



The Steppes Letter

November 2023



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11 November 2023


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					Battle of the Brothers	
5 Archery practice	6 Fighter practice	7 Newcomers academy, scribal, A&S, fighter practice	8	9	10	11 Consort's Champion
12	13 Fighter practice	14 Sewing, A&S, fighter practice	15	16	17	18
				Bordermarch War of the Rams		
19 Archery practice	20 Fighter practice	21 A&S, fighter practice, business meeting	22 Financial committee meeting	23	24	25
26	27 Fighter practice	28 A&S, fighter practice	29	30		

Key

 Events

 Glaslyn

 Steppes

 [Steppes event calendar](#)
[Ansteorra event calendar](#)



Event Information

All SCA practices and meetings are free to attend

Steppes Regular Meetings

Tuesdays from 7 PM-9 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Steppes Business Meeting

3rd Thursday at 6:30 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Archery

First & Third Sundays
2PM-5PM
Westlake Sports Center
601 Gross Rd, Mesquite, TX

Newcomers Academy

First Tuesday at 6:30 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Thrown Weapons and Music Guild

On hiatus

Culinary Guild

1st Wednesday 7PM
901 N US 75-Central Expy
1000, Plano, TX

Scribal Guild

First Tuesday from 7 PM-9 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Glaslyn Practice and Business Meeting

Mondays 6 PM
North Lakes Park
2001 W. Windsor Dr., Denton, TX

Check us out!





Upcoming Events

Battle of the Brothers

November 3rd to November 5th

Sons of Herman Lodge 301
6871 FM-1111, Caldwell, TX

Distance from Steppes: 199 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Consort's Champion

November 11 at 8:30 am

St. Jude Event Center
2625 S. Cooper St. Arlington, TX 76015

Distance from Steppes: 34.7 miles

[Event page](#)

Bordermarch War of the Rams

November 16 to November 19

Jones Country Music Park
5754 Recreational Road 255, Colmesniel, TX

Distance from Steppes: 234 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Barony of the Steppes

Twelfth Night

A Tale as Old as Time



JANUARY 6, 2024

8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX 75080

*From US-75, take exit 24 towards Belt Line. Turn Left onto Beltline
then right onto Dover. Destination is on the right.*

ADULT REGISTRATION: \$25.00

ADULT MEMBER REGISTRATION: \$20.00

MINORS 17 & UNDER: FREE

Make checks payable to: SCA Inc./ Barony of the Steppes

*Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend
with a 21-year-old or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver
from the parents.*

AUTOCRATS

ESMERALDA MALASPINA

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972-646-1077



SCAN FOR
MORE
INFO

or visit steppes.ansteorra.org

Words from the Baron and Baroness

Salutations Good Gentles All,

November is the month for giving thanks and the Steppes has a lot to be thankful for, with a thriving populace and activities all over the place. This past month we had a fun Messy Arts Day hosted by Rayya. The Steppes has been busy making preparations for the ball at 12th Night, where there will be dancing and live music. The Steppes Holiday Party will be on December 9th. We'll have a White Elephant gift exchange and the annual Nailed It gingerbread house building competition. Sunday after the Sovereign Queen's Champion, there will be another regional practice.

We have a lot going on, but that always seems to be the case with you have a vibrant community. We are grateful for everyone who participates in the Steppes and Glaslyn, and each person has made the barony better.

Yours Truly with an outdated way of signing off on letters but possibly won't make some people cringe with more modern phrases and words coined by the current generation,

Baudoyne and Katherine

Lord and Lady of Glaslyn,
Baron and Baroness of the Steppes





Words from Glaslyn

Greetings Steppes!

The weather is cooling down, and War of the Rams is coming up! But there's time for one more practice, and Elfsea is graciously hosting another Melees and Meetups on the 12th! Weather permitting, Phoenix Company will be making a showing, and we hope we see you there!

Additionally, as always visitors from near and far are welcome to our combined practice and populace nights Monday evenings at Northlakes Park in Denton.

hákön the Blacksmith
Seneschal, Canton of Glaslyn



Seneschal

Antigone of York
seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Fellow Steppers and Steppets,

As we fall into fall and the seasonal color of dirt brown turns into a more dead dirt brown, we draw closer to the end of 2023. Steppes has had an outstanding year and that forward march continues toward growth of the best barony.

As of November 1st, my ER deputy will be moving from Centurion Margery to Lady Aethylwyn. Margery has my sincere thanks for serving as my ER deputy since I started in the office in June. During her tenure she assisted with meetings, helped coordinate across officers for various activities and facilitated in assisting with more open lines of communication in the barony. I am very excited to work with Lady Aethylwyn who has served as a seneschal previously in another group.

Warlord 2024 is quickly upon us and as such bids are open for this event. Their excellencies of Steppes have decided upon the theme "the Beach" for the event. Any takes on this theme would be welcome for bids. If you are interested in submitting a bid contact me seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org for more detailed information. Bids will be open until November 30th with the bid being awarded at the Steppes financial committee in December.

As always, be kind to each other and continue the Steppes welcoming vibe. Make sure to high five Lord Matthias if you've read this far in appreciation for all his hard work if you've read this far!

Antigone

Steppes Seneschal



Exchequer

Lady Astrid Flokadottir
exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting to the Populace,

The Steppes balance is currently \$21,061.33. All checks have cleared the bank.

The financial committee is working on the 2024 budget.

In Service,

Astrid Flokadottir



Chivalric Marshal

Centurion Magnus Creppinson
marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org

At long last we have past summer, false fall, second summer, and hautumn to finally get into fall! The hot days seem behind us and the rainy season is here. Luckily we can take shelter in the sanctuary of our indoor practice. We recently had a new Knight move to the area who is enthusiastic about being involved, so please give Sir Augy some dances, or ask for his advice if you see him out. We have some new purchases approved for armor and swords so it's full speed ahead for practice! We will be doing more melee scenarios and practice for the Iron Wood War Company. If any need gear before BAM (War of the Rams) please let me know ASAP. Other than that, were taking Halloween off, but I'll see every back at practice for our regularly scheduled practice after that!

Magnus

Steppes Knight Marshal



Archery Marshal

Eadgyth Beornesdohtor
archery@steppes.ansteorra.org



Rapier Marshal

Mathias Grunwalt
rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the populace of the Steppes, your Archery Marshal sends greetings.

We had a fantastic time at the Barony's Second Annual Great Pumpkin Massacree! Not only did we slaughter massive amounts of squash, but we welcomed several newcomers and taught several folks how to shoot!

It has been a wonderful three years serving as your Baronial Archery Marshal, and I will be stepping down in November. The position does not require you to be a warranted Target Archery Marshal. We can train you. If you are interested in serving as the Steppes Baronial Archery Marshal, please contact me or the Seneschal.

Stay cool, stay hydrated — see you on the range!

Yours in joyous service,

Lady Eadgyth Beornesdohtor



Minister of Arts and Sciences

Hadassah Sari Bas Yossi
moas@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings Fair Barony,

As my time as MoAS draws to a close, I get to reflect on what we have seen accomplished in the Barony during my time as an officer.

The best part of holding an office is watching the growth of the community, and as an artisan, seeing people explore talents they never realized they had is one of my favorites. I've had the great pleasure of watching people who have never held a paintbrush, begin to paint some charters that rival those of people who have been painting them for years as they begin to explore their creative side, seen people who have never held a needle, take their first baby steps in sewing and embroidery, and had the pleasure of personally teaching about foods and candy making.

This past weekend, we even had folks playing with a potter's wheel, explore natural fabric dyeing, and making candy and butter, all in the same day.

We have gone from one or two people sitting along the edges of the room at fighter practice, to full rooms of people working on individual projects, or learning a new project together... to a full-on music practice, and to a monthly cooking guild meeting, not just online, but in-person where we are able to explore different foods. We have a group that makes and repairs armor, and on occasion, a working forge to learn metal smithing.

We have managed to catch up on the backlog of Baronial Awards Charters and are even getting ahead on new awards.

And I have even achieved a couple of personal goals and faced a few fears... I competed in my first ever arts competition, something I had never done because I was always too busy working behind the scenes at

events and was always afraid to attempt, and I am currently having the opportunity to pursue and encourage others to pursue the study of the Jewish Culture in period.

No, I am not leaving, except as your MoAS... I will still be here for the Guild of Hestia, and to support the arts in the Barony. I look forward to seeing a continuation of the growth of what has begun.

Here's to the future of the Arts in the Barony of the Steppes.

YIS

ThL Hadassah Sarai bas Yossi

MoAS. Steppes



Chronicler

Rayya al-Ruqay'a
chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org

I would like to invite everyone to give a hearty welcome to Ade Eszes, the new Deputy Chronicler! Ade and I will be working together on new material, and possibly a new layout. I'm looking forward to seeing the new ideas and energy that they bring to the role as we spread the fame of our artisana, the infamy of our fighters, and the glory of the Steppes entire throughout the known world.

In Service to the Dream,

Sayyida Rayya al-Ruqay'a



Webminister

Hákon the Blacksmith
webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org



Herald

Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh
herald@steppes.ansteorra.org

Hello everyone!

Unfortunately, we've been very busy moving houses, so we don't have any new scans this month. But look for 1988 soon! Despite the delay, the project to scrub old Steppes Letters continues, and we're always looking for more. So if you happen to have any physical copies of the Steppes Letter from before 1985 or between 1999 and 2006, we would love to borrow them! We'll just need them for a short while to scan them and then they will be returned to you.

As always, make sure you keep an eye on the front page of the website and our Social Media for any announcements, and sync to our calendar using the button on the Calendar of Events page.

If you see an event that needs updating, have something that needs adding to the calendar, or if you find any other errors or issues with our website, feel free to let me know at webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org!

Yours in service,

Hákon the Blacksmith

Webminister

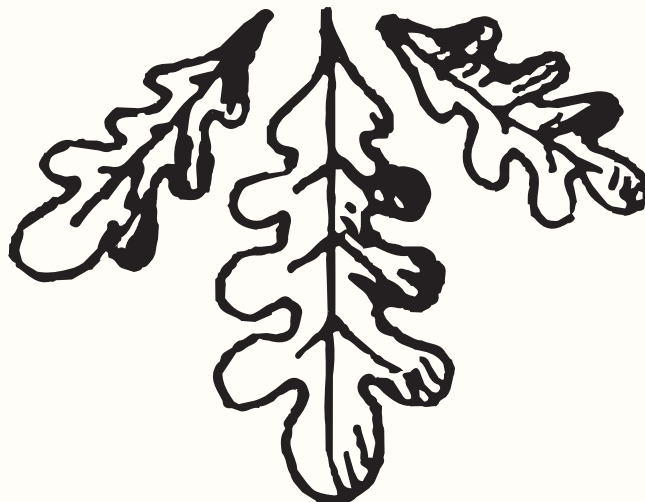
Esteemed Steppes and Glaslyn, Greetings:

My apologies that I've again fallen behind on submissions - it's wonderful that we have so much interest in the heraldic arts, but life has gotten the better of me. I'm out of town this month, but please do not hesitate to reach out if you need an update.

Additionally, my tenure is ending soon, which means we will soon be opening the position for any who want to take over as baronial herald. I've got a few deputies in the making (and I promise we'll get you some training as soon as life stops blindsiding me) so if you're interested in the position, please watch for the announcement from our seneschal. I'll plan for staying on as an emergency deputy until we're ready for training wheels to come off, so don't be afraid to toss your hat in the ring.

In service,

Elionora inghean Uí Cheallaigh





Social Media Officer

Centurion Margery Heron
social-media@steppes.ansteorra.org



hospítaler

Wilhelm vom Bruck
hospítaler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings Mighty Steppes!

Our Social Media continues to grow, and engagement has been pretty good lately. We are always looking for content, so if anyone has photos or videos they would like to see shared, please send them my way!

Thank you to all of my deputies who have been helping with everything from content creation to marketing strategy, I appreciate everyone's hard work that has gone into making social media a success here!

In Service,

Centurion Margery heron
social-media@steppes.ansteorra.org



Hello everyone!

The anticipation for the upcoming War of the Rams is mounting, and we are committed to ensuring that everyone is well-prepared for this exciting event.

Fresh off the conclusion of our previous Newcomers Academy cycle in October, we're thrilled to announce the commencement of a new one. To kick it off in style, we're hosting a "What to Expect at Your First Event" Newcomers Academy session. Additionally, we've got you covered with loaner garb for the night. If you have specific size requirements, please inform us, and we'll ensure that suitable tunics are readily available.

In our quest to make sure that every attendee is fully geared up for the War of the Rams, we welcome any and all questions. We're not stopping there; we're forging an exciting partnership with another barony to create a welcoming camp for newcomers. All are cordially invited to join us in this endeavor. Kindly give us at least a week's notice, so we can make the necessary preparations.

For any inquiries or to connect with us, don't hesitate to reach out via email at hospítaler@steppes.ansteorra.org.

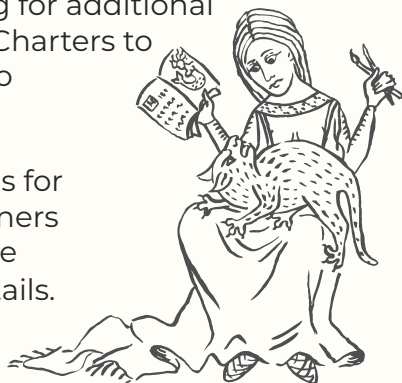
Yours in service,

**Lord Wilhelm Von Bruck and
Mbearai Saoirse Hamelin**
Hospítaler and Deputy to the Hospítaler



Scribal Guild

We are looking for additional designs for Steppes Charters to not only add variety to what we currently have, but to also add some simpler designs for those who are beginners to work on. Please see Lady Eagdyth for details.



Steppes Bowyer and Fletcher's Guild

The Steppes Bowyer and Fletchers Guild is the oldest archery guild within Ansteorra that we know of surviving even the later established now defunct kingdom's archery guild.

The Guild exists to share knowledge between members and instruct others how to accomplish all the projects, skills, and items required to round out personal kits for our SCA archery community.

We have recently included thrown weapons and siege weapons to our instructional activities since the kingdom has combined all airborne missile activities together. Guild meetings are a bit sporadic at the moment but ideally we will meet on the last Friday of the month at a guild members' home.

If you want to know when the next meeting is, please contact the Steppes archery marshal at archery@steppes.ansteorra.com

Culinary Guild of bestia

The Culinary Guild has taken a vote and moved our meeting to Sundays. At our next meeting we will be exploring Mediterranean Foods. Check the Guild Facebook page and discord #biteclub for the date and time

Steppes Loose Association of Brewers

Greetings Steppes, Currently no meetings are planned, but keep an eye out here each month for more details. Also join the [Facebook group here.](#)



Music and Vocal Non-Guild

Greetings,

Practice at home until further notice. Watch the Facebook group at St. Romanos Chorale and Oakwood Consort. Contact Mistress Xene at music@twmarsh.net for addresses and more information.

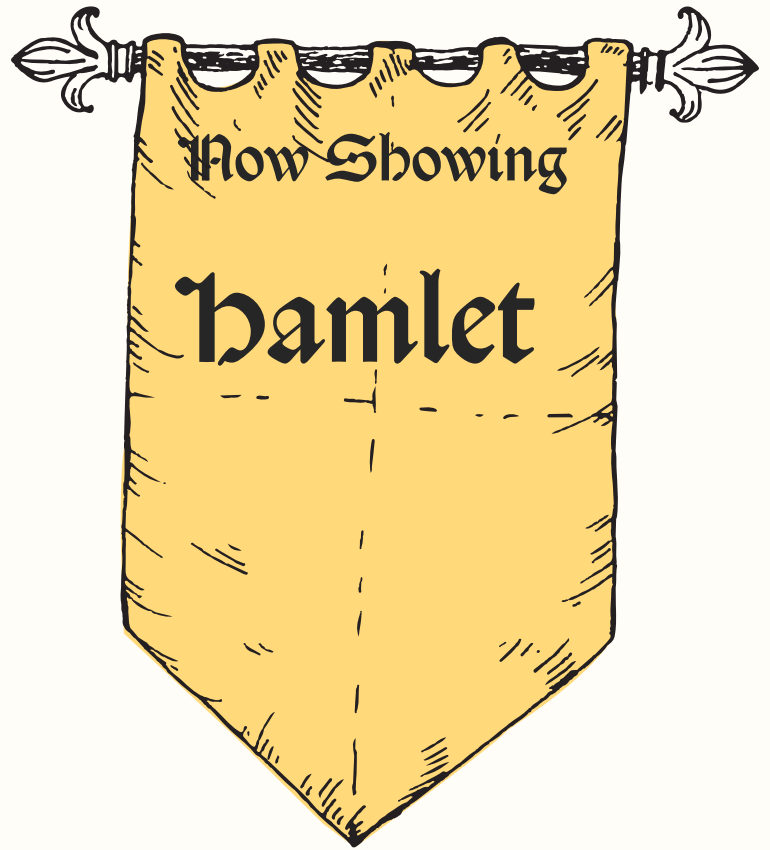
All music practices are cancelled until further notice.

In Service to Crown and Kingdom,
Mistress Xene Theriane, OL, OP

Da'ud Bob

movie review

Let me start out by saying that I am, to say the least, not a big fan of modern music composed by people who think that discordant notes with little to no trace of an actual melody. Indeed, I have never really understood, nor liked, such “Arty with a capital A” music. I find it pretentious, affected, and hard to listen to. This is not to say that I dislike music in general; I was raised on, and played both in band and orchestra, all kinds of music, from popular through classical through folk and more. But you need to be aware of my bias against such music going in to this month’s movie review, because it is an opera written in just such a style. Not that I have a problem with opera per se. I don’t. I am familiar with, and have enjoyed watching, a wide variety of operas, from Madame Butterfly, though Turandot, to Pagliacci, to Carmen (which Anna Sue has an issue with; she believes that Carmen takes way too long to die!), and even P.D.Q. Bach’s The Abduction of Figaro. But this production is not like any of those. And clearly, not everyone shares my bias; the Classical Music Critic for the New York Times extolled it. (You can find his review on-line at <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/15/arts/music/hamlet-opera-met.html>) But this review is going to be from my perspective, not his, as this month, Da’ud Bob reviews the PBS Great Performances airing of the Metropolitan Opera’s presentation of Brett Dean’s Hamlet.



Starring Allan Clayton in the title role, with Brenda Rae as Ophelia, Rod Gilfrey as Claudius, Sarah Connelly as Gertrude, William Burden as Polonius, John Relyea as the Ghost (as well as playing the King of the players and the Gravedigger), David Butt Philip as Laertes, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen and Christopher Lowrey as Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern, and Jacques Imbrailo, the basic story here is the same as in every other production of Hamlet, the biggest difference is that everyone is singing nearly everything, and some of the scenes, lines, and characters have been rearranged to show up in different places. For example, Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern show up both earlier and later in the action here than they do in the Shakespearean play.

Good points: The words are mostly Shakespeare's. There are moments of real inspiration in the opera. Allan Clayton as Hamlet does a good job with what he's been given. Horatio is more of a "hail-fellow-well-met" character than I have seen in most other productions, and it's a plus here. The player's tabard; it's not heraldic, but it's very nice nonetheless. The set is remarkably flexible, being quickly and efficiently rearrangeable, becoming almost another character in the opera. Ophelia's mad scene, madder than I have seen in any other production. Hamlet making "rabbit ears" with his fingers behind Claudius' head.

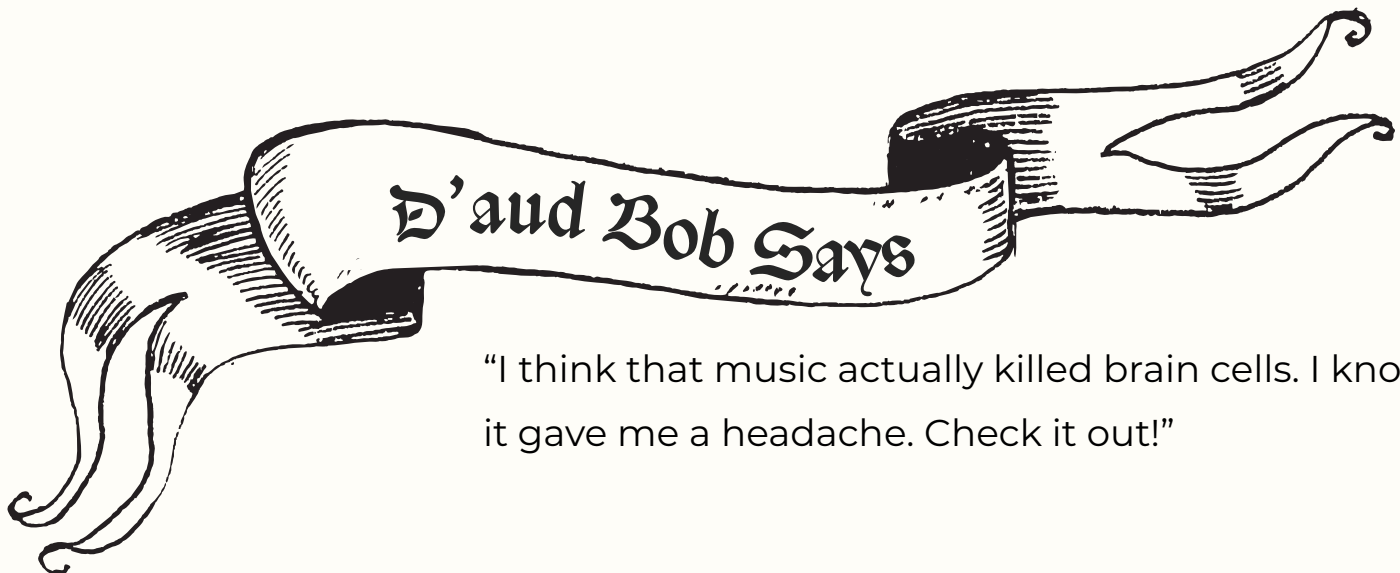
Bad points (besides the discordant non-musical music): There is often too much repetition of lines of dialogue. Too much pale makeup (effectively, whiteface) on all of the main characters. The music often does not mesh well with the words being sung. Is that a ghost or a zombie, the way he staggers? "The very ecstasy of love" as a round sung among six singers. Even the most poetic and musical of Shakespeare's lines sound out of scansion and discordant. A monkey hand puppet as a love token? Between the discordant music and having the actors sing over each other, even though the performance was done in English, it was often hard to understand the words. (Thank goodness for subtitles!)

Zero breasts. One gallon of blood. 32 dead bodies, plus two acted deaths in the "play within a play". Arrow fu. Wakizashi fu. Matchlock musket fu. Spear fu. Katana fu. Poison fu. Flaming torch fu. Gratuitous shoulder rub. Gratuitous village meeting. Gratuitous bastinado.

57 on the vomit meter



2.5 out of 5 stars



Credits and Notices

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