



The Steppes Letter

December 2023



Contents

Calendar of events.....	1
Event information.....	2
Words from the Baron and Baroness.....	3
Words from Glaslyn.....	5
Officer letters.....	6
Guilds of the Steps.....	11
Da'ud Bob movie review: Castle of Flames.....	13
Credits and notices	15

12 December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Fighter practice	5 Newcomers academy, scribal, A&S, fighter practice	6	7	8 New Braunfels Ren Faire	9 Vindhiem Winter Coronet
10 Archery practice	11 Fighter practice	12 A&S, fighter practice	13	14	15	16 Wiesenfeuer Yule
17 Archery practice	18 Fighter practice	19 A&S, fighter practice, business meeting	20 Financial committee meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26 A&S, fighter practice	27	28	29	30
31	key  Events  Glaslyn  Steppes					



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

New Braunfels Ken Faire

December 8 to December 10

1370 Church Hill Dr
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Distance from Steppes: 256 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Vindheim Winter Coronet

December 9 at 8 a.m.

3301 SE 10th Ave
Amarillo, TX 79104

Distance from Steppes: 357 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Wiesenfeuer Yule

December 16 at 9:00 a.m.

14617 N Pennsylvania Ave
Oklahoma City, OK

Distance from Steppes: 214 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

(Nancy Lorenzen)

nancy@lorenzenlawoffice.com

972-741-9283

MARGERY HERON

(Kathryn Gilroy)

katiegilroy04@gmail.com

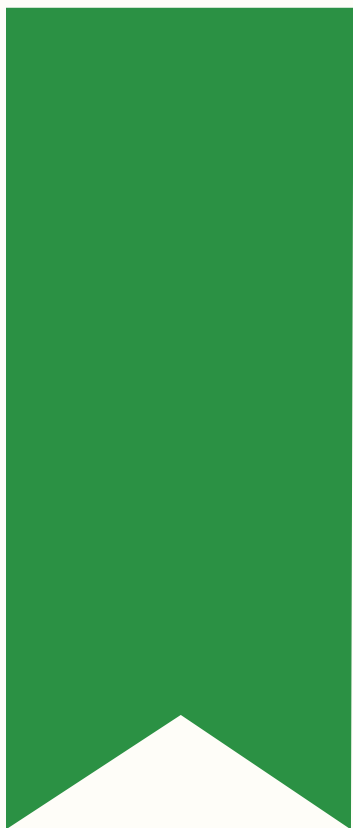
972-646-1077



SCAN FOR
MORE
INFO

or visit steppes.ansteorra.org

Words from the Baron and Baroness



Salutations!

It has been a good month for the Steppes and Glaslyn. We all made the trek down to War of the Rams: The BAMening and had a fun filled half week of war. The Ironwood Company provided a sturdy defense of the castle during the siege. The sides were slightly uneven and our cohorts in war went to the other side. Like a Phoenix bursting through the sky, Glaslyn fought hard to break through the line. Decimus once told us that steel sharpens steel, and that is what we see when we enter the field of battle, the results of our weekly practices. Glaslyn and the Steppes represented themselves well, striking fear in the hearts of those that would do battle against them.

Ironically, war is also a good place for friendship. We had a Newcomer focused camp and it was an absolute blast. We have experienced a lot of growth in the region and it is an absolute delight to spend time with folks both new and old in the SCA.

Coming up, we have the Steppes Holiday party on December 9th. There will be a white elephant gift exchange with a limit of \$25 on the gifts. Everyone who brings a gift will draw a number and they will get the choice of either picking a gift or stealing a gift. The first person gets the chance to steal a gift at the end. After two steals, a gift cannot be stolen again. We will also have a couple of gifts available in case someone would like to participate but didn't bring a gift. We will also have an ugly holiday sweater contest and the annual team Nailed it gingerbread house building contest. Since we have been Baron and Baroness, the houses have become much better put together than they were when this tradition started. You are welcome to bring extra materials to make your gingerbread houses more festive. We will probably devise a way to make the contest more challenging since the houses have been far too structurally sound. It is also a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dish or drinks to share.

The following month we have 12th Night, which has a feast, a ball, live music, a murder mystery, a Dress with Pride costume competition and other fun and games. It will be a grand event and we hope all of you can attend. It's the end of the year, but we have quite a lot going on! We hope that all of you can join in on the fun as your time permits.

Ready for a night of Red rum,

Baudoyne and Katherine

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



Words from Glaslyn

Greetings Steppes!

Another War of the Rams has come and gone, and it was a beautiful one with uncharacteristically warm weather! We were glad to greet our Steppes siblings who stopped by the Glaslyn camp. Speaking of which, it looked like both Steppes and Glaslyn had large camps at the event, a good showing by the Barony and her Canton! Alas, as Ironwood did last year, this year it was Phoenix Company who took the fall and joined the Gleann Abhann side to help even up the numbers, putting us on opposite sides from our Ironwood cousins! Hopefully next year we'll march together instead of against one another, but it was fun all the same!

As usual, visitors from near and far are welcome to our combined practice and populace nights Monday evenings at Northlakes Park in Denton. As winter weather rolls in, keep an eye on our website and Discord to make sure we aren't rained or frozen out!

hákön the Blacksmith
Seneschal, Canton of Glaslyn



Seneschal

Antigone of York
seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the Steppes Family,

Welcome to winter! It's finally getting cooler and the sun is no longer our greatest enemy. With that in mind Steppes 12th Night is almost here. Our social media team has been hard at work producing some of the best lol worthy memes for it. Hopefully I get to see everyone there!

We are extending Warlord bids until December 19th. Ideally we need any bids in a day prior to December financial committee meeting.

Last but not least, thank you to all of our officers outgoing for their service. We are incredibly lucky to have such an active populace so every office that opened has been filled! All officers are looking for deputies so if you're interested in trying your hand at a leadership or coordinator role without the full responsibility, deputy officers are a great option.

In service,
Antigone
Steppes Seneschal



Exchequer

Lady Astrid Flokadottir
exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting to the Populace,
As of October 31st the balance is \$21,061.33.

Congratulations to Maegwynn Inghean Ui Murchadha as the new exchequer of The Steppes. We will be working to transition the office to her. It has been a pleasure serving our barony for the last two years.

In Service,
Astrid Flokadottir



Chivalric Marshal

Centurion Magnus Creppinson
marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org

The cold is finally upon the Oaken Lands but luckily we have shelter to train and meet! Steppes showing at War of the Rams was ferocious as expected and the IronWood Company had a great showing. Practices are continuing as normal for the first weeks of December and we will be polling for the dates close to Christmas.

Unfortunately due to life circumstances the Armoring Day at the M&M armory garage will likely be delayed until the new year. But keep an eye out!

As always fighting, training, and sparring is at full speed on our Tuesday Nights! See y'all soon!

Magnus
Steppes Knight Marshal



Archery Marshal

Eadgyth Beornesdohtor
archery@steppes.ansteorra.org

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

This is my last missive as Baronial Archery Marshal. It has been an honor to serve as your Archery Marshal for the last three years — I have enjoyed the challenge. Thank you to all the archers who have come out to the range and helped make it so much fun!

I'll still be out on the range, working with my replacement (who should be announced soon) and training people as Target Archery Marshals. Steppes Strong!!

See you on the range,

Lady Eadgyth Beornesdohtor



Rapier Marshal

Mathias Grunwalt
rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org

Rapier practice remains lively here in the Steppes. With the weather turning cooler and the church having fixed its gymnasium dividers, the need for space has been well met.

The Steppes was well represented in many of our fall season fencing tournaments. Some of our newcomers received their authorizations and participated in their very first tournaments. We continue to gain newcomers from all manner of backgrounds. On the very last practice of November we had 5 completely new participants in rapier attend. Glad to see the interest in rapier persist regardless of the time of year. We look forward to the holidays and hope everyone is having a blessed time with family and loved ones.

Mathias Grunwalt

Rapier Marshal



Chronicler

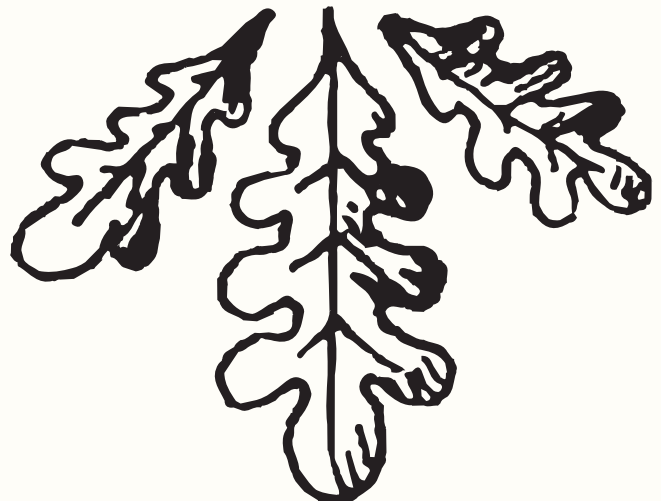
Ade Eszes
chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings Steppes friends,

I'm so excited to be able to serve you as Chronicler! If you would like to contribute by sending an article just send it to the email above. Happy holidays!

Yours in service,

Ade Eszes





Minister of Arts and Sciences

Æthelwynne Stíðmódu
moas@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings Steppes!

Between the onset of holiday season, our yearly weekend at BAM, and beginning preparations for Twelfth Night, November has been a busy month for us all in the barony!

We are looking ahead to the coming months to bring more classes to everyone. Many members of our populace have expressed interest in having a series of inkle and tablet weaving classes; a plan for this is in the works so stay tuned for details in the Discord and on Facebook!

I am also working on planning monthly classes on weekends in the new year for arts that may require more time than our Tuesday schedule allows for. If anyone has any thoughts on this, ideas for class proposals, etc. please do let me know- this goes for both Tuesdays and for a monthly class!

And finally, a huge shoutout and thank you to Mhearai for stepping up as my deputy!!

YIS,

Lady Æthelwynne Stíðmódu

MoAS Steppes



Webminister

Hákon the Blacksmith
webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org

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



herald

Elionora inghean Uí Cheallaigh
herald@steppes.ansteorra.org

Esteemed Steppes and Glaslyn, Greetings:

I'll keep it short and sweet this month - I have had an uptick of mundane responsibilities in the last few months that have left me very off track for follow through on submissions. My deepest apologies, I will try to tackle the inbox of doom as soon as possible. Thank you all very much for your patience and forbearance while I get my feet back under me.

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!

Hello everyone!

It is my favorite time of the year! Cold nights like these make me very thankful for our indoor meeting space. Social Media continues to truck along. We are also looking into buying more physical marketing materials to help with demos in the new year, so if you have an idea please feel free to contact me!

This month we will have our next newcomers academy on December 5th at St Luke's Lutheran Church in Richardson, TX, continuing introducing the SCA to our newest members starting at 6:30. All are welcome to answer questions or refresh your knowledge of the SCA.

As always, we love seeing photos of the things you are working on, so if you have anything to share, please feel free to send it over to me. You may see it on our socials!

As we go into the holiday season we are preparing for 12th night which will be a fun night and a great chance to introduce your non-SCA friends to the fun which is the us. If you are traveling for the holiday season look up the local Scadians in that area and join in their fun!

In Service,

Yours in service,

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

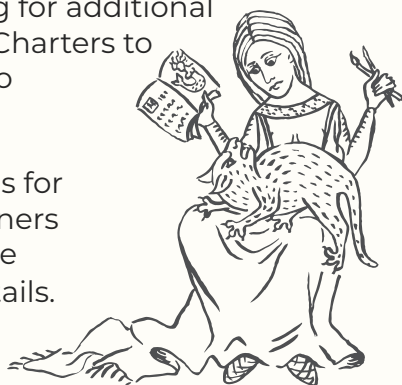
**Lord Wilhelm Von Bruck and
Mhearai Saoirse Hamelin**
Hospítaler and Deputy to the Hospítaler





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.

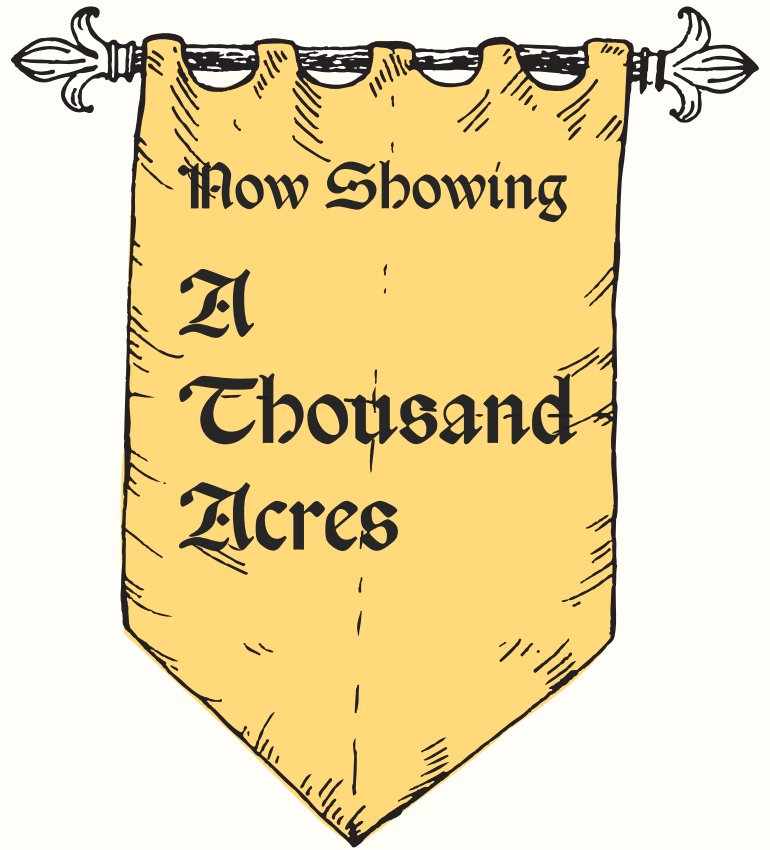
All music practices are cancelled until further notice.

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

Da'ud Bob

movie review

It's a wonderful thing, serendipity. The finding of something different or new while you were busy looking at or for something else. In this specific instance, the "something else" was a book I was reading entitled *Shakespeare in America: An Anthology from the Revolution to Now*. The title alone pretty much tells you everything you need to know; it's full of articles and essays of greater or lesser length, a little bit of poetry, and similar gleanings about William Shakespeare from an American point of view. And one of the articles in it introduced me to a movie based on one of Shakespeare's plays that I hadn't seen or even remember hearing of before. So, feeling the need to watch this film, and to review it for you, I went out to my favorite video store, Amazon, and bought it. It's basically the story of *King Lear* but, like the earlier *King of Texas* which I have reviewed in this column before, the setting and the dialogue has been changed. *King of Texas* was set in a newly-independent Texas; this film is set in modern rural Iowa. And it stars a truly amazing cast, most of whom you should already be familiar with. And so it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you the story of an Iowan who wants to divide his farm between his three daughters, with the twist that the primary point of view is that of the two eldest sisters, in 1997's *A Thousand Acres*.



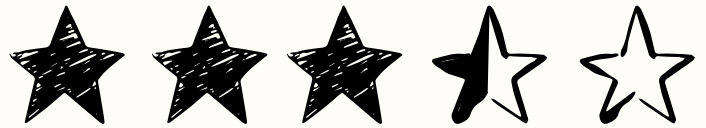
Starring Jason Robards as King Lear, oops, I mean, Larry Cook, Jessica Lange as Ginny Cook Smith (Goneril in the original play), Michelle Pfeiffer as Rose Cook Lewis (Regan), Jennifer Jason Leigh as Caroline Cook (Cordelia), Colin Firth as Jess Clark (Edmund), Keith Carradine as Ty Smith (the Duke of Albany), Kevin Anderson as Peter Lewis (the Duke of Cornwall), and Pat Hingle as Harold Clark (the Earl of Gloucester). It's not a perfect one-to-one transfer from the play to the movie: Harold Clark is not strictly the Earl of Gloucester, and certainly doesn't end up like the Earl in the play, but he is also partly the Earl of Kent; there is no Edgar/Tom o'Bedlam role; there is no French army; the movie has a significantly smaller number of deaths than the play does. Still, it does follow the overall outline of the play, and very interestingly so.

Good points: The thunderstorm. The movie looks like it was filmed on a real farm. The cornfield is almost another character in itself. It does substitute some modern issues for medieval ones, but that's just a part of the updating of the play, and increases the relevance to a modern audience. Not everyone dies in the end (as they so often do in a Shakespearean tragedy). But, rather like in the play, pretty much everyone loses. There is a direct reference to another of Shakespeare's plays, *The Merchant of Venice*, when Rose speaks about "a pound of flesh".

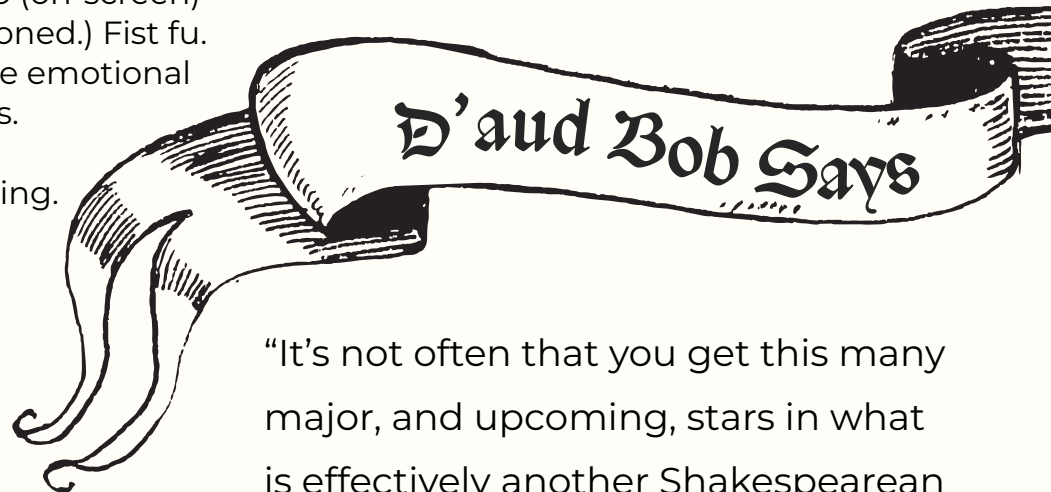
Bad points: Well, we don't have Shakespeare's words, so there's that. And, frankly, I rather missed both the Fool and "poor Tom". (And yet, neither one was truly necessary in this film version of the play.)

One breast. No blood. No (on-screen) dead bodies. (Two were mentioned.) Fist fu. Lawyer fu. There was a lot more emotional abuse than physical. Truck rolls. Harvester reaps. Gratuitous discussion about organic farming. Gratuitous clothes folding. Gratuitous vegetarianism. It was basically an All Star cast, so every main actor gets an Academy Award nomination: Jason Robards for being so over bearing and irascible; Jessica Lange for the subtle changes that Ginny goes through; Michelle Pfeiffer for being willing to look so thoroughly ill at the end; Jennifer Jason Leigh for being so naive about her father and her sisters; Colin Firth for being so un-Mr. Darcy-like; and Keith Carradine for having another role where he gets to play Keith Carradine.

37 on the vomit meter



3.5 out of 5 stars



"It's not often that you get this many major, and upcoming, stars in what is effectively another Shakespearean movie. Check it out!"

Credits and Notices

Title page: Oak tree vector created by ekosuwandono on Adobe Stock

Table of contents, page 2 and 3: Oak trim created by Separisa on Adobe Stock

Page 2: Social media icons created by vadymstockon Adobe Stock

Page 8: Oak leaves created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock

Page 10: Illustration created by Separisa on Adobe Stock

Page 11: Banner created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock
Other illustrations Separisa on Adobe Stock

Page 12: Banner created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock

Page 13: Banner created by Dinkoobraz on Adobe Stock
Stars created by Olga Che on Adobe Stock

This is the November 2023 issue of The Steppes Letter, a publication of the Barony of The Steppes of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Steppes Letter is available from Arianna Michaud at chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2023 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.