



# The Viaduct

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## Meetings and Practices

### Baronial Business Meetings

1st Thursday of each month Sachem Public Library (Holbrook) 7:30pm  
Contact Seneschal David Cortijo for information.  
*All are welcome. Officers are encouraged to attend.*

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Incipient Canton Business Meetings  
**Hawkes Reache**

2nd Tuesday of each month at Harborfields Library 7:30pm  
(Greenlawn), Kitchen Meeting Room. Directions:  
<http://harb.suffolk.lib.ny.us/directions.htm>  
Contact Seneschal Alexander MacLachlan (Brett Kessler) for information.

### Directions to Sachem Library

Take the L.I.E. to exit 61,  
Patchogue-Holbrook Rd.  
CR-19 towards Patchogue/  
Holbrook. Merge onto Expwy  
Drive South, turn left at  
Holbrook Rd. The library is at  
150 Holbrook Rd.  
631-588-5024

### Fighter Practice

Tuesday evenings 7pm,  
Islip Grange Park: Broadway Ave.,  
Sayville, two cross streets north of  
Montauk Hwy. Contact Lisa Soto  
516-446-8197 before 10pm or  
[eris235@gmail.com](mailto:eris235@gmail.com)

### Fencing

Friday evenings 7:30 - 10pm  
Loaner gear available. Anyone 14 yrs.  
and older welcome. 640 Belle Terre Rd.,  
Building F, Port Jefferson, NY 11777 .  
Contact Moresca at 347-276-8813 or  
[moresca@aol.com](mailto:moresca@aol.com)

### Archery & Thrown Weapons

Scheduled for Commons, June 20th  
Contact Lord Logan de Londres and  
Damianna de Londres (Mark & Dina  
Wolyniec) for information:  
631-924-6968

# Baronial Officers

## Baron & Baroness

**Baron Ateno of Annun Ridge & Baroness Lassar Ingen Aeda**  
(Eric and Andrea Rhude)  
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Riverhead NY 11901  
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## Geneschal

**David Vázquez de València**  
(David Cortijo)  
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Centereach NY 11720  
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[sca@draxius.com](mailto:sca@draxius.com)

## Exchequer

**Lady Sorcha of Stonegrave**  
(Pam Jacques)  
16 Leonard Drive,  
E.Northport, NY 11731  
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[pjjny@yahoo.com](mailto:pjjny@yahoo.com)

### Deputy

**Vettorio Antonello**  
(Erik Soto)  
516-443-2352

## Acting Web Minister

**David Vázquez de València**  
(Dave Cortijo)  
[sca@draxius.com](mailto:sca@draxius.com)

## Knight Marshal

**Catrina ab Aqua**  
(Lisa Soto)  
216 Berkshire Drive  
Farmingville, NY 11738  
(516) 446-8197 before 10pm  
[eris235@gmail.com](mailto:eris235@gmail.com)

### Deputy

**Lord Dankwert Bathory**  
(Adam Steinfeld)  
(631) 514-1104 after Noon  
**Deputy (Fencing)**

**Moresca** (Julie DeVuono)  
(347) 276-8813  
[moresca@aol.com](mailto:moresca@aol.com)

### Deputy (Archery Marshal)

**Baron Don Jean Xavier Boullier**  
(Peter X. Boullianne)  
59 Old Neck Road  
Center Moriches NY 11934-2811  
(631) 874-2748 before 10pm

## Master of Lists

**Lord Logan de Londres**  
(Mark Wolyniec)  
2 Sylvia Lane  
Middle Island, NY 11953  
(631) 924-6968

### Deputy

**Lady Christine McDevitt**  
(Christine Wright)  
[christinemcdevitt@wench.org](mailto:christinemcdevitt@wench.org)

## Chronicler

**Alissenda la Gailharda**  
(Linda M. Davies)  
887 Park Avenue  
Huntington, NY 11743  
(631) 385-1950 before 11pm  
[poetryqn@optonline.net](mailto:poetryqn@optonline.net)

### Deputy

**Caivs Eqvitys Hilarivs**  
(Anthony Cavalli)  
cell: (631) 678-6989  
[lordofstuff@gmail.com](mailto:lordofstuff@gmail.com)

## Minister of Arts & Sciences

**Lord Methias T. Weasel**  
49 Lambert Avenue  
Mastic NY 11950  
(631) 395-3330  
[commissar@optonline.net](mailto:commissar@optonline.net)

### Deputy

**Damianna de Londres**  
(Dina Wolyniec)  
(631) 924-6968

## Chatelaine

**Lord Alexander MacLachlan**  
(Brett Kessler)  
(631) 419-0771  
[captgoldman01@aol.com](mailto:captgoldman01@aol.com)

## Herald

**Elisaid of Ayrshire**  
(Lisa Seckler-Roode)  
(631) 838-0458 before 7 pm  
[whophreak@aol.com](mailto:whophreak@aol.com)

## Canton Geneschal

**Hawkes Reache (Incipient)**  
Alexander MacLachlan  
(Brett Kessler)  
124 Cimarron Ct.  
Amityville, NY 11701  
631-428-7492 (before 10:30pm)  
[captgoldman01@aol.com](mailto:captgoldman01@aol.com)

*Letters of Intent should be submitted to the Baronial Seneschal & Coronet via mail or email. Letters may also be submitted at the Baronial business meeting. See page one for time and location.*

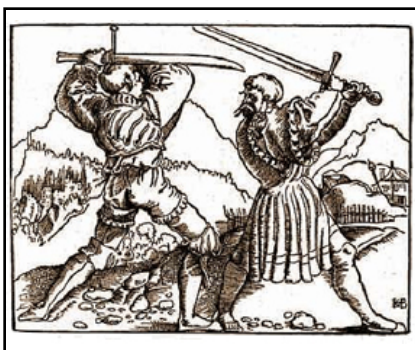
# Event Calendar

Local Barony of An Dubhaigeainn  
events listed in red.

| June                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | July                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>6/12 - 6/14</b> A Midsummers Faire: Barony of Stonemarche - Contoocook, NH</p> <p><b>6/12 - 6/14</b> Barren Sands War: Shire of Barren Sands - Elmer, NJ</p> <p><b>6/12 - 6/14</b> Baltanes Festivities XXII: Barony of Havre des Glaces - Saint-François, Ile d'Orleans - close to Québec City, QC</p> <p><b>6/13</b> RI Scottish Highland Festival (Demo) &amp; Baronial Championship: Barony of the Bridge - Richmond, RI</p> <p><b>6/19 - 6/21</b> King's &amp; Queen's Archery Champions/Vinland Raids VII/EK War College: Barony of Smoking Rocks - Yarmouthport, MA</p> <p><b>6/19 - 6/21</b> New Moon Carnival: Shire of Lyndhaven - Havelock, NB</p> <p><b>6/19 - 6/21</b> Landsknecht-Todestanz: Shire of Eisental - Lehigh, PA</p> <p><b>6/19 - 6/21</b> Opening of the Inne: Shire of Coldwood - Peru, NY</p> <p><b>6/20</b> Wetlands Alliance War Camp: Barony of An Dubhaigeainn - Middle Island, NY See pg.4</p> <p><b>6/20</b> Summer Siege: Kingdom of Ealdormere - Monkland, ON</p> <p><b>6/26 - 6/28</b> Sumer Archery Shoot: Barony of Concordia of the Snows - Delanson, NY</p> <p><b>6/26 - 6/28</b> Midsummer Gathering: Shire of Smithwick - Houlton, ME</p> <p><b>6/26 - 6/28</b> Coppers, Crossbows and Caravans: Barony of L'île du Dragon Dormant - Eastman, QC</p> <p><b>6/28</b> A Caroling We Will Go: Canton of Whyt Whey - New York, NY</p> | <p><b>7/2 - 7/5</b> Northern Region War Camp: Shire of Glenn Linn - Warrensburg, NY</p> <p><b>7/2 - 7/5</b> Known World Dance Symposium VII: Kingdom of Ealdormere - Hamilton , ON</p> <p><b>7/3 - 7/5</b> Ruantallan's Baronial War Camp:Barony of Ruantallan - Lansdowne, NS</p> <p><b>7/10 - 7/12</b> Great Northeastern War XXIII: Province of Malagentia - Hebron, ME</p> <p><b>7/10 - 7/12</b> Haggis &amp; Scottish Games VII: Shire of La Selve d'Aure - Montbeillard, QC</p> <p><b>7/12</b> Christmas in July (Toys for Tots Warlord Tourney): Barony of Iron Bog - Pemberton , NJ</p> <p><b>7/17 - 7/19</b> East Kingdom War Camp: Shire of Eisental - Lehigh, PA</p> <p><b>7/24 - 8/9</b> <b>Pennsic XXXVIII Kingdom of East/Aethelmearc/Middle - Cooper's Lake, PA</b></p> <div> </div> <p>For more information on these events see the East Kingdom website:<br/><a href="http://www.eastkingdom.org/event-list.html">http://www.eastkingdom.org/event-list.html</a></p> |

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## Combat Arts: fighting, fencing, archery & thrown weapons



**From the Knight Marshal:** In my absence at an official Tuesday night fight practice, any of the following may step in as **Marshal in Charge** so that scheduled baronial practice may continue with insurance intact: **Adam Steinfelder (deputy KM), Kevin Dowd, James Peck, and Eric Rhude.**

The fencers operate on a similar premise. **Moresca (Julie DeVuono)** is the deputy KM in charge of Rapier. In her absence, any of the following may MiC a Rapier practice: **Pete Boullianne, Erik Soto, and Brett Kessler.**

**Heavy Weapons:** Outdoor practices are held at Islip Grange Park on Tuesdays, 7 p.m. An Internet search for 88 Broadway Ave., Sayville, NY 11782 will give you a nifty map and directions from your location. The Marshal would like to remind folks to be prompt. For information call Lisa Soto at (516) 446-8197 before 10 pm. or [eris235@gmail.com](mailto:eris235@gmail.com).

For those wishing even more swat time, the fighters of Ostgardr continue to meet on Sundays in Brooklyn from noon until about four pm. They meet at Quality Conservation, 140 58th Street, Bldg. A, Unit 8M. The site is indoors - a large warehouse with plenty of room, so even polearms are fine. There is also plenty of parking within a fenced and guarded lot. For those taking public transportation, the site is two to three blocks from the R/N train stop at 59th Street. Non-fighters are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [RobertEsteves@gmail.com](mailto:RobertEsteves@gmail.com)

### Fencing Practice

Remember, we have new practice space at 640 Belle Terre Rd., Building F, in Port Jefferson. As noted, practice for fencers is Friday evenings, 7:30-10 PM. Some loaner gear may be available if requested beforehand. If you're curious, come see what we're all about! Contact Moresca at 347-276-8813 or [morescarf@aol.com](mailto:morescarf@aol.com)

**Archery:** Archers can also continue to hone their skills on Tuesday evenings at an indoor range in Hicksville. Contact Peter of Hawkwoods (Pete Farrell) for further information. (631) 754-8977 before 9PM, or [pfarrell27@yahoo.com](mailto:pfarrell27@yahoo.com). Additionally, the Barony is seeking arm guards, finger gloves, youth bows and adult bows 30 lbs. or less to add to our loaner gear. If you have any gear you'd like to donate, please contact Baron Don Jean Xavier, 631-874-2748 before 10 p.m. or [jeanxavier2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanxavier2001@yahoo.com) with "archery gear" in the subject line. If you have some 7-8 oz. belt leather, Jean Xavier is also willing to give you some basic directions for making your own arm guard.

## Wetlands Alliance War Camp & Commons - Sat., June 20

A War Camp and Commons will be held on Saturday, June 20th at the home of Dina and Mark Wolniewicz at 2 Sylvia Lane, Middle Island, NY 11953, 631-924-6968. Please bring a dish to share for 4-6 people as well as a beverage of your choice. Remember, we're outdoors so dress accordingly and bring sun block and tick protection.. Extra chairs are always welcome. Donations will be accepted to defray the cost of the necessary porta-san.

# Event Summaries

## Three Skulls 25th Anniversary

Summary contributed by Baron Ateno and Sir Richard Blackmore, edited by Alissenda la Gailharda



A big congratulations to House Three Skulls on their 25th Anniversary event! The weather cooperated, and while rain had been forecast, we managed to have clear weather for most of the activities. While everyone pitched in to help, special mention must be made of the autocrat, Lord Titus Aurelius Magnus (Kevin Dowd) and feastocrat, Bran Dayton, who both did a phenomenal job.

Congratulations to Baron Ateno who led his heavy weapons team including Baroness Lassar, Lord Marcus del Canello Rosso and Hilarivs, to victory over the team headed by Sir Richard Blackmore. The team captains were picked via a warlord tournament, then it was one hour of resurrection battles whose fiendish and clever design, courtesy of Knight Marshal Catrina, kept everyone on their toes. Field battle, boat battle, bridge battle and the Cone of Doom gave us lots of battle scenarios in which to test our mettle. Everybody fought past exhaustion and gave it 100%.

After the hard fought battles, their Excellencies the Baron and Baroness of An Dubhaigeainn decided to share their tournament winnings most graciously with the losing team. And many thanks to those who donated treasure to the tournament booty treasure chest. It was rather amazing (6 swords, mead, ale, maille, a nifty shield, duct tape, ceramic jug and much more).

The archery tournament was won by Baron Don Jean Xavier while Lord Vettorio Antonello and lady Marion of York won in fencing. The Arts and Sciences competition ended in a draw between

Lord Methias T. Weasel and Brion de Zorro. The brewing competition was won by Sven Forkbeard the Easterner and Loquitor Breathlen. Many thanks to all who entered the competitive lists, and apologies if I've spelled your names incorrectly.

At court, their Excellencies finally caught up with Lord Marcus where he was presented with his AoA scroll. Additionally, their Excellencies recognized the Honorable Lord Turk with the Sylvanus Douk. The court was then open to Lord Turk where he was allowed much latitude to conduct business as he wished. After his thanks and wishes to his household and An Dubhaigeainn, he was able to take the time to take care of some old business.

Lord Alexander was put on trial for an old offense and thanks to the tie breaking of a blubbering fool was found guilty and given sea time hunting for Crystalmo, the great white whale of the north.

Thank you to house Three Skulls for running the event and again, congratulations.

## Potted Arms and Fancy Faire

Summary contributed by Lady Sorcha and Alissenda la Gailharda; photos by Catrina ab Aqua and Alissenda la Gailharda

After what felt like weeks of unending rain, the clouds parted and offered us a perfect day of sun and warm breezes. You know it's officially summer when Potted Arms and Fancy Faire rolls around.





The event was a huge success, thanks to many hands. Particular thanks go to our autocrat, Sorcha of Stonegrave, for putting together such a fun-filled yet relaxed event. We'd also like to thank our feastocrat, Baroness Mistress Suzanne Neuber de Londres for once again providing a

fabulous, abundant, delicious day board while somehow managing to come in under budget.

The day's events really got started with the annual "Hat Auction", benefiting the Baronial Rapier Community. Our regular auctioneer extraordinaire Moresca had extra help this year from her son, Mimo, whose cuteness factor in his official duck's hat brought bidding to a fever pitch. We raised \$340 for the Baronial Fencing Fund. Lord Brendan Firebow won the fencing tournament, bringing honor not just to himself, but also to his sponsor who had bid for his hat. The Herald's competition was won by the eloquent John of Gravesend, our very own Canton Herald.



In addition to all the wonderful events, food and merchant booths, there was a second auction. This time, the auctioneer extraordinaire was our own Seneschal, David Vázquez de Valençia (with a neat assist from his Excellency, Baron Ateno). We very much appreciate the generosity of our members, both those who donated merchandise for auction as well as those bidding. We managed to raise \$402 for the Hawkes Reache Canton Fund which will greatly help us to emerge from incipency.

Court was a bittersweet affair as honors were bestowed and responsibilities changed hands. Baroness Mistress Suzanne Neuber de Londres officially stepped down as An Dubhaigeainn Herald, passing the baton to her former Deputy, Elisaid of Ayrshire. After the issue of reading glasses was sorted, Elisaid did a terrific job on her maiden voyage as the Barony's new Herald.

Two special presentations were made, the first by the overall Champion of the Tournament, Lord Brendan Firebow who presented their Excellencies with a beautifully made leather roll book in which to record highlights of their reign. Of

course, the cover was decorated with ducks. The second presentation was by our archery Champion and expert woodsmith Peter of Hawkwoods who presented their Excellencies with new thrones embellished with both the Baronial crest and duck finials.



Concurrent with the Hat Auction event, fencers competed in the Pas D'Arms Tournament to decide the next Baronial Rapier Champion. This competition was based on a period demonstration of skill, and ultimately won by Lord Vettorio Antonello. Their Excellencies named Lord Vettorio the new Baronial Fencing Champion. We'd like to offer our congratulations to Lord Vettorio as well as our thanks to the outgoing Baronial Champion, Baron Don Jean Xavier.



Their Excellencies also recognized that one of our younger members had reached marriageable age and, as is the custom, they had arranged a match. The prospective groom, lord Iaian of Ayrsgire, appeared a bit stunned by his good fortune in being awarded such a lusty and full bodied wench. We wish the couple every happiness.



## Sewing and Stained Glass workshops

**TEMPORARY CHANGE OF VENUE** As some of you may have heard, Baroness Lisl is due for a bit of surgery, and so the regular workshop at her home

will be on hiatus until after Pennsic. We wish the Baroness a speedy recovery!

In the meantime, for those of you wishing to spruce up your Pennsic wardrobes, we'll be getting together for a sewing circle on **Thursday, June 18th and Thursday July 9 at 7 PM** at the home of **Alissenda la Gailharda** (Linda Davies) in Huntington. While we have lots of chairs, additional sewing machines, sergers and snacks are always welcome. 631-385-1950 or [poetryqn@optonline.net](mailto:poetryqn@optonline.net). Hope you can join us!

## Moments in History



### The True Macbeth by Alissenda la Gailharda

*"...Bloody,  
Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful,  
Sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin  
That has a name."*

Macbeth, IV, iii, 57 (Malcolm on Macbeth. Luxurious means lecherous; sudden means impulsive or violent)

The picture of Macbeth that has come down to today's popular imagination is that of Shakespeare's creation, a murderer and bloody usurper of thrones.

Arguably one of the finest tragedies ever to be written, the play Macbeth was one of the first docu-dramas to skew historical fact. For the true Macbeth,

though a violent and powerful man, was not the incarnate evil of Shakespeare's imagination. To understand the true Macbeth we must view him through the context of his own time, not ours or even Shakespeare's. If we take a look at the geography and politics that shaped him, a far more complex picture of Macbeth will emerge.

In the eleventh century in which he lived, Scotland was known as Alba. It would be a mistake, however, to look at Alba as a united political whole, despite the presence of an Ard Righ, or High King. The six ancient provinces of Alba were established around the ninth century through a union of the Picts and the Scots. The Picts were the original inhabitants of the land while the Scots were incomers from Ireland. The kingdom of Alba stretched roughly from Sutherland and Caithness in the north into what is now Cumbria, England in the south. To the north of Alba were the Norse and to the south were the Anglo-Saxons and later in Macbeth's reign, the Normans.

It was a crucial period in history when cultures clashed and new political systems were born. To the south, both the Anglo-Saxons and Normans recognized kingship as a hereditary property. Significantly, Alba had retained the ancient Celtic practice of electing their rulers. The cultural basis of this system was that of the family or clan where the strongest warrior would gather others about him. In return for protection and wealth, the clan leader was responsible for the safety and welfare of his people. It was this strongly independent system of chieftains that fostered the elective kingship that so confused later chroniclers. The principle behind elected kings was that they should be drawn from those best suited for the work of a king: warfare and administration.

There was actually a very well developed mechanism for this selection that was defined by law. Candidates were nominated by their dying chieftain when death was imminent. Such nominees were known as tanists, or seconds. The tanist would need clan approval to lead. In turn, the great leaders of the six ancient provinces would be elected by an assembly of the gathered clan and religious leaders. While leadership tended to pass through families as a result of the nominations process, hereditary leadership was in no way guaranteed as a right.

Macbeth actually stood at the crossroads of Scottish history. Up to and including his reign, all the High Kings were elected. Only after his death would the throne be considered a hereditary property. So how did Macbeth come to the high throne of Alba? And how did he become the first High King to attempt Scottish unification?

Let's look at that geography again. The two largest provinces of Alba were Moray and Atholl, and the High kingship had been bounced between these two powerful families for generations before the birth of Macbeth. This was a Scotland of isolated duns and monastic centers of learning. There were no cities as they were understood in the south. Wealth was based largely on cattle and trade while land was still held mostly communally, not in private hands. The Celtic Christian Church had developed on a slightly different line than the Roman Christian Church. While the Roman church was largely based on a political system of ownership and legality, the Celtic Church grew from a tradition of consensus and communal ownership of property. All these factors become significant when we examine the likely education of a young noble like Macbeth.

Born the only child of the Mormaer of Moray, Macbeth was the grandson of Malcolm II, High King of Scotland before Duncan. (With me so far? Duncan is the king Macbeth was said to have murdered.) His mother, Doada was Malcom II's daughter and of the house of Atholl. This type of dynastic marriage was a rather common way of signifying opposition to the existing leadership. With the marriage of Doada and Findlaech MacRuaridh, the Moray branch would have pledged increasing support to the rival house of Atholl. In fact, Findlaech had pledged his support of the High King by placing his clans under royal command during the Danish raids on the coast. So the men of Moray were answering to the King of Atholl.

This displeased Findlaech's nephews, Malcolm and Gillecomgain who felt slighted by the new order. Findlaech was slain and his nephew Malcolm elected the new Mormaer. Macbeth was fifteen at the time of his father's murder. Malcolm ruled for nine years before he was succeeded by his brother Gillecomgain. Gillecomgain, even more ambitious than his brother, was determined to succeed to the throne of the Ard Righ. In order to strengthen his claim, he married Gruach, the granddaughter of Kenneth III, the High King who had been murdered by Malcolm II in 1005. (Are you beginning to see a pattern here?) By the way, remember Gruach, for she is destined to become Lady Macbeth...yeah, that Lady Macbeth.

True to the Celtic pattern of fostering, it seems that Macbeth was under the protection of Malcolm II during this period as the son of a noble family that had supported the elected High King. As Malcolm reached extreme old age, he came under more and more pressure to name a successor. Thus, at the age of nearly eighty, Malcolm sought to remove as many threats to the House of Atholl as possible. And Gillecomgain was right up there towards the

top of the list. In 1032, according to The Annals of Ulster, Gillecomgain was burned to death along with fifty of his followers. Gruach, however, escaped.

Directly after being elected the new Mormaer of Moray, Macbeth married his uncle's widow, Gruach, and took on the traditional Moray opposition to Atholl. Malcolm had eliminated the wrong Moray. Before he could rectify his oversight, death caught Malcolm at Glamis in 1034. He was succeeded by his eldest grandson, Duncan. (Yes, that Duncan).

So the power balance as the true conflict begins is with Macbeth, head of Moray, and Duncan, head of Atholl. To the north of Alba is the ruler of Orkney, a Norse/Celtic kingdom at this point. His name is Thorfinn. To the south was the chaos of the disputed English succession which had passed to the Danish Kings. And it is here that Duncan makes his crucial error. Launching almost simultaneous campaigns in the north and south to expand his power, instead he is routed. His campaign at Durham, a masterstroke of futility and poor military strategy, left thousands of Scots dead, their heads impaled around the city walls. His nephew, Moddan, fared no better with Thorfinn. After a failed attempt to pincer Thorfinn between the Scottish fleet and Moddan's army, Duncan was finally defeated on August 14, 1040. He had been a poor administrator and an even more abysmal military strategist. And now he was dead. But by whose hand?

We may never know. The historical record points to some sort of alliance between Macbeth and Thorfinn, but whether their arrangement was made prior or subsequent to Duncan's death is not known with any precision. After the battle, Thorfinn's Orkney forces continued south into Fife, burning, pillaging and destroying as they went.

And then, he stopped, withdrawing northwards. It may be that it was during this period when he and Macbeth came to an agreement. By 1042, Thorfinn was invading the English coast, and leaving the Scots be. Macbeth made his way to Scone where he was elected High King And crowned in the summer of 1040. He was thirty-five years old.

The contemporary accounts of his reign paint a far different picture of the monarch than the one Shakespeare presents almost 600 years later. While Shakespeare calls him a “bloody-sceptred” tyrant, St. Berchan portrays him thusly:

*After the slaughter of the Scots, after the slaughter of foreigners, the liberal king will possess Scotland. This strong one was fair, yellow haired, tall. Very pleasant was that handsome youth to me. Brim full of food was Scotland, east and west, during the reign of the brave ruddy king.*

Macbeth set about restoring ancient traditions and laws and instituting reforms designed to heal the country after the ravages of Duncan’s failed military campaigns. Some of the laws are quite interesting, including the statutory support of orphans and women, and inheritance for daughters, practices which had fallen into disuse under Malcolm and Duncan.

Macbeth went on to reign for fifteen years in relative peace and prosperity. He skillfully maneuvered through treacherous political waters, exploiting Thorfinn’s occupation with the Norse and English to Scotland’s benefit. Paradoxically, it is this same unsettled political situation that allowed Duncan’s son, Malcolm to flourish. And it is with Malcolm that the concept of primogeniture, or inheritance by the eldest son is introduced. When Duncan was killed after the battle with Thorfinn, both Malcolm and his mother were sent to the English court. It was here that the English view of inheritance was learned by Malcolm, son of Duncan.

Such a claim was inadmissible under Celtic law, but well recognized by English law. Claiming the support of Edward, the English King, Malcolm claimed the throne of Scotland. An invading force led by Earl Siward of Northumbria was ultimately repulsed, but the seeds of Macbeth’s destruction were sewn.

The political climate was changing. Pope Leo IX, who had given absolution to Macbeth, had died a prisoner in the ongoing feud with the Normans. There was therefore no papal power with which he could counter Malcolm’s claim. And Malcolm’s claim was supported by both Edward, the English king and Tostig, Siward’s successor in Northumbria. (Tostig would later ally himself with King Harold Hardrada of Norway in the abortive attempt to seize the throne of England from King Harold Godwinson. See the Battle of Stamford Bridge for further info.) Of the three descendants of Duncan’s : Malcolm, Donald and Maelmuir, two were raised in environments hostile to Macbeth’s seat of power. Donald’s Celtic upbringing would become evident when he succeeded to the throne after Malcolm. (But that is another story).

It took three years to destroy Macbeth. Both the 'Annals of Ulster' and the 'Annals of Tigernach' indicate that Macbeth met his death sometime in 1058. When Malcolm finally succeeded in killing him near the stone circle called Peel Ring, Macbeth was accorded the honor of burial at Iona, the sacred resting-place of so many Scottish Kings. He was the last of the Scottish kings to be buried on that hallowed island shrouded in mystery and sanctity in Celtic history. That alone may say a great deal of how he was viewed by his people. Malcolm, on the other hand, was buried in Dumfermline at his death, apparently unworthy of the honor accorded his predecessors.

So who was Macbeth? Patriot? Opportunist? Murderer? Perhaps we will never know. But he

was certainly more complex than the tortured warrior/bard of Shakespeare's imaginings.

## From the Coronet

### reetings from Ateño & Lassar!

Does it seem time goes fast during this season? There are seven weeks or so until 'Land Grab Weekend' at Pennsic. We hope everyone is ready, if there is anything anyone needs for Pennsic, please let us know so that we can help you or point you to the right person.

We plan on arriving during the middle weekend, and we look forward to the working vacation filled with great events from the surprisingly interesting Baron's dinner to the Ice Cream Social that's become a favorite.

Speaking of Pennsic, we would like to remind everyone of the AnDubhaigeainn practice that's being held at the home of Logan and Damianna DeLondres on June 20th. Titus will be running the practice, and we hope everyone who is fighting at Pennsic will be there.

Potted Arms and Fancy Faire was well attended and, as usual, a great day. We have enjoyed having Baron Jean Xavier as our champion, but it is only a one year position.

Congratulations to Lord Vettorio Antonello, our new Baronial Fencing Champion.

Until next month.

*In Service,*

*Ateno and Lassar*

Baron and Baroness An Dubhaigeainn

