

A close-up photograph of a holly plant. The image shows several dark green, glossy leaves with prominent veins. Interspersed among the leaves are clusters of bright red, round berries. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the foliage and fruit in the foreground.

Steppes

Letter

January 2025

Meetings

Steppes Practice

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

Glaslyn Practice

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

Officers

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Chivalric Marshal

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Chronicler

Giovanni Di Cellini (Gio)

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Officer Reports

Baron and Baroness:

Mighty Populace!

By the time you read this, we should all be resting after the hard work of putting on the best Twelfth Night ever. Our autocrats have worked for months to make this happen and I know we're very proud of Tabatha and Domhildr!

The holiday party was great fun. We cannot believe how many excellent cooks we have in this barony. I don't think we've ever seen so much excellent holiday food in one place before. We also hope everyone who participated in the White Elephant either got something they like or had a good laugh. It was fun to spend the evening with all of you spreading holiday cheer.

Please welcome our new Chronicler, Giovanni, who has graciously volunteered to step into this position. Please be gracious to him, and if you have newsletter articles I know he'd like to have them as soon as possible for the next newsletter.

At this time, we also welcome Baron Peter as our new Chatelain! We know, with his long experience in the SCA and with his heart of service, that he will do a wonderful job guiding our newcomers.

Finally, it's never too early to begin planning for Gulf War, and pre-registration has already begun. We look forward to seeing the Iron Oak company bring honor and glory to us all in battle, and we look forward to seeing all of you there for a great eveng.

Yours in Service,
Esme Malaspina and Sean Tabor
Baron and Baroness of the Steppes
Lord and Lady of Glaslyn

Baron and Baroness Post Event Note:

*Chronicler's note: this was copied last minute, with permission from Baroness Esme's facebook post, I present it here without edits. Apologies as it may not translate to a static form as well as Facebook -Gio

Good after-12th Night, Steppes and Glaslyn!

That was one of the most epic events we've ever been to! And as I'm sure you know, an event of that magnitude does not happen without the help of a great many people. I'm going to try to thank everyone, and I know I'm going to forget some names because this was an immense event and there were so many people doing so much. I will try to get as many as I can, and I will probably add names later.

First and foremost, thank you to Domhildr ([Dani Reynolds](#)) and [Stabatha](#) for your patience, flexibility, and most of all hard work as Event Stewards. (Can anyone believe this was both of their first time doing this?) As the event grew from a feast with some dancing to "Let's add a tournament" to "Okay, so where are we putting the third Vigil and how are we fitting all the thrones up in front of the Court?" the two of you planned and made spreadsheets and maps and took it all entirely in stride. You made this happen and you did it with grace and good humor. Thank you so much for everything we know you did and for everything I didn't know about. Thank you for everything.

Wasn't that a great feast? Thank you to (newly Lord!) Thorstan Hip-Breaker ([Shane Lindemann](#)) and Aurelia Scaeveola ([Carissa Conlon](#)) and their crew for putting on a really amazing and tasty feast! (Can you believe this is their first time feast-stewarding?) Thank you to Mistress Margery ([Katie Gilroy](#)) for all you did for the servers who brought us our food and for making that happen. As always, you made it look easy.

Thank you to [Åsa InBlinda](#) for running the Premiere Steppes Cut and Thrust Tournament! You made it all happen. All we had to do was show up and cheer for the fighters. Your service and dedication to your marshal art and your service to the marshal community are an inspiration. Thank you for bringing this new tradition to the Steppes.

Thank you and warm congratulations to [Tomas Niallagain](#), our Premiere C&T Champion! Your great prowess on the field was impressive, and then you came and sang to me. I'm honored to have you as a champion.

Thank you to [Myfanwy Ferch Eifion](#) for running the Stealth Dance Championship! You brought the same joy you always bring to the dance, and you once again helped spread that joy to more dancers. Congratulations to [Åsa InBlinda](#) for winning the (stealth) Dance Championship!

Thank you to all of our musicians! Thank you to Avatar ([Albert Cofrin](#)) for leading the pit. Thank you to our visiting musicians, Joachim and Scarheart (I'm not sure if they're on FB but I hope they know how much we appreciate them) and of course to our own [Julien Rivier](#), and to anyone else who was over there who I may not have seen because this time I wasn't sitting beside you. Music adds so much to an event, and it would have been so much less without you all.

Thank you to Baron Baudoin ([Bao Pham](#)) for another fun murder mystery! I'm so glad we can continue this tradition. It's one of the many things that makes 12th Night special.

Thank you to our Entourage heads, Astrid ([Makenzie Lechtenberg](#))

and [Eadgyth Beornesdohtor](#), our Heads of Entourage. Sean and I could not possibly do this without both of you. You keep us on track both before and during events. You make sure that we make all the things happen. Thank you also to all of the people who followed us around as entourage yesterday. We really could not have done it without you.

Thank you to Rayya ([Wren Birdie](#)) for the gorgeous clothes! We looked amazing! (Seriously, didn't Sean look wonderful in that green doublet? And I felt so pretty in that dress!) Thank you also to [Áshildr Inn Hárfagri](#) and Halldora ([Hunter Higdon](#)) for your service helping with the last few stitches on the garb getting us dressed.

Thank you to everyone who was there for pack-out, cleanup and load-in. (Seriously, I think Gio ([Nathan Jones](#)) may have vacuumed the entire church.) Even without having to mop up marshmallows (IFKYK), it was a great deal of work and we all went home at a decent hour. I know I don't have everyone's names here, and for that I am truly sorry. I was a bit tired by the time we left, and I know all of you were exhausted. You know I appreciate every single one of you.

Thank you to Sir Magnus ([David Garcia](#)), Master [Lorenzo Baglioni](#), and (surprise!) Mistress Marie ([Gia Hoover](#)) for having your special day of Vigil at our event. You honored us with your presence.

Yours in service,

Baroness Esme and Baron Sean

Senechal:

Steppes continues to have an open door policy with communications within the Barony, please feel free to contact me as needed. Please don't break the rules. 😊
Sven

Senechal of Glaslyn:

Hello, I'm new to the office (again) as of December. Glaslyn is hosting Coronation in April, we hope to see everyone there. All is well in Glaslyn.
Alhdryth

Minister of Arts and Sciences:

December was a light month for A&S activities. I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and we look forward to seeing everyone at Laurel's Prize Tournament on February 8th in Duncan, Oklahoma hosted by the Barony of Namron.
Heinrich

Hospitaler:

This will be my last report as Chatalaine, I will be moving to Bonwicke on January 11th. I have had a wonderful experience in my time as Chatalaine and am sure my deputies will help make sure there is a smooth transition to the next person appointed to the position. I will be coming back as much as I can, as I will always consider Steppes my home barony. There will be no Newcomers Academy this month due to the transition of office and conflict with the Chivalric Larny Tourney on January 7th. Thank you to Baron Peter for the pass down key regalia for the Chatalaine office.
Mhearai

*Chroniclers Note: Baron Peter has been appointed the new Steppes Chatelaine – see the B&B note above

Thrown Weapons Marshal:

Our December thrown weapons range was a blast, especially with Fred Smith's generous gift of reflective tape for the baronial weapons. No more searching for knives in the grass — those puppies can't hide now!

Our inaugural Steppes 12th Night Mini Missile Range was a big hit, with young Henry Sigmundsson proving to be a champion on all three fields— mini treb seige, foam axe throwing, and shooting an apple off of Screamin' Willie's head.

Big kids had fun, too: Helene von Braunschweig, having just gotten authorized in Seige at War of the Rams, showed no mercy on the tiny treb field.

We're back to throwing live steel on the 2nd Tuesday of every month — come join us!!
Eadgyth

Exchequer

As of December 31, 2024, the bank balance is \$24,557.58.

This has been a good year for the Barony, and I am grateful to everyone who has supported the Barony by volunteering, financial contributions, and attending our events.

Here's to a bright 2025!
Maegwynn

Herald

Greetings Steppes!

I missed sending in an update these past couple of months, so I wanted to share with you our local acceptances from October-November! We've had quite a few - and it's so exciting to see your names and devices becoming official.

Aurelia Scaeva: Name

Catalin von Braunschweig: Device

Decimus Cornelius Scaevus: Device

Domhildr Grimsdottir: Device

Maximilian Helmschmied: Name change

Rayya al-Ruqay'a: Alternate name

Since then, we've had many more submissions come through our Barony these past several weeks! Please feel free to contact me or my deputy, Rollo Svensson if you're interested in registering your own name/device.

Yours in service,
Wulfleda Foxe

Webminister:

Due to a change in warranting, the Webminister office is open for applications for the next months should anyone like to take up a service opportunity for the Barony. Should there be no applications I would ask to have warrant extended to cover the position. The project to scrub old Steppes Letters continues, and you can view the archives of decades past on our website under the 'Newsletter' tab in the main menu. We're always looking for more of our history, 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!

Hakkon

Social Media Officer:

Things continue to go well. While we are sad to think of the possibility of our Barony TikTok account going away later this month, we remain open to the possibility of other social media venues.
Katherine

Archery Marshal:

Archery practice for this month will be on January 5th and January 19th at Westlake Archery Range. Cancellations due to weather or other circumstances will be announced by 10am on the day of practice. Please dress for the weather and wear closed toed shoes. Alcohol is not permitted, but feel free to bring a warm beverage. Water, as always, will be provided.

Catalin

Rapier Marshal:

Everything continues to be good and stabby on the rapier fields of Steppes. No injuries, just fun.

Mathias

Chivalric Marshal:

We will be having the Chivalric Larny Tourny on January 7th at Practice at St. Luke's. No injuries to report – we love that. Lots of new people putting on armor which we also love. Loaner gear has been well taken care of, and we have a future plan of expanding and improving the loaner gear with the money raised for that at Steppes Artisan last year.

Domhildr

Chronicler:

I've had a quick turn around to get this Steppes Letter out, so my apologies if it is

a bit rough around the edges for this version. Also my apologies to the B&B and the baronial officers for having to get dictated last minute reports for the Letter. I appreciate you working with me. Going forward I will be taking officer reports for the next month's Steppes Letter at the Business meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Should anyone in the Barony wish to contribute anything to the Steppes Letter, I am very open to that idea. This could be articles, artwork, event reviews, movie reviews; whatever you think may interested the Barony that would fall under our unique umbrella of history, living history, reenactment, or even experimental archeology.

Gio

| January 2025 | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Archery Practice | Glaslyn Business Meeting | Heavy Fighter Practice | | | | |
| | Glaslyn Fighter Practice | Newcomers' Academy | | | | |
| | | Rapier Fighter Practice | | | | |
| | | A&S Night | | | | |
| | | Scribal Meeting | | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | Glaslyn Fighter Practice | Heavy Fighter Practice | Financial Committee Meeting | | | |
| | | Rapier Fighter Practice | | | | |
| | | A&S Night | | | | |
| | | Music Class | | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Archery Practice | Glaslyn Fighter Practice | Business Meeting | | | | |
| | | Heavy Fighter Practice | | | | |
| | | Rapier Fighter Practice | | | | |
| | | A&S Night | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
| | Glaslyn Fighter Practice | Heavy Fighter Practice | | | | |
| | | Rapier Fighter Practice | | | | |
| | | A&S Night | | | | |

Credits:

Front page photo credited to Nathan Jones (Giovanni di Cellini)

This is the January 2025, 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 Nathan Jones (Giovanni di Cellini) at chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

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