



MAY 2007

THE ELFSEA TIDINGS



AS XLII

Happy New Year!

CALENDER:

Fighter Practice

Sundays at 2:00 PM at [Veteran's Park, Arlington](#)
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at [Bedford Boys' Ranch](#)

Business Meeting Monday May 21 7:00 PM at the home of [Daniel and Sioban](#)

Elfsea Moot: Canceled due to Steppes Warlord

A&S Meeting Tuesday April 17 7:00 PM

Bardic Guild Monday May 14 at 7:00 at [Home of HL Elanor O'Ruark](#)

Scribes and Illuminators Monday May 14th at 7:00 at [Home of HE Armand Dragonetti & HE Ameline duBois \(Baron and Baroness\)](#)

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OFFICER REPORTS

Note : all reports in *italics* written by staff swamp trolls

BARON AND BARONESS

Greetings Elfsea,

Many great and wondrous events have occurred since the time of our last writing. Including Elfsea Spring Fair. We have a New Titled Bard Master Robin of Gilwell, a new Artisan HL Melisenda di Barcelona and a new King of Fools Hammish.. who seems to be some relation to HL Daniel Stewart.

On a more somber note We have made the following announcement on the List and at our business meeting:

Unto the populace and friends of Elfsea and Dragonsfire Tor do we, Armand and Ameline, Baron and Baroness of Elfsea, Lord and Lady Dragonsfire Tor, send warm greetings.

With fond memories of a wonderful Springfaire fresh in mind, we look to our fall event with great anticipation. We encourage everyone to mark your calendars now with plans to attend Elfsea Defender in September, where we do hereby make known to all that we shall step aside as Baron & Baroness of Elfsea and, at the pleasure of the crown, welcome our successors.

Defender will mark the fourth anniversary of our investiture which followed five months as Vicar and Vicaress. We thank those who expressed their faith in us by appointing us to these positions. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our friends and beloved barony as Baron & Baroness.

We most especially want to thank the numerous officers and supporters, who have been our strength, and the dedication they have shown throughout our tenure. As a consequence, we know Elfsea is blessed with many leaders and are confident of a bright future for the barony. Elfsea is strong in leaders, strong in finances and strong in spirit and we take pride in, and are humbled by, the accomplishments of her people.

We have spoken with the Crown and The Royal Heirs who have given Their blessing to this, our intent. We have utmost faith and confidence in our seneschal, Lady Aislyn, to steward this transition smoothly and successfully. Likewise, we have faith in our populace and those who would seek to succeed us to do so with courtesy, camaraderie and chivalry. Therefore, please make plans now to join us at Elfsea Defender and help us welcome those



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who will usher in a new chapter in Elfsea's glorious history!

In the service of kingdom, crown and barony, we remain,

Armand & Ameline

6th Baron & Baroness of Elfsea

Nec Hostium Timete Nec Amicum Recusate
Fear No Enemy, Deny No Friend

SENESCHAL

Greetings to the Populace of Elfsea,

Well, Springfaire got off to a rocky start, but finished wonderfully. After the weather gave us a pause on Friday, Saturday dawned beautifully and the event was a wonderful, fun filled day. My thanks to the autocrats, Lady Elizabeth, Lady Hanna and their staff for making this an event to remember.

Please support Dragon's Fire Tor in their upcoming Guardian of the Tor on April 28th and 29th. Get in as much fighting, rapier and archery that you can handle at their famous "Bear Pit" Tourneys.

Don't forget our next event is only 5 months away on Sep 21st, 22nd & 23rd. Let's give the autocrats for Defender the support they need to make this another fine event. HL Druiinne and Countess Sibri are your autocrats for Defender. Their contact information is druinne@earthlink.net or geniel67@hotmail.com.

Elfsea needs an Archery Marshal, but until we have one, HL Fearghus and I will be starting up archery practices again. Watch for a schedule soon on the website and in next month's Tidings.

Also, remember we have Highland Games coming up on June 2nd & 3rd. Lord Ceatta is the Demo coordinator for this event, so please contact him at ceatta@flash.net should you have questions or would like to volunteer your time. We will need artisans, fighters, A&S displays and bards to make this a great demo equal to what we have had in the past.

For those officers and interested parties that were unable to make the Business Meeting last Monday, please be aware that the next Moot scheduled for May 28th is cancelled due to the Steppes Warlord event being held that weekend. Business meeting on May 21st will be held at the same location, which was HE Armand's mundane business. I will post a reminder one week prior to that date with the address available.

We are discussing the possibility of moving fighter practices on Sunday to a new location. If you have any questions, suggestions or input you would like to share, please feel free to contact myself or Sir Tomas regarding this matter.

Now on to an important item that affects our Barony. As TE Armand and Ameline have decided to step down as Baron and Baroness, you will find in this newsletter the Opinion Polling Clarifications and Timeline. This information is for any candidate considering submitting a letter of intent for the honor of being the next Baron or Baroness.

The Opinion Polling Clarifications and Timeline will also be included in the June and July Tidings. The August Tidings will contain the final opinion polling form.

Aislyn

Seneschal

TIMELINE FOR BARONIAL POLLING AND INVESTITURE



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Monday, April 23, 2007: The Baron and Baroness make their announcement to step down. There candidates are encouraged to submit letters of intent.

The B&B put in their declaration letter. The Polling Timeline and Opinion Polling Clarifications are included in the May and June local baronial newsletter.

Sunday, July 15, 2007: This is the deadline to declare baronial candidate status—no new entrants are allowed after this date. Final letters of intent by baronial candidates are due to the Crown by email.

Thursday, July 19, 2007: The final opinion poll form with candidate names is posted to the baronial website. Brief, single-page candidate letters with full contact information are also posted to the website and published in the August newsletter.

Saturday, July 28, 2007: All baronial candidates to meet one-on-one with the Crown at Steppes Artisan.

Wednesday, August 15, 2007: Have you sent an email to the Crown with your commentary about the baronial candidates? If not, do so right away.

Monday, August 27, 2007: The Big Day. Polling occurs during the regular populace meeting, at 7:00 pm at the Coors Hospitality Room. No candidate speeches. The Regional Seneschal will be there to conduct the polling. You must be there in person to take the Opinion Poll. If there is an overwhelmingly compelling reason you can not make it to the Opinion Polling, contact the Kingdom Seneschal beforehand.

All email with commentary about the baronial candidates is due to the Crown.

Saturday, September 1, 2007: The Crown announces their final decision. This is to allow them enough time to read each and every one of the opinion poll forms and commentary emails.

Saturday, September 22, 2007: TRM officially invest the new Baron and Baroness. This is a big occasion and the populace is urged to attend to lend their support to their new landed nobility.

POLLING CLARIFICATION

Baronial pollings are not a democratic vote and do not necessarily determine who will be chosen for a position. Rather, pollings provide a way for the Crown to hear and consider the opinions of the populace on the matter of Baronial succession. The Crown considers many factors when choosing new landed nobility, including the results of the polling.

Candidate discussion

Try to avoid candidate discussion on email lists. If you have questions for the baronial candidates, contact them directly by email, not on a list, or talk to them in person.

Candidate meetings

All baronial candidates must be available to meet with the Crown on Saturday, July 28, 2007 at **Steppes Artisan**.

Where to send commentary

The opinion poll form does not include space for written commentary, so any commentary about the baronial candidates should be emailed directly to the Crown at crown@ansteorra.org. Do not send commentary to the Kingdom or Regional Seneschal.

Who can fill out an opinion poll form?

Everyone: member and non-members, residents and non-residents. If you are a member, bring your membership card with you to the polling on August 27, 2007.

Mail-in opinion poll forms

Mail-in opinion poll forms **will not** be accepted. If you have a dire and pressing issue that prevents you from attending the physical polling on Monday, August 27, 2007, contact the Kingdom Seneschal.



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Results of the polling

The results of the baronial polling will **NOT** be made public. This is the norm for opinion polls conducted in Ansteorra. The results of the polling will be known only by the Regional Seneschal, the Kingdom Seneschal and the Crown. The results will not be shared with anyone else: not the candidates, not the current local landed nobility, not the populace, **no one**. Please understand that the poll is a measure of your opinions, not a democratic vote. The Crown alone makes the decision.

If anyone has any questions, contact me directly at seneschal@ansteorra.org or 903-759-0488.

Julia

Kingdom Seneschal

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have money. The March reports are done (and everything balances). Life is good in Elfsea. Springfaire had additional costs due to the bad weather and it also reduced our gate, so we made \$18.75 on the event. Since Springfaire is supposed to be a fun event (and it certainly was!) and not a money maker, this is not a problem.

The Finance Committee is discussing possible updates to our pavilions. If you have input, please contact one of the committee members. They are HE Armand (Baron), HE Amaline (Baroness), Master Caelin (Exchequer), Lady Aislyn (Seneschal), HL Fearghus (at large), and Sir Tomas (at large). The Baron and Baroness get one vote together. All meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend. Going to the meetings is a good way to keep up with the financial aspects of the Barony and might help you get on the committee if you want that.

The job of the Finance Committee is to decide where the Barony wants to spend its money. Any potential spending over \$200 must still be approved by vote of the Elfsea membership - usually by a vote at Moot. We review and approve event budgets and decide who gets to autocrat events. We approve (or don't approve) non-budgeted expenditures of SCA money. We decide when assets are worn out and should be replaced. If this sounds exciting you are probably the kind of person we need on the committee. Hopefully, we can get you before the guys in the white coats do.

In service,
Caelin on Andrede
Elfsea Exchequer

NAUTILUS PURSUIVANT (HERALD)

Gules.. hmmmmm Old French fer blood.....good color for troll arms. Me tell herald my sleeves now red! She very busy though.. keep doing submission thingies

KNIGHTS MARSHAL

Lochlaine say he having baybee... not sure how guy have baybee but him say it..Hime hand grunk brain and say him not be around fer little bit caues of having baybee.. Him say Crandal in charge... Me scared.

RAPIER MARSHAL

Greetings Elfsea, I regret to announce that it has nearly been two years and I am opening my office for bids.

Genna

ARCHERY MARSHAL

Office Vacant



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MINSTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Greetings!

April has been a great month for the Arts in Elfsea. First for our new Champions! For our Artisan HL Melisenda de Barcelona of Tempio For our Bard Master Robin of Gilwell & For our Phooles "Hamish" (Daniel) Stewart VIVAT!!

I hope everyone was able to see the artisan's display and the bardic performances. The phooles competition was rather hard to miss. If nothing else Hamish's red carpet chest was eye catching.

HL Melisenda won with a wonderful Funerary feast that impressed everyone who walked past. She beat out a field of twelve entries, which was one of the largest artisan displays Elfsea has had in several years. Plus, all the entries were wonderful.

Master Robin was impressive in all three rounds of the bardic competition. He kept the judges and the audience riveted. Nine bards competed for the honor, another high turnout.

Our Phools, No-Counts, and Ducks came out in full force this year. [Hey, it's a performance art, so A&S will claim the phools.] The competition kept us all amused or horrified, depending on your viewpoint. I just hope the sheep has survived.

April's A&S class was Glass Bead Making with HL Rixende and HE Ameline. They taught seven brave souls how to play with fire and melted glass. Everyone created a bead with Rixende's sure guidance and several make glass twists under Ameline's. The beads should be ready by Moot; so be prepared to sing everyone praises for their first efforts.

I'm taking request and offers to teach classes for May and June. Please let me know what you want at an upcoming A&S night.

Also, I am in need of a deputy. If you want to assist the Arts in general and learn the fine art of report making, please let me know.

In Service to the Arts,
Lady Hanna von Dahl

CHRONICLER

The electronic format continues to grow!

Send submissions to me at masterdarius@earthlink.net, or contact me if you need assistance in transferring any articles or artwork into digital format. A standard release for publication is required for all articles and artwork it may be found at <http://www.ansteorra.org/publications/forms/PubPerm.pdf>

In Faith
Darius of the Bells, OL

HOSPITALAR

Unto the Barony of Elfsea, does Lady Adelaide, Barony Hospitaler, send warmest greetings. During my first full month as your Hospitaler, I have learned alot and have even attempted some stuff. I try very hard to at least make an appearance at every fighter's practice, so that I can talk to any one who seems interested in these strangely dressed people. I have actually planned a newcomer's revel at my house, that I hope will become a routine occurrence. (Thanks to all of you who sent me ideas). I was able to meet and talk to a large number of people at Spring Faire and I have high hopes that some of them will pursue more info on our game. I try to email my list of newcomers at least once a week with what is going on in our beloved Barony, in hopes to intice them to come out and play. If any of you would like a few of my business cards, so that you have a ready contact for



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potential new members, I will be more than happy to provide them for you.

I think that pretty much covers it.

Until next month I remain Yours In Service

Lady Adelaide de Ruthven

Barony Hospitaler

MINSTER OF CHILDREN

Accepting Applications

CHAMBERLAIN

Accepting Applications

Snff snff... smoke???


DEMO COORDINATOR


Accepting Applications

VIRTUAL SCRIBE

Hay Caelin, can I come over to work the website...

Wiell adk ... y! Kkr , aeo=.

Hay Caelin, How about this...

 no, no that's not right....

At least, yep, I think it's legible, -- English!

So, how much software do I need to load to support this ...? Just were is ... website? How does this part work? Wow, I need to...

I'm beginning to see light...

Greetings Elfsea from your Virtual Scribe!

Wow, who would have thought that being a **virtual scribe** would require so much work?

I must give praise to my predecessor, Master Caelin on Andrede, in giving Elfsea a fine website. I want to thank him for his continues support with this ongoing effort in transmission me to this office.

Like many transitions, I just found out that my report is due today. So this is short note to say hello from your new virtual scribe. I'm looking forward working with everyone and in supporting our Barony.

From a work in progress and behind the screens,
Daniel of Cameron

Virtual Scribe

HISTORIAN

Springfaire has come and gone! Please send any pictures you are willing to share and stories of the war and our events, please submit Pictures on disk or prints no e-mail.

In Service
Rosalia di Bellavita
Historian

CHIRUGEON

Nmrfohrews Ptoie! Gauze taste bad!

FROM DRAGONSFIRE TOR:

Offices open for Application
MoAS and Treasurer. See our add for Guardians!

ARTICLES

Random Musings

or

A Minute in Robin's Living Room
by Robin of Gilwell, Bard of Elfsea

Many years ago, some cadet claimed that one of the requirements to become a Don was to spend 100 hours in Iolo's living room (or Tivar's, or Robin's, or ...). It was a joke, but not an unreasonable one. New members are struggling



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with questions that older ones worked out long ago, and old members need their assumptions challenged by new possibilities. This column will be an ongoing collection of pompous pronouncements you might hear by hanging around Robin's living room. It's not just for cadets – I've had protégés, apprentices, young heralds and many others in my living room.

These are **not** definitive answers – they are my own opinions, tempered by experience, but also by an unusual outlook. Feel free to disagree, loudly and often. As Michael Strazcinski once said, "It's not my job as a writer to provide answers. It's my job to ask questions and provoke thought and start bar fights."

Let's start with an easy one – what exactly is the SCA?

Have you ever heard anybody say this? "We're not really re-enacting anything; the SCA is just a costume party."

Well, it's true that the SCA doesn't fit the model of a re-creation society. There's just too many things we do that aren't re-creation. But the SCA doesn't fit the model of a costume party either, and for the same reasons.

ANY attempt to describe what the SCA is in a few words will fail, and many people have decided that the SCA is "supposed to be" something it never was, and then gotten disillusioned because the reality included more than their image.

The model of "costume party" breaks down on analysis just as much as "re-creation society" or "History club" do. By looking at Elfseal Artisan, you can see that we do a lot that's more than a "costume party." One of our peers is a museum

curator, several members have won arts prizes at the State Fair.

But the initial observation is also reality. We do a lot that's not careful re-creation. We have Canterbury Tales and Shakespearean sonnets along with filk songs, carefully worked out period fighting styles next to modern fencing, excellent costume re-creations next to simple generic T-tunics, beautiful Maiolica plateware next to wooden bowls from Target.

So what is the SCA *really*?

The SCA is what it is, separate from any limited description of it.

Several blind men were arguing over just what an elephant was like. One felt the costumes and said, "An elephant is like a costume party." Another blind man felt the elephant's Articles of Incorporation and said, "An elephant is like a corporation." Still another said "An elephant is like a great social club." Others examined various aspects and said that an elephant was like a re-enactment, or a re-creation, or a counter-culture, or a historical research society, or a 60s protest movement, or a cult, or a

Finally, somebody said, "Open your eyes -- you're not blind, and you know exactly what an elephant is. It's a large, awkward, funny-looking beast that isn't like anything else on earth."

But no one listened, and they spent the rest of their lives with their eyes shut, arguing about what an elephant was like.

Welcome to our large awkward funny-looking beast that isn't like anything else on earth.



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I repeat from my introduction:

These are **not** definitive answers – they are my own opinions, tempered by experience, but also by an unusual outlook. Feel free to disagree, loudly and often. As Michael Strazcinski once said, “It’s not my job as a writer to provide answers. It’s my job to ask questions and provoke thought and start bar fights.”

A Receipt for Good Dirt

Ah Spring! In spring the thoughts of a girl turn to... flowers... worms... and good dirt. If you thought I was going to say boys, you are not thinking like a proper firbolg.

Firstly thou shall need a goodly bucket. *Shiny tin is nice I suppose but I likes a nice rusty one. Thou hast not a rusty bucket? Oh, times be harder than I kenned.* Take the bucket thou hast and rub it with a wee bit of suet—*no suet either! I reckon that butter will have to do.*—and dust lightly with cinnamon and cocoa powder shook together a bit.

Secondly thou shall need rich loamy earth to mix with swamp water—*no swamp! Don’t fret yourself there is this enterprising Betty and her gaggle of Crockery friends what have come up with this new sort of pudding stuff that has just the right mouth feel even if it tastes like chocolate*—and fill the bucket about half full of lovely mud. Try not to disturb the rust too much.

Thirdly thou shall need some goodly dry dirt to top off your pail to the depth of your first thumb joint and attract the lovely worms—*how can you live in a place with no good dry dirt and what is that look on your face? Of course I meant worms. [Heaving a deep sigh!] In a pinch and pickle you can get sandwich biscuits from old Oreo and grind up enough to layer about an inch over the ~~mud~~ pudding. As for the worms, there is this bear of a*

fellow name of Gummi who keeps a stock of colorful worms the bairns seem to like.

Lastly garnish thy bucket with some lovely greens and flowers—*I suppose you can use them silk things but the onions and ragweed just don’t look as good as Mother Nature’s own.*

Scorcha,
Firbolg in the Kitchen
Leave milk please!
And none of that skim stuff either!

GUARDIANS OF THE TOR

The Canton of Dragonsfire Tor Invites you to

GUARDIAN XVI
April 27 - 29, 2007

Good gentles, the Canton of Dragonsfire Tor invite you to join us for Guardian of the Tor XVI, as we choose our new champions for **Chivalric, Rapier, Archery and Bardic.**

We will also host **youth** archery, **youth** boffer, **youth** rapier and **youth** A & S.

See our web site for details on the stocks and , morning bake sale

Troll will be open Friday 7:00pm.

If you come in before 7:00p.m. Friday April 27 there will be an additional \$5.00 that must go directly to the camp site.

Site fees:

Adults: \$10.00

Children 10-18 \$7.00

Children 9 and under: 5.00

Family cap: \$30.00

Proof of membership will be required to avoid the \$3.00 non-member surcharge.



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Make checks for site payable to **SCA Inc./Canton of DFT.**

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend with a 21-year or older adult with a signed and **notarized** Minor Event Waiver Form from the parents.

Site tokens must be displayed at all times.

For directions and map visit our Website at

<http://dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org>

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