

# *The Steppes Letter*



# The Steppes Letter



## FEBRUARY 2022

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**BARON BAUDOYN de Layfayette**

**[BARON@STEPPE.SANSTEORRA.ORG](mailto:BARON@STEPPE.SANSTEORRA.ORG)**

**BARONess KATERINE le ROUX  
d'Anjou**

**[BARON-  
ess@STEPPE.SANSTEORRA.ORG](mailto:BARON-ess@STEPPE.SANSTEORRA.ORG)**



*Words from our Seneschal*



Greetin  
g  
Steppe  
s,

I am excited to be your Seneschal. Many thanks to Esme for her excellent tenure as Seneschal. I have big shoes to fill!! Thank you, Your Excellencies, for this opportunity to serve Steppes!

Seneschal Elspeth de Stervlen

[seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org)

Due to unfortunate circumstances, 12th Night was canceled. Thank you to everyone that put in the hard work necessary for an event to run.

Bids are officially opened for Warlord and Steppes Artisan. At this time, the tentative date for Steppes Artisan is August 6, 2022. I will have confirmation on this very soon.

The Barony is in  
need of the  
following offices:  
Minister of Arts  
and Sciences

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deputies for most offices, including  
Seneschal.

If you have any questions, or  
concerns, please contact me.

I am confident we will all get to see  
each other at an event soon.

In Service,

Elspeth de Stervlen



## *Words from our Officers - Herald*

Unto the Populace of the Steppes, Greetings!

It is my pleasure to be officially installed as your herald this month. I believe I'm caught up on everything now, so things should be smoother moving forward. Feel free to send me an email if you would like an update on any heraldic matters – or if you just want to chat names and devices.



Herald

Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh  
[herald@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:herald@steppes.ansteorra.org)

Since I believe in creating more work for myself whenever I think I've caught up... Have you checked your OP entry lately? Did you know we have an Order of Precedence? If you've ever received an award from

the Barony of the Steppes, please look yourself up on our website. (Go to our website, and select from the dropdown “About the Barony > Steppes Order of Precedence”) Verifying this information is a great way to see who has been recognized here in the Steppes, and whose deserving efforts haven't been formally thanked.

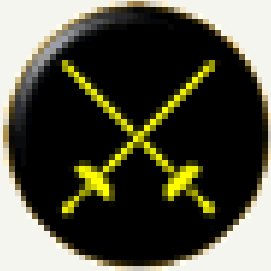
I'd like to know if you need to change or correct your name, or if your award has been missed in past. Please email me with your updates at [herald@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:herald@steppes.ansteorra.org)! If you'd like to send a local award recommendation in, please reach out to their Excellencies of the Steppes. Anyone can send in award recommendations so please don't be shy to tell our lovely Baron and Baroness what laudable efforts their populace has been up to.

In service,

Lady Elionora inghean Ui  
Cheallaigh MKA Laura  
Johnson  
Oakenwald Pursuivant



*Words from our Officers - Rapier  
Marshal*



Rapier Marshal Lord Sean Tabor  
[rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org)

No Updates  
Practice is on  
hold until  
Mid-February





## *Words from our Officers - Chivalry Marshal*

No Updates  
Practice is on hold  
until Mid-February

Chivalry Marshal  
Galfridus of Shrewsbury  
[marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org)

## *Words from Our Officers - Archery Marshal*



Unto the populace of the Barony of the Steppes, your Archery Marshal sends greetings

January was not the month for us — it was too cold to shoot safely on the first Sunday, and then the Plague reared its ugly head again... so until we can safely gather again, here are a few ideas for archers.

- Now's a great time to re-set your tips, so you don't lose them inside the target.
- Waxing your shafts will prolong the life of your arrows, and make it easier to pull them from the target.
- Your bowstring could always use some string wax.

And all of us can benefit from some good exercise tips!

This site has good stretches, as well as exercises for your core muscles, rehab, and archery-related strength-building.

<https://www.onlinearcheryacademy.com/recurve-olympic-archery-exercises/>

This site has good strength-building exercises, with diagrams showing which muscles are being used:

<https://www.morrelltargets.com/blogs/archery-blog/9-strength-and-conditioning-exercises-for-archery>

Typically, practices are the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Westlake Park Archery Range (601 Gross Rd, Mesquite TX 75149). Loaner bows and arrows are available. Bring your own chair, water/electrolyte drink, sunscreen — and your blue card, if you have one. And, as always, please check in with the nice folks at the pro shop.

Yours in joyous service,  
Lady Eadgyth Beornesdohtor



*Words from our Officers - Minister of Arts and  
Sciences*



MOAS

[m oas@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:moas@steppes.ansteorra.org)

No Updates  
A&S is on hold  
until  
Mid-February



## *Words from Our Officers - Exchequer*



Exchequer  
Lady Astrid Folkadottir

[exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org)



*Words  
from our  
Officers -  
Hospitaler*



Hospitaler  
Lady Stefania Pane

[h hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org)

Greetings unto the Great Barony of the Steppes!

Where has the time gone? It's a brand new year and so many new things are in the works. Our Newcomers Class in January was in-person and had so many wonderful faces. We had 12 people and 4 of them were new saplings to our Mighty Oak of a Barony.

Our next class is scheduled for February 3rd and HOPEFULLY will be in person. We will have virtual available to those who cannot make it in person for whatever reason they may have. If the Kingdom states that we can still not meet in person, the class will still be held virtually only.

It seems so far away, but in June we have been invited back to demo all things SCA at FanExpo Dallas in June. Please start considering if you could assist with this. We have been given a large space to show off A&S, Chivalric and Rapier fighting and whatever else we might be interested in showing off. If you have ideas or want to help, let either my deputy or me know!

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The Barony of the Steppes Facebook Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/baronyofthesteppes/>

The SCA's Newcomer Portal  
<http://welcome.sca.org/>

Steppes YouTube Channel  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClbUVSg5fpj\\_8vwH4mG38Ig](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClbUVSg5fpj_8vwH4mG38Ig)

Steppes Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/baronyofsteppes>



## *Words from our Officers - Social Media*



Social Media  
Valka  
Flokadottir  
[social-media@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:social-media@steppes.ansteorra.org)

## *Words from our Officers - Chronicler*

Warm Greetings to all,

As usual I am looking for Art work,  
Stories, Event Revues or any other  
items you would like to share.

Thank you,  
Lady Roana FitzStephen



Chronicler  
RRooaannaaFFiirtzzSStteepphheenns  
[chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org)

*Words from our Officers - Youth Marshal*

Applications being accepted

Youth Marshal  
HL Alexandra Notte-Claire  
[hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org)



Greetings,  
Steppes!

Webminister Hakon the Blacksmith?  
[w ebminister@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:w ebminister@steppes.ansteorra.org)

*Words from Our Officers - Webminister*

As always, please let me know if you find any errors or issues with our website at [steppes.ansteorra.org](http://steppes.ansteorra.org). I look forward to seeing everyone again when the plague has passed!

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Webminister of the Steppes



Greetings,  
Steppes!



*Words from the Canton of  
Glaslyn*

Glaslyn is still holding practices,  
though everyone is expected to wear  
masks per guidance from Kingdom.  
Please check our website and/or  
Facebook for any updates.

In service,

Alhdryð ceorlstrang



Glaslyn Lady Alhdryð Ceorlestrange  
[steorra.org](http://steorra.org)





# **Words for our Newcomers**

## **Steppes Newcomers Academy**

### **Virtual Steppes Newcomers Academy**

A new session will have  
begun. Upcoming Sessions

February 3rd

March 3rd

April 7th



## Guild & Non-Guild Announcements

StEPPES  
BowYER AND  
FletCHERS  
Guild

The Steppes Bowyer and Fletchers Guild is the oldest archery guild within Ansteorra that we know of surviving even the later established now defunct kingdom's

archery guild. The Guild exists to share knowledge between members and instruct others how to accomplish all the projects, skills, and items required to round out personal kits for our SCA archery community. We have recently included thrown weapons and siege weapons to our instructional activities since the kingdom has combined all airborne missile activities together.

Guild meetings are a bit sporadic at the moment but ideally we will meet on the last Friday of the month at a guild members' home. If you want to know when the next meeting is, please contact either HL Ironwurm or the archery marshal who will then put you in contact with him. [archery@steppes.ansteorra.org](mailto:archery@steppes.ansteorra.org)

StEPPES	Greetings Steppes,
Loose Association	Currently no meetings are planned, but keep an eye out here each month for more details. Also join the Facebook group at: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/904474829584183/?ref=share">https://www.facebook.com/groups/904474829584183/?ref=share</a>
of BREWERS	
StEPPES	
Music AND VOCAL	Greetings,
non - Guild	Practice at home until further notice. . Watch the Facebook group at St. Romanos Chorale and Oakwood Consort. Contact Mistress Xene at <a href="mailto:music@twmarsh.net">music@twmarsh.net</a> addresses and more information._Currently we have scheduled practices on the second Sunday and fourth Tuesday of each month. All music practices are cancelled for the until further notice.  In Service to Crown and Kingdom, Mistress Xene Theriane, OL, OP



## Guild & Non-Guild Announcements

### **Steppes Scribal Guild**

From The Scribes

Come join us in January for Scribal Night. Wednesday ,February 16th at 6:30 pm.

YIS

THL Hadassah Sarai bas Yossi

### **GUILD Of Hestia**

The Next meeting will be the First Wednesday in February, which is Janu- ary 2nd. Hopefully we can do this IN PERSON LIVE rather than online!!!

The March meeting will be on the 2nd as well. YIS

THL Hadassah Sarai bas Yossi

Maitresse d'Guilde

## *Da'ud Bob Movie*

## *Review*

### **Romeo & Juliet.**

Now, remember, you were warned! I told you just a few months ago that there would very likely be a number of new reviews of productions of Shakespeare plays, and even told you about some of the ones that I had purchased on DVD. This month's review is not one of those, despite the fact that it is, and remains, one of Shakespeare's more popular plays. No, this one was one that appeared on my local PBS station as a part of public television's Great Performances series. Now, we watch a lot of PBS shows here at the ibn Briggs home, and saw a preview for this episode. So we set the ol' digital video recorder to catch it when it aired, thus allowing me to watch it at my leisure – and while Anna Sue was on a Zoom meeting, since of all of Shakespeare's works, this play is the one that she likes least – and review for you. So, yes, it's one of the Bard's plays, but no, it's not one of those productions on DVD or Blu-Ray that I bought with the intent of watching and reviewing. You'll be seeing all of those in the near future. But this month, here's Da'ud Bob's take on a production of a Shakespeare play filmed over 17 days in 2020 in an empty theater during a global pandemic, where they actually try to make the theater itself a part of the play. And so we review for you PBS Great Performances' production of William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*.

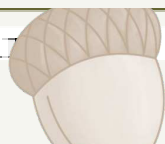
Starring Josh (*The Crown*, *The Durrells in Corfu*) O'Connor as Romeo, Jessie (*Fargo*, *Chernobyl*) Buckley as Juliet, Fisayo Akinade as Mercutio, Shubham Saraf as Benvolio, Deborah Findlay as the Nurse, David Judge as Tybalt, Alex Mugnaioni as Paris, Tamsin Greig as Lady Capulet, Lucian Msamati as the Friar, Adrian Lester as the Prince, Lloyd Hutchinson as Lord Capulet, and Colin Tierney as Lord Montague, I wish to point out, as others have over the years, that *Romeo and Juliet* is not a love story. It's a three-day relationship between a 13-year-old and a 17-year-old that caused six deaths. They met at a party one night, got married the next day, and he had to leave town early the following morning. That's not really love, and so this isn't really a love story. (Indeed, it's not even really a three-day relationship: one evening, one day, and a night.) It is, of course, a Shakespearean tragedy; you can tell because nearly all of the major characters die by the end of the play. (In his comedies, no one dies, and in his historical plays, it can sometimes be a mixed bag. But this is definitely a tragedy.)

Good points: First off, it's all Shakespeare's words. The cast and crew put a lot of work into making this play translate from the stage to the screen: they had to make sure they weren't speaking too loudly, that the makeup was effective in camera close-ups, and so on. Acting for the stage and acting for a camera require different skill sets, and the (mostly stage) actors here did a very good job of making that transition. They made very good use of the National's Lyttelton Theatre's architecture of the theater space and varied backstage spaces, incorporating them into the production.

Bad points (or rather, nits to pick): It's not the full play (it's about a 90-minute long production), and they left out a few of my favorite lines from the play, as when Mercutio usually says, after receiving a fatal thrust from Tybalt: "No, 'tis not so deep as a well nor so wide as a church-door, but 'tis enough, 'twill serve. Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man."

Zero breasts. 1½ gallons of blood. Five dead bodies. Stick fu. Knife fu. Sleeping potion fu. Poison fu. Montagues roll. Capulets roll. Gratuitous foreboding. Gratuitous flash forwards. Gratuitous flashbacks. Academy Award nomination to Tamsin Greig as Lady Capulet for pretty much dominating every scene she is in; it's hard to take your eyes off her when she's on-screen. A 32 on the Vomit Meter. Three stars (out

of four). Da'ud Bob says, "It's always interesting to see a new director's take on an old Shakespeare play, and this production doesn't disappoint. Check it out!"



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31 Glaslyn Practice	1 Chivalry & Rapier	2 Guild Of Hestia	3 Newcomer's Academy	4	5 WinterKing- dom— Weisenfer
6 Archery Prac- tice Chivalry	7 Glaslyn Practice	8 Chivalry & Rapier Steppes So- lar	9	10 A&S Meeting	11	12 <i>Kingdom Arts and Sciences</i> - Bonwick
13 <u>Music Practice</u> Chivalry	14 Glaslyn Practice	15 Chivalry & Rapier	16 Scribes Guild	17 Business Meeting—	18	19 Winter War Maneuvers - Calontir
20 Archery Prac- tice Chivalry	21	22 Chivalry & Rapier	23	24	25	26 Bjornsborg's Spring Event— Bjornsborg
27	28 Glaslyn Practice	1 Chivalry & Rapier <u>Music Practice</u>	2	3	4	5

events.

- **Bold** items are out of kingdom events.





## Calendar Details

### Steppes Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Local monthly meetings maybe in-person or virtual . Please check Facebook to see how to access those meetings that are being held virtually. Meeting information is usually posted a few days in advance.

First and Third Sundays @ 2 PM-5 PM – Archery Practice at 601 Gross Rd, Mesquite, TX 75149

Second and Fourth Sundays @ 2 PM-5 PM – Chivalric Practice -Check Facebook for location

Mondays @ 6 PM – Glaslyn Chivalry Practice at North Lakes Park 2001 W. Windsor Dr., Denton

Tuesdays @ 7 PM – Chivalric/Rapier Practice - Check Facebook for location.

Wednesday 7/ 7 @ 7 PM – Newcomers’ Academy— Check Facebook for location.

Sunday (on hiatus) @ 2PM-4PM – The Music Guild of the Steppes is planning to meet for practice at Xene and Llywelyn's house in Cedar Hill. Contact [music@twmarsh.net](mailto:music@twmarsh.net) for more information.

2nd Thursday of the month @ 7 PM – A&S Night - Virtual Meeting

3rd Thursday of the month @ 7 PM –Business Meeting - Check Facebook for location

1st Wednesday of the month @ 7 PM – Cooks Guild - Check Facebook for locationst

3rd Wednesday of the month @ 7 PM – Scribal Guild - Check Facebook for location

Tuesday (on hiatus) @ 7PM-9PM – The Music Guild of the Steppes is planning to meet for practice at with rapier

and chivalric in the park if weather permits, otherwise meet at Esme and Sean’s house.

Contact

[m usic@twmarsh.net](mailto:music@twmarsh.net) for more information.

Second and 4th Wednesday of the month @ 7 PM - Thrown Weapons Practice - Check Facebook for location



## Kingdom Events

**2/05— WINTERKINGDOM:** for more information check

<https://www.facebook.com/events/588781075727254/?a>

[context=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search\\_results%22%2C%](#)

[2surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%2C%22ref\\_notif\\_type%22%3Anull%7D](#)

**2/12 —KINGDOM ARTS AND SCIENCES :** for more information check

<https://ansteorra.org/bonwicke/ansteorra-kingdom-arts-sciences-competition/>

**2/19—WINTER WAR MANEUVERS - Calontir** for more information check

[https://sites.google.com/view/winterwarmaneuvers2022/home?](https://sites.google.com/view/winterwarmaneuvers2022/home?fbclid=IwAR16wizHzadW7Mus3ft3DinTGGYZixys_Tylqggh7Y2FW7s7L73HDVXtuaA)

[fbclid=IwAR16wizHzadW7Mus3ft3DinTGGYZixys\\_Tylqggh7Y2FW7s7L73HDVXtuaA](https://sites.google.com/view/winterwarmaneuvers2022/home?fbclid=IwAR16wizHzadW7Mus3ft3DinTGGYZixys_Tylqggh7Y2FW7s7L73HDVXtuaA)

**2/26 — BJORNSBORG'S SPRING EVENT:** for more information check

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1005901016800824/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D)

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[vents/1005901016800824/?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A\[%7B%2](https://www.facebook.com/events/1005901016800824/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D)

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[2search\\_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D\]%2C%22ref\\_notif\\_t](https://www.facebook.com/events/1005901016800824/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D]%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3Anull%7D)

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## Social Media

There are many sites on the Web and Facebook for SCA interests. Below are a few. This is in no way an endorsement for any of the groups listed, or a final list. It is just a way to direct people to groups that they might not know about, that may be of interest.

### *Helpful SCA & Ansteorra Web Links*

[www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)

[www.ansteorra](http://www.ansteorra.org)

[.org](http://www.ansteorra.org)

<http://historian.ansteorra.org/wiki/index.php?title>

[=Main Page](#) Needs much updating, let's all  
get on that!

[www.steppes.ansteorra.org](http://www.steppes.ansteorra.org)

[www.calendar.ansteorra.org](http://www.calendar.ansteorra.org)

[www.hospitaler.ansteorra.org](http://www.hospitaler.ansteorra.org)

[www.heraldry.ansteorra.org/honors](http://www.heraldry.ansteorra.org/honors)

(Awards List)

### *Book of Face Groups*

1. Barony of the Steppes - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/baronyofthesteppes/> Unofficial group
2. Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA)- Official Facebook group for the SCA  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/SocietyForCreativeAnachronism/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SocietyForCreativeAnachronism/about/?ref=page_internal)
3. Legion of Swashbucklers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253854098018212/about/> Open to all rapier fighters.
4. Steppes Cooks: This group is for those interested in cooking.
5. Steppes Calligraphers and Illuminators Guild
6. Canvas Castle Showcase- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/471086229603006/> Show off your tent, camping furniture, or anything that makes your camping experience more homey.
7. Elizabethan Costume- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/29374273995/> For those people fascinated with the clothing, accessories, hairstyles, cosmetics, etc. of the 16th century. Although the name says "Elizabethan," anything from the Tudor period (1485-1603) is fair game for discussion.
8. Garb for Sale - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/130311470376509/> For selling clothing, camping equipment, feast gear, period books and services.
9. SCA Runway - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/460750480615188/?ref=ts&fref=ts> For showing off your fashion.

10. Tudor Conversations- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/TudorWorld/> An on-going conversation among enthusiasts of the 16th century exploring the world of the Tudors, with occasional excursions among the early Stuarts.
11. Viking Clothing <https://www.facebook.com/groups/279611679205/> For all clothes Viking!
12. Vikings of the SCA - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/244158265607631/> For those interested in all things "Viking" related in the SCA.
13. SCA Equestrian - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/34623283817/> For those interested in Equestrian Arts.
14. SCA Garb - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/scagarb/> For discussion of researching and making all types of garb.
15. SCA Camping - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/367915673351579/> For discussion of period camping gear.



## Opportunities

### Steppes Business Meeting

**3rd Thursday of the Month from 7 PM to 9 PM** See Barony Facebook page for location

This is open to the Populace! If you have topic to discuss and you are not able to come, please send them to our Seneschal to update the Agenda. Officers, the same goes for you. The Financial Committee meeting is after Business meeting.

### Chivalric and Rapier Fighter Practice

**Tuesdays 7 PM**

Haggard Park 901 E 15th St, Plano, TX

75074 A second opportunity for  
chivalric practice

Second and Fourth Sunday afternoons from 2-5pm.

Rawhide Park 13579 Rawhide Pkwy, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

**A&S Nights** - See Barony Facebook page for

location **2nd Thursday of the Month from 7 PM to  
9 PM**

**Scribal** - **Third Wednesday of the month** will have open charter painting for those who wish to paint our awesome charters as well as some structured classes ranging from beginning to advance techniques as well as original scroll work. We will be planning and working on scrolls for our baronial events too, so bring your ideas. See Facebook for location

**Cooks Guild** - **First Wednesday of the month.** See Facebook for location

## Local Offices Open for Applications

Greetings Steppes!

We have a few offices needing to be filled.

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Youth Combat

Minister of

Children Social

Media

YIS,

Seneschal of the Steppes

Elspeth de Stervlen

Applications can be found on the Ansteorra website at:

<http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>



## Disclaimer

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Thank you to the following artist and photographers for your contributions to this newsletter:

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