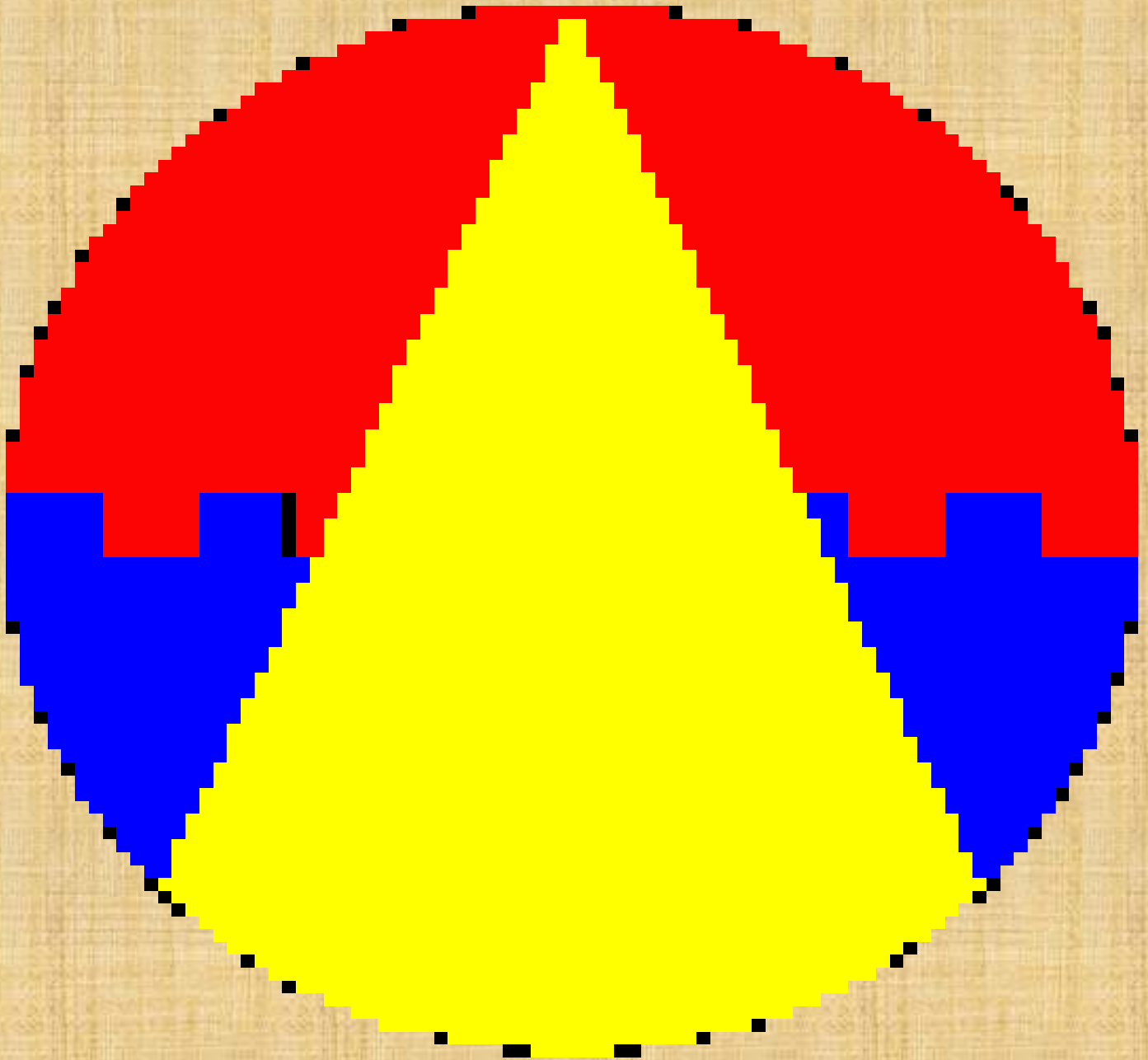


# TALES OF THE TOR

July 2017 C. E.

Anno Socittatis A. S. LII



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# Message from the Baron and Baroness



Greetings to the good gentles of Elfsea and Dragonsfire Tor,

Please join us in congratulating Countess Doña Amelot Lisette! She has been asked to join the Order of the Pelican. Her elevation will take place a Braggart's War.

The Barony is doing well. We had thirty people attend populace meeting and another dozen at officer's meeting. Practice is well-attended, but the heat is starting to become a factor. Please contact us, the seneschal or the marshals if you know if an indoor practice facility.

The Elfsea Academie is starting on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. This program is a treasure and is being implemented in other baronies and Kingdoms. Lady Eleanor of Forth Castle will be joining Honorable Lady Jeanne-Marie la Verriere as a Vice Principal/ Pedagogue. This is a natural evolution as we enter our fourth year!

Lady Eleanor and m'lord Hadamar are the autocrats for Elfsea Baronial College. Duke Lochlan will be coordinating the classes. They would like to have more classes this year for newer folks with enough variety to keep everyone interested. Expect to see more info in the next month or two.

We will have a lighter travel schedule for July and August due to other commitments and vacation! Our progress is below.

Please take care as you travel for events and vacations.

William and Cassandra  
Baron and Baroness

Baronial Progress  
Crown Tournament - July 8<sup>th</sup>  
Steppes Artisan - August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Glaslyn Artisan - August 26<sup>th</sup>  
Braggart's War - September 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENESCHAL

Unto the members of the Tor, Greetings,

Another hot summer is here. Please remember to stay hydrated and don't overdo it at the events you make. I know we have nothing on the calendar until Yule but there are offices open and bid's being offered right now that deserve your attention. Please make our populaces to offer your thoughts and help.

Yours in Service,

*Angus Patrick De Ruthven*



# Elfsea Artisan Competition Guidelines

Good Gentles of Ansteorra,

Here are the guidelines for this year's Elfsea Artisan competition to be held at our Baronial College. Send your letter of intent to [baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org) and [baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org).

Please include our MoA&S Mavis Campbell, [moas@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:moas@elfsea.ansteorra.org) and our class coordinator Prince Lochlan, [Brandonsmcd@yahoo.com](mailto:Brandonsmcd@yahoo.com).

Elfsea Baronial College is September 30th at the First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, Texas 76112.

Thank you!

William and Cassandra Palfrey  
Baron and Baroness of Elfsea

Elfsea Baronial Artisan Champion  
This year's theme is "bring your best".

The Candidates will be asked to:

1. Display an art or science piece; documentation is recommended but not required.
2. Demonstrate their ability to teach an art or science by teaching one class.
3. Send a letter of intent including the class you are teaching for champion consideration.

This class does not have to be on the item you are displaying.

There are things that will be looked at in the classes.

- Knowledge of the subject, ability to answer questions or direct toward finding resources.
- Organization and flow of information.
- Ability to adapt to the needs of the current class.
- Directions for finding resources.

## **Divide Between Pure Target Archery and Crossbows in the SCA**

We have always had this divide between pure target Archery and crossbows in the SCA. Not because crossbows aren't just as period but more the way we view them. Yes, it is quicker and easier to learn to shoot a crossbow than a longbow, but if you think that means you can win all the time using a crossbow without the need to practice the answer is no. The fact that it is easier to teach and learn is one reason why crossbows were so popular in period for both war and hunting. I have never been able to see why they should not be allowed to compete with all other bows. If it was used in the same time period with and against all others why should we draw a line now? I have yet to find anyone who thinks English longbows should not have to face middle-eastern horse bows or any other type of bow for that matter. If you feel it's just too much the better weapon why on earth would you not choose to use it yourself? We are all noble born in the SCA after all and longbows were a peasant weapon. The nobility had some truly magnificent Crossbows which can still be found all over Europe today. The fact that crossbows are very cool just speaks for its self. I think the first point of contention maybe as simple as the fact that sights are allowed for crossbows but not for regular bows. This is because sights for a regular bow are a modern invention whereas rear sights for a crossbow are very period. Sadly our style of shooting makes them more needed because the only way a crossbowman could sight straight down the shaft at a target 40 yards away would be to run the draw weight up to over a hundred pounds to stop the drop off. Which of course would go straight through the backstops we use at 20 yards like they were not even there. Most SCA crossbow have a draw weight of between 50 and 75 pounds which will drop almost a foot at 40 yards. You can aim two feet over the bullseye with a regular bow and still see it right beside the lower limb of your bow but even aiming four inches above the bullseye with a crossbow and you will no longer be able to see any of the targets face at all. A rear sight just lets you keep the field-tip pointed right at the target and just lower the back of the crossbow until it makes up for the drop off to reach it. So why do a few folks feel it would be some kind of a cheat to be able to see the target you are shooting at? That's really all a rear sight lets you do. I have even had people tell me the renaissance sight is far more accurate than the simple sight. How anyone could possibly think five holes in a straight line on a round piece of metal can somehow be more accurate than five holes in a straight line on a rectangular piece of metal is utterly beyond me. I feel silly just saying it! I personally put more limits on the crossbow I used than the SCA requires. You can buy SCA style crossbows from websites with the same butt stock found on a more modern flintlock rifles though I have never seen a period crossbow so made. The closes thing I have seen in period is a long Italian stock ending in scroll work that was held in the armpit of the shooter.

I personally use the much older and more common roller nut system rather than the clap lock or recess systems. The roller nut crossbow came to England with the Normans and stayed in use throughout the Renaissance all over Europe. A Spanish one from 1554 was found on Padre island right here in our Kingdom. The clap lock style did not come along until about 1530 and is very rare in period crossbows. If you were not a king or prince it is very doubtful you would have one. The recess (so called as a cut in the stock holds the string below the table) was a Swiss creation from about 1400. There no proof it ever found much favor anywhere outside of Scandinavia. Why I cannot guess has it is the simplest and easiest crossbow ever made. What's the difference? Clap locks and recess fire the second you fully pull the trigger while a roller nut must make a full quarter rotation before the string is freed and it shoots. If your point of aim wanders off during that time, oh well you miss the mark. It must also have the nut reset after almost every shot which really slows you down in a speed shoots while both the others styles of crossbows have no such weakness. About the only period thing I refuse to do is the carrying of my bolts field points up rather than down at my belt for the obvious safety reasons. To be fair period archers were no fonder of crossbowmen than they are today. So if you put them down because your persona would have I cannot fault you for that. If you think no good crossbowman come ever lose to a better bowman then you need to spend more time with some good bowman. I once had a member of the **Arc d'Or** who had shot both for many years tell me that while it's easier to get started with a crossbow over the long bow it still takes just as much time and hard work to be really and truly good with either one of them. I think you would be very hard put to find a time in the history of this great kingdom when all of its championships were held by crossbowmen alone. How could anything possible make the point any more clearly than that?

Yours in Service,

*Angus Patrick De Ruthven*

*Bids are being accepted for  
December's Yule Revel*

*Bids will be excepted until the August populace meeting*





# Monthly Activities



Populace second Sunday of each month

Most Sundays - Rapier fighter practice at JC Park Stevenville Tx - 10am - 1pm

Other activities will be added when information is available

Newsletter submissions are due by 25th of each month



[Elfsea Calendar of Events](#)



[Ansteorra Event Planning Calendar](#)

## Yearly Events

May - Guardian of the Tor

December - Dragonsfire Tor's Yule Revel

Details to be announced when available

Details to be announced



# Open Offices

## Dragonsfire Tor Arts and Science Minister

Complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website at <http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/Application.Jan08.pdf> send it to the [central@moas.ansteorra.org](mailto:central@moas.ansteorra.org) with a copy of your SCA card.

## Dragonsfire Tor Web Minister

complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website <http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf> send it to [kingdom@webminister.ansteorra.org](mailto:kingdom@webminister.ansteorra.org) with a copy of your SCA card

**Also please send a copy of your application to:** Elfsea Baron and Baroness at

[baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org)

[baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org)

and include a copy to [seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)



Hello all,

I am coordinating the classes for Elfsea Baronial College on Sept. 30th.

We will have 7 classrooms and a total of 42 1 hour blocks. There is also ample room outside for additional classes. Our goal is to have as many entry level classes for newcomers as possible, as well as helping newer or 1st time teachers with the opportunity to get into the swing of teaching. If you have classes designed for more advance learning, GREAT!!! We would love to have you there as well...

Anyone interested in teaching or for questions about teaching please email me. I will need a Title for your class, a brief description, number of hours it will run, any materials or items required, total number of people you are comfortable teaching, and any other information you think will be pertinent.

I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

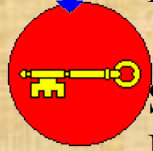
Gramercy, Duke Lochlan Dünn Elfsea Minister of Arts and Sciences  
[moas@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:moas@elfsea.ansteorra.org)

# Canton of Dragonsfire Tor Officers



Lord and Lady of Dragonsfire Tor: [baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org)  
[baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org](mailto:baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org)

Baroness Cassandra Palfrey



Seneschal: [seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
Ld Angus Patrick De Ruthven  
( Bob Gray)



Exchequer: [exchequer@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:exchequer@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
Baroness Janie of the Tor (Janie Cason)



Hospitaler: [hospitaler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:hospitaler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
Ldy Aaliz du Lac ( Alicia Kays)



Rapier Marshal: [rapier\\_marshal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:rapier_marshal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
Benjamin Merrell d'Toulace!  
( Mark Merrell )



Chronicler: [chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
Ldy Diana the Just ( Diana Warner)



Minister of Arts and Science: [arts\\_sciences@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:arts_sciences@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
**Accepting applications**



Web Minister : [webminister@draonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:webminister@draonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
**Accepting applications**



Knight Marshal: [marshal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:marshal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)  
**Accepting applications**



**Chronicler**  
**Lady Diana the Just**  
**[chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)**  
**Deputy Chronicler**  
**[Accepting Applications](#)**

Greetings to the populace of Dragonsfire Tor,

I am looking for a deputy who will eventually take over the office. I will be taking a break from the SCA for awhile.

Yours in Service

**Lady Diana the Just**

[chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)

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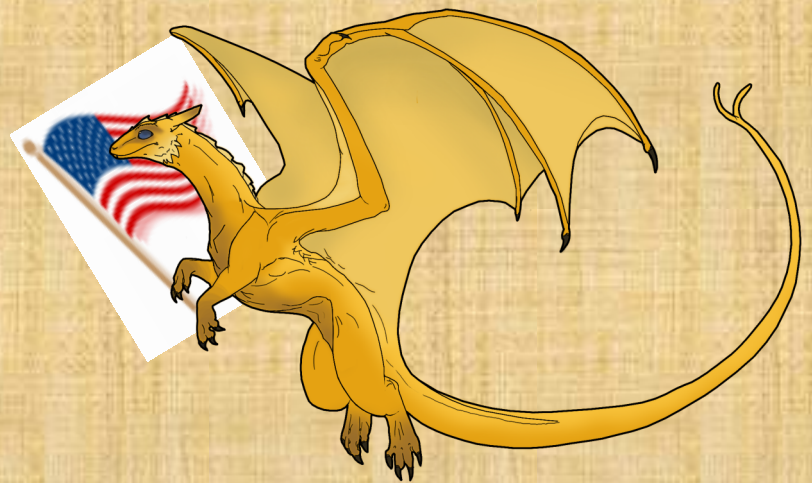
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- [Model Release Form](#)
- [Photography Release Form](#)

Fill these forms out on your system, save and download with your submission to: [chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org](mailto:chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org)



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