

# Seasons

#16 Winter A.S. LX (2025)





## Greetings from the Seasons Editor

Greetings to All!

This is the sixteenth issue of the new SEASONS. We now are four years in, and we hope you are enjoying the current format and content of this magazine.

We welcome Original Cover and Filler Art; Instructional/Educational Articles; Articles introducing people to new fields

of activity, Original Poetry and Songs; Photos of A&S Entries, Tourney Winners, and Vigils; and Information on Future Elevations (all with permission to reprint).

We hope to continue celebrating, in this magazine, the talents, achievements and merits of our Meridian subjects, and showcasing their creations, and we invite you to join our readership and to be a part of our efforts.

In continuing Service....

**Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli**  
Seasons Editor

## Upcoming Events This Season

*According to the Kingdom Calendar at the time of this publication, the following Events and Virtual Gatherings will be held (in the stated formats) during the Summer-Fall of A.S. LX (2025):*

- **Winter Market & Regional A&S Faire (Glaedenfeld) December 13th—White County Fairgrounds, Sparta, TN**
- **Panhandle Skirmishes (Arenal) January 9th-11th — Compass Lake in the Hills, Alford, FL**
- **Wing Ding (South Reach) January 17th — Pulaski Ag Center, Pulaski, TN**
- **Meridian War College/Kingdom Fighters Collegium (Easaraigh) January 31st — White County Fairgrounds, Sparta, TN**
- **Knight in the Park III: Knights Strike Back (Dragonfly Marsh) February 7th — Valdosta, GA *A Free Regional Fighter Practice***



- **Midwinter Arts & Sciences (South Downs) February 7th — Wesley Way United Methodist Church, McDonough, GA**
- **Knights Gambit (Thorngill) February 13th-15th (Dalwhinnie Fields)**
- **Hit List Reloaded (Osprey) February 21st (Camp Maubila, Grove Hills, AL)**
- **Newcomers Event (Owl's Nest) February 21st (Redtop Mountain State Park, Group Shelter 2, Acworth. GA)**
- **Meridian Challenge of Arms (Meridies) February 7th-March 1st (River Hills Retreat, Hayden, AL)**



- **TUESDAY NIGHT SOCIALS** are held and hosted by Mistress Ellen de Lacey on ZOOM at 7:00pm CST/8:00pm EST. These also feature Classes, Guild Meetings, Pennon Decision Meetings, opportunities to talk to some Kingdom level Officers, and On-Line Heraldry consultation.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT BARDIC** hosted on ZOOM at 9:30pm EST, hosted by Mistress Roheis de Ravenscroft and THL Davoc Walkere, and they have also posted a rather extensive calendar of Bardic Activities and Classes — to be seen at the Friday Night Bardic group on Facebook.
- **HERALDRY AFTER HOURS** on-line Herald's Point is hosted by Lord Magnus von Lubeck every Tuesday at 8:00pm CST/9:00pm EST in conjunction with the ZOOM Social. *Lord Magnus has asked to start this earlier, at 7:00pm CST, but prefers to limit consultations to one submitter at a time per consultant (2 max) to avoid confusion.*





## Fall Event Highlights

During the Autumn of A.S. LX the eventing schedule picked up again as the weather cooled, and Meridians were able to enjoy a number of excellent events!

- **Daggers & Hemlock (Phoenix Glade) September 19th-21st — Chipley, FL**

We understand that this event was well attended by subjects both of Meridies and Gleann Abhann, and that **Baroness Catriona the Blind** and her kitchen staff organized a truly delicious German-style feast. There was an excellent fundraiser lunch, and a dignitaries luncheon, and a great breakfast to start the day, and the event also featured fighting, classes and a scriptorium.

- **Red Tower (South Downs) September 19th-21st — Bert Adams Boy Scout Camp, Covington, GA**

As usual, this Baronial event featured lots of great fighting — with **Duke Boru Aelwyn** again winning the Red Tower Tourney, feasting, and fun, as well as the Laurel elevation of **Mistress Lykaina of Stone Hill Keep** and an exceptional Feast. This is a huge and well maintained sight with existing tents as well as plentiful camping and fighting space and a great Feasthall, and the event was very well attended and enjoyed.

- **Haustblot (Loch an Fhraoich) September 20th — Pulaski Rec Center, Pulaski, TN**

This was a relaxing one-day event with fighting, feasting, and classes, and while small was reportedly very enjoyable.

- **Meridian Grand Tournament (Meridies) September 26th-28th — Camp Discovery, Gainesboro, TN**

This Kingdom Level Event featured, as always, a great deal of pomp and Pageantry, numerous sponsored Tournaments, exceptional fighting,, There also was Feasting and breakfast, and a Royal Court that included on transfer of a Kingdom Office (Beacon Herald to **Master Guntram von Köln**) and two peerage elevations (**THLord Roy MacLucus** to Master of Defense and **THLord Xenos Theodrikes** to Knight) Vivat!!

- **Fall Coronation (Thorngill) October 3rd-5th — Dalwhinnie Fields, Selma, AL**

This event saw the departure from the Thrones of **TRMs Lochlainn and Paraskova**, and



the Coronation of **TRMs Chinua and Jacqueline**, with the usual Meridian fanfare and theatrics to impress and to entertain. There also were, activities, feasting and merriment, and the event featured, as Coronations generally do, a lot of Court Business. Well done, and the Meridian succession is thus assured!!

- **Bacon Bash XI (Crimson River) October 17th-19th — Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, TN**

This event was a hit as usual , with Breakfasts, Travelers Faire, and Feast, an A&S Competition, Bacon Brawl and Bacon Bash Tournaments, When Pigs Fly Youth Activities, and Novelty Shoots & Hunger Games themed competitions. Fun, fun, fun!!!

- **Gatalop (Osprey) October 24th-26th — Fort Gaines, Dauphin Island, AL**

The Trimarian Crown visited, and the event featured great heavy and Rapier fighting, and excellent Athanor Faire with impressive A&S entries, amazing food, and wonderful ambiance. The rain held off until Sunday morning, the Beach Battle was brought back, and we hear that everyone had a great time. Congratulations Osprey!!

- **Silver Hammer 50 (Thor's Mountain) October 24th-26th — Big Ridge State Park, Maynardville, TN**

Not a “Shiver Hammer” this year, this Baronial featured the investiture of a new Baron and Baron (Their Excellencies Tristram and Titus), good fighting, and in Court, among other awards, we saw **Tristram Jager von Bonn** - Baronage, Thor's Mtn, **Titus Aurelius Scaevola** - Baronage, Thor's Mtn, **Bjorn Stillingr i Thorfjall** - St Orion, and **Elizabeth MacKenzie de Ross** - St Orion

- **Fall Crown List (Glaedenfeld) November 8th — White County Fairgrounds, Sparta, TN**

This was a one-day event, but an exciting one, with sixteen worthy combatants vying there:

**Ian MacArthur fighting for Annora Draper**

**Mairghread Wilson fighting for Piers Simmons**

**Iastreb Desislavich fighting for Mariana Cristina Tirado de Aragon**

**Eirikr Palsson fighting for Arnora Karlsdottir**

**Valeric the Blackheart fighting for Mairghread Ingen Cannech**

**John Mailer fighting for Griffin O' Suaird**

**Conrad vom Schwarzwald fighting for Genevieve Alaiz d'Avi-**



**gnon**

**Arthur Von Eschenbach fighting for Gwenhever Wylliam**

**Hrothgar of Merica fighting for Kata Alarsdottir**

**Randver Brotamadr fighting for Arianne Lightheart of Whiteheld**

**Ulrich von Brandenburg fighting for Katerina Von Brandenburg**

**Valdrikr Albrictsson fighting for Constanza Consuela Ximena de Valencia**

**Ashildr Ulfsdottir fighting for Bergthora Daffidsdottir**

**Xenos Thodrikes fighting for Etain of the Ulaid**

**Conal MacDale fighting for Wuennemon die Naehrin**

**Mongo Blackheart fighting for Ceri Adain**

The winner was, in the end, proclaimed by right of arms to be **Randver Brotamaðr** fighting for **Arianna Lightheart of Whiteheld**.

Thus were new Meridian Heirs proclaimed!! VIVAT!

- **Castle Wars (South Downs) November 13th-16th—Bert Adams Boy Scout Camp, Covington, GA**

This 4-day event is always a popular one, with a great deal of fighting, revelry, feasting, and fun, and this year they also brought us Chariot Archery, which was HIGHLY entertaining. There were Heavy and Rapier Tourneys, Heavy and Rapier Melees, Archery, and (because this site allows Equestrian, a lot of that along with the Chariot Archery. Gorgeous weather for this one — sunny and breezy, with many, many merchants, and good times were definitely had. We also had the Peerage elevation of **Madelena de Ricci**, called **Raven** to Ranger of the Mark, and a writ announced for **Nathri mac Conaill** for Ranger of the Mark!

## **Fall Events Still On The December Calendar and Held After Deadline**

- **Winter Market (Glaedenfeld) December 13th — White County Fairgrounds, Sparta, TN**



# Announcements:

- From Lord Oddbjorn Jarnhauss....To all and sundry, especially the *youth* of the Kingdom of Meridies: This is to welcome the reopening of the Page School to the Kingdom. More information forthcoming!
- We have a brand-new <https://chatelaine.meridies.org/> created by **Genovefa de Hareflot**, with all sort of great links and features, so if you are a Newcomer, a Chatelaine, or just an interested person, please check it out and avail yourself of it's features and outreach tools!!!
- As of 10/18/2025 the Board of Directors of the SCA has approved the merger of the **Shire Terminus Terrae** with **Shire of Phoenix Glade**. The zip codes of Terminus Terrae will go to Shire of Phoenix Glade. The heraldry of Terminus Terrae will be released to the college of Heraldry. Many people worked very hard over the years, and with this merger, and we wish all of them the very best!!



Photo Credit: Baroness Rose Rennel

Hail unto The Royals of Meridies, **Their Royal Majesties Chinua & Jacqueline, Khan and Khatun**

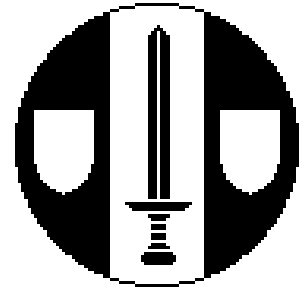
Likewise, Hail unto **Their Royal Highnesses Meridies, Their Royal Highnesses Randver and Arianne!!!**

As usual, the Royal Heirs stand ready to step forward should any *totally unexpected and unprecedented* tragedy ever befall their current Majesties Chinua and Jacqueline.



Photo Credit: The Oloye Kehinde

# Results of the 1st Sable Sword Invitational Tourney at Heroes and Heroines



Unto the most noble populace of Meridies do I, Baron Iain MacArthur, send joyous greetings!

Heroes and Heroines has come and gone and the 1st Sable Sword Invitational was held and while some combatants had to miss out due to various issues, we still had a fantastic turnout.

Unto all the combatants and your inspirations, I would like to congratulate you all. Thank you for your attendance. Thank you for your comportment upon the field and off the field. The Order was well pleased with you all and you showed great tenacity. There was good discussion upon the field between the combatants. As far as I was aware, you were all satisfied. The heat and humidity did prove to be a difficult factor but your grace for your opponents and allowing moments for rest and hydration were keeping with the high standards of chivalry and honor we strive for here in Meridies and the SCA.

The winner of the Invitational was Lord Kieran McLeod. Congratulations to you and your inspiration Lady Ciorsdan. (*Editors Note: Lady Coirsdan Lynn Andersoun*).

For those that were not invited to this tournament, understand there will be more to come. Any time you wish to test your mettle with us, seek us upon the field. You just might find yourselves in the next invitational. Keep the camaraderie on the field alive. We fight our friends and celebrate in glorious combat.

Thank you to the Shire of Forth Castle for hosting our tournament.

I remain in Service,  
Baron Iain MacArthur  
Companion of the Sable Sword  
Order Secretary



Photo Credit to Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli





Fighters who participated in or contributed to The Chalice Challenge at Meridian Grand Tourney. Our gratitude to you ALL!!

Photo Credit and Statement Credit (below) to Duchess Ysmay of Branston]

This is what the SCA is all about.

One of my favorite MGT traditions is the annual fundraiser tournament, hosted by the Order of the Chalice. For two decades, this tournament has been a powerful force for good. People of all skill levels pay a \$20 entry fee, and many often sponsor fighters or simply donate extra funds. All of the proceeds—including those from the day's Chalice-hosted lunch—go toward charity, usually a battered women's shelter chosen by the victor, though we've also supported groups like the Trevor Project.

This weekend, after tallying the cumulative donations, we hit an astonishing milestone: over \$100,000 has been raised and donated throughout the years!

It's a humbling experience to be part of a chosen family that comes together through our shared hobby to help people when they need it most. This commitment to making a real difference is why I love this community and why I'll always be a part of it.

— **Duchess Ysmay of Branston**

# Their Royal Majesties Jacqueline and Chinua at Silver Hammer



Photo Credit—Lady Rose ate Whitoke

**His Majesty Chinua** has opted to take the title of “Khan” and **Her Majesty Jacqueline** has asked to be entitled as “Khatun”. At last note, the Khan and Khatun were planning to attend Winter Market, Kingdom War College/Fighter’s Collegium, Midwinter A&S, and Newcomer’s Event this Winter.



**Their Royal Highnesses Randver and Arianne** will be attending Winter Market, Wing Ding, Kingdom War College/Fighter’s Collegium, Knights Gambit, and Meridian Challenge of Arms.







Photo Credit—Duke Timothy of Long Bennington

Meridies hosted our 2nd annual Guiding Star Charity Tournament at War of the Wings. The victor was **Sir William Battleboar** (William Sheppard) of Atlantia. His fights were truly clean, graceful, and honorable, and they demonstrated the highest degree of chivalry that can be expected of a Knight of the society. It was a great joy to watch. We managed to raise \$1100 in donations, which Sir William directed to the 'Breast Cancer Research Foundation'. To date, our efforts have raised \$2500 toward noble causes. I look forward to hosting this again next year to see our guiding stars continue to shine bright.

**Duke Timothy of Long Bennington**

Heartiest congratulations to our newest Meridian King's Lancer, **Countess Ellawin of Eaglewood!**

The King's Lancer competition for this reign was held at Caste Wars in November, and was won by Countess Ellawin, shown here mounted upon her valiant Lipizzaner, **Prince Luigi**, with **Their Royal Majesties Chinua and Jacqueline (Khan and Khatun)** at Burt Adams Scout Camp on the day of her victory

As William Shakespeare said in his play A Midsummer Night's Dream, "Though she be but little, she is fierce,"

True.



Photo Credit—Mistress Peryn Rose Whytehorse



Photo Credit: Kate Rose Brown



Equerry Belts by Dorian Araignée

## The First Meridian Equerry

There was a precious note from Castle Wars. Last year, Meridies joined the Kingdoms in the Golden Lance treaty, which allowed establishment of the Order of the Golden Lance (a grant level equestrian order).

This has opened the door for us to have an associate called an Equerry. I am honored to have been able to begin that tradition here in Meridies with a stellar equestrian, **Noble Bjorn Valdrickson** — Johnna Brown. She is a rising star in the equestrian community, and I am grateful to have that bond with someone dear to do what i can to help her shine.

## *Ellawin*







# Peerage Elevations in the Winter

Please join with us to congratulate the following nobles who, by virtue of their achievements, were elevated unto the Peerages during the past Season (and three earlier elevations that we missed):



Seamus Corrigan—to Ranger of The Mark August 30th (at Vices & Virtues)

Lykaina of Stone Hill Keep—to Laurel September 20th (at Red Tower)

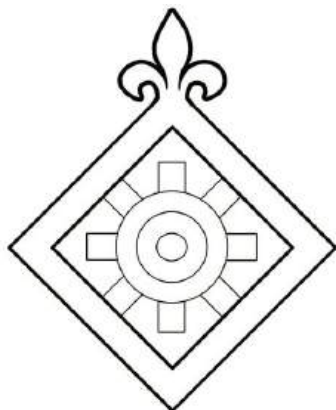
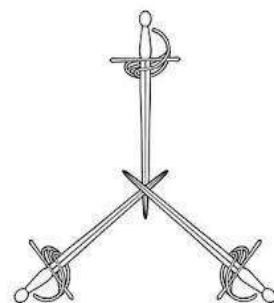
Roy MacLucus — to Master of Defense (at MGT)

Xenos Theodrikes — to Knight September 20th (at MGT)

Laurettia atte Blacksterre, — to Ranger of the Mark October 4th (at Coronation)

Asa Kolbrún—to Pelican November 9th (at Fall Crown Lyst)

Madelena de Ricci, called Raven — to Ranger of the Mark November 15th (at Castle Wars)



## Planned Future Elevations

### Unknown

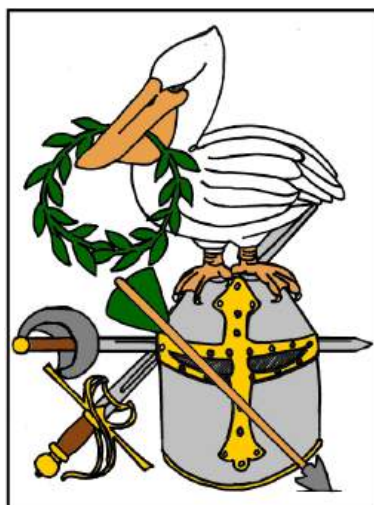
### Additional Announced Writs:

Evangeline Bajolet and Katherine Spencer to the Order of the Laurel

Eoin Mac Cana to the Order of Chivalry

Iain MacArthur to the Order of the Pelican

Nathri Mac Conaill - to the Ranger of the Mark



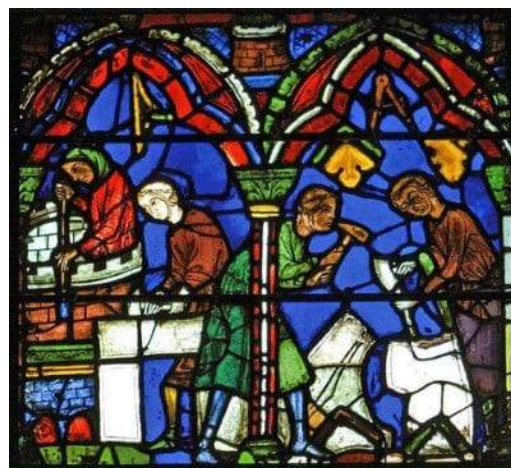
*Great effort is made to keep up with all Peerage elevations in our Kingdom, but if we somehow have missed mentioning any Peerage elevations and/or dates in the section above — or if we have missed notifying of any writs issued, and/or any dates set for future elevations — please feel free to notify the Editor at [seasons@meridies.org](mailto:seasons@meridies.org) so that these can be mentioned in the Spring Issue, due out at the beginning of March A.S. LX.*

# Guilding the Lily?

Are you familiar with the Various Meridian Guilds? Do you have an interest in a particular subject. Is it listed here on the page. If not, please let someone know.\*

Guilds are a vital resource for our members. It allows like minded individuals come together in the research and teaching of subjects that were practiced by our ancestors. To discover new ways of doing something.

*Scribal Guild*  
*Cooks Guild*  
*Courtesans Guild of Meridies*  
*Saltare (Dance Guild)*  
*Arachne's Web (Lace Guild)*  
*Gaming Guild*  
*Iron Bow Guild*  
*Paynters Guild*  
*Historic Martial Arts Guild*  
*Herbal Guild*  
*Grand Chefs of Meridies*  
*Minstrel's Guild*  
*Coursing Guild*  
*Royal Foresters of Meridies*  
*Embroidery Guild*  
*Moniers Guild*  
*Accademia Degli Eccentrici*  
*Writing Guild*



*Tradesmen Window*  
*Chartres Cathedral 13th Century*

Full links and current contact information can be found on [The Guilds of Meridies](http://The Guilds of Meridies) at Meridies.org

**The Meridian Herbal Guild** has recently been meeting fairly regularly on Tuesday nights in conjunction with the Tuesday Night Socials on Zoom, so if you have an interest in herbs, their cultivation and their uses, you might consider checking in on some of these and meeting some of the other members.

We will gladly mention meeting schedules for other guilds here also, on request!

*\*List of Guilds Updated from the web page 17 Mar A.S. LIX (2025)*

# Winter in the Kitchen

## Top Ten Food Safety Practices for SCA Kitchens

Mistress Christianna MacGrain, OP, OL



### Off-site Food Prep and transportation

- Plan your shopping trips with the staying-power of perishables in mind. Have your empty coolers and boxes easy to reach as items that need cold protection are purchased.
- Try to plan your trip to avoid traffic jams and rush hour if possible, sitting still with several hundred pounds of thawing food in your vehicle is stressful on you, the vehicle, and the food.
- Plan your arrival on site with helpers that can be there to help unload and get things directly into coolers or sinks as need be.

### Primitive Kitchens

When preparing meals in a camp or primitive kitchen, get all the details up front. Make sure there are hand washing facilities available, hand sanitizers alone are not acceptable for food handling.

Assess the site for:

- cover? water facilities? trash removal? Are pit or ground fires allowed?
- What equipment must be brought on-site to prepare and serve the feast?

### Storage

- Non-perishables such as bottled, canned and dried food items, spices, paper and disposable items can all be bought ahead of time.
- Have a plan about where pre-cooked and pre-purchased perishable items will be stored until transported to site. Always cool foods completely and keep them below 41°F while transporting them.
- The feast planner should supervise as others unpack, directing items to appropriate storage areas.
- Before any food is unloaded at the site, check the temps on all coolers and freezers to make sure they are within usable ranges. Coolers should be below 41°F, and a cooler that has not been used or had the door opened in some time should be closer to 36°F. Freezers should read somewhere between 0°F and 20°F. Frozen foods such as dairy products should be stored at 6°F - 10°F
- Store refrigerated foods on shelves so that ready-to-eat foods are on top, followed by raw fish, raw and ground meats, with raw poultry on the bottom shelves. Anything above has the potential to contaminate the items below, so foods are stored in order of ultimate cooking temperatures. Ready-to-eat foods are not reheated, fish will be cooked to 145°F, ground meats to 155°F - 165°F,

and raw poultry to a minimum of 165°F.

- Have a plan for the food as it comes back into the kitchen. Have containers ready for foods that are being saved for re-use at breakfast, or being packaged up for distribution.

## **Hand Washing and Volunteer Staff Health.**

- Make sure you have a designated hand sink and that you use it, and that everyone in your kitchen uses it regularly.
- Hand washing, dishwashing, and food preparation areas should be separated.
- Kindly turn away ill or inebriated volunteers.
- Don't let anyone use their personal belt knife to cut food.
- Hair should be restrained in some fashion.
- Encourage your volunteers to wear comfortable, washable, non-binding clothing.
- Close-toed shoes are a must; no bare feet in the kitchen.
- Discourage rings and bracelets, as well as long, dangling neck-wear.
- Don't let yourself plan on working all through the night right before the feast. If you allow yourself to become overworked and tired, accidents are more likely to happen, and things will be forgotten.

## **Allergies and Ingredients Lists**

- Post your ingredients list as soon as you get set-up, and direct diners with questions to it. Be faithful in posting changes and additions, and make your kitchen staff aware that any changes must be recorded and not 'cheated' on. (For example, a small amount of nuts can kill someone with a severe nut allergy, it is essential that every ingredient is truthfully reported. If it gets added in once the cooking is in progress, go out and add it to the list.)

## **Cross Contamination**

Cross Contamination is the transfer of microorganisms from one food or surface to another. Microorganisms move around easily in a kitchen. They can be transferred from food or unwashed hands to prep tables, equipment, utensils, cutting boards, other food, door knobs and handles, etc.

- Assign specific equipment to each type of food product. (i.e. poultry)
- Clean and sanitize all work surfaces, equipment, and utensils after each task.
- When using one prep table, prepare raw meat, fish, and poultry and ready-to-eat foods at different times.
- Purchase ingredients that require minimal preparation.

## **Thawing**

- Foods thawing out from a frozen state should be kept in the cooler or under cold water, not in hot water or left on a counter-top to come to room temperature. Check foods for signs of spoilage, and don't serve something



you are unsure of. Better to have one less dish than take a chance on making your guests ill.

- Take a couple of oven/refrigerator thermometers with you to check out the accuracy of the coolers, freezers, ovens, and warming equipment you will be using, as well as a good food thermometer such as a bi-stemmed metallic thermometer to check food temps.

## **Time / Temperature Abuse**

Time/Temp abuse occurs when foods are held in the Temperature Danger Zone between 41°F and 135°F for extended periods of time. Microorganisms grow much faster in this zone, and fastest in the middle between 70°F and 125°F. If food is held in this dangerous range for more than 4 hours, you must throw it out.

Cooking does not kill all pathogens that can be present in food after being time/temperature abused.

Most time/temp abuse in SCA kitchens happens:

- when the event purchases exceed the storage capabilities of the homes of those shopping and prepping for the feast, food sits out until driven to the site;
- with items unloaded from cars by volunteers and not placed in an appropriate cooler or freezer;
- while thawing foods incorrectly;
- while cooling large stock pots of food from the stove;
- pre-cooking, storage and re-heating foods incorrectly;
- with foods used as leftovers that were not stored correctly or in a timely fashion.

## **Cooking large batches of food**

- Large quantities of liquid take a longer time to heat than just the expanded time. Spread the surface to heat ratio out to speed the process. Get more than one burner under the pan if possible. Add a lid or create one from foil if necessary.
- When cooking a large batch of grains, instead of using a pot with boiling water on top of the stove, bake it as a 'pilaf'! In a large, deep, baking pan, place grain, liquid, fat, and seasonings. Heat oven to 350 degrees (25 degrees in either direction won't hurt if you've got something else in the oven as well, just watch the cooking time). Place baking parchment or wax paper over the top to keep the top layer of grains from drying out, and bake for between 45 - 90 minutes. Check after 30 minutes to adjust cooking time. No more nasty burns or sticking to the bottom of a large pot to deal with!
- Try to plan your cooking times to coordinate with service time, or to allow ample time for cooling something all the way down and then heating it all the way back up.

## Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Cleaning is the process of removing food and debris from a surface such as a prep area.
- Sanitizing is the process of reducing microorganisms on that surface to safe levels.
- Sanitizing can be accomplished by heat or chemical methods. Items submerged for at least 30 seconds in water heated to 171°F and then air dried have been heat sanitized. Chemical sanitizers are usually chlorine or iodine based. Follow manufacturer's directions, and keep chemicals in original containers.
- Store all chemicals and cleaners separately from food and food prep areas. Plan for trash disposal and recycling

## Oyez! Oyez!

On behalf of Their Royal Majesties of Meridies, I request your skill and generosity to represent our Kingdom in two upcoming Royal Gift Exchanges, one at Panhandle in January and one at Gulf Wars in March.



These exchanges can be one of the most visible and important diplomatic events of the War. The gifts presented are not mere trinkets; they are tangible symbols of our Kingdom's honor, talent, and friendship with our sister Kingdoms

We encourage items that are unique, beautiful, and highly representative of the time period or the SCA's ideals. Examples include:

- \* Exquisite scroll blanks (finished or unfinished)
- \* Finely crafted jewelry or regalia pieces
- \* Small, beautiful leatherwork (e.g., pouches, book covers)
- \* High-quality wooden items (e.g., small boxes, turned bowls)
- \* Any item demonstrating exceptional skill in your chosen medium.

If you have something you would like to offer, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping Their Majesties and the Kingdom of Meridies shine brightly! Your talent is our greatest treasure.

In service to the Dream,  
Duchess Ysmay, Royal Gift Coordinator for TRM

# Summer Heraldic Registrations

The following information will probably already have been posted Officially on Social Media or published in Popular Chivalry by the Pennon Herald, and was taken from SCA College of Arms Letters of Acceptance and Return, found at <https://heraldry.sca.org/loar/>



Congratulations!! The following heraldic submissions completed the process during the past Season, and most (those listed as Acceptances) are now officially REGISTERED with the SCA College of Arms:

## **July 2025**

### **Acceptances**

- \* Andreas Stefánsson. Name change from Andreas of Owl's Nest and device. The submitter's prior name, Andreas of Owl's Nest, is retained as an alternate.
- \* Búi Tómasson. Name and device.
- \* Emily Eberhart. Name.
- \* Maegen of Owl's Nest. Name and device.
- \* Rolant de Besançon. Name and device.
- \* Sifka Heiðmenningr. Name.
- \* Valeric the Blackheart of Castle Vanir. Device change. The submitter's prior device is retained as a
- \* badge.
- \* Yrsa Grímsdóttir. Name

### **Returns**

- \* None

### **Pends**

- \* Randvér Þorvarðarson. Device change and badge.

### **From the July 2025 ERRATA:**

- \* Rúnfríðr Øpisdóttir. The device will be reblazoned in the Ordinary and Armorial of the SCA to correct a blazoning error in the October 2021 LoAR.

## **August 2025**

### **Acceptances**

- \* Beatrix Bear Flippen. Name.
- \* Cecily del More. Name.
- \* Conor Macfie of the Isles. Name and device. Per fess azure and Or, a Celtic cross Or and a lion gules.

- \* Rhys ap Mathew. Device. Quarterly azure and gules, a sword proper sustained by two lions combattant Or.
- \* The submitter has permission to conflict with the badge for the Order of the Rapier of Lochac, Quarterly azure and gules, a rapier argent.

### Returns

- \* Dionisio Tedesco. Device. Argent, three sea-tortoises azure headed, legged, and tailed gules.

### Pends

- \* None

## September 2025

### Acceptances

- Jin Taehyeon. Name change from Lucien d'Artois. The submitter's prior name, Lucien d'Artois, is retained as an alternate.
- Lonán the Gray. Name and device. Purple, in fess an oak tree eradicated Or and an oak tree eradicated argent between three mullets Or.
- Szekely Ersebett. Name.

### Returns

- None

### Pends

- None

Meistres Bronwen o Gydweli, Lambent (Commenting) Herald Meridies

BRONWEN





# Period Ceramics

For any artisan interested in trying to reproduce period accessories, the graphics below, used courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Open Access Policy [The MET Open Access Policy: As part of the Met's Open Access policy, you can freely copy, modify and distribute this image, even for commercial purposes], show some beautiful period (and pre-period) ceramics



Bottle with ritual scene Amapa-Peñitas artists 1400-1500 CE



Armorial Tondo - Minerbetti coat of arms Italian ca 1510



Dish Thailand 15th-16th C



Paper cutter with the arms of the Medici family Italian 16th C



Stirrup-spout bottle with fox warrior Moche Artist 500-800 CE



Terracotta aryballos in the form of an eagle's head - Greek Rhodian 7th-6thC BC

# Authorizing for Youth Combat

From the Meridies Marshal's Handbook

## VII. Authorization

### A. Authorization Procedures

- i. Authorization is designed to ensure that all fighters can conduct themselves safely and courteously while on the field; are conducting themselves according to a common standard; and display a minimum level of proficiency to show they are not a threat to themselves or others.
- ii. All combatants in tournaments and melees in Meridies must be authorized in the weapons they wish to use.
- iii. Visitors to Meridies may participate in Meridian events if they go over the Meridian rules with a Meridian marshal before they compete.
- iv. Fighters with valid authorization from another kingdom who move into Meridies may exchange for a Meridian authorization card within their first six (6) months of being a resident of Meridies.

### B. Who May Become Authorized

- i. To become authorized a fighter must meet the following requirements.
- ii. Be at least 16 years old.
- iii. Combatants under the age of 18 have additional authorization requirements described in the minor authorization procedures.
- iv. Thorough familiarity with all weapon and armor standards, conventions of combat, and other rules concerning combat-related activities in Meridies.

### C. When Can Authorization Occur

Authorizations can be held at any time during an official SCA function (event or fighter practice); a combatant authorized during an event may participate in subsequent activities as allowed by their new authorization.

### D. Marshals

- i. For Armored Combat and Rapier combat, there must be 2 warranted marshals present. For all other disciplines, a single warranted marshal is required.
- ii. The marshals MUST be authorized in the applicable weapons form.
- iii. Inspect the armor and equipment of all personnel participating in the authorization process.
- iv. Test the knowledge of the candidate regarding the applicable rules governing combat in Meridies. The knowledge test should include questions applicable to the weapons being used in the authorization.
- v. Inform the participants in the authorization of how the authorization is to be conducted.
- vi. Perform the authorization per the Society Marshal Handbook



## **E. Authorization for Minors**

i. For anyone who is 16 or 17 years old to become an authorized fighter in Meridies outside of Youth Combat, the following procedure must be followed:

a. The candidate must have either a Minor waiver on file at SCA Corporate Headquarters (blue membership card) or must complete an SCA 'Minor's Consent to Participate and Hold Harmless Agreement (General Waiver for Minors)'.

b. For a minor to fight or even practice, either a parent or legal guardian shall be present, or someone holding a notarized Medical Authorization for Minors granting them authority to approve medical treatment shall be present.

c. During early training, those who are running the practice must make a careful determination as to the minor's physical and emotional maturity. The variations among minors are considerable. At this age, many are unready, either physically or emotionally, for SCA combat. The marshals must be conservative in this respect. If there is any question, remember that if the minor is truly emotionally ready, they will not react inappropriately to being told to wait a year. If the marshal is not sure that the minor is ready, they must be told to wait a year.

d. The local marshal will arrange for at least one of the parents or legal guardians to observe the fighting practice. Every attempt should be made to ensure that the parents leave with a familiarity with SCA fighting.

e. The minor must attend at least one fighting event before the event at which the minor attempts to authorize.

f. The parents or legal guardians shall be asked to come to an event before authorization.

g. A standard authorization will be conducted with at least one of the officiating marshals being the KEM or designated DEM.

h. All of the paperwork involved in the minor's authorization must be reviewed by the KEM or designated Deputy Earl Marshal before being processed by the Minister of Lists.

i. Minors engaging in combat with adults shall be marked in the following manner: A single yellow diamond no larger than 1 inch (25.4 mm) but no smaller than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) to be placed on the front hemisphere of the helm (preferably on or near the inspection sticker). Minors competing with adults in Rapier will have the same diamond on the cuff of the glove of their dominant weapon hand



# Poetry Corner

## *Waiting for Winter*

Meistres Bronwen o Gydweili

In silvered gown, she waits beyond the hills  
Where Autumn's vibrant flowing cloak is spread,  
And sings a song of peace when birdsong stills,  
And wears a crown of ice upon her head.

Upon a frosted carpet walking there  
In crystal slippers, mantled all in white,  
Her star-spun tresses flowing on the air,  
She waits, all patiently, just out of sight.

She tats her counterpane of snowflake lace,  
To spread upon the forest and the mead,  
When time is come to take fair Autumn's place,  
And she comes riding on an argent steed.

And we await her coming, silently,  
With Autumn's bright-hued glory spreading wide,  
All golden over forest, lake and lea,  
With all the world adorned and glorified.

Fair beyond visions, marvelous and yet  
Her silvered sister wears as fair a guise.  
And we in silence stand in Autumn's debt,  
Just waiting there for Winter to arise.

[17 October, A.S. LI, 2016]





# A Call for Largesse

Greetings Meridies,

Now that Gulf Wars is over and the largesse has been inventoried we find that we are lacking largesse for the children.

As we all know the Children of the Kingdom are our future. Donations for children's largesse would be greatly appreciated. Things like games, craft stuff for kids, stuffed critters, journals for the older children, illumination kits for older kids, simple jewelry making kits, etc. Donations can be given at any event, please contact.

In service of the dream  
Baroness Juliana of Empingham



## Cover Art & Articles Needed

For all those aspiring, or established, Artists and Authors of Meridies, SEASONS is always on the prowl for Cover Art, and we would very much like to showcase Original Artwork done by our own talented Meridian Artists rather than using photographs. We also need articles on subjects of potential interest to Meridian subjects!!

If you have period-style, or period-themed, or SCA-themed drawings in your portfolios — or still waiting impatiently to be drawn — please consider submitting them for use as Cover (or Filler) Art for use in this supplement. If you would be willing to submit an article, we would definitely welcome that as well!!

An Artist or Author Release Form will be required — the link to which can be found at <https://meridies.org/home/royaltyandofficers/chronicler/>

So let's see — and share — your work!!!





WOODCUT FROM THE TITLE-PAGE OF THE "GRETE HERBALL" (1526)

## Winter — in From the Garden

*Fall Gardening Hints*  
*Meistres Bronwen o Gydwelli*

The winter in our area is not necessarily conducive to growing herbs outdoors. My sage comes back every year, as does my oregano, my chives, and my dill, but just about everything else has to be replanted annually. That's why, this year, I started looking more into what herbs I could grow (successfully) indoors in pots during the winter months.

According to various sources, seven herbs do especially well for this: Sage, Oregano, Thyme, Rosemary, Chives, Parsley, and Basil. Hmmmmm.

Well my Rosemary, Oregano, Sage Dill, Chives, and Thyme are well-established outdoors, and the either survive the Winter or they put back out every Spring. Parsley used to survive as well, but Basil — well, that's another story, so I found a really big pot, pulled up my existing Basil plant (which had gone mostly to flowers or seeds, potted it with lots of good soil, pruned off the flowers. Scattered the seed

in the pot (just in case it might actually germinate), and moved the plant inside where I placed a grow light to encourage it — assuming it survives. So far, it's putting out again, and seems to be doing well.

I also already had a potted Parsley plant that I moved inside in preparation for an expected freeze over the weekend of November 8th., and I'm hoping to have it survive as well. So far so good.

Basil and Parsley are both herbs I use regularly for culinary purposes, and if they survive the Winter indoors, and can move them outside again in Spring.

But I also bought some seeds for Dill, Cilantro, Chives, Chamomile, Basil, Sage, Parsley, Rosemary, Lavender and Thyme to try starting indoors. Given my usual luck with buying seeds I don't really expect any of them to sprout at all — let alone survive and thrive. I guess we'll see though. These are at least heirloom seeds, and I seem to have better luck with heirloom varieties of — well, ANYTHING. Wish me Luck!!

Good luck to you as well, and Happy Gardening! In the meanwhile, I plan to keep researching.

My gratitude to various members of the Meridian Herbal Guild for their ongoing assistance as I learn more about this subject, and if you'd like to check out their Facebook page it can be found at **SCA Meridian Herbalists**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/439743532715252/>



## Acknowledgements and Thanks

Thank you to **Baroness Danielle of South Reach** for this issue's Cover Art, and to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** whose Open Access Policy allowed us freely to reprint images of objects from their Open Access Collection to this periodical. Thanks to **Lady Rose ate Whitoke**, and to **The Oloye Kehinde**, and to **Lady Peryn Rose Whytehorse**, and to **Lancer Rose de la Cumbe** for permission to use their photos. Thanks to **Baron Iain MacArthur** for allowing the reprint of his post on the Sable Sword Tourney, to **Lord Kieran Ciotach McLeod** and **Lady Ciorsdan Lynn Andersoun** for allowing the reprint of their picture, to **Lord Oddbjorn Jarnhauss** for his Page School announcement, to **Duke Sebastianios Ionnides** for his allowing the reprint of his post regarding the new Chatelaine's resources on-line, to **Countess Ellawin of Eaglewood** for permission to reprint her post and her images, to **Noble Bjorn Valdrickson** for permission to print their image, to **HRM Chinua** for posting the list of entrants for Fall Crown Lyst, to **Duke Timothy of Long Bennington** for allowing the reprint of his report and photo regarding "The Guiding Star Charity Tournament" at War of the Wings, and to **Duchess Ysmay of Branston** for her Largesse Post.



Special thanks also to the Kingdom Chronicler **THLady Alis Talemasche** for her patience and her assistance, and to my Deputies **Lord Leopold Guotmann** and (less officially) **Mistress Christianna MacGrain** for their ongoing assistance and their contributions to this issue, to wit: "Winter in the Kitchen: Top Ten Food Safety Practices for SCA Kitchens" (Christianna).

In Gratitude..... **BRONWEN**





*Submissions for SEASONS (and we definitely invite them) should be sent directly to the Editor at [seasons@meridies.org](mailto:seasons@meridies.org), and accompanied by any graphics (in .JPG format) and by an appropriate Creative Release Form. These forms can be found on-line at <https://meridies.org/home/resources-and-reports/> under “Chronicler Resources”. The deadline for submissions to the Spring Seasons will be March 1st.*

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*Articles submitted to SEASONS should be short to moderate length, and deal with topics of interest to the populace. Artwork should, ideally, be at least 300 dpi and deal with period or SCA subject matter, or be presented in a period style. The deadlines for submissions are (Spring) March 1st, (Summer) June 1st, (Autumn) September 1st, and (Winter) December 1st.*