

# THE VIADUCT

<p><b>Meetings and Events</b> pg. 1</p>	<p><b>Baronial Officers Listing</b> pg. 2</p>	<p><b>Event Calendar</b> pg. 3</p>	<p><b>Practice Schedule</b> pg. 4-5</p>
<p><b>Combat Schedule</b> pg. 6</p>	<p><b>Article</b> Pg. 7-10</p>	<p><b>Message from the Seneschel</b> Pg. 11</p>	<p><b>Letter from the Coronet</b> pg. 12</p>

## January 2018 Meetings and Events

### Directions to Sachem Library

Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 61, Patchogue-Holbrook Road, CR-19 towards Patchogue/Holbrook. Merge onto Expressway Drive South, turn left at Holbrook Road. The library is at 150 Holbrook  
631-588-5024

### Baronial Business Meetings

1st Thursday of each month at Sachem Public Library (Holbrook) at 7:30pm For additional information please contact Master Jean Xavier at [seneschal@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:seneschal@andub.eastkingdom.org)

*All are welcome. Officers are encouraged to attend.*

### Canton Business Meetings

#### Hawkes Reache

Every other month as follows:

*January, March, May, July, September & November.*

Contact Seneschal **Lady Michele the Ubiquitous**

# Baronial Officers

## Baron & Baroness

### Baron Titus Aurelius Magnus

(Kevin Dowd)  
(516) 810-3108 (before 9pm)  
[baron@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:baron@andub.eastkingdom.org)

### Baroness Sorcha Of Stonegrave

(Pamala J. Jacques)  
(516) 318-3203 (before 9pm)  
[baroness@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:baroness@andub.eastkingdom.org)

## Seneschal

### Master Jean Xavier Boullier

(Peter Boullianne)  
(631) 603-7138 before 10pm  
[seneschal@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:seneschal@andub.eastkingdom.org)

**\*Deputy\***

### Lady Elisaid

## Mistress of Arts & Sciences

### Oda Lally

(Courteney Bennett)  
(934) 222-4009 (before 9pm)  
[moas@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:moas@andub.eastkingdom.org)

**\*Deputy\***

## Exchequer

### Lady Helena Lundonie

(Debra Pfundstein)  
24 Skylark Dr  
Holtsville, NY, 11742  
646-391-8888(before 9pm)  
[exchequer@andub.eastkingdom.com](mailto:exchequer@andub.eastkingdom.com)

**\*Deputy\***

## Knight Marshal

### Torfi Járnhnefi

Erick Perrotte

[knightmarshal@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:knightmarshal@andub.eastkingdom.org)

**\*Deputy Knight Marshal\***

**Deputy** (Fencing)

### Lord Eanraig the Bonesetter

(Jim Best D.O)  
Rockhill Road  
Rocky Point, NY, 11778  
631-849-4066  
[uncleanraig@aol.com](mailto:uncleanraig@aol.com)

**Deputy** (Archery)

### Lady Genevieve Velleman

**Deputy** (Thrown Weapons)

### Lord Magnus de Londres

(Paul Holm)  
23 Skylark Ave  
Holtsville, NY 11742

## Webminister

### Saravit of House Three Skulls

(Saravit Chuaprasert)  
[webminister@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:webminister@andub.eastkingdom.org)

**\*Deputy\***

(Database Manager)

## Herald

### Lady Violet Hughes

(Allison Hoffman)  
call/ text 631-431-8134 (before 9pm)

[Herald@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:Herald@andub.eastkingdom.org)

**Deputy**

### Lady Sláine Baen Ronan

### Raud Flokkison

## Minister of Lists

### Lord Akos Zekel

75 Aloma Road  
Rocky Point, NY 11778

[mol@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:mol@andub.eastkingdom.org)

**\*Deputy\***

## Chronicler

### Lady Hermina de Pagan

(Bettilou Torres)  
(631)428-0699  
[chronicler@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@andub.eastkingdom.org)

## Chatelaine

### Lady Onóra Ingeheann Ui

### Rauirc

(Michelle Sanchez)  
[Chatelaine@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:Chatelaine@andub.eastkingdom.org)

631-972-5195 (texting preferred)

**\*Deputy\***

## Historian

Baroness Mistress Suzanne  
Neuber de Londres

[historian@andub.eastkingdom.org](mailto:historian@andub.eastkingdom.org)

## Canton of Hawkes Reache



## Seneschal

Lady Michele the Ubiquitous  
(Michele Chang)  
65 Rutgers Lane  
Huntington NY, 11743  
(917) 670-9556 before 10:30 p.m.  
[oriquilt@gmail.com](mailto:oriquilt@gmail.com)  
<http://hawkesreache.eastkingdom.org>

# BARONIAL EVENT SCHEDULE 2018

Owlhurst Country Twelfth Night	01/20/2018	01/20/2018	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/ya695lmu">https://tinyurl.com/ya695lmu</a>
A Market Day at Birka	01/26/2018	01/27/2018	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/y7mfw6to">http://tinyurl.com/y7mfw6to</a> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/yd8aez26">https://tinyurl.com/yd8aez26</a>
K&Q A&A and Bardic Championship	02/10/2018	02/10/2018	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/y9s6erjx">https://tinyurl.com/y9s6erjx</a>
Bear's tavern	03/03/2018	03/04/2018	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/yctpxqrg">https://tinyurl.com/yctpxqrg</a>
Coronation of Brennan III and Caoilfhionn III	04/07/2018	04/07/2018	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/yctpxqrg">https://tinyurl.com/yctpxqrg</a>

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5							1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

## January Practice Schedule

		Sunday	Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day			Baronial Meeting	Fencing Practice	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Fencing Practice	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Martin Luther King Day				Fencing Practice	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					Fencing Practice	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

# February Practice Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Business Meeting	Fencing Practice	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Fencing Practice	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					Fencing Practice	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Presidents' Day				Fencing Practice	
25	26	27	28	1	2	3

# Combat Arts and Practices:

Archery, fighting, fencing, and thrown weapons

## Heavy Weapons Practice

Heavy weapons practice is suspended for the season. Please stay tuned for any further updates.

## Fencing Practice

We continue to meet at 640 Belle Terre Road, Building F, in Port Jefferson on Friday evenings, 7:30-10:00 p.m. Some loaner gear may be available if requested beforehand.

## Archery and Thrown Weapons

Thrown Weapons Practice  
Practice has been suspended for the winter season. Please stay tuned for any additional information.

Archery Practice  
Is currently suspended. However, please stay tuned to both the VIAduct and the Facebook group as we search for indoor practice sites.

# Seven Medieval Christmas Traditions

DECEMBER 20, 2012 BY [MEDIEVALISTS.NET](http://MEDIEVALISTS.NET)

Christmas was an important time throughout medieval Europe, and many traditions developed during this period, some of which are still popular. Here are seven things you might see during Christmas in the Middle Ages, which range from cribs in Italy to trolls in Iceland.

**1) The Christmas Feast** – It is not surprising that food was a major part of a medieval Christmas. The holiday came during a period after the crops had been harvested and there would be little to do on a farm. If animals were not to be kept over the winter, now would also be a good time for them to be slaughtered for their food. This could leave a bounty of food that would make Christmas the perfect time to hold a feast.

England's King John held a Christmas feast in 1213, and royal administrative records show that he was ordering large amounts of food. One order included 24 hogshead of wine, 200 head of pork, 1,000 hens, 500 lbs of wax, 50 lbs of pepper, 2 lbs of saffron, 100 lbs of almonds, along other spices, napkins and linen. If that was not enough, the King also sent an order to the Sheriff of Canterbury to supply 10,000 salt eels.

Even at a slightly lower level of wealth the Christmas meal was still elaborate. Richard of Swinfield, Bishop of Hereford, invited 41 guests to his Christmas feast in 1289. Over the three meals that were held that day, the guests ate two carcasses and three-quarters of beef, two calves, four does, four pigs, sixty fowls, eight partridges, two geese, along with bread and cheese. No one kept track of how much beer was drank, but the guests managed to consume 40 gallons of red wine and another four gallons of white.

Feasts were also held among the peasants, and manorial customs sometimes revealed that the local lord would supply the people with special food for Christmas. For example, in the 13th century a shepherd on a manor in Somerset was entitled to a loaf of bread and a dish of meat on Christmas Eve, while his dog would get a loaf on Christmas Day. Another three tenants on the same manor would share two loaves of bread, a mess of beef and of bacon with mustard, one chicken, cheese, fuel for cooking and as much beer as they could drink during the day.

## 2) Yule Mumming from Scandinavia

From Christmas Eve until the Twelfth Night, young men in northern parts of Europe would go about in the middle of the night scaring people in the streets or in their farms. They would be wearing frightening masks, and would be "disguised according to the old fashion of the devil." During these long, dark nights the young yule mummers would try to scare people by pretending to act like ghosts, trolls or other strange creatures.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, one can read about appearances from the Yule Goat, which would make "children still shake and quiver and are struck by a kind of panic fear." Here is how one 17th century man described the Yule Goat:

*The young man who manipulated the Yule-goat had joined two poles in such a way the the upper end of one of them was provided with an oblong head looking like a goat. The jaws of this could open or close as he wished, and this made a terrible noise. And at the end of the other pole which served as the tail of the Yule-goat he put jingling bells.*

*The young man was strong. He was covered in fur and he went inside the house and attacked every one of those present, shouting as he did do. He demanded pieces of bread or cake or cheese and when he had received these*

*he thanked those present by moving the tail of the Yule-goat so that the bells jingled, but anyone who did not give him anything he attempted to hit with the pole that constituted the tail of the Yule-goat.*

*When this pantomime character had thus jumped around and greeted everyone seated around the table with ludicrous gestures, he hurried out jumping as if he was dancing.*

### **3) The Christmas Bishop**

In parts of Western Europe one finds reports of the election of boy bishops, often on December 28th, which marked the feasts of Holy Innocents massacred by King Herod.

In England the practice can be found dating back to the twelfth century, where boys were elected as bishops in churches or schools. The boy might be dressed up in vestments and would celebrate a mock mass that would include preaching a sermon. Afterwards he would go out in a procession, where he would receive gifts of money and food. Even the English kings would participate in the fun – Edward I had one boy bishop say vespers before him in 1299 and his son Edward II awarded another boy bishop ten shillings in 1316.

In mainland Europe the practice was a little different. One account from Denmark describes how someone became the bishop:

*Christmas Bishop is the name of a young man who is consecrated bishop in a Christmas game which goes as follows: they place one from their own guild, that is to say the guild of unmarried people, on a chair, blacken his face and put a stick in his mouth with a piece of candle on either end. Then the young men and women run around him in a circle and sign: 'We consecrate a Christmas Bishop pro nobis', and when this had been done three times he had been consecrated Christmas Bishop.*

Of course, the Christmas Bishop had duties to perform: he “marries as many couples from the guild as he wants while making strange faces and speaking in a feigned voice, and then the married couples must offer something. Those offering something which is not good enough are hit by a bag filled with ashes that the Bishop has kept under his cape.”

The marriages lasted one night – we are left to guess how the happy couples spent their Christmas honeymoon.

### **4) Dice-playing and inter-village football from France**

On December 26, 1396, Jehan Werry, a cloth-shearer, was in a tavern in the French town of Senlis when some of the people there convinced him to join in on their dice-game, because “it was still Christmas.” Jehan played the game, but was blatantly cheated by the other players and lost five gold francs. Jehan compounded his mistake by trying to steal money from his cousin in order to recoup his losses.

In ‘Games in their Seasons’ Jean-Michel Mehl notes that in medieval France two activities often happened around Christmas, one of which was dice-playing. Even King Charles VII (1422-1461) was once coaxed “to play dice and to make merry with during the Feast of Christmas.” Although some French church officials tried to ban this game on Christmas Eve, the practice continued and seems to have been widely played.

Dice-playing can also be seen in other parts of Europe. In the Kingdom of Castile laws from the 13th century onwards mention that the royal monopoly on gambling houses was suspended for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Meanwhile, in 1511 England’s King Henry VIII prohibited his servants from playing various games, including dice-playing, but did allow them to play these games during the twelve days of Christmas.



Another popular Christmas past-time in medieval France was the game of soule, which would happen once-a-year between neighbouring villages. Mehl explains “the game has many regional variations but is based on a very simple principle: two opposing teams compete for possession of a large block of wood or a moss-filled leather ball, called the *eteuf* or *pelote*. It is propelled by being punched with the fist, kicked, or struck with curved sticks. In the course of these encounters, whose participants can be numbered in scores, all blows are allowed, which explains the large number of injuries or even fatalities involved and the consequent frequency with which this game figures in the letters or pardon.”

### 5) Presepi in Italy

The tradition of creating a crib (*creches*) and Nativity scene has sometimes been traced to St. Francis of Assisi, who in 1223 constructed one in a cave in the town of Greccio and held Christmas Eve mass and a nativity pageant there. References to the *presepi* date to 1272 in Rome and 1343 in Naples, with the practice spreading to other parts of Europe throughout the later Middle Ages.

Up to the sixteenth-century the *presepi* would consist of three figures – the baby in the crib and two beasts who kept him warm. These were placed next to the altar where Mass was celebrated. By the end of the Middle Ages the figures of Mary and Joseph were introduced, and gradually the nativity scene became more complex by adding the adoration of the shepherds, making some of the figures moveable and including music.

### 6) Christmas in a Renaissance Court

During the reign of Galeazzo Maria Sforza (1466-1476) Christmas was the most important date in the city-state of Milan. Gregory Lubkin detailed how the Duke and the city prepared for the twelve days of Christmas, seven of which were official holidays. It was so important for the Duke that he sent out orders to all the minor nobles to spend Christmas in Milan unless they were sick, along with courtiers, bureaucrats and foreign ambassadors.

As the Duke’s officials figured out the protocols and proper orders of having all these guests attending the festivities, the Duke himself went on a seasonal hiring spree, doubling the number of chamberlains in his service to 125, and increasing the number of court gentlemen from 24 to 100. Lubkin notes that other preparations included having “temporary kitchens were erected, table silver and other furnishings transferred from Pavia Castle, and necessities like wood, wax, wine, and bread collected in quantity.”

Various feasts and masses were held, including three masses that the Duke heard on Christmas Day in his own chapel. The highlight of the festivities took place on December 24th, at a ceremony known as the *Ciocco*, which was held in the main hall of the Duke’s palace. “This ceremony was the Milanese equivalent of the Yule Log,” writes Lubkin, “the log itself was garnished with fruits and foliage, among which juniper and laurel were particularly prominent. It was brought in at sunset, put in the fireplace, and set aflame to the jubilation of all. A banquet followed this ancient ritual of fire and renewal, which was repeated on 31 December.”

Having all these officials and ambassadors in one place also allowed some state business to be done, with various diplomatic efforts a fixture over the period. This was also the season for marriages between the Sforza family and other Italian and European courts to be negotiated. However, the Duke himself was often spending his time either taking in various masses or indulging in games of skill or chance. On New Year’ Eve in 1471, during a lavish party the Duke commanded that all his guests to join him in gambling, even offering to lend money to those who could not afford the stakes.

The Christmas of 1476 was held with much lower fanfare, as the Duke decided against hosting large gatherings because plague had recently been detected in Milan. Galeazzo was also worried that his own family was plotting against him, and had sent two of his brothers to France for the season. However, it was not his own family he had to worry about, as three of his own officials decided to strike against their Duke. On December 26th, Galeazzo went with a small retinue to the Church of Santo Stefano to hear mass, when the three courtiers attacked him with knives and swords, stabbing him fourteen times. Duke Galeazzo Maria Sforza was killed instantly.

## 7) Christmas Trolls in Iceland

In medieval Iceland, the Christmas period would fall on the period when daylight would last only 4 to 5 hours, leaving for long and cold nights. It was also a time of danger, when evil creatures would wander the land. Icelandic sagas relate various strange events that happened during the Yule festival. In the *Eyrbyggja Saga* one farmer invited his neighbours to his Christmas feast, only to have several ghosts arrive, who would shake the mud off their clothes and spray the other guests with it. Those who tried to stop them would fall sick and die.

In *Grettir's Saga* the danger came from Trolls, as this one story relates:

*Yule was approaching. On the eve the shepherd went out with his sheep. The mistress said: "Now I hope that our former experiences will not be repeated."*

*"Have no fear for that, mistress," he said. "There will be something worth telling of if I come not back."*

*Then he went out to his sheep. The weather was rather cold and there was a heavy snowstorm. Thorgaut usually returned when it was getting dark, but this time he did not come. The people went to church as usual, but they thought matters looked very much as they did on the last occasion. The bondi wanted them to go out and search for the shepherd, but the churchgoers cried off, and said they were not going to trust themselves into the power of trolls in the night; the bondi would not venture out and there was no search. On Yule day after their meal they went out to look for the shepherd, and first went to Glam's cairn, feeling sure that the shepherd's disappearance must be due to him. On approaching the cairn they saw an awful sight; there was the shepherd, his neck broken, and every bone in his body torn from its place.*

By the later Middle Ages the stories and beliefs about *Huldufólk* (Hidden people) were very common, and elves began to be associated with Christmas – they were said to be able to take over a person's house and hold wild parties with dancing. This folklore remains popular in modern-day Iceland.

Gunnell, Terry, "**The coming of the Christmas Visitors...Folk legends concerning the attacks on Icelandic farmhouses made by spirits at Christmas**", *Northern Studies*, Vol.38 (2004)

Lubkin, Gregory, "Christmas at the Court of Milan: 1466-1476," *Florence and Milan: Comparisons and Relations* (La Nuova Italia Editrice, 1989)

Mehl, Jean-Michel, "Games in their Seasons," *Custom, Culture and Community in the Later Middle Ages: A Symposium* (Odense University Press, 1994)

Pimlott, J.A.R., *The Englishman's Christmas: A Social History* (Harvester Press, 1978)

Pio, Iorn, "Christmas Traditions in Scandinavia," *Custom, Culture and Community in the Later Middle Ages: A Symposium* (Odense University Press, 1994)

The above article was reprinted with permission by the author. And was originally published 12-20-12

## A Message from the Seneschal

Greetings,

Many of you know by now that Duke Kenric has been missing since going out on his kayak this past Friday.

We have been asked to direct any press inquiries directed at us to the Media Liaison of the East Kingdom. Their address is [media@eastkingdom.org](mailto:media@eastkingdom.org)

Thank you for your help during this tragic time.

votre défense

Jean Xavier Boullier

Seneschal, An Dubhaigeainn

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## A Request from Baroness Mistress Suzanne

Unto the populace, both past and present, of An Dubhaigeainn, do I Mistress Suzanne Nueber de Londres send greetings! I currently am working on the full history of the Barony, and its predecessor shire. My goal is a display for the East Kingdom 50 year event to be held next June.

If you live or have lived in the Suffolk area and played with the Shire, now, Barony, I want your stories, as they will have tell the tale of the Barony.

If you held the position of Baronial champion at any time, can a picture and date for the event be sent to me?

I especially would like photos of people who received their peerage while residing in the Barony taken on the date of said elevation. If you received several different peerages while residing in the Barony, a photo and the date of each elevation would be much appreciated.

If you would like to assist me in the project of collecting our history and telling our story, please contact me at [sdelondres@gmail.com](mailto:sdelondres@gmail.com)

# From the Coronet



*Unto the populace of An Dubhaigeainn,  
do your Baron and Baroness send  
greetings!*

We hope that everyone had a Joyous Holiday Season! We want to thank everyone who participated in our demos in November and December, it is always wonderful to share the SCA with others!

We are looking for Deputies for some of our Officer positions, please feel free to speak to the current officer, the Seneschal or us if you are interested in helping out in this way, it is a great way to learn about a job and how the Barony and Society operates.

We are also looking for people to autocrat some of our upcoming events such as our Spring Schola, the AnDub - Ostgardr Challenge, Potted Arms for Hawkes Reache and Arrows, Axes and Ales in the fall. Please speak to us if you are interested, we are all more than willing to help anyone or pair you with a co-autocrat if you are a first time autocrat.

Sorcha will be at Birka, we both will be at King & Queens A&S & Bardic Champions, Mudthaw and possibly some other events in between. Looking forward to seeing many of you at these events.

As we hunker down for winter we hope you are working on projects, repairing your armour and weapons and readying for the seasons to come!

We are as ever, Yours in Service to the Dream!

*Yours in Service;  
Titus and Sorcha*

