



# *Quoth the Raven*

*Newsletter of the Barony of Raven's Fort  
December 2011, AS XLVI  
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Front Cover [Artwork for group heraldic devices by Emma de Fetherstan (Jennifer Smith)]

Table of Contents (Skull artwork courtesy of Microsoft Clipart ~ 2007)

Baronial Officer Information (Pacific NW raven artwork courtesy of Microsoft Clipart ~ 2007)

Words from Their Sabled~Winged Excellencies

Chronicler's Corner ~ Notes & Challenges (Raven footprint artwork courtesy of Microsoft Clipart ~ 2007)

Newcomer's Guide to the Kilt in the SCA: Part IV by M'Lord Gregor Mac Beathain

Update on the Raven's Fort – Bardic Guild by Lady Keely

December Calendar (Calendar courtesy of Microsoft Word ~ 2007)



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*Artwork for group heraldic devices by Emma de Fetherstan (Jennifer Smith)*

*Artwork for officer's badges by Chiara Francesca Arianna d'Onofrio (Francesca V. Havas)*

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# Raven's Fort



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*Unless otherwise specifically listed, no  
telephone calls after 10:00pm please*

# Words from Their Sable Winged Excellencies

Buonogiorno onto all,

Holiday greetings to one & all in the Barony of Raven's Fort! We hope this missive finds everyone well. Be safe as you travel to other lands for Yule's, events or practices. It seems that we will have a brief respite from traveling this coming month but had a wonderful time at Bordermarch, the land of our cousins.

We have recently returned to our lands from a memorable weekend at Bordermarch where artisans, warriors and merchants gathered to prepare for Gulf War in March 2012. Their Royal Majesties Aaron & Amelot were joined by Their Majesties of Gleann Abhann. The Gleann Abhann's artisans competed with Ansteorra's artisans as did the honorable warriors from both kingdoms.

A great fighting practice, including Equestrian, and Artistic competition was held. HE Giovanna supported our troops and new people alike with the hospitality of foods and friendship under the Barony's list field pavilion. HE Pasquale, with the assistance of many, was authorized as a combat archer. He also has been allowed to become a Deputy Marshall for Chivalric in Raven's Fort with much thanks to HE Brian on many counts.

While HE Pace was being evaluated on the field as to his ability to fight safely as an archer, he witnessed Lord Egan stop a challenge to our left flank. All Lord Egan did was to slay THREE Gleann Abhann heavies with perhaps not more blows than men he bested. In the ravine battle, Lord Egan fought until exhaustion took him from the field. While fighting, he was joined by Lord Kaleb the Insane, whose skill with a spear is legendary. Centurion Michael's prowess and skill as a General reflected the Crown's wisdom in appointing him to such a high rank. Sir Kief was in the fray, but had to face Ansteorra's might, as his contingent was asked to help fill Gleann Abhann's ranks. HE Brian not only took the field but he also competed in the A & S competitions with very nice leather gauntlets. Lord Lemoine also entered the A & S with his study of pigment painting on several mediums. He was joined by Lady Rosalia, proud owner of a new helm. The last we saw Lord Egan he was being whisked away and attended to by Lady Runa in her chariot.

Back to the Ravine battle, where narrow was the ravine and steep were its sides. Our archers, standing elbow to elbow, unleashed a rain of death that allowed our spear men /women, inspired and lead by our beautiful Queen Amelot to charge forward. General Centurion Michael led all from the front, to unleash his chivalric brothers upon those who kept coming. HE Pace encourages any who can, to consider taking up a bow or crossbow, please do so. The battle, when such a balance of missile, heavy, and spear persons are utilized as they were this day, leaves no doubt as to the battles' outcome. Rapier competitions were also held but we haven't any news concerning it, Bardic or Equestrian results.

In evening court, Mirabelis was awarded the Kingdom's 'Golden Bridle' award. The Vivat from her presentation must still be ringing in her ears. HE Pace got his Bordermarch's 'Shaky Knees' award for his first kill at BAM. Berengaria assisted with the equestrian competition by scoring the runs and assisting in the general activities. Mirabelis was seen atop a horse many a time during the day. Arabella, who is working on her Chirurgeon authorization, worked with Lady Caley on several injuries in the ravine battle. Once again, Mistress Shanahan gave sustenance and shared her great knowledge to Emmitt and Michelangelo from Raven's Guild and several people on the list field. Mistress Jalali gave a class on heraldry and our own Camerlingo, Herr Detlef, heralded Court for HE Santiago of Bordermarch. Several of our Barony sat gate including HE Giovanna, HE Pace, Mistress Jalali, Mistress Nerak, and Lady Mirabelis. Mistress Jalali also helped with the brewing competition as well. HE Elizabeth was truly missed as she was still in the hospital recovering from several surgeries on her back.

After court, we played drums, attempted dancing and depending on age, enjoyed awesome meads. Cheer was seen dancing beautifully in the Hafla we attended that evening and enjoying herself.

Our Baronial camp was home to eleven people and two 'war dogs' in all. Much laughter was heard from our camp and those all around as the weekend progressed. In all, it was a fantastic event with the Raven being well represented.

A special thank you's to Lord Egan, Thomas, Emmitt Red Britches and Michelangelo for their help in setting up and taking down camp and the list field pavilion. Their friendship and help proved a great reminder that our Barony thrives to enrich our Baronial health and welfare.

Our Yule will be Saturday, December 10, 2011. Yes, the drought will perhaps prevent us from having outdoor fires, but our inside hearth will be burning. We have invited all who may, attend our Raven's Fort Yule. We hope to see you there on Dec. 10 at Ridgetop Farm. Please call us for directions.

Several of our offices need deputies. Please check the officer page to see where you may help the Barony with your services. It is not too early for our Seneschal and Knight Marshall to begin training someone as their authorization runs out this summer and a replacement will need to attend Round Table this summer to replace them. It is also not too early to think about being autocrat for Defender in September. Much brainstorming has been done how to improve certain areas of our event to make it more streamlined and entertaining. As reported before, our Masked Ball in February 2012 has been put on hiatus. We hope to hold it sometime in the near future if not the February in 2013.

For Gulf Wars 2012: We will be camping with the Southern Region this next March, so be thinking about registering early so we may acquire enough land space for all who would like to camp with this great region from Ansteorra.

In Love and light,  
Pasquale and Giovanna  
Baron and Baroness of Raven's Fort



# Chronicler's Corner...

HE Chrystal Ariana MacRuari

Hola,

Thank you's to all who submitted for the December issue! Please remember the submission deadline for each month will be the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month before the issue. Thank you all in advance for supporting your local "online newsletter"!

Many thanks to Aedán the Apothacary for creating an archive for the past issues of the *Quoth the Raven* newsletters online!

As always, I am in great need of artwork, stories, poetry, articles, etc. & able to accept submissions with a release form...

I am still in need of a Deputy Chronicler. Anyone interested, please fill out a Kingdom Application for Office & send copies (along with a copy of your current SCA membership card) to: Kingdom & Regional Chroniclers, Local Baron & Baroness, Local & Regional Seneschal & Local Chronicler.

Regards,  
HE Chrystal



## Raven's Fort – Notes & Challenges



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Mark your calendars for December 17, 2011: Bardic Guild & Archery Practice (if weather permits) at Lady Ayla & HE Brian's home. Contact the following individuals for further info: Lady Ayla for directions at [jehosefat@yahoo.com](mailto:jehosefat@yahoo.com) & Lady Keely for information details at [kdisman@gmail.com](mailto:kdisman@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

Greetings, I was wondering if anyone ended up with an extra green Coleman propane stove from Defender of the Fort back in September, I am missing mine!! If found please contact Lady Gwenlliana mka Michelle Hoffpauir, at (936) 661-2081. Thanks!

\*\*\*\*\*

Deputies are needed for the following Offices (Please contact the current Officer if interested, thank you!):

~ Arts & Sciences ~ Chronicler ~ Seneschal ~ Web Minister ~

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Rapier Practice time on Sunday's may change for December & January to be held from 10am – 12pm to 12pm – 2pm. Keep an eye on the Raven's Fort e-mail list, Raven's Fort Facebook page &/or contact Don Charles for further information of when this may start.

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# Newcomer's Guide to the Kilt in the SCA: Part IV

(N.B. This article was originally an email to a newcomer who expressed some interest about kilts. After finishing it, I realized that I hadn't seen this type of information all compiled in one place, so I wrote this article and posted it to my live journal, where it received pretty positive reviews. Some revisions of the original have been made since commenter's have brought some errors to my attention.)

Now let me talk about how to wear a great kilt. The original great kilt was made from a piece of plaid that was woven on a loom about 30-35 inches wide. It would be made about 9 yards long. This would then be cut in half so that you had two sections about 4 1/2 yards long. These would be sewn together along the long edge, so that you finished with a piece of material about 4 1/2 yards long and about 60-70 inches wide. There are guides on how to fold this material into a kilt. What they have in common is that you pleat the kilt in the middle, leaving two un-pleated sections on each end that is about the width of your hips. This is belted around you (various different techniques here) so that the un-pleated aprons are overlapping in front, left over right. The kilt should be belted so that when you get on your knees the hem of the "skirt" just brushes the floor. This will leave a large amount of kilt flowing over the belt, and this is the drape that you arrange around yourself. This is where the variation comes in, as there are as many ways to arrange this drape as there are people wearing it. I will include some links with suggestions, but really, anything you do with it that makes it comfortable and look good are okay.

I bought my latest kilt from the Celtic Croft. They have pretty reasonable prices, but any kilt you buy is going to be expensive, even for the thin wool versions. If I remember right I spent about \$300 on it... but I find it was worth it because it feels so much more period and right than my previous cotton kilt. Also, Celtic Croft offers a cheat, in that they will sew the pleats into your kilt for you along with a waist band for about an extra \$50. While this isn't period, it makes your getting-dressed time about 15 minutes instead of about 30-60 minutes. They also have a couple good history pages. <http://www.kilts-n-stuff.com/>

More options for vendors can be found on the kilt-centric forum at X Marks the Scot (<http://www.xmarksthescot.com/forum>), though the forums themselves focus on the kilt as it's worn in the modern era.

I will say that I wished I had gotten mine wider. It is 60 inches wide, and when belted and folded comfortably, I cannot get it to do the "hood" configuration that is so useful in cold weather. Next time I get or make one I will make sure that it is wide enough that it can go from the back of my knees, over my head and down to my chin or neck. After belting, this width will probably be able to hood to about my eyebrows.

Tutorials on how to wear the great kilt can be found on at <http://www.thewebsite.com/greatkilt/index.html>

Also, if you are planning to fight, you might take a look at a couple more links. Scots in period didn't fight in their kilts unless it was surprise combat on the street or some other special circumstance. They definitely didn't go into battle that way. Traditionally in our period they would go into battle wearing their leines. [www.MyArmoury.com](http://www.MyArmoury.com) has some excellent articles, and can show an accurate depiction of different styles of Scottish dress and armor in this link: [http://www.myarmoury.com/feature\\_armies\\_scots.html](http://www.myarmoury.com/feature_armies_scots.html)

You might notice in the third picture down the page (depicting different late eras of fighting Scot) the man labeled (b) is wearing a leine, with a brat in the Irish style and ghillie brogues. Unfortunately, all the kilted fighters pictured are out-of-period.

I hope this has answered your questions about wearing a kilt. If not, let me know, especially if you find something here that is inaccurate, as some of my information was picked up second-hand, or word-of-mouth. If you find a primary source let me know, as I am always looking to upgrade my kit.

Gregor Mac Beathain (MKA Joe McGrew) can be contacted at [oscagne@gmail.com](mailto:oscagne@gmail.com)

# December 2011

Anno Societatis XLVI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Populace Mtg 7:00pm Huntsville – Fire Station #2	2	3  'Wiesenfeuer Yule Revel' (Wiesenfeuer ~ Oklahoma City, OK)  'Stargate Yule Revel' (Stargate ~ Houston, TX)
4  Rapier Practice 10:00am Huntsville – The Gazebo at Ave O & 19 <sup>th</sup> St.	5	6  Armored Combat Practice – 7:00pm Conroe – Candy Cane Park	7	8	9	10  'Dragonsfire Tor Yule Revel' (Dragonsfire Tor ~ Stephenville, TX)  <i>RF Yule Revel</i> 12:00pm ~ Sabled Winged Excellencies home at Ridgetop Farm in Centerville, TX  <i>Total Lunar Eclipse</i>
11  Rapier Practice 10:00am Huntsville – The Gazebo at Ave O & 19 <sup>th</sup> St.	12	13  Armored Combat Practice – 7:00pm Conroe – Candy Cane Park	14	15  Business Mtg 7:00pm Conroe – Public Library	16	17  <i>RF Bardic Guild Meeting</i> ~Lady Ayla & HE Brian's home~ 2:00pm until ??? Contact Lady Keely for more info <a href="mailto:kdisman@gmail.com">kdisman@gmail.com</a>
18  Rapier Practice 10:00am Huntsville – The Gazebo at Ave O & 19 <sup>th</sup> St.	19	20  Armored Combat Practice – 7:00pm Conroe – Candy Cane Park  <i>Hanukkah begins at sundown</i>	21	22  <i>Winter Solstice</i>	23	24  'Open'  <i>Noël Eve</i>
25  <i>Noël</i>	26	27  Armored Combat Practice – 7:00pm Conroe – Candy Cane Park	28	29	30	31  'Open'  <i>New Years Eve</i>

*The monthly Newcomer's Practice (Armored Combat) will be announced each month as to which Wednesday night it will be. Please watch the Raven's Fort mailing list for information regarding practices and possible cancellations. They will also be posted on the Barony of Raven's Fort Facebook page as an event. As of this calendar forward, this practice (if & when held) will be at The Gazebo on the corner of Avenue O & 19<sup>th</sup> Street at 7:00pm unless otherwise indicated.*

*The Rapier Practice on Sunday's time may change for the winter hours to be 12:00pm – 2:00pm. (Watch the RF email list, RF Facebook page &/or contact Don Charles)*

Huntsville #2 Fire Station: 2109 Sam Houston Ave, Huntsville, TX 77340

Montgomery County Memorial Library System - Conroe Public Library: 104 I-45, Conroe, TX 77301

The Gazebo – Huntsville: Corner of Avenue O & 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Huntsville, TX 77340

Candy Cane Park – Conroe: 1204 Callahan Ave, Conroe, TX 77301

(You can also access the parking lot for Candy Cane Park off of the Frontage I-45)

## *Coming soon: A combined fighter practice (Armored Combat, Rapier, A&S etc) near you!*

We are currently looking for places within the Huntsville, Texas area to hold a combined fighter practice of Armored, Rapier & A&S minimum. It would be ideal to also include Archery, Equestrian as well, but if we can start with the minimum of at least Armored Combat and Rapier fighting wise (plus A&S and any other activities), that would be a great start. Anyone knowing of such a type of place that would work with these different types of criteria are asked to please contact any one of the Baronial Officers with the information. Thank you!