

The BiCranial Bear, October 2021

Greetings to the Citizens of Adiantum!

The Laws of An Tir, state that “Baronies shall... publish a branch newsletter no less than quarterly (VI.A.3.)” So . . . here is Adiantum’s 4th quarter BiCranial Bear.

I have included The Customary of the Barony of Adiantum as this is our governing document. It will tell you what the various officers and champions do (pp.5-9) and what the various parts of the Adiantum Sergeantry are: Sergeant, Yeoman, Gallant, Lancer, and Cohort (pp.9-10). You’ll find a list of the Baronial awards on p. 3, and an explanation of how our Council works on p.4. Curious about what an event steward needs to do? See pp.10-12.

To accompany the Customs, I have interviewed our Seneschal and both our outgoing and incoming Exchequers. These two officers, together with the Baron and Baroness, constitute the Barony’s Financial Committee (see Customs, p.4), which makes financial decisions between Councils if something needs to be dealt with before the next Council meeting.

The rest of the newsletter has a few articles that might be of interest to the populace – patterns for garb, links to on-line sites that you may find useful.

While we need to publish a newsletter at least quarterly, the next issue will come out next month as I have a fair amount of material to share. It will include a very useful article by Hrod-Navar Hakonsson on “Resources for Research.” I would like to provide material that is of interest and use to the Barony. While we have our Facebook group for quick communication, this newsletter could be a useful venue for things that people might want to refer back to. Contributions are most welcome – see your words in print! Short reviews of websites that you’ve found helpful are always good. Officers, if you would like to describe the services or information that your office has available, maybe this could be a good place to do it. For example, a list of the loaner equipment you have available, or the requirements for attaining various levels of archery in the Kingdom, or how to work on preparing a name or device for submission. Artwork is also welcome!

In service to Adiantum,

Yseult of Broceliande, OP, OL, Baroness of Court
Deputy Chronicler

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Customary of the

Barony of Adiantum

Anno Societatis LIV
2019 CE



This is the governing document for the Barony of Adiantum, an official branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, inc. This document denotes branch policies and customs and is subject to Principality Law, Kingdom Law, Corpora, Local, State and Federal laws.

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I. Definitions

Baronial Council	Refers to both the monthly business meeting and members of the Barony in attendance at these meetings.
Member	Members of the Barony are those individuals who reside within the physical boundaries of the Barony and who have a current society membership. Officers, member of the Sergeantry and those granted citizenship by the Baron and/or Baroness who live outside the borders of the Barony and who have a current society membership are also considered members of the Barony.
Voting Member	Those Members of the Barony, as defined above, that are at least 18 years of age.
Citizen	Any individual, who is over 12 years of age, currently resides within the boundaries of the Barony and has attended at least two SCA events and/or functions in the preceding year or who has been granted citizenship by the Baron and/or Baroness.
Fyrd (furd)	The fighting citizens of Adiantum.
Action Item	Anything needing the approval of the council by a vote.
Financial Committee	The financial committee consists of the Seneschal, Exchequer and the Baron and Baroness to make funds available to cover expenses that come up between councils that cannot wait until the next council to resolve.
Quorum	A quorum of officers is comprised of either 4 greater officers or any 6 officers including at least 1 member of the financial committee.

II. Awards/Orders

All awards are given by the Baron and Baroness unless otherwise noted.

Baronial Brownie	Given for service to the Barony. It is the first level of award in the Barony.
Collar and Chain	Given for long contribution and service of an exceptional level to the Barony over many years.
Fern and Quill	Given for exceptional skill and service to the Barony in arts and sciences.
Vigilant Bear	Given for exceptional martial prowess in armored combat, archery, rapier or thrown weapons. It can also be given for support in these activities.
Order of Adiantum	Given for a lifetime of exceptional service to the Barony.
Band of Briars	Given for service to the Barony in the clearing of land or upkeep of land.
Order of Courtesy of Adiantum	Given to those members of the populous whose actions exemplify courtly and courteous behavior.
Ordo Aurei Ursi	Baroness' favor to be bestowed at the Baroness' pleasure.
Order of the Golden Comb	Given to households or encampments for having an exceptionally period appearance.

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III. Baronial Council Meetings

Council Meetings are open to anyone who cares to attend. That they are open meetings should be published in the Baronial newsletter, on the official Baronial website and as part of any announcement of the meeting that is posted online or in print.

The Baronial Council is a business meeting and shall be conducted as such. Written reports from Officers and Event Stewards will be due to the Seneschal, Chronicler, and Their Excellencies on the Friday before Council. An agenda is published by the Seneschal but items may be added to the agenda by communication with the Seneschal prior to the meeting. Requests to add items to the agenda after the meeting has started may or may not be addressed at the meeting at the discretion of the Seneschal and if time permits. Individual reports should be held to five minutes.

Decisions to be made on action items are presented as motions and seconded. By tradition the Seneschal will not be the person to either make or second such motions. Discussion should occur prior to the presentation of a motion for action. Decisions of the Council are passed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote. The Seneschal has veto power; but, it is expected that the concerns of the Seneschal will be addressed during the discussion and that the decision to veto be based upon valid concerns related to legal responsibilities or issues relating to deputies in service with the Seneschal.

Date, time, and location of Baronial Council will be set by the Council and published in advance in the Baronial newsletter or otherwise made public. The traditional date and time the Council meeting is the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm. This may be changed by the Council, Baron and/or Baroness or by the Seneschal. Traditionally there is no Council meeting in the month of May due to the meeting day usually falling on Memorial day, the last day of the Egil Skallagrimmson Memorial Tournament.

All sponsored Branches are expected to send a report to Baronial Council meetings. Currently there are no sponsored branches overseen by Adiantum.

No official business may take place without a quorum of officers.

III.1 Unusual Circumstances

For financial decision that must be made before the next regularly scheduled council meeting the financial committee may make decisions if the amount needed is less than \$500 dollars. If the amount of money needed is greater than \$500 at least two other greater officers must be included in the discussion. Decisions of the financial committee must be announced on the officers list immediately and at the next council.

Financial committee decisions are made by a simple majority; the Seneschal and Exchequer get one vote apiece and the Baron and Baroness get one vote total per Kingdom law.

Non-financial decisions that require immediate attention may be addressed by calling for an emergency council. The use of email, social media, or other means may also be used to call an emergency council meeting. Quorum must be met for any decisions to be made.

III.2 Motion for Cloture

A motion for Cloture can be made if a discussion is deemed to be consuming too much time. The Seneschal should carefully consider whether such a motion is warranted before calling for a vote. Once a motion for Cloture is made and is accepted by the Seneschal a vote is immediately taken. The motion is passed if a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of those voting vote yes.

Once a Motion of Cloture has passed each person still wishing to contribute to the discussion will be given one minute to voice their final opinions. After each person has been given a chance to speak a vote on the issue will be taken as normal.

Cloture should only be used if a decision must be made by the end of the current meeting. If a decision can be put off until a later date it is recommended to do so because use of cloture can cause hard feelings.

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IV. Officers

The Baron and Baroness serve at the pleasure of the Crown and are appointed according to Kingdom and Society Policy. Polling is conducted according to Society and Kingdom law and may not be called by any person other than the Kingdom Seneschal or the Crown outside of the time line stated within those laws. However, anyone may address concerns according to the Society grievance procedure.

Greater officers include the Baron & Baroness, Seneschal, Herald, Marshal, Minister of Arts & Sciences, Exchequer, Chronicler, Chatelaine, and Scribe.

Lesser officers and deputies of the greater officers include the Chamberlain (Exchequer), Archery Marshal (Marshal), Cut & Thrust Marshal (Marshal), Rapier Marshal (Marshal), Thrown Weapons Marshal (Marshal), Youth Combat Marshal (Marshal), Family Activities Coordinator (Chatelaine), Webminister (Chronicler), Social Media (Seneschal), Gold Key (Chatelaine), and Minister of Lists (Marshal).

Officers must be residents of Adiantum, have a current SCA membership and be at least 18 years of age. The residency requirements for officers may be waived at the discretion of the Baron, Baroness and/or Seneschal. The Seneschal MUST be a resident.

Officers are entitled to reasonable support from the Barony to further the goals of their Office with training and education.

IV.1 Electing New Officers

When an officer reaches the end of their term or must step down that officer may nominate their own successor, usually someone who has been their deputy for at least six months. Council members may also nominate others or volunteer themselves. Before a new officer can be elected, notice of the vacancy must be announced at Council and through approved Social Media. Special dispensation for the waiver of announcement of vacancy may be made if the Council approves.

Applicants for officer positions are expected to present to Council a summary their professional and SCA experience relevant to the office they are seeking and to address the Council with their application. Questions may be made of the applicant(s) by the Council and then the Council is sequestered for discussion (usually by asking the applicant(s) to leave the room) and the voting process. The new officer will then be elected by a majority of Council.

IV.2 Duties/Responsibilities of All Officers

Branch officers shall give a written quarterly report on the previous quarter regarding the state of their office and relevant branch activity to their Baronial and/or Principality superior, the Baronial Seneschal and Baron/Baroness.

The reporting quarters and the dates reports are due as per Summits Law:

1. January, February and March (First Quarter)
2. April, May, and June (Second Quarter)
3. July, August, and September (Third Quarter)
4. October, November and December (Fourth Quarter)

Officers should make every effort to attend Council and shall send a monthly report to the Seneschal (and Greater Officer for Lesser Officers) by electronic means, due the Friday before Baronial Council. If an officer misses three consecutive reports or fails to provide a quarterly report, this becomes grounds for dismissal. If grounds for dismissal exist, either for missed reports or other dereliction of duty, then Council may remove an officer by a ¾ majority vote or by the decision of the Seneschal with the concurrence of the Principality superior of the officer in question if applicable.

The following are additional requirements/responsibilities for all Baronial Officers

1. Must maintain paid members of the Society for Creative Anachronism.
2. Those designated as Lesser Officers are also required to report to their Greater Officer superior.
3. Are expected to train their replacements.
4. Are expected to be in charge of their specific duties at all events hosted by the Barony. Should the Officer not be able to attend, then the Officer needs to work with the Event Steward to find a suitable designee for the event.
5. Are to serve for two years. An officer may be elected to the same office again if Kingdom law allows.
6. Are encouraged to have a deputy to fill in when the Officer is otherwise indisposed.
7. Must have reliable access to either a telephone or email address that must be made available to the citizens Barony.
8. All Officers are expected to make every effort to attend Baronial Council meetings.

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IV.3 Duties/Responsibilities of Specific Officers

Offices are listed in alphabetical order.

IV.3.a Archery Marshal

1. Ensure that regular practices are held when site/space is available.
2. Ensure that Royal Round scores are submitted to the Kingdom scorekeeper.
3. Ensure that archers who have earned an An Tir archery rank are awarded their An Tir archery medallion.
4. Ensure that a warranted Marshal is supervising all Baronial target archery at practices and events.
5. Ensure that participants in target archery activities within the Barony meet the requirements of An Tir and the SCA concerning equipment, training and waivers.
6. Ensure that Baronial archery gear is maintained in a safe condition.
7. Organize target archery at events hosted by the Barony.
8. Work with the Minister of Arts & Sciences to sponsor archery A&S classes at least once per year.

IV.3.b Chamberlain

1. Maintain an inventory of the Baronial property.
2. Maintain the storage unit.
3. Keep copies of all keys for the storage unit and trailer.
4. Provide access to the storage facility with reasonable notice.
5. Provide recommendations for repair or replacement of Baronial property and Regalia.
6. Arrange for repair or replacement of Baronial property at the request of the Council.
7. Make arrangement to have the baronial trailer stored and hauled.
8. Inspect all equipment for dampness within 2 days of the close of any event that experiences rain.
9. Present to council an inventory of the baronial possessions at the end of June.

IV.3.c Chatelaine

1. Be the chief welcoming officer of the Barony
2. Introduce new and prospective members to the Barony and its members.
3. Provide education on the conventions of the Middle Ages, Barony, Principality and Kingdom.
4. Encourage active participation and period behaviors.
5. Coordinate with Gold Key to make period clothing accessible to new members.
6. Serve as a media contact and represent the Barony and Society fairly, accurately and in accordance with Kingdom and Society media policy.
7. Arrange educational activities for newcomers to the Barony on a regular basis.
8. Assist with the coordination of recruitment efforts.

IV.3.d Chronicler

1. Be the chief record keeper of the Barony.
2. The Chronicler shall take minutes for the meeting or arrange for another to take their place. If there is no Chronicler, the Seneschal will appoint a note taker for each Council meeting. The Seneschal may not appoint himself/herself for this task.
3. All official decisions of the Council and a summary report of any committee reports presented to Council will be published in the Baronial Council Minutes and/or on the website.
4. Oversee the publication of the Baronial newsletter, traditionally called the 'Bicranial Bear'.

IV.3.e Cut and Thrust Marshal

1. Encourages the development of period cut and thrust combat within the Barony.
2. Elucidate and enforce the Kingdom and Society rules governing cut and thrust combat.
3. Enforce equipment and safety standards for cut and thrust combat.
4. Attend practices and ensure waiver compliance thereat.
5. Be the responsible party for all cut and thrust combat at all events hosted by the Barony.
6. Organize cut & thrust combat activities.

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IV.3.f Exchequer

1. Be the chief financial officer of the Barony.
2. Maintain the Barony's financial records.
3. Advise the Council on financial matters.
4. Prepare the Doomsday report.
5. Enforce financial policy.
6. Serve as a signatory on the Baronial bank account.
7. Prepare financial reports as required by the Barony, Principality and Kingdom.
8. Oversee all baronial assets both physical and financial.

IV.3.g Family Activity Coordinator

1. Assist the Branch in developing activities specifically for children and teens.
2. Coordinate children's activities at all events hosted by the Barony.
3. Serve as an information officer for hazards to children and teens at events.
4. Educate children on age appropriate aspects of our historical period of study and of the Society.
5. Promote the ideals of chivalry and courtesy amongst the children of the Barony.
6. Have a clean background check as required by the Society.
7. Ensure that all society and mundane laws pertaining to children are followed.

IV.3.h Gold Key

1. Maintain the Gold Key inventory.
2. Run Gold Key at all events hosted by the Barony or make arrangements for it to be run by someone else.
3. Launder and care for Gold Key inventory.
4. Solicit donations for Gold Key.
5. Run Gold Key 'garage sale' as necessary to manage inventory.

IV.3.i Herald

1. Be the chief heraldic officer of the Barony.
2. Act as the voice of the Baronial coronets.
3. Facilitate the timely processing of registration of arms, devices and badges for the Barony and its members.
4. Maintain the list of awards given and forward it to the secretary of the Order of Precedence.
5. Advise the Baronial Coronets and populace on matters of ceremony and protocol.
6. Encourage the practice of heraldry in the Barony.
7. Be responsible for official announcements at all events hosted by the Barony.

IV.3.j Marshal

1. Encourage the development of period armored combat within the Barony.
2. Elucidate and enforce the Kingdom and Society rules governing armored combat.
3. Enforce safety and equipment standards for armored combat.
4. Attend practices and ensure waiver compliance thereat.
5. Be the responsible party for all armored combat at all events hosted by the Barony.
6. Organize armored combat activities with the assistance of the Baronial Armored combat champion.

IV.3.k Minister of Arts and Sciences

1. Encourage the research and development of historically accurate art forms, sciences and philosophies.
2. Organize the Arts and Sciences competitions with the assistance of the Baronial Arts and Sciences champion.
3. Promote and arrange for Arts and Sciences activities and classes within the Barony.
4. Encourage participation in the creation of Baronial largess and Regalia projects, and provide a venue in which to create them.
5. Oversee collection and storage of donations of finished and unfinished projects and supplies.

IV.3.l Minister of the Lists

1. Organize and coordinate lists as needed by the Barony.
2. Work in cooperation with the Baronial Marshal to maintain fighter authorization.
3. Work in cooperation with the Baronial Herald to martial fields.
4. Verify membership of entrants in Championship lists.

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IV.3.m Rapier Marshal

1. Encourage the development of period rapier combat within the Barony.
2. Elucidate and enforce the Kingdom and Society rules governing rapier combat.
3. Enforce equipment and safety standards for rapier combat.
4. Attend practices and ensure waiver compliance thereat.
5. Be the responsible party for all rapier combat at all events hosted by the Barony.
6. Organize rapier combat activities with the assistance of the Baronial rapier combat champion.

IV.3.n Scribe

1. Maintain the Seal of the Barony
2. Maintain and administer the backlog charter roster for the Barony and coordinate with the scribes to ensure the timely completion of the charter from the roster.
3. Maintain a supply of the impressions of the Baronial Seal.
4. Provide illumination and calligraphy services to the Barony as needed.
5. Arrange for Scribal classes and activities within the Barony.

IV.3.o Seneschal

1. Is the chief administrative officer of the Barony.
2. Is the principal legal representative of the Society within the Barony.
3. The Media contact in the case that there is no Chatelaine or the Chatelaine cannot be reached.
4. Creates and publishes a Council agenda and conducts the monthly business meetings.
5. Represents the Barony at Principality events or arranges to send an alternate representative.
6. Is the responsible party at all Baronial events. Event Stewards are a deputy of the Seneschal and are expected to make decisions relating to the event on the behalf of the Seneschal and the Barony.
7. Is a signer on the bank account and all Exchequer reports.
8. Report vacant branch Great Offices to the relevant Principality superiors on a quarterly basis, providing their own contact information. Such reports shall be as brief as is needed to report the vacancy, the seneschal's contact info, and a lack of activity or little activity.
9. Possess copies of all baronial keys: P.O. Box, Storage Unit, Trailer and cash boxes.
10. Maintains oversight of all Baronial Publications.
11. Serve as the Baronial representative with the State and County parks department.
12. Maintain communication with and promote good will with the parks departments.
13. Create and maintain a spreadsheet of warrants, membership, and qualifications of current officers.

IV.3.p Social Media

1. Maintain active presence on approved social media platforms.
2. Ensure compliance with Society, Kingdom, and Principality Social Media Policy.
3. Create and maintain Baronial-level event postings.

IV.3.q Thrown Weapons Marshal

1. Ensure that regular practices are held when site/space is available.
2. Ensure that Royal Round scores are submitted to the Kingdom scorekeeper.
3. Ensure that a warranted Marshal is supervising all Baronial thrown weapons practices and events.
4. Ensure that participants in thrown weapons activities within the Barony meet the requirements of An Tir and the SCA concerning equipment, training and waivers.
5. Ensure that Baronial thrown weapons gear is maintained in a safe condition.
6. Organize thrown weapons at events hosted by the Barony.

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IV.3.r Webminister

1. Maintain the official Baronial website.
2. Make timely updates to the Baronial website.
3. Facilitate the publication of event material on the Baronial webpage.

IV.3.s Youth Armored Combat Marshal

1. Encourage the development of youth combat within the Barony.
2. Elucidate and enforce the Kingdom and Society rules governing youth combat.
3. Enforce equipment and safety standards for youth combat.
4. Attend practices and ensure waiver compliance thereat
5. Be the responsible party for all youth combat at all events hosted by the Barony.
6. Organize youth combat activities with the assistance of the Baronial youth combat champion.
7. Have a clean background check as required by the Society.
8. Ensure that all society and mundane laws pertaining to children are followed.

V. Champions and the Sergeantry

The Baronial Coronet will decide whether Champions may succeed themselves and whether there is a residency requirement. All Champions have equal standing. Likewise, all divisions of the Sergeantry are equal in standing.

1. Champions and members of the Sergeantry must swear an oath of either Fealty or Service to the Baronial Coronet.
2. Champions and members of the Sergeantry have the right to wear regalia appropriate to their station.
3. Members of the fighting Sergeantry are expected to be marshals in their chosen area.

V.1 Champions

1. The general tenure of a Champion is approximately one year. The tenure begins when the Champion is recognized during a Baronial Court, usually at the same event that the Championship Tournament was held. A Champion's tenure ends during the Baronial Court of the Championship Tournament the following year before their successor is recognized. General tenure guidelines may be modified if circumstances dictate.
2. Currently the Baronial host of Champions include Archery, Armored Combat, Art & Sciences, Bardic, Rapier, Children's, Cut & Thrust, and Thrown Weapons.
3. Rights of Champions include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - a. Sitting at the Baronial High Table.
 - b. Standing with the Baron/Baroness at Baronial court.
 - c. Advising the Baronial Coronet in matters of peace and war.
 - d. Paying no site fee when performing ceremonial duties at the event to choose their successor.
4. Responsibilities of Champions include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - a. Attending Baronial events during their tenure as Champion.
 - b. Defending the Baron and Baroness against all challengers.
 - c. Assisting in coordinating a tournament to choose their successor, to include reporting at Baronial Council.
 - d. Attending both the tournament to choose a successor and the successor's investiture.
 - e. Serving the Baron/Baroness as a member of their court by attending the Baronial Coronet in court and procession.

V.2 Sergeantry

Originally developed to bring An Tirian fighters to the notice of Peers in the West Kingdom, their role has changed to fit the current needs of the Baronies throughout the Kingdom of An Tir. Adiantum has chosen to emphasize the feudal relationship, with Their Excellencies providing guidance, inspiration, instruction, and advocacy. In return, the Sergeantry will provide service, endeavor to grow in depth and breadth of knowledge and skill, and to inspire and do honor unto the Barony.

1. Members of the Sergeantry shall be selected by rigorous Trials that test their abilities, either martial or service, and their breadth of knowledge in a variety of areas which include the gentler arts and courtly behavior.
2. Members of the Sergeantry of a martial bent serve the Baroness while other members of the Sergeantry serve the Baron.
3. Trials are usually held once a year with letters of intent due prior to the actual trials.

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V.2 Sergeantry Continued

4. There is no set tenure for a member of the Sergeantry; however, it is customary that any member of the Sergeantry be released if they are recognized as a Peer. Other circumstances may conclude a tenure of a member of the Sergeantry (e.g., a member of the Sergeantry moves away or remains inactive for a long period of time, or is awarded a grant level award specific to their chosen area such as the White Scarf or OGGs. This is optional.)
5. If the conduct of a member of the Sergeantry is such that it brings discredit or ill-repute upon the Barony, and the individual is not responsive to efforts by the Sergeantry to correct the issue, The Sergeantry or Their Excellencies may call a closed court to address the issue. A person may be removed from the Sergeantry by a 2/3 vote of the Sergeantry present, suspended from service or participation in the Sergeantry at the will of Their Excellencies, or lesser action as agreed to by Their Excellencies and the Sergeantry present.
6. When a Baronial Coronet steps down, the entire Sergeantry is released to the Crown until a successor is chosen and the entire Sergeantry once again takes up its oath with the new Baronial Coronet. When a member of the Sergeantry is released, all Sergeantry regalia must be returned to the Baronial Coronet. Sergeantry membership includes:
 - a. Sergeants, whose main concern is armored combat.
 - b. Yeomen, whose main concern is archery, thrown weapons and/or siege weapons.
 - c. Gallants, whose main concern is fence or cut & thrust.
 - d. Lancers, whose main concerns are the equestrian arts and sciences.
 - e. Cohorts, whose main concerns are Art and Sciences and/or Service.
7. Rights of the Sergeantry include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - a. Attending the Baron or Baroness, as appropriate, in court and procession.
 - b. Advising the Baronial Coronet in matters of peace and war.
8. Responsibilities of the Sergeantry include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - a. Encouraging others in the practice of their chosen area of expertise.
 - b. Assisting the Baron or Baroness, as appropriate, in their areas of Baronial Affairs.
 - c. Fighting for the Barony or supporting the Baronial troops in any war in which the Barony is officially participating. This usually will include An Tir/West war.
 - d. Assisting in the Sergeantry Trials.
 - e. Providing leadership, instruction, and assistance in set-up and tear-down of Baronial pavilions and Regalia.
 - f. They are expected to serve as good examples of chivalry, etiquette, and courtesy to all.

VI. Events/Event Stewards

Events are gatherings to encourage wide participation. As such, events should be planned to serve the majority of the Barony's citizens and, when possible to appeal to the broader population base in the Kingdom or beyond. Event Stewards are considered to be Deputies of the Seneschal from the time their bid is accepted until the final post-event report is accepted and all financial issues are resolved.

VI.1 Traditional Events

The Barony holds four traditional events:

VI.1.a The Midwinter's Feast is held the third Saturday of January. On years wherein the Barony hosts 12th Night, Midwinter's shall be a smaller event to support tournaments for championships. (Bids requested by June Council Meeting).

VI.1.b The Baronial Birthday Bash is held in early spring. (Bids requested by September Council Meeting).

VI.1.c The Egil Skallagrimmson Memorial Tournament is held the Friday-Monday of Memorial Day weekend. (Bids requested by July Council Meeting).

VI.1.d Fall event the third weekend of October. May be co-sponsored with another branch. (Bids requested by March Council Meeting).

VI.2 Bidding Process

Event Stewards are selected via a bid process. Those individuals or groups wishing to be the Event Steward(s) of one of the traditional events or a new event present a bid to Council at least six months prior to the event. A bid shall include a complete event bid form. Potential Event Stewards should be prepared to explain their qualifications and how they will deal with the minutia and stress of putting on an event. The Presentation of a non-contested bid does not automatically ensure the awarding of that bid. All bids are subject to discussion and bids may be accepted completely, accepted conditionally or not accepted.

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Once a bid has been presented in most cases, a decision is made by a ¾ majority vote of council. However, since Event Stewards are a deputy of the Seneschal, if the Seneschal does not believe the proposed Event Steward will be able to successfully execute the bid, the Seneschal has the right to refuse the bid. Discussion of a non-contested event bid in Council shall be limited to financial viability and ability of the proposed Event Stewards to fulfill their obligations. If the person approved as an Event Steward is deemed by the Council to have insufficient experience in running the proposed event (e.g., by size), or is new to the Barony, a Mentor Steward will be required. The Mentor Steward must be approved by the Seneschal. A Mentor Steward is defined as a successful and experienced Baronial Event Steward approved by the council. The duties of the Mentor include but not necessarily limited to:

- VI.2.a** Be a resource for the Event Steward. (Sites, budget, event requirements, general advice and support.)
- VI.2.b** Be able to take over the event as Event Steward should the Event Steward be unable to complete the event and a suitable and willing person cannot be found among the extant event staff.
- VI.2.c** Be willing to cancel an event if necessary, with the approval of Council.
- VI.2.d** Have the Event Steward and event staff hold a “post mortem” of the event, prior to the Council meeting to close the event and acting as the Meeting Head for said meeting.
- VI.2.e** At the close of the event, provide feedback to the Baronial Council regarding the preparedness of the Event Steward to steward future events without a Mentor Steward.

VI.3 Duties of Event Stewards

Event Stewards or their Deputy are required to attend the three Council meetings, as applicable, prior to the event for which the Event Steward has responsibility. Written reports shall be submitted to the Seneschal monthly from the time of acceptance of the proposal until event closure. Failure to attend to the event planning or failure to report on said planning is grounds for the removal of an Event Steward by the Seneschal. The Seneschal shall then be responsible for the event or request that council appoint a new Event Steward.

- VI.3.a** Event Stewards are to work with Officers to ensure that event-related duties are fulfilled.
- VI.3.b** As applicable, Officials who have duties at upcoming events are required to attend the last two Council meetings prior to that event. If the Official cannot attend, an informed deputy may be delegated to attend the meetings instead.
- VI.3.c** Event Stewards are to ensure that any event-related needs are fulfilled, including but not necessarily limited to:
 1. Maintaining a paid membership until the event is officially closed.
 2. Creating copy for publication which includes directions and all pertinent contact information for the Event Steward and any other necessary assistants, so that anyone is able to contact the Event Steward staff should they have special needs or questions.
 3. Getting event copy to Kingdom Chronicler, Bi-Cranial Bear editor, and other appropriate newsletters for publication in a timely manner. Web-based publications should be provided to the Web Minister who shall publish it to the Baronial website for events expecting more than 300 attendants. Events expecting less than 300 attendants shall not have a webpage.
 4. Getting event copy to Kingdom Calendar, maintaining login info for Kingdom Calendar, and maintaining the Kingdom Calendar with all pertinent information.
 5. Working with the Social Media Officer to update and maintain the Facebook Event.
 6. Ensuring appropriate and sufficient waivers and sign-in sheets are provided to and used by the gate, and submitting them to the Exchequer post event.

VI.4 Refund Policies

Where applicable, Event Stewards shall establish a refund policy for individuals and merchants for their event(s), which shall be approved by the Seneschal and the Exchequer and will be included in both print and electronic event copy.

VI.5 Reporting Responsibilities

Officials and Event Stewards shall fill out a final event report form and give a verbal closing report on their event at the Baronial Council meeting immediately following the event, barring circumstances beyond their control. If the Baronial Council meeting is the week after the event, the Event Steward may, instead, first give a preliminary report at the Baronial Council

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meeting immediately following the event, submit the moneys, gate sign-in sheets and waivers to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and then present the closing report at the next Baronial Council meeting. An event will not be considered closed until:

- VI.5.a** Sign-in sheets and waivers are submitted to the Exchequer.
- VI.5.b** The event report form has been submitted to the Exchequer, Seneschal, and Coronets. (within 30 days).
- VI.5.c** All Baronial equipment has been returned to the satisfaction of the Seneschal, the Exchequer, and the Chamberlain.

VI.6 Additional Duties/Requirements

Event Stewards shall appoint a Contingency Deputy who shall be kept fully informed of the details of the event as well as take over as Event Steward should the Event Steward be unable to complete the event. Event Stewards may appoint additional deputies as needed for the running of an event.

VI.6.a No Event Steward shall have more than one event open at a time.

VI.6.b The Event Steward will provide a list of names for those people receiving complimentary admission to the site (i.e., a comp list) to the Seneschal, Exchequer, and Coronets for final approval prior to the event. Final approved list shall be provided to the event gate by the Event Steward. This list will include the person's name, and office or obligation to the event and shall adhere to the guidelines provided in the Financial Policy.

VII. Financial Policy

Financial matters are done in accordance with the Baronial Financial Policy which is reviewed annually by the Exchequer and Seneschal in collaboration with the Principality Exchequer and coinciding with the annual audit.

VIII. Publications

The Bicanial Bear is a quarterly newsletter provided by the Chronicler.

The Baronial website is maintained by the Web Minister at <http://adiantum.antir.sca.org>.

IX. Review and Change Policy for the Customary

The Customary is reviewed annually by the Seneschal and then the Baronial Council. Changes should be approved by the Council by a ¾ majority vote except as noted below.

The section "II. Awards/Orders" is exempt from the normal process of review by council. It is a list of those registered awards that can/have been given and is not subject to such review. All changes to the Awards/Orders section are to be announced at the council immediately after the change to the customary has been made, and changes should be published in the newsletter.

Should any part of this Customary be found to be in conflict with Principality, Kingdom, SCA, or Mundane Law, that part may be struck out and changed without rendering the rest of the Customary invalid. These changes should be made as soon as possible and without waiting for the annual review. If necessary, a special council meeting may be called to discuss and vote on these changes.

Approved by the Baronial Council on 28 October, AS LIV, 2019 CE by,

Murchadh Monaidh Chraoibhe
Murchadh Monaidh Chraoibhe, Seneschal

and signed by Their Excellencies,

Baron Evan Dunbar

Evan Dunbar

Baroness Ayla Roth

Ayla Roth



An interview with our Seneschal, Godwin Renard

How did you find out about the SCA? What drew you to the SCA? What was your first event? What keeps you interested?

I first heard about the SCA from (now) Sir Gabriel. We met and became friends our freshman year of college. A few times during the first year we were friends he would come into school on Mondays and have fresh bruises and sometimes a sunburn. So I asked about it and he told me a bit about the SCA. My first event was Egils 2002. I remembered how much fun Gabriel had said the event was the year before and decided to try it out. He was living with Alys Meghan Cattwyn at the time. He introduced me to her and she made me my first piece of garb. I believe that that tunic is still in Goldkey to this day as I donated to Goldkey a few years later when I had more things to wear.

The main thing that keeps me interested and coming back year after year is that the SCA is a place where you can do and learn things that you can't really do much of anywhere else. Almost all of my closest friends are people I have met through the SCA and our shared interest in learning, doing, and teaching skills and history.

What is your persona – time/place, interests?

My persona is fairly loose and not as well defined as some peoples': I am an early twelfth century Norman, but there is not too much detail beyond that. My personal crafts include woodworking, sewing, embroidery, and various other 'simple' crafts though I do not claim great skill in any of them.

You've been Seneschal for how many years?

I was Seneschal for four years beginning during the last two years of Tadhg and Morrighan's reign as Baron and Baroness, through the year that Nadezhda Volynskaiia served as Viceroy when we did not have baronial coronets, and for the first year of Durin and Ceridwen's reign. This past September marked the end of the first year of my second tenure as Seneschal. I would hazard a guess that I have worked as seneschal with more baronial heads than anyone else in Adiantum history.

What does being Seneschal involve?

There are a few major things that make up the job of a Seneschal: Being the legal representative of the Barony, planning and running meetings, and paperwork.

Being the legal representative means having at least a passing knowledge of the various laws of the society as well as some of the mundane laws that affect us and our activities, being available to sign legal documents for everything from bank signature cards to contracts for event sites, and lastly being the person contacts authorities and makes reports when things go sideways.

Meeting and paperwork are the day to day reality of any non-profit organization and the SCA is no different. A large part of the Seneschal's job is making those things go smoothly and helping others figure out what their responsibilities are. Despite how some people perceive the office, the Seneschal is not "the boss" and does not tell the other officers what to do or how to do their jobs. They are an equal and work with all of the other officers to make the branch run.

What has been the most difficult/frustrating aspect of being Seneschal?

The biggest difficulty during this term as seneschal has been getting clear and concise communication from the Kingdom and Society regarding things related to the still on-going pandemic. There have been months long stretches where we have heard nothing and not been given any information and then there have been other times we have been given no advanced warning that large announcements are going to be made so that we can be prepared for questions from the populace.

What's the most rewarding / satisfying part of being Seneschal?

The satisfaction of helping others accomplish things and reach their goals. Things like helping first time event stewards navigate all of the steps necessary to put on an event and encouraging them to volunteer for the job in the first place.

What other jobs / tasks have you done in the Barony / Principality? My first baronial officer position was as Chamberlain quite a few years ago. We didn't have quite as many tents then as we do now, but we still had more than pretty much any other branch (and likely more than some kingdoms). Almost immediately after that was my first stint as Seneschal. I took a couple years off from being an officer to Event Steward Egils because it was something that I wanted to do, but had promised myself I wouldn't do while I was also an officer. Then I took over the office of Exchequer for a few years. When our baronial marshal won March Coronet in 2019, I took over in that role. In early 2020 I agreed to become the first Events Deputy to the Summits Seneschal and officially began the job at Summits A&S, less than a month before everything began shutting down due to COVID. Technically I am approaching the end of my term in that office, though I have not had much opportunity to do anything in it. Most recently, I took over the office of Baronial Seneschal again in September of 2020, which required that I step down as Marshal before my term was complete.

Are there any other offices or roles within the SCA you'd like to explore?

I think that at some point I would like to be the lists officer for either the barony or the Summits. I've done lists for the odd tournament here and there and found it quite enjoyable.

What do you hope to do / look forward to once we can have normal events again?

One of the things I look forward to the most is getting to see and interact with people from outside of Adiantum on a more regular basis. Every once in a while someone will be travelling and stop in at one of our practices and it is great to see people that you haven't seen in a long time. We were used to seeing some of these people two or more times a month at events and now for many of them it has been well over a year since we have been able to talk in person. It will be interesting to see how people have grown and changed since the last time we met. And for the rapier fighters

that I haven't crossed swords with in such a long time, it will be interesting to see what new things that have learned and how their styles have changed in that time.

Are there any observations about the Barony or anything else you'd like to add?

Though it may not seem like it some days, we will eventually be able to gather and hold events again. I'm sure we all are looking forward to seeing all of our old friends and acquaintances again and all of the new ones that we will make in the years to come. The best way to hasten that day is to get vaccinated if you are able.



An Interview with our out-going Exchequer, Margaret

How did you find out about the SCA? What drew you to the SCA? What was your first event? What keeps you interested?

I had heard about it distantly for a few years, thought it was a cool idea, and I'd been to a couple of Ren. Faires. Then I hired a new tech guy at the Eugene Public Library, and he had been in the SCA in California. He was a heavy fighter, so I heard a lot about it. About the same time I met a guy in the Eugene Opera chorus who invited me to Egil's Tourney, 2014 I think. I got to know a few people and was invited to join a household.

After Ramsey died, Durin and other folks embraced me and I felt surrounded by friends. I needed something new and different to help me through it all, and the SCA helped. And I'm a librarian -- I like learning lots of different things and I like history, so it's a good fit.

What is your persona – time/place, interests?

Since I like all kinds of things and I'm not a seamstress, I went for easy garb, which meant gothic, 13th / 14th century. I like High Renaissance, but I learned it's not easy to wear in summer or at outdoor events, so I didn't go there! I like to cook, so have interest in historical foods, and I used to do calligraphy, so at some point I'd like to learn more historically correct scripts.

You've been Exchequer since late 2018. What has been the most difficult / frustrating aspect of the job? What's the most rewarding / satisfying part of the job?

I volunteered to be Exchequer because I wanted to give something back to the Barony. I figured that I could do spreadsheets, I had time since I was between jobs, and it might even look good on a resumé. If nothing else, it would be a good life skill to develop while I looked for work.

Probably the most frustrating part of the job is the fact that we are a volunteer organization. That can mean that new information isn't always disseminated efficiently or effectively – it's often

word-of-mouth, but that isn't the best practice when you're dealing with financials. And because we're all volunteers, life circumstances can get in the way. For example, health issues can sideline people through no fault of their own.

The biggest challenge was the complex spreadsheet that's the heart of the quarterly report. It's not always clear what it's asking, and sometimes it has quirky bugs in the formulas. The other difficulty has been inexperienced gate helpers. It's a wonderful way to have people involved and it's fun to greet people, but they don't always get all the details written down. At large events like 12th Night or Egil's Tourney, having missing information on the gate sheets can be a nightmare afterwards when I have to make a report.

On the positive side, I enjoyed being part of how things get done, part of the structure. I liked learning things about the finances and I saw the SCA from a different perspective. Most people don't understand our finances because it doesn't actually touch their experience of an event.

What other jobs / tasks have you done in the Barony / Principality?

I was Landmaster for Egil's Tourney one year, and have been part of the "Band of Briars" clearing the park for the event, as well as helping with set-up and take down for several events. I've helped run Three Pillars at Egil's as well. And I helped in the kitchen at the Bear & Apple Tavern.

Are there any other offices or roles within the SCA you'd like to explore?

I like secretarial sort of things, so maybe Chronicler some day?

What do you hope to do / look forward to once we can have normal events again?

I'm really looking forward to hanging out with people – seeing them, listening to them in person. I miss the spectacle of it all, and of Court, as well as hanging out at gatherings like Arts & Sciences Night.

Any other observations about the Barony (Principality, Kingdom, SCA)? Anything else you'd like to add?

I still feel like a relative newcomer. Because my partner and family are not as into the SCA as I am and because we have other major interests and commitments like Oregon Country Fair, I'm never going to be one of those people who really learn topics in depth, or go to distant events every weekend and get to know people all over the Kingdom, although I do envy people who can do that.

I feel that there's lots of information out there on line about the SCA, but it's not consistently up to date or maintained, so it's often hard to know what to use as a reference to learn good information.

I feel like the Barony is fragmented – probably because of the pandemic and quarantines.

I wish we had longer business meetings. During the old meetings we got into good discussions about what we might do and why, and learned more about what each of the officers does. We've lost those more interesting conversations, and they were one of the things that helped get people more involved in the Barony. Now it just feels like we're there because we need a quorum to pass a few things and that's all the business we do, so there is little reason for newcomers to attend - it would all be too cryptic. And of course Council used to be a time/place where we could socialize before and after. I miss that and the picnics, informal gatherings where we could hang out with friends.

This Barony is a very caring group of people who bring a myriad of talents and interests - not the least being an interest in helping each other out, on SCA projects and other parts of their lives.



An Interview with our in-coming Exchequer, Asgerdr Audsdottir, O.P.

How did you find out about the SCA? What drew you to the SCA? What was your first event? What keeps you interested?

I was singing in a neighborhood pub, and a friend asked me if I might be interested in singing in a madrigal group. It turned out that it was an SCA group in San Diego. My first event was a little local tourney in Balboa Park in San Diego, the Barony of Califia. I found that I enjoyed the people and the focus of the group, which was less sophisticated (historically) than now. I've grown with the organization. I also met my husband, Hrodnavar Hakonsson, through that same madrigal and SCA group.

What keeps me interested in the SCA is the people and all the opportunities to learn, the many varied interests of people in the groups, and their enthusiastic sharing of their knowledge. There is always another rabbit hole to fall into. I'm a bit of a fiberhead, but not a completely dedicated one. There's always another string thing to look into; it's very tactile and you can ALWAYS keep your hands busy.

What is your persona – time/place, interests?

I have a general Viking persona because the garb doesn't involve stays and corsets. I find so much in the Viking era that is fascinating. I am trying to learn more, but get pulled into different directions all the time.

I understand that you've been an Exchequer before? Were there any differences in being an SCA Exchequer as compared to being a modern accountant?

Yes, I was a CPA in modern life, and Exchequer for the Barony of Califia in the '80s. Then we spent seven years in Atlantia in the Richmond, VA, and Baltimore areas, but our jobs were so demanding that we didn't have much opportunity to play SCA there. We returned to the Barony of Gyldenholt (Orange County, CA) in 1992. I spent four or five years as the Exchequer there, then four years as the Exchequer for the Kingdom of Caid.

In the SCA I was surprised to find initially that groups thought that it was OK to lose money on events. I had to do some educating to help them see that they needed to maintain a healthy bank account and use budgets to anticipate the next year's fiscal needs. I was able to introduce an easy event budgeting system which helped both organize the planning and the reporting for the events.

What other jobs / tasks have you done in the SCA?

Other than being Exchequer, I've worked gate, especially at wars.

Are there any other offices or roles within the SCA you'd like to explore?

Not really. I am a quilter in modern life, and in the SCA I just like falling down various fiber rabbit holes.

What do you hope to do / look forward to once we can have normal events again?

Meeting new people. I'm a social person and love camaraderie and exchanging ideas. We moved up to Adiantum just before the pandemic hit, so I haven't had much chance to meet people here, and I'm eager to do that. The people I've met have been very welcoming and generous with their knowledge. I'm looking forward to a long association with all of them.

Nalbinding Online by Emma Haldane

Nalbinding is a modern word coined to describe an ancient textile technique, where a flexible fabric is created by looping short lengths of yarn through itself using a single, eyed needle. In the SCA, it is often associated with Viking era Norse cultures. I believe this is because one of the first textile research and reproduction sources available in English was *Ancient Danish Textiles From Bogs and Burials* by Margarethe Hald and published in December 1980. (See Mistress Thora Sharptooth's essay for details on Viking cultures using nalbinding: <https://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/nalebnd.html>)

In the last forty or so years of research, scholarship, and experimental archaeology, it's become clear that making fabric by single-needle looping of yarn or string is a technique used across the world, with the first currently known example being from Israel, circa 6500 BCE, made with bast fiber. Nalbinding is a living tradition in countries like Finland, Iran, and across South America. It was used before and after the Viking era in Europe, using wool, bast fiber, silk, and horse and cow tail hair, in Europe, the Middle East, the Americas, and Africa.

Excellent resources for the history and extant items of nalbinding can be found at the blog *nalbound.com*, by Anne Marie Decker, known in the SCA as Sigrid Briarsdottir, OL. (SP) Decker's blog also focuses on how-to instruction, and she hosts nalbinding stitch together livestreams on Facebook. Nalbinding tutorials abound on YouTube, and online in blogs and websites, and social media hosts many interest groups. My favorite internet site for all things nalbinding is Finnish, with an excellent English language site: <https://www.en.neulakintaat.fi/17>. The companion YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heeWzS5XdKq>, and a comprehensive lists of available videos is located here: <https://www.en.neulakintaat.fi/79>. This site has it all; history, how-two, stitch dictionary, pictures galore!

5th to 11th Century Men's Belts by Yseult of Broceliande

Belts are one of the basic clothing items that SCA folks need for their kit, whether they are newcomers or long-time reenactors. For those of us who enjoy early period clothing, there are several useful articles available that address the proper type(s) of belts to wear with our garb. We'll define early medieval as 5th through the 11th century and focus on mid to northern Europe, which would include Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Merovingians, Carolingians, and various other Germanic peoples.

Almost four years ago a European reenactor, Christopher Kunz, a 10th century Viking re-enactor, posted a useful article on his website entitled "How long were belts in Birka." It's available at <https://www.sippe-guntursson.de/en-length-of-belts-in-birka-and-the-dangling-strap-end.html> and

can be printed or exported as a pdf. He reviews the archaeological evidence from the Birka graves and concludes

“If we stick to the pure facts, i.e. the grave illustrations, there can, in my opinion, only be one result: Belts in Birka were not work with long, dangling strap-ends knotted in the „reenactor’s knot“, but very similar to how we wear belts today. They would allow for some gaining or losing weight, thick or thin garments, but not have a reserve of 30-40cm between the buckle and the strap-end.”

Czech reenactor Tomáš Vlasatý picks up the story in his blog post “The length of medieval belts” (available at <https://sagy.vikingove.cz/the-length-of-early-medieval-belts/>) and looks at several depictions of men’s belts in illuminations from the 9th to the 11th centuries and then some later belts from the 13th and 14th centuries. He also discusses various types of belt fastenings, both buckles and the slides to hold the belt end in place. He concludes:

“In this article, we demonstrated that historical belts often did not have any hanging ends and that the maximum length where the end would reach was the crotch, which could have a symbolic meaning. Any of the aforementioned manners of attaching should not be incompatible with the sources we have at our disposal, however as we already mentioned, both the length and style of wearing followed local traditions. Western Europe therefore preferred delicately hidden belts while in Eastern Europe, the richly decorated belts were worn on public display. “

He later followed up further with a post “Steps to an authentic early medieval belt” (at <https://sagy.vikingove.cz/steps-to-an-authentic-early-medieval-belt/>) in which he discusses his own experiences and research. The result is a very helpful presentation of what to look for in making or purchasing an authentic looking early medieval belt. As he says,

“I realized that in all respects it is better for me to have a custom-made belt made, which can not be criticized from a historical point of view, lasts five to ten years and is more functional than tolerating historically unsuitable, ready-made belts with significantly shorter service life. An important condition here is that I plan to use the item repeatedly and in the long term.”

He reached that conclusion after spending 250€ over 14 years on belts that only lasted 2-3 years. He discusses length, construction, buckles, strap ends, “and other metal components” with lots of clear drawings and photographs of actual finds.

Vlasatý also has a separate article on an early 9th century Norwegian belt (at <https://sagy.vikingove.cz/the-belt-from-froyland-norway/>), which is fairly rare. Apparently most early Scandinavian finds are from Sweden or Denmark

You can borrow a pattern for that . . .

We WILL have in-person events again, and if you want to make yourself some new coming-out-of-pandemic-mode garb, there are patterns that you can borrow to make your sewing easier. Yseult has an extensive library of following patterns that she will lend you. Contact her on the Barony of Adiantum - Official Discussion Group on Facebook. You will need to copy the pattern (she can help you), but then you’ll have your own!

Period Patterns #16, Tunics for men, women, children, 650-1310

Period Patterns #21, Cotehardie and Sideless Surcoat for women, 14 & 15th centuries

Period Patterns #93, Bags, Purses & Pouches

Period Patterns #101, Medieval Military Garments (quilted gambesons; fighting, field, and
 revel hose; cyclas and surcoats
 Period Patterns #102, More Medieval Military Garments (coats of plates; globose breasted
 lentner; angel-wing tunic; padded coifs; padded gorget)
 Viking pants
 Medieval Misc. Pattern #46, Men's Cotehardie
 Medieval Misc. Pattern #23, hoods
 Fashionable History pattern #106, basic coif for men and women
 Fashionable History pattern #114, Medieval shoes for lords and ladies
 How to make fabric shoes
 In addition, these patterns in the baronial Library stored at Yseult's house:
 Apache Boots / Viking Tunic / Sword Hanger / various shoes

Feeling really ambitious?? There's also Period Pavilions: Period Plans No., 1 by Coryn Weigle.
 This is virtually everything you need to know about how to make your own period pavilion, from a
 basic Viking tent to round, square, and rectangular pavilions, canopies, and boothies.

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The Barony's first newsletter, published as early as 1975, was called the Elf Hill Times. It gradually
 morphed into an Arts & Sciences journal that appeared twice a year – at Midwinter Feast and
 Egil's Tourney. By 1982 when I joined the SCA, Adiantum had no monthly newsletter, so I started
 one. Here's the first cover, using a really nice two-headed bear design drawn by Mina Wagner, an
 early Adiantumite. It has always been one of my favorite bears.

