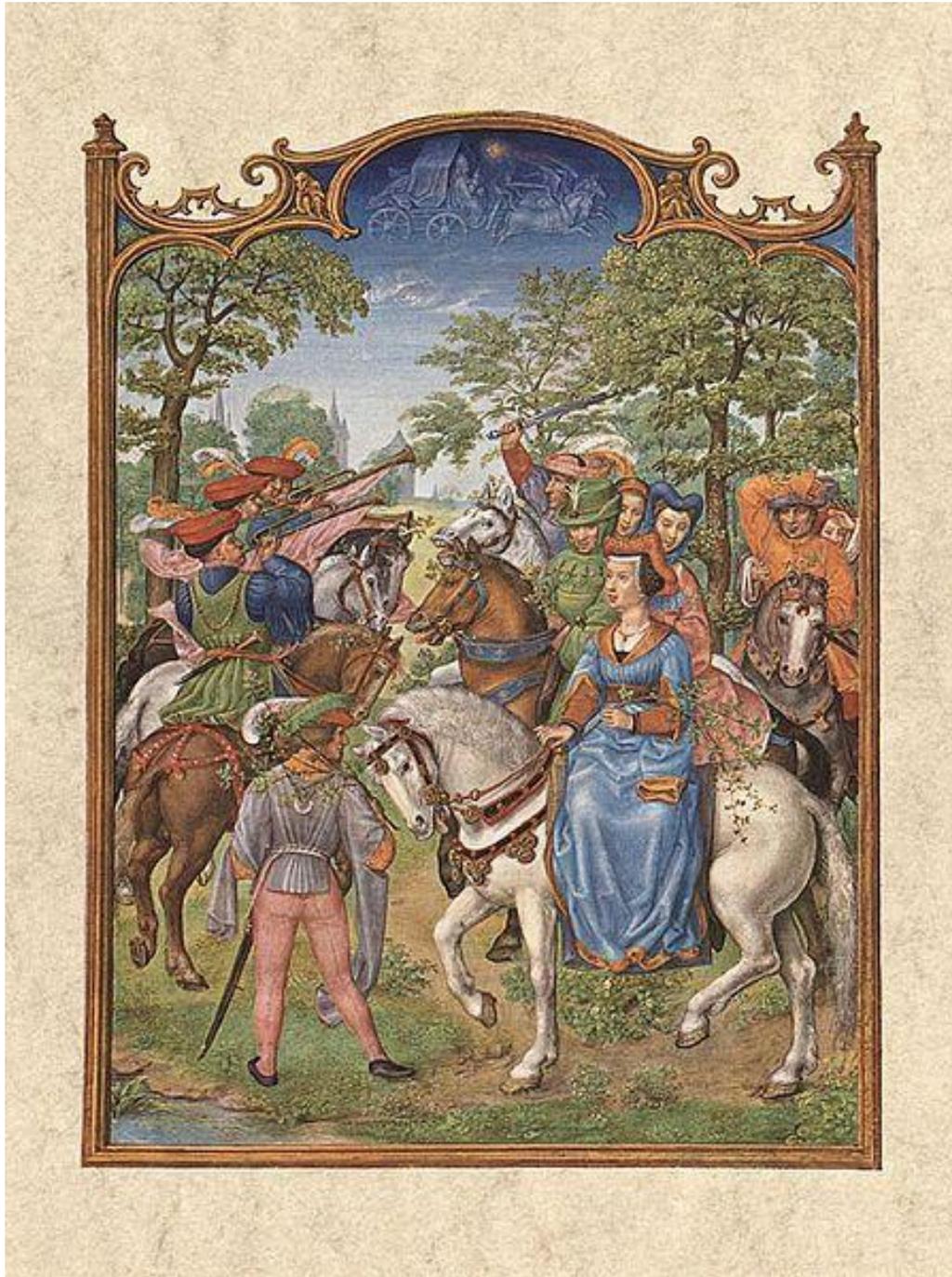


# Il Tempo

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto-Volume 18, Issue 1 January 2009

Barony of Ponte Alto, January 2009, Chronicler\* Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dothor



*Mai*, Brevarium Grimani, by Gerhard Horenbout, around 1510

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# From the Chronicler...

*Welcome to our new Baron and Baroness, James and Katharine, whose Investiture was held at 12th Night. We wish them great success and know the populace will offer their support and their upcoming endeavors as always. We do have the best Barony in the Kingdom, after all!*

*As the new year begins and the holidays are finally over, let's all look forward to events to come. Gas prices are down so the pressure of not traveling has lessened, and we have some great things to look forward to. We have several opportunities opening for officers within the Barony, so you might be interest in one of them.*

*First, let's look at upcoming events. A Gathering of Guilds will be held in Lochmere on January 17th, Interbaronial Twelfth Night in Marinus on the 24th in case you couldn't make the Kingdom Twelfth Night and Ice Castles in Black Diamond on the 31st.*

*February brings Winter University on the 7th in Caer Mear, Ymir this year will be the weekend of the 13th – 15th in Windmasters Hill. Additional events will be held in Bright Hills, Highland Foorde mid-month, and of course Tournament of Love & Beauty will be held on the 28th. If you can't make it to Love & Beauty, you might want to consider A Day in the Middle East on the same day in Dun Carraig, (although why you would miss a wonderful French feast, lots of good natured fighting with the usual ladies gallery cheering them on, friends to talk with and a warming luncheon, I can't understand...)*

*We have openings for a new Knight Marshal as Lord Connor will be stepping down soon. Also, we are looking to fill the spot of Deputy Seneschal once Countess Denise takes of the position of Seneschal. If you're interested in either of these positions, please contact the current holder for more information.*

*Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines Dohtor  
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto*

# Baronial

## *Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto*

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## *Chancellor of Youth Activities (Children's Activities)*

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*Members of the Baronial Guard*

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Mistress Cunen Beornhelm (Captain)

*Baronial Noteables*

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**Baronial Bard**, Lady Willa Fae Dunne

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# Baronial Meeting Minutes

## **Business Meeting Minutes – December 15<sup>th</sup> Start Time 6:00**

### **Seneschal**

This is Katharine's last meeting as Seneschal and she thanked everyone for their support during her tenure. The Kingdom Seneschal has chosen Countess Denise Duvalier as the new Barony Seneschal with Baron Marcellus as her deputy.

### **Exchequer**

Currently there is \$11,137.66 in the general account. This does not include deposits from Sunday's Fighter Practice/Sunday Social. Sunday Social receipts currently are \$215.85. We need to make the February payment which is due January 18 of \$512. \$300 allocated last meeting. It was proposed that the account go into the negative balance as an additional \$300 was needed for the payment due. A vote was taken and approved for the account to go into the negative with the additional fund to be made up at a later date. The fighters will try to get additional donations, and ask for other donations to cover the payments for February and March.

### **Heavy Marshal**

Waiver reports are coming due soon soon. Connor is stepping down soon; anyone who is interested in the position should talk to either himself or the new Seneschal.

### **Rapier Marshal**

Practice continues on Thursdays. Nothing else to report at this time.

**Archery Marshal** – Not present

### **A&S**

Not present. Singing and dancing were very popular at Revel.

### **Chatelaine**

Newcomers have been asking about resources for names. Sian can suggest resources. Emma West is taking over as Chatelaine at the January meeting.

### **Herald**

Still working with Lord Connor on Heraldry for awards and still working to learn why the Golden Dolphin Herald rejected the work that was submitted. There will be a meeting at the consultation table at 12th Night.

### **MoL**

The position of group MOL has been deemed by corporate to not be a requirement. The reason behind this was they felt it was unfair to penalize small groups who had difficulty filling the position. An MOL is still required for every event. Additionally, fighters no longer have to show their blue cards at the MOL table. They must check in at Troll first where their blue card will be presented, or they will have to sign a waiver. A fighter cannot check into MOL until they have trolled in.

### **Chronicler –**

Stepping down in February. Alan is currently considering the position, but anyone that is interested should contact Lady Wulfwyn or the new Seneschal.

### **Minister of Minors**

There was a small children's corner held at Winter's Revel and everything went well.

### **Webminister**

Ynes will be taking over as soon as warranty info sent in. She must be warranted by Kingdom. The Kingdom must pay (own) for all domains that include a group name.

### **Heavy Champion - Not Present**

### **Rapier Champion - Not Present**

### **Baron**

Last meeting as Baron, and thanked everyone for their support and hard work. Congratulated James and Katharine. Wished everyone a wonderful holiday. He will be sending out a full message to the Barony in the near future.

### **Baronial Warlord**

Fewer people are showing up for practice in the last few months since Pennsic. Per Sir Thomas, historically, this is a slow time, and participation usually picks up in the spring.

### **Baronial Artisan – not present**

### **EVENTS:**

Winter Revel – Had great staff for everything. Thanks to everyone. Musicians from all over showed up. Everyone had a great time. Good turnout. A bit profit, profit of \$15! There was a \$500 profit from the silent auction which is going to the Coronet fund. Apparently, the Ponte Alto log was “lagnapped” by a visitor from Highland Foorde.

Tournament of Love and Beauty –\$2000 tentative budget was voted and approved.

Bloodbath – Sit Thomas has revisions on 2 possibilities. He currently has about 18 volunteers for staff so far. Event will be held as a Demo as of right now. There could

possibly be changes due to park rules. Budget approved for demo event

Sapphire – Brenainn has volunteered to be land agent & possibly for Pennsic.

Chalice – Nothing new at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

New Coronets – Nothing new at this time.

Awards – Still working on the awards and will talk more about it next month.

### **New Business**

There was a Seneschal & Exchequer meeting at Unevent. Barony cannot sponsor Waterbearers and cannot reimburse for water, but people can bring their own water for use. Baronial funds cannot be used for water, coolers or water bottles. Donations can be collected at event, but cannot go through the Exchequers hands. The populace is welcome to donate water, but cannot be reimbursed.

It was proposed that the Barony ask for donations for church meeting site. \$30 voted upon and approved for extra time that the site has been used.

Baronial Regalia – There is a new Lease Agreement for the Baron and Baroness to sign agreeing that Renters or Homeowners Insurance has been created for the coronets in their possession. Coronets are owned by Barony, and only being loaned to the Baron

& Baroness. It was proposed; voted upon and approved that the Barony will provide \$100 a year for maintenance and repairs to the coronets should there be any damage. Anything over that amount will be the responsibility of the Baron and Baroness. Katharine has a copy if anyone wants to review the lease.

**Polling** – Hope to hear results by Winter Revel

**Meeting ended**

**Tournament of Love and Beauty**  
**February 28, 2009 Barony of Ponte Alto**

It's France, the 15th century, the time of the Hundred Years' War. The French nobles are torn; do they give their loyalty to the distant English King who already rules part of France from London, or the French King in Paris? Which King will give them the most independence over their own lands?

During this hard time there are brief moments of non-fighting. Come join us in the Barony of Ponte Alto and enjoy a day of peace before war breaks out again. A country faire atmosphere will cover the area. There will be some fighting of course, but only for the most honorable of causes, Love and Beauty. We will also have a non-judged display for your A&S projects – finished and in progress. Come display and discuss your works with the populace. Bring your musical instruments to entertain and instruct.

Food will abound. A warming luncheon of soups and accompaniments will be sold for \$5.00 a plate and a fabulous French feast for 100 will be prepared by Baroness Graciela for the evening repast.

**Martial Activities:** Armored and rapier fighting will take place in the Equestrian Barn throughout the day. This is an enclosed building, but dress for warmth as the building is not heated.

**A&S Activities** will be held in the main hall with plenty of room for everyone. Please have your items set up by 12:00 and picked up by 4:00 to allow time for set up for Court and Feast.

**Cost:**

Adult Member	\$12.00 Day-Trip	\$8.00 Feast
Adult Non-Member	\$15.00 Day-Trip	\$8.00 Feast
Child (6-17)	\$ 8.00 Day-Trip	\$5.00 Feast
Child (6-17) Non-Member	\$11.00 Day Trip	\$5.00 Feast
Child (0-5)	Guest of the Barony	

Make checks payable to: SCA, Inc., Barony of Ponte Alto.

Reservations: Rhiannon verch David ap Madyn (Kerri Smith), 5368 Ashleigh Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, (703)-815-0659, e-mail: [blessed\\_sin78@hotmail.com](mailto:blessed_sin78@hotmail.com)

Merchants are welcome. There is no merchanting fee, but space is limited. Please contact the Autocrat for information.

Site: Loudoun County Fairgrounds, 17558 Dry Mill Rd., Leesburg VA 20175.

Troll opens at 9:00 and closes at 4:00. Site closes at 11:00.

Site restrictions: No open flames, no alcohol. Dogs not allowed in the main hall. Dogs are welcome in the Barn, but must be leashed and cleaned up after.

Autocrat: Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dohtor (Patty Cheshire), 14521 Skipton Court, Centreville VA 20121, (703) 501-0875, e-mail: [snoleopard4@aol.com](mailto:snoleopard4@aol.com).

## Directions:

Directions: From Points North, South, and East:

Take your best route to the Dulles Toll Road/Greenway (Rt. 267) off of the Washington Beltway (I-495). Go through the toll booth(s) past Dulles Airport. Merge onto VA-7 W via EXIT 1A on the LEFT toward LEESBURG/WARRENTON. Take Route 9 West exit (stay in left lane of exit). At STOP sign at end of exit, turn left and proceed over bridge that crosses Route 7 (stay in the left lane). Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left. From Points West of Leesburg: Take Route 7 East (Harry Byrd Hwy) towards Leesburg, VA. Take Route 9 Exit. At STOP sign at end of exit, turn right and immediately get into the left lane. Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left.

From Points West of Leesburg: Take Route 7 East (Harry Byrd Hwy) towards Leesburg, VA. Take Route 9 Exit. At STOP sign at end of exit, turn right and immediately get into the left lane. Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left.

# Monthly Calendar

*January 2009*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 New Years Day	2	3 Day of Dance II: Bardic Bachanal	4 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
5 4:30 pm Archery practice	6 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	7	8 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	9	10 Kingdom 12 <sup>th</sup> Night	11 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
12 4:30 pm Archery practice	13 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	14	15 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	16	17 A Gathering of Guilds	18 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts 3 - 4:30 pm Dance Practice
19 4:30 pm Archery practice	20 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	21	22 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	23 7 pm Newcomers Meeting	24 Interbaronial Twelfth Night	25 1:00 pm Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
26 4:30 pm Archery practice	27 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	28	29 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	30	31 Ice Castles	

\* = Baronial Progress

# Events

## *Baronial Progress for January 2009*

Date	Event
January 17	A Gathering of Guilds

### *January 2009 Calendar of Scheduled Events*

Date	Event	Group	Location
3	Day of Dance II: Bardic Bachanal	Bright Hills	Baltimore, MD
10	Kingdom 12 <sup>th</sup> Night	Sudentorre	Stafford, VA
17	A Gathering of Guilds	Lochmere	Severna Park, MD
24	Interbaronial Twelfth Night	Marinus	Virginia Beach, VA
31	Ice Castles	Black Diamond	Fincastle, VA

# Weekly Activities

SUNDAY	
<b>Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting</b>	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.
<b>Sunday Social –</b> - <b>Heavy Weapons Practice</b> - <b>Arts/Sciences</b>	Lemon Road Elementary: Indoor Winter Practices for Heavy Weapons, Rapier, and an area for A&S activities are all included. Come and join the gathering and bring whatever you're working on. This is a great time to meet & socialize with other people in the barony. Activities held at Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 1pm-4pm. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity.  From Southern Virginia, Maryland and Alexandria, VA Take I-495 (the beltway) to the VA-Route 7 East exit at Tysons Corner labeled Leesburg Pike/Falls Church, Exit #47B. Continue on Leesburg Pike towards Falls Church for 1.2M. Turn left onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. * Turn left into the Lemon Road Elementary School front parking lot.. From Northwestern Virginia and Washington, DC Take I-66 to the VA-Route 7 West exit for Leesburg Pike/Tysons Corner exit #66B. Continue on Leesburg Pike under 0.1M towards Tysons Corner. Turn right at the first light onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. Follow from * above.
MONDAY	
<b>Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)</b>	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 <a href="http://www.ravenstreet.org/Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm">http://www.ravenstreet.org/ Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm</a> and on the Yahoo Group AllePsallite.
TUESDAY	
<b>Ponte Alto Scriptorium</b>	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	
<b>Weaving Night</b>	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.
<b>Armoring Night</b>	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	
<b>Rapier Practice</b>	Every Thursday at Shrevevood 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.
<b>Heavy Weapons Practice</b>	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.
FRIDAY	
<b>Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice</b>	Fridays from 4:30 pm until 8 pm, the indoor season archery practice site is Bull Run Regional Park's shooting center. Archery Practice Directions. Practices are jointly held with Stierbach. You may also contact the Baronial Archery Marshal for carpool or other information. Contact and practice time/location information for Stierbach practices can be found at the Stierbach Archery website: <a href="http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html">http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html</a> .
<b>Ponte Alto A&amp;S Night</b>	May meet on a Friday during the month. Contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (dwatsonirwin AT cox.net, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for information and directions.
<b>Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic</b>	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

<b>SCA Newcomer Meetings</b>	<p>Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony.</p> <p>May's meeting will be Wednesday May 21th at the home of Luce Antony Venus and Miles de Locwode Contact our Chatelaine for information and directions.</p> <p>This month we will discuss Camping Events, expectations and what you need to have with you.</p>
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**\* 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>

**Special Thursday Night parking instructions at:** We have received some complaints about lack of parking spaces from residents of the Peachtree of McClean apartment complex which adjoins our practice site. After some informal negotiations we have arrived at an agreement with the building management. We beseech those attending Thursday night practices to adhere to the following procedures from now on:

*You may unload your gear from parking spaces adjoining our practice area. But then please move your car to another space either at least a block further away from Route 7 in the complex parking lot or in the library parking lot closer to Route 7. At the conclusion of practice you may once again move your car to a space adjoining the practice area in order to reload your gear before exiting the site. In this way we hope to be able to continue to use the parking facilities of the complex without inconveniencing the residents.*

# the Real Middle-Ages

## *Animals During the Middle Ages*

### **The Horse**

Horses in the Middle Ages differed in size, build and breed to the modern horse, and were, on average, smaller. They were also more central to society than their modern counterparts, being essential for war, agriculture and travel. Consequently, specific types of horses developed, many of which have no modern equivalent. While a knowledge of modern horse breeds and equestrianism is vital for understanding of the medieval horse, researchers also need to consider documentary (both written and pictorial) and archeological evidence.

Horses in the Middle Ages were rarely differentiated by breed, but rather by use. This led them to be described, for example, as "chargers" (war horses), "palfreys" (riding horses), cart horses or pack horses. Reference is also given to their place of origin -such as "Spanish horses," but whether this referred to one breed or several is unknown. Another difficulty during any study of medieval documents or literature is the flexibility of the medieval languages, where several words can be used for one thing. Words such as 'courser' and 'charger' are used interchangeably even within one document, and where one epic may speak disparagingly of a more common horse, another praises its skill and swiftness.



Significant advances in equestrian equipment, often introduced from other cultures, allowed for significant changes in both warfare and agriculture. In particular, improved designs for the solid-treed saddle as well as the arrival of the stirrup, horseshoe and horse collar were significant advances in medieval society. Consequently, the assumptions and theories developed by historians are not definitive, and debate still rages on many issues, such as the breeding or size of the horse, and a number of sources must be consulted in order to understand the breadth of the subject.

The horse was the most important animal of the great medieval household. The stables would be separate from the rest of the household, and its head officer—the marshal—would be one of the household's senior officers. The marshal would have pages and grooms serving under him to care for the horses.

A large household would have a wide array of horses for different purposes. There were cart- and pack horses employed in the day-to-day work of the household, palfreys used for human transport, and destriers, or warhorses, a powerful and expensive animal. Although it had the necessary qualities, the destrier would not be used for hunting, due to its value. A fourteenth century writer described them as "tall and majestic and with great strength". In contemporary sources, the destrier was frequently referred to as the "great horse" because of its size and reputation. Being a subjective term, it gives no firm information about its actual height or weight, but since the average horse of the time was 12 to 14 hands (48 to 56 inches) thus a "great horse" by medieval standards might appear small to modern eyes. The

destrier was highly prized by knights and men-at-arms, but was actually not very common, and appears to have been most suited to the joust.

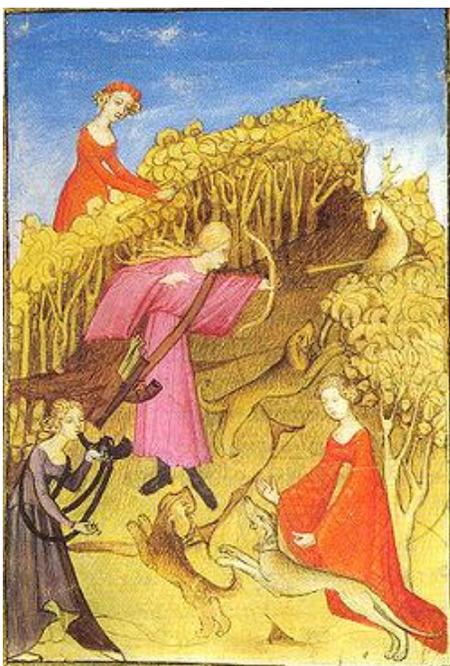
Courasers were generally preferred for hard battle as they were light, fast and strong. They were valuable, but not as costly as the destrier. They were also used frequently for hunting. The couraser, though inferior to the destrier and much smaller than today's horses, still had to be both powerful enough to carry the rider at high speeds over large distances, agile, so it could maneuver difficult terrain without difficulty, and fearless enough not to be scared when encountering wild beasts.

Throughout the period, horses were rarely described by breed, but rather by *type*: by describing their purpose, or their physical attributes. Many of the definitions were not precise, or were interchangeable. Prior to approximately the 13th century, few pedigrees were written down. Thus, many terms for horses in the Middle Ages did not describe breeds as we know them today, but rather described appearance or purpose.

A more general-purpose horse was the rouncey, which could be kept as a riding horse or trained for war. It was commonly used by squires, men-at-arms or poorer knights. A wealthy knight would keep rounceys for his retinue. Sometimes the nature of warfare dictated the choice of horse; when a summons to war was sent out in England, in 1327, it expressly requested rounceys, for swift pursuit, rather than destriers. Rounceys were sometimes used as pack horses but never as cart horses.

The well-bred palfrey, which could equal a destrier in price, was popular with nobles and highly-ranked knights for riding, hunting and ceremonial use. Ambling was a desirable trait in a palfrey, as the smooth gait allowed the rider to cover long distances quickly in relative comfort. Other horse types included the jennet, a small horse first bred in Spain from Barb and Arabian bloodstock. Their quiet and dependable nature, as well as size, made them popular as riding horses for ladies; however, they were also used as cavalry horses by the Spanish.

The hobby was a lightweight horse, about 13 to 14 hands (52 to 56 inches), developed in Ireland from Spanish or Barb bloodstock. This type of quick and agile horse was popular for skirmishing, and was often ridden by light cavalry known as Hobelars.



## The Dog

The dog was essential for several purposes. Its good sense of smell made it invaluable in finding the quarry. It would then assist in driving the hunted animal and, when the animal was finally at bay, the dog would either be the instrument of attack, or distract the quarry while the hunter moved in for the kill. Different breeds would be used for different tasks, and for different sorts of game, and while some of these breeds are recognizable to us today, the dogs were nevertheless somewhat different from modern breeds.

Foremost among the hunting breeds was the greyhound. This breed was valued first and foremost for its speed, but also for its ability to attack and take down the game. Since the greyhound did not have much stamina, it was essential that it be not released before the quarry was in sight, toward the end of the hunt. Furthermore, greyhounds, though aggressive hunters, were valued for their docile temper at home, and often allowed inside as pets.

The alant, was a somewhat more robust animal than the greyhound, and therefore used against larger game, such as bears or boars. The alant was considered a reckless animal, and had been known to attack domestic animals, or even its owner. The mastiff was an even more rugged breed, and though also used on the larger game, was mostly considered useful as a guard-dog.

The hounds were kept in a kennel, inside or separate from the main domicile. Here the dogs would have oak beds to sleep on, and often also a second level where the dogs could go when the ground level became too hot or too cold. Outside the kennel there would be grass for the dogs to eat whenever they had digestive problems. To care for the dogs would be a hierarchy of servants such as pages, varlets, aides and veneurs; the page being the lowest, often a young boy. Pages would often sleep in the kennels with the dogs, to keep them from fighting and care for them if they got sick. Though this might seem harsh by modern standards, the warm dog house could often be much more comfortable than the sleeping quarters of other medieval servants.

## The Hawk or Falcon

Medieval terminology spoke of hawks of the tower and hawks of the fist, which roughly refers to falcons and hawks, respectively. The female hawk was preferred, since it was both larger than the male and easier to train. Hawks were captured all over Europe, but birds from Norway or Iceland were considered of particularly good quality.

Training a hawk was a painstaking process. It was normal at first to "seel" the bird's eyelids—sew them shut—so that it would not be scared or distracted. The trainer would then carry the hawk on his arm for several days, to get it accustomed to human presence. The eyes would gradually be unsealed, and the training would begin. The bird would be encouraged to fly from its perch to the falconer's hand over a gradually longer distance. Hunting game would be encouraged first by the use of meat, then a lure, and eventually live pre.

Hawks would be housed in mews, a special edifice found in most large medieval households, mostly a certain distance from the main domicile, so that the hawks would not be disturbed. The mews could be rather elaborate structures.

## The Hart or Deer

The king of all the wild animals was the deer, and more precisely the hart, which is an adult male of the red deer. The hart was classified by the number of tines on its antlers. An animal would have at least ten tines to be considered worthy of hunting; this was referred to as a "hart of ten."

The hart was a highly respected animal, and had great symbolic and mythological significance. It was often compared to Christ for its suffering; a well-known story tells of how St. Eustace was converted to Christianity by seeing a crucifix between the antlers of a stag while hunting. Other stories told of how the hart could become several hundred years old, and how a bone in the middle of its heart prevented it from dying of fear.

## The Boar

The wild boar is the wild ancestor of the domestic pig. It is native across much of Central Europe, the Mediterranean Region and much of Asia as far south as Indonesia, and has been widely introduced elsewhere.

Unlike the Romans for whom hunting boar was considered a simple pastime, the hunting of boars in Medieval Europe was mostly done by nobles for the purpose of honing martial skill. It was traditional for the noble to dismount his horse once the boar was cornered and to finish it with a dagger. To increase the challenge, some hunters would commence their sport at the boars mating season, when the animals were more aggressive. Records show that wild boar were abundant in medieval Europe. This is correlated by documents from noble families and the clergy demanding tribute from commoners in the form of boar carcasses or body parts. In 1015 for example, the Doge Ottone Orseolo demanded for himself and his successors the head and feet of every boar killed in his area of influence. The boar was a highly dangerous animal to hunt; it would fight ferociously when under attack, and could easily kill a dog, a horse, or a man. It was hunted *par force*, and when at bay, a hound like a mastiff could perhaps be foolhardy enough to attack it, but ideally it should be killed by a rider with a spear. The boar was considered a malicious animal, and even had satanic association associations.

## The Unicorn?

Curiously enough, medieval writings on hunting often carried detailed instructions on how to hunt a unicorn. Notoriously evasive, the unicorn could only be captured if enticed to fall asleep in the lap of a pure virgin.

Hmmmm.....

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