

the skein

wherein ARE wound
the jararvellir jarns



MARCH 2010 A.S. XLIV



BARON AND BARONESS:

Their Excellencies Kitakaze Tatsu Raito and Æsa Gilsdottir
(Neil and Angie Gilmore) 249-1869, raito@raito.com,
angie.giles@gmail.com

BARONIAL OFFICERS



Archery Captain: Lady Jois Corbet (*Deena Thompson*) 226-0846,
corvusjoyous@gmail.com



Chatelaine: Eliane Halevy (*Jennifer Friedman*) 238-7627,
jennifer-friedman@sbcglobal.net



Chirurgion: Lady Fiona (*Lyn Andreassen*) 445-4622,
tskrangsangel@lycos.com



Chronicler: Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-
6891 goldschp@tds.net

Demo Coordinator: Annora le Spindlere (*Vicki Spindler*) 835-2617,
democoordinator@jararvellir.org

Directory: Cwenthryth wine (*Toni Sumner-Beebe*) 285-5404
cwen@uwalumni.com



Exchequer: Lady Tatiana McGowan (*Dawn Krot*) 989-493-9019,
exchequer@jararvellir.org

Historian: Paul Wickenden of Thanet (*Paul Goldschmidt*) 827-6891,
goldschp@tds.net



Knight Marshal: Roisin igen Ailill (*Rebecca Heidelberg*) 244-4621,
roisin106@aol.com



Minister of Arts & Sciences: Cwenthryth wine (*Toni Sumner-Beebe*) 285-5404 cwen@uwalumni.com



Pursuivant: Svanhildr Farbjornsdottir (*Kristen Bird*) 715-760-0603,
kristyanapplegate@gmail.com

Rapier Marshal: Cosimo de Cellini (*Joe Ordaz*) 274-0997,
jordaz@netzero.com



Seneschal: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (*John Beebe*) 628-0103,
rezansky@sbcglobal.net

UW Reservations: Amy of Jararvellir (*Amy Dee*) 715-559-3653,
uwreservations@jararvellir.org



Web Minister: James (*James Krot*) 989-493-1953,
jamesjkrot@yahoo.com

Baronial Mailing Address: PO Box 259537, Madison, WI 53725-9537

Baronial Web Page: <http://www.jararvellir.org>

Baronial Email list: jararvellir@minstrel.com

FROM THEIR EXCELLENCIES

Greetings to the Barony,

As happens every year, just when we think we've hit the next Ice Age, the weather breaks and spring arrives. So it's been with the Barony. Yule Moot followed by Flesh Wound followed by Fighter's School followed by That Moot Thingy -- that's a lot.

But now we can go plant our gardens and catch up on our outdoor projects for a while. And then come back together for May Day.

So poke your heads out, the snow is melting. The sun is rising higher every day, the air is warmer. Pretty soon everything will be green again.



RAITO AND ÆSA

MARCH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Eithni, Stephen du Bois, Paul Wickenden, Iohanna Carracci, Tegan, Tatiana, Marian Elizabeth Wollenschlager, Nikolaus der Ausländer, Neil Gilmore, Vicki, Calvin Patten, James Applegate, Kristen Bird, Cosimo, and Ivan Rezansky.

Clothier's Guild (Iohanna): We had a cotehardie workday today and we will have another one in the future. At today's gathering, we had seven participants (and we got six projects started). If you interested in coming to the next one, contact me and I will include you in the invite.

Demos (Annora): No demos in the near future.

WW (Eithni): Planning for WW is moving along. We are looking for an event exchequer as both of the candidates for the position will be unable to do it this year. Otherwise, positions are filling in. **[A question was asked about whether we know if we got our share of last year's receipts yet — do not know, but will look into this]**

Exchequer (Tatiana): I'm going to need to step down as Exchequer in June and want to find deputy now so I can train them (starting training after the tax season). Annora has expressed interest and I am nominating her. **[We will vote on this next month]**

Flesh Wound (Stephen): This year's Flesh Wound was a success with about 134 people attending. We also had a good showing at Fighter School (with 137 people). Fighters love the Flesh Wound event and I would like to propose that we do it again in 2011. For next year's budget, we are factoring in a 5% increase on the site fee and also including a royalty room in the costs (which we have forgotten to do in the past). Stephen will be the autocrat and marshall-in-charge. **[Meeting approved the proposal]**

High Seat (Raito): We have hosted a whole bunch of events lately and they were nice. Now, we have a bit of a lull before our next one: May Day. So, Her Excellency wants to know about May Day and who will work on it. Our idea is to hold it on May 2nd at Burroughs Park. If anyone wants to run it, let us know (contact His Excellency). Her Excellency will help, but is not willing to run it herself. We are planning to hold our champions tourneys for armored combat, rapier, and A&S there. We do not know yet if site is available. Last year, the site was \$120 (we will budget \$150 for it this year). **[Meeting approved event]**

Carl: Nothing to report.

James: Nothing.

Pursuivant (Svanhildr): I'm taking Carl as my deputy and would like to nominate him to become the Pursuivant in July at WW. **[We will vote on his nomination at the next meeting]**

Knight Marshall (Svanhildr for Roisin): Roisin is stepping down from the post and wants to nominate James as Knight Marshall. **[We will vote on his nomination at the next meeting]**

Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium (Svanhildr): Marian and I would like to put together a bid for Known World Heralds and Scribes in 2011 and would like to know if the group feels that this is worth trying to assemble? The proposed site is Edgewood College (we could use residence halls or local hotels for lodging). **[Questions about how many people would come and the site requirements. Concern also expressed about the number of events she has been proposing and whether she is getting overextended (Svanhildr disagreed). Meeting agreed that it is OK to explore this idea more and suggested contacting Nordskogen about their bid]**

Marian: Nothing.

Instrumental Guild (Nikolaus): The guild appeared at Bardic Madness with mixed results. We are getting ready for another change of personnel and are looking for new players.

Historian (Paul): I have finished going through, sorting, and organizing the files. Lots of good stuff in there. However, we have large gaps and I am interested in getting copies of officers' files (copies are fine if originals not available). Please consider depositing them in the archives rather than disposing of them.

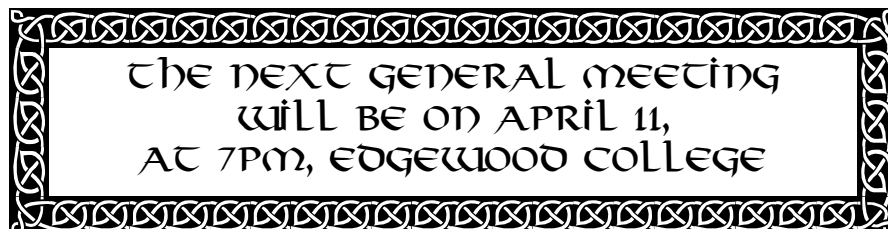
Chronicler (Paul): I have concerns about the continued viability of the *Skein*. I'm having trouble finding a deputy/successor. Getting content is a continuous struggle (especially since Reinholdt left). And the subscriber base for the printed newsletter has been declining significantly. I'm interested in soliciting your suggestions for solutions we could pursue. **[Meeting suggested sending a message to the Jara list—with links if possible—that would indicate the content; reformatting the PDF in proper page order so it is easier to read online; post the chronicler vacancy to the list; post the question about how to make the *Skein* more relevant to the list for discussion; questions also asked about changing the frequency of the publication and soliciting officers' reports]**

ARRG IX (Cosimo): We have gotten the old site (which is free) but cannot hold the event until Jun 4-6 at the earliest (it is not available on our traditional Memorial Day weekend). On those dates, we would be in conflict with Mermaids (which is only 99 miles away from the site) which would violate the Kingdom's rules about events being too close together on the same date (which can be waived for specialty events). **[Meeting suggested we contact the Mermaids staff to see if they object and go for the date if they are OK with it—Ivan will check]** If the dates are not OK, then we could go with the first weekend of October as an alternate. The site fee would be \$5 (with \$1 per adult going to the Kingdom) plus the NMS (if applicable), children under 12 years old for free. There will be no children's activities and no feast (on-site restaurant exists). The budget break even is thirteen adults. Half of the proceeds go to the Barony (the other half for rapier supplies). **[Meeting approved event, pending date determination]**

Rapier Marshall (Cosimo): I am also seeking a replacement.

Upcoming Meeting Dates (Ivan): Our upcoming General Meeting dates will be Apr 11, May 2 (at May Day), Jun 6, Jun 27, Aug 1, Aug 29, Oct 3, Nov 7, and Dec 5.

Seneschal (Ivan): My term is up, however I have volunteered to serve a second term and there are no other volunteers. The nomination was announced at the January meeting. **[Meeting voted to approve his second term by voice vote]**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW OFFICER NOMINATIONS

At General Meeting this month, a number of new officer nominations were announced. As is the Barony's policy, nominations are publicly announced at one meeting prior to the vote taking place to allow time for discussion, consideration, and challenges. If any member of the Barony has questions or concerns about the following nominations, they are urged to contact the current officer, the Seneschal, and/or their Excellencies at or before the next General Meeting (which will be held on April 11th).

At the April General Meeting, we will be voting on the following nominees:

Exchequer — Tatiana has nominated Annora le Spindlere to become the new Exchequer effective in June.

Pursuivant — Svanhildr has nominated Carl to become the new Pursuivant effective in July at WW.

Knight Marshall — Roisin has nominated James Applegate to become the new Knight Marshall effective immediately.

In addition, both the Chronicler and the Rapier Marshall indicated that they are seeking replacements and/or deputies for their offices.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Deputy Chronicler — The Deputy Chronicler helps with the production of the *Skein* and other print publications, as needed. The primary responsibility is helping the Chronicler with taking minutes at the General Meeting or publishing and distributing the *Skein* during periods when the Chronicler cannot do it. Familiarity with desktop publishing, strong communication skills, and ability to meet tight deadlines a plus. If you are interested in the position (or wish to learn more about its requirements), please contact Paul Wickenden at goldschp@tds.net.

WHAT DOES A SOCIETY HISTORIAN DO?

by Paul Wickenden of Thanet

The job of a Society historian is to create some sort of coherent narrative of our own organization's past, creating a record that others can consult in the future to understand where we came from and why we do things the way we do them now. The grand project of a historian is to actually interpret that history but that project can be overwhelming, so most Society historians have focused merely on collecting the raw materials necessary for the creation of a history. Speaking for myself, I would love to some day write a full history of the Barony, complete with an analysis of our highs and lows. It would be the sort of thing where people would come out with a great appreciation of the people and the events and lie in wonder at the stories. However, the reality is that I will probably be best at collecting and organizing the materials and writing the minor article here and there on specific topics (like Bunstables or the Fight Song).

So, if the job is more like that of a collector or an archivist, what does one collect for the files? What is truly important enough to keep?

The answer of my predecessors in this post has been to collect everything they could get their hands on. During the 1980s, Owen was dutiful about grabbing every publication he could get his hands on and the Baronial files until recently teemed with lots of 20-year-old *Pikestaffs* and *Crown Prints*. The files also contained a good selection of seneschal's flyers, quarterly reports, and site tokens. The problem, though, was that the collection of these materials was hardly systematic (we had a lot of material from the 1980s and early 90s, but hardly anything after about 1995). The other problem was that the value of this material to a *Baronial* historian was suspect (do we need to know what events were being held in Trimaris in 1988 to maintain a history of Jararvellir?). So, there was a distinct need to purge and consolidate (and in the process, identify our gaps).

In my first months in the officer of historian, I have focused on that consolidation. Materials that had historical value to the Barony were kept. Other items were donated or disposed of. For example, a fantastic collection of newsletters from other Northshield branches

was donated to the Kingdom Archivist as the kingdom lacks complete runs of many of those publications (and really needs them to assemble a history of our region's roots). Materials found in the Baronial archives about the founding of the Principality were also donated to the Kingdom. These are important artifacts but their importance is to the Kingdom (not the Barony) and the papers should reside in the proper location.

What Do We Have In The Archives?

So, what does that leave in the Baronial archives? Pretty much anything that involved the realm of the Barony itself (however that was defined at the time). It is, in fact, still a fairly formidable collection of items with strange strengths and weaknesses and noticeable gaps.

Early Years – for the 1970s, we have very little in the way of primary documentation left. This does not leave us without material because there was a good amount of effort to document this era in the past. A fairly detailed blow-by-blow history of the first ten years of the Barony that provides most of what we have for written materials.

Middle Years – for the 1980s and 1990s, we actually have a lot more details but less attempt to organize and sift through it. We have several years' worth of officer's reports, from which we could identify lots of facts about the group. We have event reports, photographs, accounts in newsletters, letters, and so on. We have official and unofficial communications about some of our more infamous moments (like the *Kitten* and the break from the Horde). While there has not been much attempt to work through this information, the raw data is there.

Recent Years – the last fifteen years, however, become a bit of a black hole. We have a nearly-continuously running newsletter (the *Skein*) that documents the official accounts of curia and general meetings. From this framework, we can probably piece together the important events of the years. However, we have no quarterly reports, no papers, no photographs. In some cases, the records no longer are generated in paper (how long ago was an officer's report available in hard copy?), but the real issue is that no one considers this year's domedaye to be worthy of a historical file. And no one keeps a report from five years ago.

My Priorities

Having now weeded through the files so that we are focused upon what is truly relevant to the Barony's history, I am now turning my attention to filling these gaps. This is where I intend to focus:

- 1) Gathering as much information as I can from the early years. Most of the resources are gone, but to the extent that I can get old timers to talk with me about their memories, I want to fill in as much as I can. We have the general facts arranged, but the details can be expanded upon.
- 2) For the middle years, where we already have so much data, I want to focus on sorting through it and expanding the written accounts of the early years to take us forward.
- 3) Finally, and most importantly, I am concerned that we may lose our most recent history. Without any written account yet of events, we are in desperate need of raw materials from the 1995-present period. For this reason, I am extremely interested in getting hold of officer files from the era. A quarterly MoA report from 1998, for example, can tell us a lot about what was going on in the Barony at the time. So, while it might not serve much purpose to the MoAS, it is priceless to the historian.

How Can You Help?

So, if you go back a ways in the Barony, I'm likely to contact you at some point in the near future to prompt information out of you. But even if you haven't been around for a while, you can be helpful to the cause of collecting history. If you possess reports, records, photographs, or anything about the Barony that you would be willing to share (whether it is from thirty years ago or thirty days ago), please contact me. I would happily accept copies if the originals are too precious to part with!

If you are an officer, I have an even greater interest in your files and records. Again, I'm not asking for anything that you need in order to perform your duties, but if there are papers that you are considering disposing of, please consider sending them to the historian instead!

What Is History Anyway??

In an organization devoted to history, the need for a historian may not be immediately obvious. But, if anything, our constant struggles to determine how everyday people lived in the Middle Ages should underscore the dangers of forgetting the everyday and mundane. Sure, it is easy enough to find a written account of great battles or famous rulers, but what of the daily lives of the majority of people?

The problem is magnified in the present as we tend to consider our everyday lives to be so insignificant that they are not worthy of record. After all, there is a temptation to consider this year's attendance at Bardic Madness and its performance lists to be unimportant. The event *just happened* and is not truly *history* in anyone's mind. But ask the same question in ten years (who sang what songs at the *first* Bardic Madness?) and the issue suddenly seems more interesting.

A HISTORY OF BARONIAL historians

Name	Dates of Office	Anno Societatis
Tiara den Farraigh Thair	10/1975-10/1980	XIII-XV
Iain Cainmore	12/1982-3/1983	XVII
Owen Alun	4/1986-4/1988	XX-XXII
Adrien de Troyes	4/1988-5/1992	XXII-XXVII
Duncan MacThearlaich	5/1992-9/1993	XXVII-XXVIII
Odo y Uthyr of Jararvellir	9/1993-2/1994	XXVIII
Duncan MacThearlaich	2/1994-10/1994	XXVIII-XXIX
Gerald Loosehelm	10/1994-9/1997	XXIX-XXXII
Bran MacDavid	9/1997-3/1998	XXXII-XXXII
Adrien De Troyes	3/1998-3/2009	XXXIII-XLIII
Paul Wickenden of Thanet	3/2009-present	XLIII-

Source: Originally compiled by Adrien de Troyes,
Updated by Paul Wickenden of Thanet

EVENTS

OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/Events/List.aspx>).

April 2010

10—Spring Coronation, **Caer Anterth Mawr** (Waukesha WI)

May 2010

1—May Day Pie Snit,
Rokeclif (Taylor WI)
15—Beltaine by the Bay,
Darkstone (Mason WI)

June 2010

4-6—Mermaids Attack XVII,
Turm an dem See (Valders WI)
11-13—Border Skirmish, **Caer Anterth Mawr** (Kenosha WI)

July 2010

8-11—Warriors and Warlords XVII, **Nordskogen/Jararvellir** (Boscobel WI)

September 2010

24-26—Windhaven's Fall
Fest, **Windhaven** (Oconto WI)



LOCAL NEWS

THROWN WEAPONS

Here is the thrown weapons schedule for the next several months. I will also update the calendar on the Jara website, so people can check there if they are unsure about a particular date. It is every other Sunday: Mar 21, Apr 4, Apr 18, May 2, and May 30.

TOUSSAINT DE CALUKU

STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

We have our regular times (on Wednesday and Sunday) through the end of April except for the following dates: March 10th and 14th, and April 25th.

The full schedule can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>



BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!

Archery Practice Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-9PM. UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846

Armoured Combat Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM. UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Roisin igen Ailill (Rebecca Heidelberger) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com

Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

Bardic Arts (not currently active)

Contact: Vacant

Brewing & Vintning Third Monday. Various locations (call for info)

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM. Call for location

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM. Contact for location and dates.

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM Contact for location

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

Equestrian (not currently active but information available)

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433,
alissende@centurytel.net

European Dance Sundays 3PM. UW Campus—check TITU for room.

Contact: Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas (Jenny Becker) 206-9330,
kathrynsully98@aol.com

Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

Fool's Guild Alternate Wednesday 6:30PMish, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,

Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.

Contact: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (John Beebe) 298-0918, rezansky@sbcglobal.net

Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859,
n_auslander@hotmail.com

Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming Wednesday 8:15pm, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30. Call for location

Contact: Lady Helena Caxton (Sara Andrews) 414-507-5872, helenacaxton@gmail.com

Pottery Guild First or second Monday (alternating with Clothier's), Fired Up Pottery.

Contact: Annora (Wendy Nelson) 438-6530, wendybyrd42@yahoo.com

Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Cosimo de Cellini (Joe Ordaz) 274-0997, jordaz@netzero.com

Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish. Call to verify location

Contact: Mistress Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon, Second Wednesdays 7PM, UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: John "Jack" Bartholomew of Flanders (David Thompson-Hall) 257-1082

Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

LEGALESE: This is *The Skein*, a publication of the Barony of Jararvellir in the Kingdom of Northshield of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. *The Skein* is available from Paul Goldschmidt, 5625 Highland Way, Middleton WI 53562. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

The Skein is Copyright © 2010 Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), Inc. - Barony of Jararvellir. Ownership of articles in this publication revert to the author and may not be reprinted without explicit permission from the owner. For information on reprinting material, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

SUBMISSIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions for 2010 are free, but there is a recommended donation of \$1 per issue to cover postage and copying (Full year =\$12). Submissions will be edited for grammar and spelling. Anything that is in poor taste or violates SCA publication guidelines or copyright law will not be published. *The Skein* is published monthly on the first Wednesday after General Meeting. The submission deadline for each issue is the Friday before the General Meeting of the publishing month. Submissions are accepted in any (legible!) format and via e-mail. Please also include any publication restrictions beyond those of this newsletter.

ART CREDITS: The cover art is taken from an unknown antique book, reproduced at the Karen's Whimsy website (<http://karenswhimsy.com>) and is royalty-free. Filler artwork is from *Medieval Illustrations* (Mineola, NY: Dover, 1999/2001) and is also royalty-free.

CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)
<http://www.coillestoirmeilonline.org>

Seneschal: Matthias of Rolling Oaks (Matt Schwall)
23149 State Hwy 21, Tomah WI 54660
limos112@hotmail.com, (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah



The Skein
Paul Goldschmidt
5625 Highland Way
Middleton WI 53562

