

# The Steppes Letter

November 2017



# Words from their Excellencies



Greetings great Barony!

We have a new King and Queen! Coronation was a lovely event with many fantastic outfits. If there had been a contest for best hat -we bet Aurelia would have won! It was fantastic!

Our last Populace in the Park of the year was held on the 29 th . Hope you came out and had a great time. Remember we have something going on every week- somewhere in the Barony. Come be a part of the fun!

Plans for 12 th Night are coming together. We have a new location that that should be convenient for everyone. We hope everyone comes out for a fantastic Middle Eastern themed event. Duke Mahdi has some great fun planned.

But before 12 th night we still have a fun November and a great Christmas party on the horizon.

Come join the fun!  
Peter and Sarah



**Baron Peter Rhys Connor**

[barone@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:barone@steppes.ansteorra.org)

**Baroness Sarah Fynn Connor**

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

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# Words from the Seneschal

Greetings Steppes!

It was great to see everyone out at the Populace in the Park. I never knew we had so many archers. Vivat to all of the archers for such a wonderful turn out. There were even regular civilian members who were impressed by our numbers and abilities.

I want to personally thank everyone who was able to show up for the Elfsea demo Elfsea has always been able to help Steppes from time to time and I am glad that we are able to return the favor. Demos are a great way that we can give back to the community and grow our own. I hope that we will be able to participate in many more down the line. If you have any ideas for a demo, don't hesitate to contact our Hospitaller, HL Alexandra Notte Clare, to see how Steppes might be able to participate.

Twelfth Night 2018 will be here before we know it. We will be holding it at the Spring Lake Event Center (Farmer's Branch Knights of Columbus Hall) in Farmers Branch on January 6, 2018. This is a new site for us and we are hoping it works out well for the barony. We will also be the hosts for Kingdom Middle Eastern Dance. Alianorra MacKkye has agreed to be our feastocrat. His Grace, Duke Mahdi is still in need of help in many other areas. IF you can, please reach out to him to offer your services. There is still lots to look forward to in December. We have As always, take care of yourselves and each other.

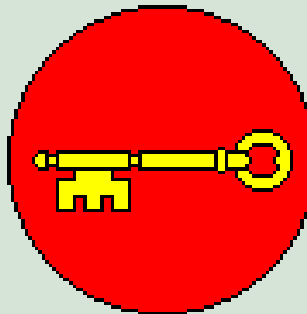
We are a Mighty Oakwood,  
We are Family,  
We are a Barony,  
WE ARE STEPPES!

YIS, HL Aurelia Ylverneau  
Seneschal, Barony of the Steppes



**Seneschal**

HL Aurelia Ylverneau  
[Seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:Seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org)



# Words from our Officers

Greetings, Steppes!

Things are still going well financially for the Steppes. The Steppes coffers were at \$21,531.79 at the end of September. We are moving ahead with plans for Steppes 12th Night, as well as Round Table in January 2018 and Sable Soldier in February. Keep an eye out for further news of those events.

The financial committee has approved the 2018 Budget for the Steppes; it will be published in the December 2017 newsletter, but if you have any questions please feel free to contact me via e-mail for a copy.

There is a position open on the Financial Committee (FC) for an at-large member of the populace. If you would like to apply to be on the financial committee, please fill out an Ansteorran Officer Application form (from the Ansteorran website) and send it to me and our seneschal. This position will remain open until the December business meeting, which will be held concurrent with A&S that month, due to the holidays. The populace will vote on the new FC member at that meeting.

As you may have heard, Kyngescreke is going dormant for a year. They will close the accounts for the canton in December, and the Steppes will place the funds into a dedicated fund for them in the Steppes account. More details regarding that dedicated fund will be decided at the business and financial committee meeting in November.

We are still looking for a place to store our Baronial trailer; if you run across any likely places please let me, Dragos, or Aurelia know.

In Service,  
Cristiana d'Avranches

## Exchequer

Lady Cristiana d'Avranches

[treasurer@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:treasurer@steppes.ansteorra.org)



# Words from our Officers

## Power of the Press

Greetings to The Steppes,  
Once upon a time, there lived a rapier marshal who cut his finger just before deadline and had to type his newsletter article wearing a splint.

So....Whether you're an advanced fighter or you've never held a rapier, come to Steppes rapier practice and hone your skills or learn new ones. Our instructors are second to none, combining drills with sparring to insure a fun and productive practice. Loaner gear is available for new people. (Guys will need to provide their own athletic protector.)

Find out more by joining the Steppes Rapier Practice FB group or by contacting me. (214) 773-5415 Find us at T.C. Marsh Middle School located at 3838 Crown Shore Dr., Dallas, TX 75244 almost every Tuesday evening at 7:00. Park in the lot on Cox Lane and come in to the cafeteria.

In service,  
Lord William Swindell  
Steppes Rapier Marshal



### **Rapier Marshal**

Lord William Swindell

[rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org)



# Words from our Officers

Greetings Steppes,

I know there are some, perhaps many of you, that have names or devices you wish to submit. Each submission will require a check for \$8 to the Barony, and in turn the Barony will write a check for \$7 to the Kingdom. If you do not see me at an event to submit your paperwork and check, you can contact me by email at [herald@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:herald@steppes.ansteorra.org) and I will give you instructions for sending everything to me by mail. Or if you prefer, you can also meet me at the monthly business meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you need help with a name or device please send me an email and I will do my best to help you, or put you in touch with someone that has the knowledge to do so.

In service

Lord Dragos



**Herald**

Lord Dragos

[Herald  
@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:herald@steppes.ansteorra.org)

Hello!

Heavy fighter practice is undergoing an overhaul! We are now practicing in the girl's gym at Thomas C. Marsh Prep Academy on Tuesdays from 6:30pm to about 9pm. Address: 3838 Crown Shore Dr. Dallas, TX 75244. We are sharing the location with the rapier fighter practice, so there should always be someone on site each week, even if you have to accept the challenge of One Star! One Army! and pick up a rapier to get a practice in!

Sunday practices at Carrollton have been suspended for the time being, until we can garner interest there or elsewhere. There are talks about joining practices with archery in Mesquite, at least sometimes if not consistently. Let the B&B, Creighton Bak, or myself know if you have any thoughts about the direction our weekend practice should head



**Knight Marshal**

Diderik von Schatten

[marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org)

# Words from our Officers

Greetings Steppes!

Again, a new issue of the newsletter is ready for your reading. Thanks to all who have submitted articles and pieces for publishing, it is always nice to see all the knowledge and memories from the barony. Keep them coming!.

As a friendly reminder, any new content for the newsletter must be submitted by our A&S meeting (2nd Thursday, 11/9) and any regular content by our Business meeting (3rd Thursday, 11/16)

Also, as a side note, remember to use our mailing list [steppes@lists.ansteorra.org](mailto:steppes@lists.ansteorra.org) for any official announcements. You can subscribe at <http://www.ansteorra.org/social.php>. If you have any problems, send me a message to get it solved.

In Service

Lady Safiya Spizega

Chronicler of the Steppes



**Chronicler**

Lady Safiya Spizega

[chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org)

I would like to have loaner garb available at all events, but I NEED some deputies willing to help with that. I'm also looking for deputies to help me shepherd newcomers and help acclimate them at their first few events. We've had inquiries during the business meeting at Half Price Books, at Archery Practice and at Populace in the Park in Carrollton, even while at the Perth Street shopping field trip.

In Service

HL Alexandra Notte Claire



**Hospitaler**

HL Alexandra Notte Claire

[hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org)

# Words from our Officers

Greetings Good People of The Steppes,

Please remember that the office for Archery Marshall is open for applications. Applications will be accepted until the October Business meeting. Please send copies of the application to the Seneschal, and Kingdom Missal Marshal. The Baron and Baroness would also like courtesy copies as well.



**Archery Marshal**

(Office Open)

[archery@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:archery@steppes.ansteorra.org)

Greetings from the Office of Minister of Arts and Sciences!

Vashti's Dance Guild of the Steppes will be meeting in December - date to be announced at a later time

St Romanos Chorale will be meeting on Nov 12 & Nov 26 of this month 302 Sweetgum Dr., Cedar Hill - 2 pm. Contact House Gruffydd (Xene and Llywelyn) for details!

As is Steppes tradition, the business meeting will be held along side the A&S nights, so there will be basic repair work to get ready for events, and somewhat quiet items happening alongside such as Charter Painting for Steppes 12th night. The second Thursday of the month falls on Nov 9th @ Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1333 Belt Line Rd, Garland, TX 75040 beginning at 7 pm. Contact [moas@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:moas@steppes.ansteorra.org) for further information.

Scribal Arts on the last Monday of the month @ 3168 Catamore Ln Dallas 75229 - Contact [Mistyhosey@gmail.com](mailto:Mistyhosey@gmail.com) for further information

Early Instrumental Music meets approximately once to twice a month (contact [seafox@gypsyheir.com](mailto:seafox@gypsyheir.com) for further information)

Boyarynya Kiriena Pevtsova  
Minister of Arts and Sciences, Barony of the Steppes



**Minister of Arts and  
Sciences**

Boyarynya Kiriena Pevtsova

[moas@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:moas@steppes.ansteorra.org)





# Words from our Officers

Hi Steppes,

First, I want to welcome and public thank both Hákon the Blacksmith, Webminister of Glaslyn, and Ozar Svennson for jumping in the position of Deputy for the Steppes Webminister.

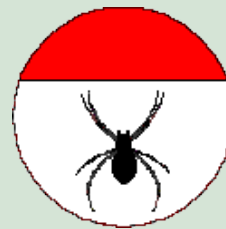
Hákon did the last update to the website and that let me deal with mundane life, and Ozar has been incredible patient with my time response.

So kudos to both of them.

I hope to have better news for the next month.

Thank you all for your patience.

Yours in Service  
Santiago el Rojo



**Webminister**

Santiago el Rojo

[Webminis-ter@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:Webminis-ter@steppes.ansteorra.org)

Greeting Steppes,

Youth Boffer has not had much interest lately as many of our youth have aged up or are extremely busy with other activities and summer vacations. Loaner gear still available as needed. Always looking for new youth to get involved and new parents to authorize as marshals. There's lots of great events coming up this fall, don't miss out!

Youth Rapier is practicing on Tuesday nights at the same time as adults. Practice is sometimes overwhelmed with youth and sometimes we have none. I expect we may see more as we get into fall, especially as we can now move to steel epees for our younger fighters. Loaner gear available!

In Service

HL Alexandra Notte Clare



**Youth Combat Marshal**  
HL Alexandra Notte Clare

**Deputy Youth Combat Marshal**  
Viscount Galen of Bristol

[sirgalen@gmail.com](mailto:sirgalen@gmail.com)

# Words from our Non-Guilds

## ***Steppes Bowyer and Fletchers Guild***

Greetings,

With war season starting up soon I felt we should begin with a combat archery preparedness workshop. Be prepared to bring your combat archery kit and let's make sure your kit is in good repair and working order. Nothing is worse for a combat archer discovering you have an equipment problem at command of "lay on"!

Even if you are not currently a combat archer there will be a lot to learn and much to do. So come join us for a fun evening of shared tasks and tales of glorious battles past and more yet to come as we inspect & repair our combat archery kits!

Hope you shall join us!

Regards,

HL William Black Dragon aka "Ironwyrn"

## ***Steppes Music and Vocal non Guild***

The Steppes Music Guild has two established working groups, the Instrumental Music group that meets on the first and third Sundays of the month at 2421 San Paula, Dallas 75228, starting at 2:00PM, and the Vocal Music Group that meets at 302 Sweetgum Dr., in Cedar Hill on the second and fourth Sunday of the month also at 2:00PM. Both exclude meetings on major holidays, and will change meeting locations to Populace in the Park or other activities when applicable. Since there's a minimum number of folks needed to have an effective music group, please contact the appropriate person if interested in attending. You don't have to be a highly trained singer or instrumentalist to join us, and we welcome all skill levels.

For more information about the guild as a whole contact Herr Marcus at [seafox@gypsyheir.com](mailto:seafox@gypsyheir.com) or Master Llywelyn at [todd@twmarsh.net](mailto:todd@twmarsh.net). For information about the specific groups, Herr Marcus is the contact for the instrumental group, while Master Llywelyn runs the vocal group. The instrumental group also tries to provide a musical presence at all Steppes events, so if you're unable to make the guild meetings but want to join in at an event contact either one of the folks referenced above to get the music sources used by the guild. And if you're interested in learning the courtly grace of music the guild has folks who can teach lessons.

# Words from our Non-Guilds

## *Steppes Dance Guild*

Dance mistress Baroness Elizabeth Carter invites all to the 1st organizational meeting of the Steppes Dance Guild and dance practice. Mistress Xene Theriane, and Master Llywelyn Gruffydd also invite dance musicians to play for the dancers.

The practice will be held at House Gruffydd, located at 302 Sweetgum Dr., Cedar Hill, TX on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017 from 2 - 5 pm.

Bring snacks to share and something to throw on the grill. The backyard grill will be fired up at 5 pm with a revel and pot-luck to follow.

We will be making decisions as to when the practice will held in the future, so please let your voices be heard.

If you have any questions, contact Mistress Xene at [vmarsh169@gmail.com](mailto:vmarsh169@gmail.com) or call 469-879-5762.

Notes from the meeting:

- Guild Principal is Baroness Elizabeth.

- Mistress Xene made introductions and discussed history of dance and music in the Steppes, vision and goals of group, strong support of Steppes B & B and MOAS.

- Suggested name of guild incorporate Vashti's name in memory of her contributions to Dance in Steppes.

Tabled for consideration and discussion.

- 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at Rapier Practice starting 9/19. Musicians not required, bring Bluetooth speaker and have dance music on cell phones. Check with Seneschal to confirm availability of space at Rapier Practice at Marsh Middle School.

- Qtrly business meetings with mini revels and musicians. House Gruffydd volunteered to host for December meeting. (Maybe Saturday, 12/30?) Marlin Stout and Amanda Stout volunteered their backyard with concrete dance floor, too. (Perhaps in March for Gulf War Pity Party and Dance Guild meeting

- 3/17 or 3/24?) Other dates tbd.

- Additional Practice at Populace in the Park on 10/29. Location is Westlake Archery Range in Mesquite. Musicians requested.

- Attend Elfsea demo for Arlington Public Library on 11/4. Musicians requested.

# Words from our Non-Guilds

## *Steppes Dance Guild ... (Cont)*

- Communicate in advance with event autocrats to have dancing put on event schedules and have space set aside for musicians and dancers.
- Communicate setlists for events with musicians in advance in order to recruit more prepared musicians at events. (Xene, Llywelyn, Marcus)
- Facebook group Ansteorra European Dancers set up by Charlene Charette (Perronelle). Suggestion was made to set up an open group local European Dance page. (Elizabeth?)
- Recruit more dancers bring to practices .
- Squires will be strongly encouraged to learn to dance, per Corpora recommendations for Peerages. (Mahdi). Other students with aspirations of excellence (Apprentices, Proteges, Arcarius, Provosts, etc.) will also be encouraged to learn (Xene, Llywelyn).
- Advanced individuals and small groups are encouraged to research, learn, teach, and perform for events and for competitions.

## ***Brewing lessons invitation***

Greetings Steppes!

I think the folk who came over in October had fun, we started a batch of beer and continued our Pumpkin Spice Melomel. The Valle dei Tempri that was started in September is about to be clarified and soon it will be ready to bottle and be set aside for the Barony.

Yes, folks, that's right. My goal is to start having a case or two of wine, mead, or beer available for the Baron and Baroness to give out as they see fit. I think everyone enjoyed the three cases at Braggart's War, and I hope to continue this long into my career with the SCA. Every batch that is made in these workshops is going towards it.

For November, we have two workshops going on.

11/12 - We will be starting a Metheglin using tea leaves.

11/26 - We will start a batch of Cider, the apple juice will be coming from a kit but the principles are the same.

As always, if you need to progress your mead, or have not started one yet, equipment and a fermenting space is available to you so that any and all comers will be able to make a one gallon batch of your design for your own personal consumption. AND you get to keep the one gallon carboy, airlock, and stopper if you do not have brewing equipment already.

Please contact me if you are going to be showing up and for which workshop.

469.878.4706

7613 Shoal Bend

Denton, Tx

76210

I hope to see you here!

Guðbrandr Njalsson

# Words from our Cantons



Greetings!

We're looking forward to enjoying the cooler weather at our Monday night fighter practices these days! We have marshals and loaner gear for Heavy and Light combat, so by all means come out and fight with us to prepare for BAM!

If any one is or knows an authorizing combat archery marshal in the area, please send them our way! We have several people interested in joining the fight from afar.

Lady Alhdryð ceorlstrange

**Seneschal of the Canton of  
Glaslyn**

Lady Alhdryð Ceorlestrange  
(Caroline Clavell)

[seneschal@glaslyn.ansteorra.org](mailto:seneschal@glaslyn.ansteorra.org)



Greetings Kyngescreke

Populace is this Wednesday, November 8 at Rockwall.



**Seneschal of the Canton of  
Kyngescreke**

Maggie MacPherson

[senechal@kyngescreke.ansteorra.org](mailto:senechal@kyngescreke.ansteorra.org)

# Power of the Press

## By Herr Marcus il Volpè

Mr. Browntree,

As we discussed, this letter is to confirm that I'm hiring you to handle the printing of my book, *The Glory of Our King*. This is for the agreed price. Enclosed is my manuscript,

and as we discussed you will typeset it on your new German style press, with stitched pages and a leather binding. I look forward to a successful business venture.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1535

Harold Parsons.

Mr. Browntree,

I have yet to hear any word on the publication of my book. I understand you're displeased with my attentions to your daughter, Anne, but that shouldn't affect our business. You have a contract that stipulates work to be done, and we can work out the other issues some other way. The important thing is that we keep our business separate from personal affairs. I expect to see galleys of the book in the next week. Any delay will require me to seek satisfaction from the courts.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1535

Harold Parsons.

Mr. Browntree,

I've received the galleys for my publication, and they're not what we agreed upon. The typesetting is crude, the quality of printing is messy, and the paper is so rough that it's unreadable because the ink soaks too much into it, causing ugly smudges. Is this the quality level you plan to use for my works? Remember, this is a business transaction that predates my affair with your daughter, and I expect you to keep the two things in their proper perspective. Your other publications don't show this level of poor quality, and these galleys are of lower quality than a cheap broadsheet. I expect better quality within the week or I'll seek court action.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1535

Harold Parsons.

Mr. Browntree,

These are much better. I think we're on the right track, and if we keep up this standard we should turn out some excellent folios. Please continue in this direction. I understand, as your note mentioned, that you're angry with me on the other matter. Of course it wasn't my intention to get your lovely daughter Anne with child. And of course I have no intention of abandoning her. With the sales of my book I should have no problem caring for her. Please don't concern yourself about her future, as she's in my hands. I know that we can work all of this out as we start the new year.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1535

Harold Parsons.

# Power of the Press

## By Herr Marcus il Volpè

Mr. Browntree,

I received the last set of gallies for my book, and they are beautiful. I'm ready to start the next stage of our publication after the yuletide break.

On to a more personal matter, I can't have Anne at my door all the time. I'm a writer, and I need quiet time to work. She's a terrible distraction, and my neighbors have complained about her outbursts and yelling tirades. At this point I think it would be best if you enroll her in a convent. This will help her come to terms with the realities of her situation. Of course I love her, but she's got some expectations that we never discussed or that I never even hinted at, and I think some quiet contemplation time will be best for her. Of course I'll pledge funds toward her maintenance as soon as my book sells, but right now I'm tight on resources. Publishing a book is not cheap, even in this modern day and age, as you well know.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1536

Harold Parsons.

Mr. Browntree,

I beseech you to come to my aid. Yesterday morning the constables took me into custody under order of the most wise king for charges of sedition. They claim that my book contains text that is defamatory to the king. I would of course never dream of saying anything that was not the greatest praise of our great Henry VIII, but somehow they think what I wrote is of that nature. Mr. Browntree, you have my original manuscript, please show it to them and prove my innocence of these charges. I'm groveling at your feet, as you alone can save me from this false charge.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1536

Harold Parsons.

Mr. Browntree,

I don't know what to say. You say Anna burned my original pages in anger because I was unfair to her? I can't imagine how she'd think that. Of course our passions have cooled a bit, but that was entirely her fault, as no man can keep an ardent love for a woman who screams at him and cries as much as your daughter has. And I'm truly sorry her pregnancy has been so difficult. But there's no reason for her to take this attitude against me. Her life is a bit unpleasant, but mine is at risk, for the penalty for treason is death. Perhaps if you could testify on my behalf that would be enough. I didn't know I had any rivals, and I have no idea how someone could get access to early folios from my book without breaking into your shop. But what the constables are saying is patently false. Calling the king a serial murderer and abuser of women? I can't believe anyone would think that I, the most loyal subject of our wise and powerful king, would even dream of writing anything like that. Zounds, I wouldn't even think it, much less say it or commit it to paper. Please intervene for me or I fear Jack Ketch will have me as his guest.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1536

Harold Parsons.



# Power of the Press

## By Herr Marcus il Volpè

Browntree,

I don't know why you refuse to speak on my behalf with the courts. You know what I wrote. Somehow they have the mistaken impression you feel I'm a traitor too. Please disabuse the judge of this before it's too late. I'm sorry to hear about Anne, though I'm glad to hear she didn't suffer the fate of her child. I'm hoping that she can grow past all of that and move on with her life. I guess it's too much to expect her to visit me, as her mercurial nature made it clear to me that she finds solace in blaming all her troubles on me. I find it unjust of her, as I tried to treat her well, but too many words have been written already about the fickle nature of women. Please rescue me. You alone have the power to free me from this prison and keep me

from the noose.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1536

Harold Parsons.

Unto the most vile and duplicitous Edward Browntree,

Words fail at my contempt for you. Your testimony at my trial contained not a shred of truth. Okay, yes, I did contract you to publish my book on the glories of our king, but from there you never once touched the truth. I have no idea where you got those manuscripts that included the false text, though I can guess that as a scion of corruption and villainy you have regular congress with forgers. You must know some second floor men as well, because no scrap of the gallies with the correct text could be found, and now the constables believe that I'll make up any story to try to save my neck. Tell that harridan you fathered that between the two of you an innocent man will hang, and injustice will have won. Of course I always intended to marry her, even with her weakness of character and personal faults. But you, with your treachery and cobbled together lying folios, have destined her to spinsterhood. I hope that thought comforts you

when you grow older, knowing that your daughter could have been a wife instead of an unclean woman of poor repute. My sincerest wish is to be there at the gates of heaven when Saint Peter casts you down into the burning fires of hell for your falsehoods and manipulation. May your life be painful, difficult, and short.

In the Year of Our Lord, 1536

Harold Parsons.

My dearest Father,

He's done for. I know you didn't want to watch him on the gallows, but of course I had to go see it for myself. He was so undignified, crying and yelling as they dragged him up the steps. His last words were to claim his innocence and curse both you and me. The spectacle was almost too much for me. Paul had to hold me up as I came close to fainting. I'm glad he was there, and I know he's far more a man than Harold was. I think he may come to talk to you soon, and if he does please know that I won't object to his proposal. And I'm so glad Paul is an honest man. I don't know what I was thinking by getting involved with a writer, and I'm looking forward to the more stable and honest life of the wife of a brick maker.

But Harold Parsons is a part of history. I'm glad we're rid of him. May the devil take all his brethren, at least the ones who try to despoil maidens, so we can be free of them.

In love and respect,

Your daughter Anne Rowan Browntree.

# Musings from Malachi the Monk

Often times we are asked to tell a mundane about the SCA. We all, for the most part, give the same answer. "The Society for Creative Anachronism is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the recreation of the life of noble people from about 900bc to 1600 ad." We talk about the fighting, the A&S, and even about the safe family environment. What I never hear anyone say (and this is just me) is what they have seen. Well my friends, here is what I have seen in 15 years....

“I have seen children grow up.

I have seen adults grow up.

I have seen the sun rise, set, and rise again all in the same day.

I have seen a Baroness sit the thrown alone while her husband was away at war, and despite the stress and hardships of the job, she made it look easy.

I have seen armies clash for hours in the morning, and greet each other as friends in the evening.

I have seen a drunk sober up.

I have seen party animals grow past that and into respected peers.

I have seen a Rose bloom in the desert.

I have sworn an oath to king and crown.

I saw a man with no titles and a bad back and neck teach his craft to others.

I saw the same man befriend an out cast.

I have sat with, and dined in the presence of kings and had tea with a princess.

I have seen 12,000 people walk into the woods for 3 weeks, and leave no trace they were there.

I have known a man for 15 years. I call him brother. He watches my kids. I can't tell you his real name but I trust him with my life.

I watched a man fight for a championship, and bow out because his quest for honor was greater than his quest to reign.

I have seen a selfish man rededicate himself to the service of others.

I have seen a rose cut by a blade only to be pricked by her thorn for his trouble.

I have offended.

I have offered amends.

I have lost the dream and left. I have come back. The dream is I'm me now and for life. “

Mostly I have seen my life go by in a way that these words can not do justice to. Someone once asked me why I don't just quit. This is why. For better or worse, friend or foe, I love you for the magic of my life. This dream is bigger than one man. I am proud to serve it. Thanks for the last 15 years.

# Da'ud Bob Movie Review

## The Three Musketeers.



Okay, well. Hmm. Let me start out by stating that sometimes, Netflix is not your friend. I say this only because of Anna Sue, who likes to look for, and then queue up, movies on Netflix that I have not yet reviewed for you. And, occasionally, she'll be surprised when she sees a potential addition to that list and then learns that, no, indeed, I have not yet reviewed it. Like, for example, this month's movie, which came out in October of 2011. She couldn't believe that I hadn't gotten myself right down to the theater when it opened and reviewed at that time. But I hadn't. And when she asked me why not, I had no real answer for her except that I had probably seen the previews of it and just couldn't bring myself to pay money to see it. No matter that our motto is, "We watch 'em so you don't have to." It just looked to me like this was an unnecessary remake of a movie that has been remade too many times already, mostly to poor effect. But she had seen that it was available on Netflix, and gone ahead and placed it in the queue for me. As it turns out, my initial thoughts about this movie back in 2011 were proven to have a solid foundation. Thus supporting my initial premise that "sometimes, Netflix is not your friend." But thus it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you 2011's remake of *The Three Musketeers*.

Starring Logan Lerman as d'Artagnan, Matthew Macfadyen as Athos, Ray Stevenson as Porthos, Luke Evans as Aramis, Mads Mikkelsen as Rochefort, Christoph Waltz as Richelieu, Freddie Fox as King Louis, Juno Temple as Queen Anne, Gabriella Wilde as Constance, James Corden as Planchet, and Orlando Bloom as the Duke of Buckingham, this movie follows - in loose fashion - the plot of every other *Three Musketeers* movie ever made, only with more CGI and bigger explosions. These do not necessarily make it an improvement. And it throws in an outlandish and highly unrealistic scene at the beginning (not unlike your typical James Bond movie, now that I think of it) where Athos, Porthos, and Aramis fail in a scheme to steal Da Vinci's airship blueprints.

Good points: It does contain within it the basic outlines of the original story by Dumas. Parts of it are very pretty. It has fairly high production values. The (CGI) fireworks over Venice. The banners with the arms of Cardinal Richelieu display his actual coat of arms! (Or three chevrons gules.) The arms on the nose of Buckingham's airship, with the exception of the third quarter which appeared to have nine quartered arms in it, display the actual arms of Villers, the Duke of Buckingham! (Argent on a cross gules five escallops or.)

Bad points: The "Darth Vader" style scuba gear. The multi-crossbow. (It brought to mind the old ads on TV by Ronco.) Da Vinci's clockwork booby-trapped vault. The airships. (Way, way too big to have ever gotten off the ground. And unrealistic in flight.) Buckingham's modern butterfly knife. The entire thing seemed to me to be a "bit overdone." (Anna Sue thinks that I am too kind in my assessment.) It did seem like the movie couldn't really decide what it wanted to be when it grew up. Action adventure? Farce? James Bond? Time Bandits? All of the above?

Zero breasts. One gallon of blood. 57 dead bodies. Chain fu. Ronco multi-crossbow fu. Rapier fu. Fisticuffs. Pistol fu. Bucket fu. Staff fu. Dagger fu. Pisspot fu. Musket fu. Cannon fu. Flamethrower fu. Multi-barrel rotating cannon fu. Kung fu. Venetians roll. Cardinal's guards roll. Musketeers roll. Waves roll. Gratuitous CGI. Gratuitous fire eaters. Gratuitous slo-mo. Gratuitous pigeon poop. Academy Award nominations to Ray Stevenson as Porthos for "You're reckless, arrogant, impetuous, probably be dead by sundown, but I like you, lad," and to Logan Lerman as d'Artagnan for "You should have apologized to my horse." An 83 on the Vomit Meter. Two stars. Da'ud Bob says, "Sometimes, Netflix is not your friend. Check it out!"

# November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Instrumental Music Guild Meeting	6 Glaslyn Chivalry Practice	7 Rapier Practice , Chivalry Practice	8	9 A&S Night Business Meeting	<b>10 Queen's Champion</b>	<b>11 Queen's Champion</b>
12 Vocal Music Guild Meeting	13 Glaslyn Chivalry Practice	14 Rapier Practice , Chivalry Practice	15	<b>16 War of Rams</b>	<b>17 War of Rams</b>	<b>18 War of Rams</b>
<b>19 War of Rams</b> Instrumental Music Guild Meeting	20 Glaslyn Chivalry Practice	21 Rapier Practice , Chivalry Practice	22	23 Scribal guild Meeting	24	25
26 Vocal Music Guild Meeting	27 Glaslyn Chivalry Practice	28 Rapier Practice , Chivalry Practice	29 Populace goes to Diner	30	<b>1 Yule Rev-el</b>	2

**Details of the calendar are provided in the next page**

# October 2017 (Cont...)

- ◆ **Mondays 6:45 PM—Glaslyn Chivalry Practice** at North Lakes Park 2001 W. Windsor Dr. Denton, TX
- ◆ **Sundays 2:00 PM—Instrumental Music Guild Meeting** at 2421 San Paula ave, 75228, Dallas .(1st and 3d )
- ◆ **Sundays 2:00 PM—Vocal Music Guild Meeting** at 302 Sweetgum Dr., Cedar Hill, TX. (2nd and 4th)
- ◆ **Tuesdays 7 PM—Rapier Practice** at 3838 Crown Shore, Dallas 75244
- ◆ **Tuesdays 6:30 PM—Chivalric Practice** at 3838 Crown Shore, Dallas 75244
- ◆ **Wednesday 8, 7 PM—Kyngescreke Populace Meeting** at 1134 Whispering Glen, Rockwall TX .
- ◆ **Thursday 9, 7 PM—A&S Night** at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1333 Beltline Road Garland, TX
- ◆ **Thursday 9, 7 PM—Business Meeting** at Half Price Books. 5803 Northwest Hwy, Dallas
- ◆ **Thursday 23, 6:00 PM—Scribal Meeting** at 3168 Catamore Ln, Dallas
- ◆ **Sunday 29 2:00 PM—Populace goes to dinner** at Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet 180 W. Campbell Rd Richardson
- ◆ **11/10—11/11 Queen's Champion** at Old Fort Parker, 866 Park Road 35, Groesbeck, TX 76642
- ◆ **11/16—11/19 - War of the Rams** at Recreation Road 255 & Private Road 7350 Colmesneil, TX 75938
- ◆ **12/1 DFT Yule Revel** at 1019 Northeast Barnard St., Glen Rose, TX

# Baronial Schedule, Come and Join Us!

Come join us at the following events. If we have enough people coming we will bring the Baronial Pavilion so we all have a place to gather. If it's a camping event we would love to have anyone interested camp near us so we have a Steppes Camp. Let's have a presence on the road in Ansteorra!

## **November**

11 Queen's Champion  
17-19 War of the Rams

## **December**

2 Dragonsfire Tor's Yule

Peter and Sarah  
Baron and Baroness

# Steppes Populace Events for 2017

- ◆ Saturday 03/25: Populace goes out.
  - ◇ J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street, Dallas TX 75201.
  - ◇ Music guild concert, mini demo and talk on inter-library loan
- ◆ Sunday 04/30: Populace in the Park.
  - ◇ 2:00 PM at Oak Creek Park. 2531 Oak Creek Dr. Carrollton .
  - ◇ Mini tourneys, A & S, mini court
- ◆ Wednesday 05/24: Populace goes to Dinner.
  - ◇ Spring Creek Bar B Que
- ◆ Saturday 06/17: Populace goes out.
  - ◇ Perth Street tour and Shopping
- ◆ Sunday 07/30: Populace in the Park.
  - ◇ 2:00 PM at Oak Creek Park. 2531 Oak Creek Dr. Carrollton .
  - ◇ Mini tourneys, A & S, mini court
- ◆ Wednesday 08/30: Populace goes to Dinner.
  - ◇ Zorba's Greek Café 1501 Preston Rd. Plano
- ◆ Sunday 09/10: Populace goes out.
  - ◇ Vetro Glassblowing studio Grapevine. (\$3.00 charge per person)
  - ◇ *Date is subject to change!*
- ◆ Sunday 10/29: Populace in the Park with Archery!.
  - ◇ 2:00 PM at Westlake Sports Center 601 Gross Rd Mesquite.
  - ◇ Mini tourneys, A & S, mini court
- ◆ Wednesday 11/29: Populace goes to Dinner.
  - ◇ Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet 180 W. Campbell Rd Richardson
- ◆ December: Christmas Party

Please note that all items are subject to change. They have been added to the Steppes calendar so please check it out for any changes.

# Opportunities

## **Steppes Business Meeting**

**3rd Thursday of the Month** - 7 PM until 9 PM

Is held in the Community room of the Half Price book Flagship Store and open to the Populace! If you have topic to discuss and you are not able to come, please send them to our Seneschal to update the Agenda. Officers, the same goes for you.

The Financial Committee Meeting is after Business meeting

## **A&S Nights**

**2nd Thursday of the month - 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1333 Beltline Road Garland, TX 75040-3267 This is on Beltline, at N Garland Rd.

You will see a large sign for a car wash. Parking is behind the church. This is a monthly meeting, held the second Thursday of each month, for sharing in our interests in the arts and sciences. There are several tables, so bring a project if you have something you want to work on.

**Early Instrumental Music Guild Meeting: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month**—2:00 PM at 2421 San Paula ave, 75228, Dallas. Doors open at 1:30 PM, come early if you need to tune up your instruments. Please contact [seafox@gypsyheir.com](mailto:seafox@gypsyheir.com) for more specific directions.

**Early Vocal Music Guild Meeting: 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month**—2:00 PM at 2421 North Roberts in Cedar Hill. Please contact [seafox@gypsyheir.com](mailto:seafox@gypsyheir.com) for more specific directions.

**Scribal and Illumination Meeting: 4th Thursday of the month**—6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Hosted my Mistress Honour du Bois. Every Scribal night will have open charter painting for those who wish to paint our awesome charters as well as some structured classes ranging from beginning to advance techniques as well as original scroll work. We will be planning and working on scrolls for our baronial events too, so bring your ideas.

## **Chivalric Fighter Practice**

Steppes fighter practice is open to all. New fighters welcome! The only equipment that a beginner needs to supply is an athletic cup. Loaner gear is available, and good gentles will happily be willing to instruct beginners in the fine art of Chivalric or Heavy Fighting.

Practice are currently held on Tuesday at 3838 Crown Shore, Dallas 75244, along with the Rapier practices.

**Tuesdays 6:30 pm**

Thomas C. Marsh Prep Academy . 3838 Crown Shore, Dallas 75244

## **Rapier Practice**

**Tuesdays 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Thomas C. Marsh Prep Academy . 3838 Crown Shore, Dallas 75244

Monitor the Steppes Rapier Practice Facebook page for info and site clarifications. New fighters are always welcome. The only equipment that a beginner needs to supply is an athletic cup. Loaner gear is available and good gentles will happily be willing to instruct beginners in the fine art of Rapier or Light Fighting.

## **Archery Practice**

**1st and 3rd Sundays 2:00 pm**

Steppes archery practices are held on the first and third Sundays of the month, 2PM at the Westlake Sports Center, 601 Gross Road in Mesquite 75149

## **Glaslyn**

**Mondays 6:45pm – 10:00pm (Except Christmas Eve and New Years Eve)**

North Lakes Park 2001 W. Windsor Dr. Denton, TX

Directions: From I-35 E in Denton, Texas exit University Drive (Hwy 380). Go east on University Dr. Go north on Bonnie Brae St. Go east on Windsor Dr. Just past the baseball fields, turn left (north) into the parking lot. Continue around as if you are going to the soccer fields. Practice is in front of the basketball court on your right, soccer fields on your left.

## **Kyngescreke**

**Populace Meeting in on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.** At Kaufman County Library .



# Other Places to Find Great Things

There are many sites on the Web and Facebook for SCA interests. Below are a few. This is in no way an endorsement for any of the groups listed, or a final list. It is just a way to direct people to groups that they might not know about, that may be of interest.

## **Web:**

sca.org

ansteorra.org

steppes.ansteorra.org

calendar.ansteorra.org

hospitaler.ansteorra.org

heraldry.ansteorra.org/honors (Awards)

ansteorra.org/links

## **Facebook:**

### **Barony of the Steppes**

**Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA)**- <https://www.facebook.com/currentmiddleages>

The official Facebook page for the SCA.

**Legion of Swashbucklers:** This group is open to all rapier fighters

**Steppes Cooks:** This group is for those interested in cooking

### **Steppes Calligraphers and Illuminators Guild**

**Canvas Castle Showcase**- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/471086229603006/>

Canvas Castle Showcase: Show off your tent, camping furniture, or anything that makes your camping experience more homey

**Elizabethan Costume**- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/29374273995/>

For those people fascinated with the clothing, accessories, hairstyles, cosmetics, etc. of the 16th century. Although the name says "Elizabethan," anything from the Tudor period (1485-1603) is fair game for discussion.

**Garb For Sale** - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/130311470376509/>

For selling clothing, camping equipment, feast gear, period books and services

**SCA Runway** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/460750480615188/?ref=ts&fref=tsA>

Place for showing off SCA fashion.

**Tudor Conversations**- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/TudorWorld/>

An on-going conversation among like-minded enthusiasts of the 16th century exploring the world of the Tudors, with occasional excursions among the early Stuarts

**Viking Clothing** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/279611679205/>

For all clothes Viking!

**Vikings of the SCA** - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/244158265607631/>

Group for those interested in all things "Viking" related in the SCA.

**SCA Equestrian** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/34623283817/>

For those interested in Equestrian Arts in the SCA

**SCA Garb** - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/scagarb/>

A group for discussion of researching and making all types of garb for the SCA

# Offices Open for Bids

## **Local Offices:**

The current local offices are open for application. Please send a copy of your application to the current officer, Seneschal, and the Baroness. Applications can be downloaded from the [Kingdom website](#).

Office	Closing Date
Minister of Children	Until filled
Seneschal Deputy	N/A
Archery Marshal	Sept 21

## **Kingdom and Society Offices:**

The following Kingdom and Society offices are open for bids. Please contact the officer for questions concerning application information. Applications for Kingdom offices can be downloaded from the [Ansteorra Website](#).

Office	Closing Date

# Autocrats Needed

## **Event bits:**

The current event bids are open for application. Please send a copy of your bid and budget to the Seneschal, and the Baroness.

Event	Closing Date
Steppes 12th Night 2019	December 1st
Steppes Warlord 2018	December 1st