

December 2025

The Blatherings

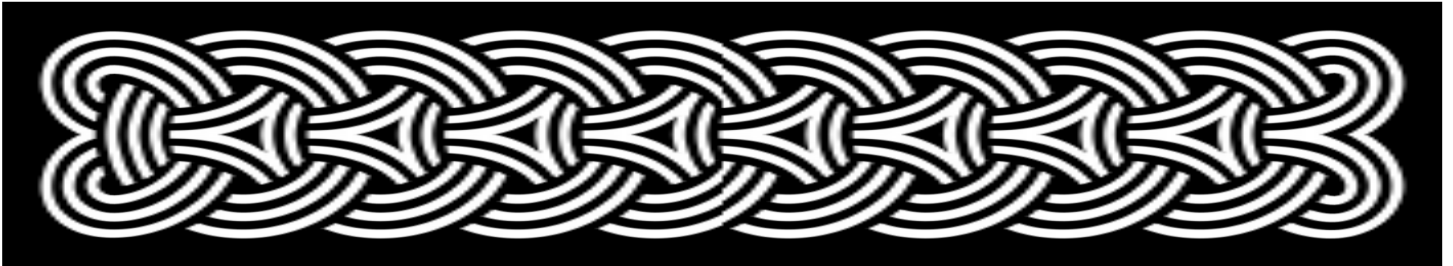


Photo Credit Oonah Lorene

Barony of Blatha an Oir

December 2025

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Blatha an Oir Upcoming Events on the Calendar

Date Event

Mondays, **Sewing/Crafting Night at 4105 S Yakima St, Tacoma, Wa**
7pm

Tuesdays **Fight Practice will resume in February at a new location**

January 9th **An Tir 12th Night Bellevu Hilton**

January 17th **Scribal**

January **Hybrid Business Meeting**
22nd

February 7th **Combined Candlemas with Dragons Lair**

<https://blathaanoir.antir.org/events/>

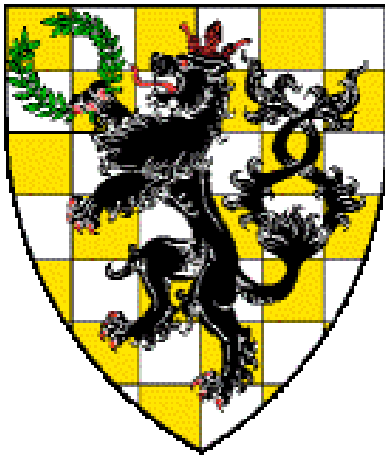


Amoret Tanner / Alamy Stock Photo

Their Excellencies and An Tir Royalty



Baroness Elizabeth FittzWilliam of Carlisle & Baron Nels Ulfger i Jaren



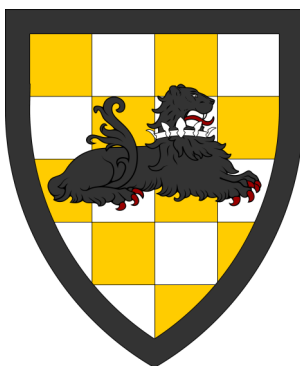
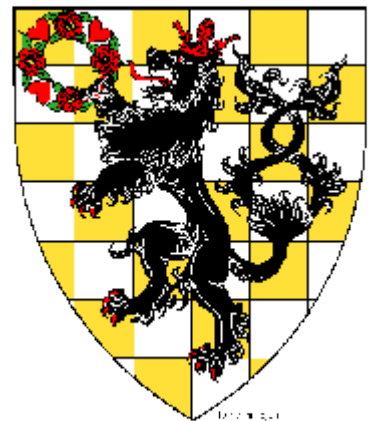
His Majesty, Sovereign

Octamasades Skuthikos

&

Their Majesty, Sovereign

Achaxe Ek Auchatae



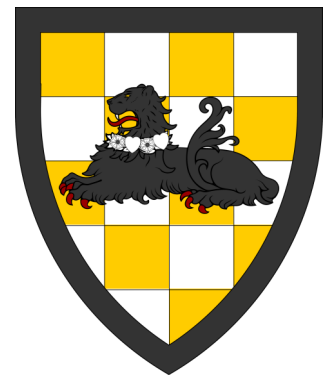
His Royal Highness,

Prince Ulfgar Hjartar Bani Thorvaldson

&

Her Royal Highness,

Princess Juahara al Azin

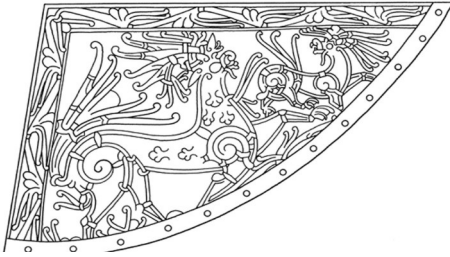


Prince Marcus Longinius Rufus & Princess Livia Atella



Prince Magnus Ulfgarsson & Princess Sina Erdeneva

Blatha an Oir Officers



Seneschal

Ellisif Leifsdottir

(mka:Liz Howard)

BlathaanOir.Seneschal@antir.org

Chatelaine

Francisca de Rosil

(mka:Francisca Ossiander)

BlathaanOir.Chatelaine@antir.org



Exchequer

Myskia Billings

(mka:Jay Paige)

BlathaanOir.exchequer@antir.org

The Full List of Officers can be located on the Baronial Webpage

<https://blathaanoir.antir.org/the-populace/baronial-officers/>

All officers have put a call out for Deputies, if you are interested in getting involved please reach out to the office you are interested in.

The following offices are open: LISTS, Rapier Marshal, Gold Key, Demo Coordinator, Youth and Family Activities(YAFA) , Youth Armored Combat Marshal(YAC)

The Following officers are looking for replacement soon: Chamberlain

<https://blathaanoir.antir.org/business-meeting-minutes/>

Words from Their Excellencies

Greetings unto the Populace of the most glorious barony in the known world, Blatha an Oir.

As this missive is published, we are deeply into The Dark. These days of limited sunlight can be rough on many, so we call to brightness of friends and Yule celebrations to lift our spirits. (I do recommend a light box or some Vit D therapy, or even a little time outdoors, to help things along) Check in on friends and family when possible.

We are looking forward to 12th Night and the camaraderie and joy it brings. Seeing friends is such a light in the dark. Blatha an Oir is the host of this year's celebration, which will be held at the Bellevue Hilton. Please consider volunteering your time as your capacity allows. Help is needed from set up and decorating, to tear down, and everything in between. There are youth and family activities! There will be a sewing help area! Help with gate, and see people as they arrive! So many opportunities!

On the heels of 12th Night is Ursalmas. This year, it is solely a martial event. Urselwyck Village and merchants will be a separate event later in the year. Blatha an Oir traditionally creates a welcoming space open to all. We usually have a table with snacks and beverages. Please join us and enjoy the day.

Candlemas follows quickly, and looks to be another marvelous joint event with Dragons Laire. Volunteers are also welcome. The feast is Italian themed, and I am really looking forward to it. There will also be classes and round-tables at the event. We welcome the return of sunlight!

As always, the barony is in need of officers and deputies. If you are unsure about taking on an office, consider being a deputy, as it allows you insight into the requirements and duties of the office. It's your barony, be involved!

We, Nels and Elizabeth, Coronets of Blatha an Oir, wish you all joy, peace, and comfort this festive season, and always.



By (tm)Artificial
Dimension

From the Seneschal's Desk

Greetings on to the populace of Blatha an Oir,

Wow what a crazy last few months we have had. Autumn War featuring Empris of the Black Lion was a wonderful event. We have heard many complements on how the event was and had some wonderful suggestions on how to make it better next year. Next we had Harvest feast, it was nice to be back at the Hall. That too we had some wonderful complements on the event and there have been some fantastic suggestions for next year. We are looking into all suggestions that have been made.

The state of the barony is looking good. Volunteers are always needed for officers. If you have ever wondered what is involved, please feel free to reach out to an officer and ask questions. The barony cannot run without the volunteers that run it. That includes being an event steward, a volunteer to

Our next major event is 12th Night We are the hosting barony if you are attending, think about volunteering, Many hands make light work. Calls for volunteers at the event will be made soon. More to come from the Event Lead and Staff.

We are looking for Event stewards if you are wanting to run event or help run event please reach out to myself or Their Excellencies.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful Holiday season, what every you celebrate. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future

HL, Ellisif Leifsdottir
Blatha an Oir Seneschal



Officør Spotlight



Dona Catterina Fontana

Baronial Herald

How long have you participated in the SCA?:

I am a second generation SCAdian. My mother, Colleen Elizabeth du Cassis, was a Pelican in The West Kingdom awarded in AS XIX (1984). I always knew it existed, but didn't start actively participating until 2021, the summer my mother died.

My first large event was Autumn War, 2021.

Have you always lived in An Tir? In Blatha an Oir?:

I actually was born and raised in San Jose, CA in what I believe in now The Kingdom of Caid. I moved up to An Tir in 2013, and began my SCA journey in 2021, I have indeed lived in An Tir for the entirety of my SCA journey. My first socials were in what was the Shire of Drum Donigan, and is now The Canton of Misty Ridge in Dragon's Lair.

Tell us about your persona?:

My persona is a wealthy Venetian Olive Merchant circa (1450-1550). I chose this persona period because I love the Venetian fashion, food, and culture. I love everything about it.

What is your SCA Bio? (STORY):

Both my husband and I had parents who used to be active in the SCA, right before my mother died I told her that I was interested in trying to get myself involved in the community she loved so much. She was proud. Now I am holding my first Barional Office (That I got by accident). I attempted to do Sargentry early and bowed out for life reasons. Now I am honestly just trying to have fun. That said, Heraldry was not my first choice for an officer position, and some day I hope I am able to serve as Chatelaine.

What other officers have you held?:

Herald of Blatha An Oir, this is my first one!

What is your favorite part of your current office?:

Watching people get their scrolls telling them their Heraldry passed.

What information would you give someone who wants to learn about your office?:

We have a lot of resources and a lot of people willing to help you learn, but the single most important piece of advice I can offer is ask for help. Often. Without Fear. Own it. Knowledge is power and if you don't know the answer, find the name and contact of someone who does.

What is your favorite part of the SCA?:

Watching people have fun and nerd out over everything. Like the History of Glitter. Glitter dates back to the Ancient Egyptians. They used crushed rocks and glass. The closest we have today is Mica Glitter.

Also awards: Seeing people recognized for their deeds is its own kind of reward.

**Sparkling Snowflakes**

By Emerald Savitzky

Winter 2024

The first snow falls, a gentle dance,
Each flake a spark in winter's trance.
Snowflakes twirl like whispered dreams,
Sparkling in the moonlight's beams.

In every snowdrift, magic lies,
A wonderland beneath the skies.
The trees wear cloaks of crystal lace,
Nature's magic fills the space.

The cold, it hugs, but not too tight,
A blanket soft, a frosty bite.
Laughter rings in icy air,
Winter's joy is everywhere.

An enchanted moment, pure and slow,
A dream wrapped up in falling snow.
Icicles like chandeliers,
Hang sparkling as daylight nears.



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Holiday Traditions of Medieval Times

The Dutch have a Holiday Tradition of placing their wooden shoes on their front porch or next to the hearth on the evening on December 5th.

The day is St Nicholas Day or Sinterklass. Nicholas Sinterklass was born in the 4th Century in Myra, Asia Minor and there became a Bishop. Little else is known about him, except he loved children. How this kindly 4th century bishop made his way from Asia Minor through Italy, Spain and all Northern Europe is unknown, in the 11th century he had become the patron saint not only of children and unwed maidens, but of sailors and the City of Amsterdam as well.

This day has become a celebration of Children where they are transformed into Kings and Queens and honored bringers of the light at the darkest times of the year. To this day the Dutch hold workshops all through November for the children to make crowns and wands. Where they will march in a parade through town on December 6th.

Why the Crowns and Branches? Throughout the year children are the least powerful people in society. On this day of the year, they are turned into the most powerful people, the Kings and Queens! The Birch Rod, a threatening instrument of time long ago in this story is transformed into the Royal Scepters as the children are crowned for the day.

On the eve of Sinterklass (December 5th) which the children refer to as Present Evening (pakjesavond) the children place their shoes next to the doorstep or the hearth. They will leave a present for Sinterklass and a carrot for his horse. Where in the morning they will wake up to a shoe filled with a small present or treat. Sinterklaas treats are pepernoten & kruidnoten (small round gingerbread cookies), chocolate letters, speculaas and marzipan candy.

On the 5th the Children will sing songs to Sinterklass before going to sleep.

An example of a traditional song:

*Sinterklaas Kapoentje,
Gooi wat in m'n schoentje,
Gooi wat in m'n laarsje,
Dank u, Sinterklaasje*

*Sinterklaas Capon,
Throw something in my little shoe,
Throw something in my little boot,
Thank you, Sinterklaas(je)*



This tradition has evolved in the Netherlands but is still done today. When I was younger my family celebrated this day. By this time my parents had added a twist to the story. If I received sweets in my shoe, I had been good and Christmas would come, if I received coal in my shoe I would not receive very good gifts for Christmas due to being on the naughty list. What traditions do you celebrate that have been passed down since medieval times?

Sources:

<https://sinterklaashudsonvalley.com/the-story/>

<https://www.dutchready.com/blog/traditions-in-the-netherlands-sinterklaas/?srsId=AfmBOophUzzo-6cogWhhYS5bgLNj2bmujeJSL6UVieTzHNLp1JqFMgyS>

Additional Missive from THEIR EXCELLENCIES

As announced during court at this past Harvest Feast, we are now in our third year as the Coronets of Blatha an Oir, and it is time for us to consider whether we will continue as the Coronets for another year (or three); or to pass the coronets on to the next inspirational duo, our successors.

Any of the populace that have an interest in what it means to wear the coronets and the responsibilities it entails, please come and talk with us; we aren't scary (are we?).

When the time comes, as it will sooner or later, candidates will step forward (throwing their hats into the ring), and a polling of the populace will take place (other details e.g. resumes, interviews, etc., come talk to us).

Ultimately, it is the decision of the Crown.

Our Baronial investiture traditionally happens at Autumn War.

YIS

Baron Nels



Peers Auction



The 12th Night Peers Auction, *formerly known as the Twelfth Knight Auction*, started approximately in 2001. It takes place at the [Twelfth Night Coronation](#) event. This auction was originally a live auction run by the Knights to benefit a chosen charity. Due to lack of auctioneers and time crunches for Court business, the live auction was turned into a silent auction in 2016.

In 2017 for the 2018 auction, Duke Styrkarr Jarlskald lobbied to change the auction from only allowing Knights to sponsor donated items to allowing all Peers to sponsor donors. Peers are encouraged to work with the Populace to encourage their submissions by sponsoring. Sponsorship looks different to different Peers, so they are also encouraged to help other Peers discover people to sponsor!

Each year, the outgoing Crown is asked to choose a charity to donate the Auctions Proceeds to. This year, Their Most Royal Majesties Achaxe and Octamasades have determined that we should aid the mighty mission to fight for human rights across our Nation. The American Civil Liberties Union is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (tax ID #13-6213516) that "dares to create a more perfect union — beyond one person, party, or side. Our mission is to realize this promise of the United States Constitution for all and expand the reach of its guarantees." (www.ACLU.org)

All donations must be sponsored by a Peer. Royal Peers, Knights, Masters of Arms, Laurels, Pelicans, Members of the Order of Defense, and Members of the Order of the Mark are all encouraged to sponsor a populace member's donation or to donate themselves. How Sponsorship works is up to the Peer and Donor. Each Peer sees Sponsorship differently and is encouraged to help Donors find a Sponsor that fits the Donors needs, so if you are considering submitting, but unsure how to proceed - please don't hesitate to approach the Nearest Peer and ask!

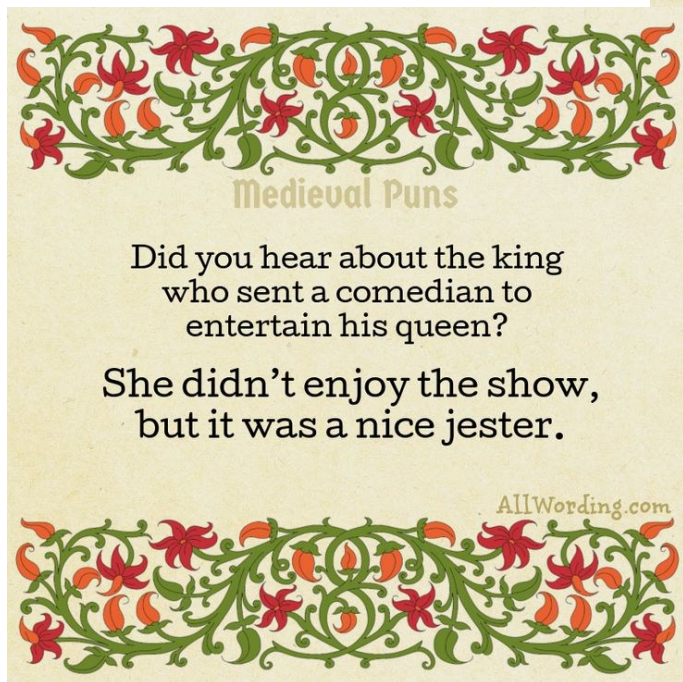
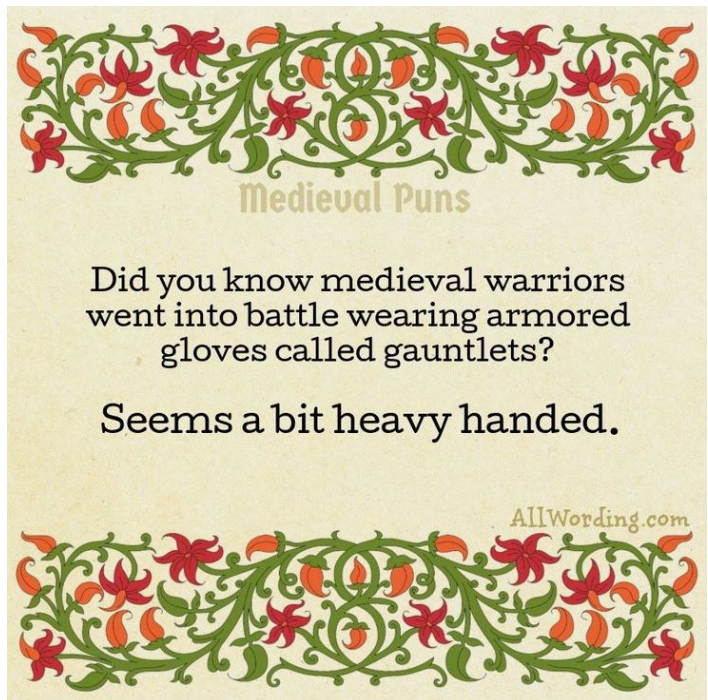
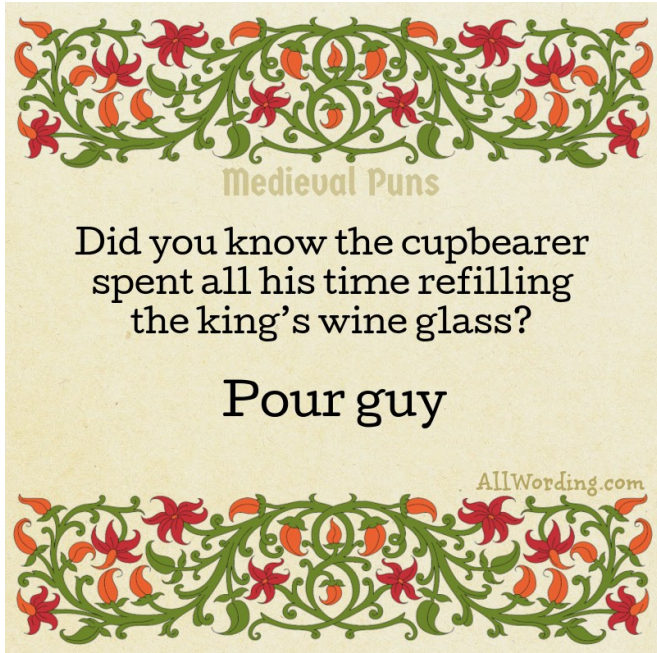
For more information about the Auction and how to submit: [12th Night Silent Peers Auction Info Sheet \(Google Doc\)](#)

For more information on the History of the Auction: [12th Night Peers Auction \(An Tir Wiki\)](#)

This Auction is a Silent Auction. Bids forms are placed next to items, and folks are encouraged to bid more than once. Come back throughout the day and check on your bids to make sure some other shopper isn't out there outbidding you! Bid Early, Bid Often!

Holiday Dad Joke Corner.—

Thank you all and to all a good night.



Blatherings Editor Meistari Kira Mikkeldotter,