

Beyond The Pale

June 2026



MEET THE MIDREALM - THE NEW:

- **BARON AND BARONESS OF FLAMING GRYPHON**
- **KINGDOM SENESCHAL**
- **KINGDOM MINISTER OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

Finding Flaming Gryphon

By Baroness Claricia de la Mere

The Barony of Flaming Gryphon is one of the longest-standing baronies in the Middle Kingdom, officially elevated in 1979 during the early expansion of the Midrealm. Located in southwest Ohio, Flaming Gryphon today includes several local branches throughout the Dayton-area region, including the Marche of Winged Hills, the Canton of Hawkes Key, and the Shire of Norborough. Over the years, the Barony has sponsored additional colleges, marches, and incipient groups, including one branch that eventually became the Barony of Fenix.

The Barony's heraldry is also distinctive within the Midrealm. Its arms, an enflamed gryphon descending upon a laurel wreath, were registered in 1980, while its black-and-white ermine and gold livery remains immediately recognizable across the Kingdom. According to founding Baron Syr Lorimer MacAltin of the Garioch, the flames were intended to suggest speed and motion, "reminiscent of flames painted on cars."



In 2024, Flaming Gryphon celebrated its 45th anniversary, marking more than four decades of continuous activity and leadership within the Midrealm.

The Barony just welcomed new Coronets: Osmundus Thorkelsson and Thyra Bubbasdottir, the eighth baron and baroness of the group. Baron Osmundus, Knight and Pelican, has been part of Flaming Gryphon for 47 years. Baroness Thyra, a Pelican and Laurel, has served the Society in numerous leadership roles, including Midrealm Seneschal and Mayor of Pennsic. Together, they hope to continue the strong sense of community for which Flaming Gryphon is known.

Sources:

https://middlewiki.midrealm.org/index.php/Flaming_Gryphon

<https://history.midrealm.org/2024/the-history-of-the-barony-of-flaming-gryphon-on-its-45th-anniversary/>

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The Pale

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Six Questions With a Coronet

Hláefdige Thyra Bubbasdottir, Baroness of Flaming Gryphon

SCA Name and Title: Hláefdige [Mistress] Thyra
Bubbasdottir

Modern Name: Laura Hunt Hume

Pronouns: she/her

1) How did you find the SCA? How long have you been involved?

I found the SCA in 1992, which was the same season I joined the cast of the Ohio Renaissance Festival. One of my cast mates took me to a fight practice in the Barony of Fenix. That same year the College of St. Joan (now defunct), which was the medieval group where I work (the University of Dayton), approached me to be their faculty advisor.

2) Why did you put your name in for consideration to be the next Coronet of Flaming Gryphon?

I'm too young to retire. LOL! Short of being royalty, it was about the only way left to me to give back to the group. I've held every non-martial office in our Marche or the Barony. I've been an event steward more times than I can count (including Coronation, Crown Tourney, and Pennsic). I've been Midrealm Seneschal. I'm pretty much out of options. I also very much wanted to see Sir Ozmundus become Baron after the times he's fought for me in Crown.

3) Tell us about Flaming Gryphon - what makes your barony unique? What do you love about it?

Flaming Gryphon truly is my non-blood family. We have fight practices / A&S nights every week that have more attendees than some local events I've been to. I've never felt out of place or isolated here -- which is more than I can say about some other things of which I've been a part. I've watched students I taught back in the 1990s become leaders in the Barony and beyond. Last fall I attended the wedding of a student's son. My daughter has spent all but the first eight weeks of her life in the Barony. Those are the kind of bonds we form.

4) What are your 2 favorite things to do in the SCA?

Serve and learn new A&S.

5) What's an SCA activity you'd like to try, but haven't yet?

I don't know. I've tried an awful lot over 34 years.

6) Tell us about your pets and/or family!

As I said, my 28-year-old daughter is in the SCA, although graduating from law school in Indianapolis and passing the bar are her most immediate goals right now. My bonus son lives in Arizona. My husband and I don't get to see enough of either of them. We fill some of the void with our five cats -- three male Maine Coons and a pair of sisters from a feral litter we got from the Humane Society. My husband isn't in the SCA but he did attend our investiture.



Baroness Thyra. Photograph by Forester Altan of Flaming Gryphon (Alan Lirtzman).

Six Questions With a Coronet

Master Syr Osmundus Thorkelsson, Baron of Flaming Gryphon

SCA Name and Title: Master Syr Osmundus Thorkelsson

Modern Name: Craig Osborne

Pronouns: he/him

1) How did you find the SCA? How long have you been involved?

I was 17 and playing my first D&D game when two guys a year older than me showed up with a rattan sword. I went to the next fighting practice was put in armor given a toilet paper mace and had at it. I am now 64 and still loving the game.

2) Why did you put your name in for consideration to be the next Coronet of Flaming Gryphon?

I have been active since the Barony was a region. I have served in many baronial offices, assisted in many different activities within the Barony. But, throughout that time I was too busy with real life to feel I could do a good job. Now, I am retired, children are generally on their own, and I have time and energy to strive to do it right.

3) Tell us about Flaming Gryphon - what makes your barony unique? What do you love about it?

We are a family. We have multiple shires and/or marches, a number of big and small households, and many activities, but we all come together to things done. I had a duchess once tell me that the Flaming Gryphon is a greater household. I agree.

4) What are your 2 favorite things to do in the SCA?

Heavy fighting and dancing.

5) What's an SCA activity you'd like to try, but haven't yet?

In 47 years, I have at least tried most everything. I do plan to get better at throwing weapons.

6) Tell us about your pets and/or family!

Right now, we have two dogs and a cat: Phoebe, Teddy, and Huey the Cat. They are all very loving pets. My wife, son, and daughter are all amazing people, but are not interested in the SCA. They come periodically, mostly to baronial events and household parties, but have very active lives of their own.



Baron Osmundus. Photo by Duke Cellach (Jesse Weber).

Six Questions With a Kingdom Officer

Baronowa Alzbeta Michalik, Kingdom Minister of Arts & Sciences

SCA Name and Title: Baronowa Alzbeta Michalik, OP, OL

Modern Name: Stacey Mihallik

Pronouns: she/her

1) How did you find the SCA? How long have you been involved?

Friends I met while in college were part of an SCA household. I went to my first local event in the spring of 1995 and took part in the Jubilee Olde English Faire starting that summer. I didn't really get involved in the actual organization until the early '00s.

2) Why did you put your name in for consideration to be the next Kingdom Minister of Arts & Sciences?

I jumped into my art with both feet and participated in the various A&S venues for the first time over just a couple of years. That perspective as a new entrant, combined with prior experience as an officer at all levels of the organization, made me want to contribute to the A&S community so that I can help others find the joy that I found.

3) What's one thing about A&S that you wish more people knew?

Stopping by and chatting with someone about their art for just five minutes can mean more to them than you realize.

4) What are your 2 favorite things to do in the SCA?

My very favorite thing is helping other people do cool things, whether it's heralding court, helping people make connections, or just being a cheerleader for those just getting started. My second favorite thing is the fellowship - enjoying each other's company, even if we aren't doing anything in particular, especially if there's food involved.

5) What's an SCA activity you'd like to try, but haven't yet?

Glass beadmaking

6) When you aren't practicing your art, volunteering your time, or otherwise doing SCA stuff, how do you like to have fun?

Tabletop roleplaying games, video games, watching funny cat videos, doing deep dives into the lore around favorite fantasy worlds.



Kingdom Minister of Arts & Sciences, Baronowa Alzbeta, upon her elevation to the Order of the Laurel at Better War Through Archery 2025. Photo by Master Philip the Pilgrim (Phillip C. Reed).

Six Questions With a Kingdom Officer

Ronan of Keyth, Kingdom Seneschal

SCA Name and Title: Ronan of Keyth

Modern Name: Christopher Sweets

Pronouns: he/him

1) How did you get into the SCA, and what has made you stick around?

I took a girlfriend to the Holly Ren Faire when I was in high school. Ten years later, as good friends and roommates, she took me to an SCA event. I liked cooking and so I ended up working in the kitchen all day. I've been around ever since.

2) What are your 2 favorite SCA activities?

Aside from the campfires with friends, I still work in the kitchens and I have taken up fencing. Usually if I'm not being seneschal at the moment, you'll find me in the kitchen or on the list.

3) Why did you decide to apply for the KSen position?

I enjoy working behind the scenes to make sure that everything goes smoothly. I am always striving to improve the SCA experience for all, and this is a position where I hope I can take meaningful steps towards that goal.

4) Is there something in the SCA that you'd like to try, but haven't done yet?

I would like to try my hand at some hot metal-working, sand-casting, and maybe even some carved soapstone. It's always been fascinating to me, but I haven't ever had the time and tools around to do it.

5) Who in history would you like to spend a day with, and why?

There are so many choices, but I think if I had to pick one, it would be Leonardo da Vinci. I have always been a tinkerer, and I have been taking things apart and learning how they work since I was very young, often to my parents' exasperation, and, before I got good putting them back together, their frustration. Getting to spend some time with one of the masters of engineering would be awesome in the most literal sense of the word. I have gone through scans of his notebooks several times and looking at the drawings has often been an inspiration to go into the shop and make things on my own.



Kingdom Seneschal, Ollamh Ronan of Keyth upon his elevation to the Order of the Pelican. Photo by Mistress Sorcha Fraser (Val Kondrich Eisenberg).