

The Shards

BARONAGE'S LETTER TO THE BARONY

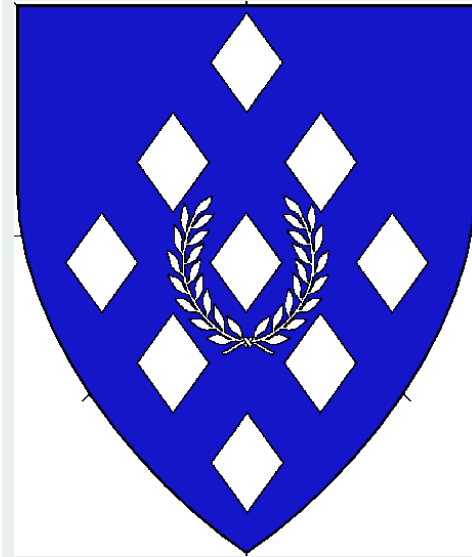
Unto the Good Gentles of the Barony of Shattered Crystal do Their Excellencies Avery and Berengaria Send Greetings! As the holidays draw to a close we find ourselves in the season of cold and darkness, a time of reflection and preparation, a time when we shelter by the fire contemplating the year past and preparing for the year to come.

It has been a surprisingly good year for the barony. We have emerged from the privations of the lockdown in better shape than even our most optimistic expectations. We thank Her Excellency Petrona and all the group officers who assisted in keeping the group as active and afloat as possible through the plague years and making that quick recovery possible.

This year we hosted two well received and profitable events; stabilized our finances; held a number of demos to get ourselves back into the public eye; added a number of authorized martial participants; had multiple people participate at Kingdom A&S; taught and took many classes; and attended a number of events en masse, particularly Baroness Wars where we camped together and cooked Saturday Morning Breakfast for everyone, and Rendezvous where we impressed many people with our presence. Altogether a highly successful year, particularly when we still had to contend with many restrictions when the year began.

In the coming months we hope to add several new martial participants to our ranks, continue to promote the arts and sciences by encouraging Tuesday night classes, and foster camaraderie with group projects and local gatherings such as Twelfth Night and a casual camping event with work party at Camp DuBois some time prior to Chamfron.

We are currently pursuing registering names and badges for our awards. For the most part these are minor changes to the name to comply with the College of Herald's policies - "The Crystal Orb " will be "The Orb of Shattered Crystal", etc. Ld. Kallinikos has worked diligently to document several of our award names that we had previously thought were lost causes. The exception in this first set is "The Lapis Militatus" which we intend to rename "The Partisan of Shattered Crystal", see below. These changes do not nullify anything previously given and once they are registered the new badges may be displayed by those who received the award in the 90's as well as any new recipients.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Baronage Letter	1-3
Gift Exchange Info	4
Website Update	5-6
Holiday Riddles	6
Norwegian Pick Up Bandweaving	6-8
Curia Call	9
Calendar	10-13

A Triolet for Twelfth Night by Melisende de Westemere

Raise high a glass to friends and
fading youth. Bright winter fires
within keep wolves at bay. They
will not feed today, in very sooth.
Raise high a glass to friends and
fading youth. Although they circle
with their hungry truth, Let food
and fire and friends your fears al-
lay. Raise high a glass to friends
and fading youth. Bright winter
fires within keep wolves at bay.

Note: A triolet is an eight-line poem (or stanza) with a rhyme scheme of ABaAabAB (the capital letters indicate repeating lines).

Baronage Letter cont

The Award of the Shard of Shattered Crystal – this is a long standing service award and traditional first award a member of the barony receives. We did not expect this name to be acceptable to the college, but a period reference was discovered by Ld Kallinikos. The name is submitted and we expect that it will pass.



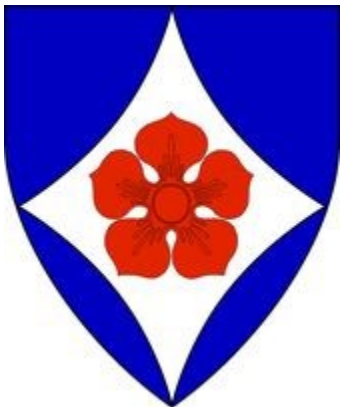
A great many badges have been proposed for the Shard, but no one was particularly excited about any of them. At Crystal Ball, Their Majesties gave us the honor of an augmentation of arms, a rustre (a pierced lozenge) and this seems like an ideal place to embrace this charge.

The Order of the Azure Stanchion of Shattered Crystal – This is the service order created by Max and Caroline. The name has passed.



We plan on submitting this badge which uses the same field, azure, a pile argent, as the shard but features a celestial sphere on an azure column as charges reminiscent of Atlas holding up the sky, symbolism befitting those who do great service.

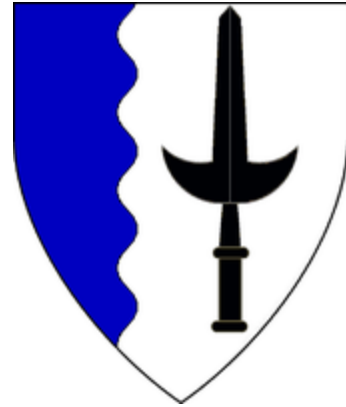
The Award of the Sakura of Shattered Crystal – the arts award created by Petrona and Ookami. We believe that this name will pass under the current rules.



We plan on submitting this badge, Azure, vêtue ployé argent, a cinqfoil gules for this award.

Baronage Letter cont

The Award of the Partisan of Shattered Crystal – discussions with the college of arms informed us that The Lapis Militatus had no registerable elements, and so we will be renaming this order. The definition of partisan includes a style of pole common in period, a freedom fighter and a loyal supporter, all positive traits for the arts martial.



The wavy tierce of the badge represents our western border and the charge is a partisan head. We are still finalizing what version of this badge we will submit.

The Order of the Bulwark of Shattered Crystal – while our award structure includes a lower and higher levels of recognition for the Arts & Sciences and the Services, no similar higher level recognition for the Arts Martial. We propose the name The Order of the Bulwark for this honor and are still working on a badge. We would like to keep the wavy tierce, but are still uncertain about charges.

In the coming months We mean to attend the following events:

B3R Winter Court on Saturday 7 January in St. Louis
BSC Twelfth Night on Saturday 14 January at the Church in Marine
Festival of Maidens on Saturday 28 January in Champaign-Urbana
Chieftains on Saturday 25 February, also in St. Louis
Gulf Wars from the 11th to the 19th of March in Lumberton Mississippi

If you are interested in any of these and have any questions feel free to ask at Tuesday meeting or online.

Finally, as alluded to previously, we hope to do a weekend gathering at Camp DuBois in late March to select our archery and thrown weapons champions and work on the bread ovens and roof prior to Chamfron.

Best wished to each and all in the coming year. We look forward to gathering with you all in the coming months.

Avery and Berengaria, Baron and Baroness

YEARLY GIFT EXCHANGE—A BRIEF EXPLANATION

BY ALPHJA BJRAZ PARS

Once a year at our annual 12th night potluck, the Barony participates in a rather strange custom - the annual gift exchange. Not that a gift exchange is strange - just the way we do ours. The idea started simply enough. Since we never knew who would be at the potluck - lets just everyone bring an SCA related present and randomly distribute once we are there. The how to distribute part got a bit interesting. Just numbering the gifts & then drawing numbers was too simple. We wanted some choice in the gifts. So here is the way it works currently:

1. Everyone who wants brings a \$10 - \$20 gift - kind of SCA related.
 - a. Preferrably non-gender specific.
 - b. Label if it is for 21 & over.
2. Before the potluck - all gifts are wrapped & placed on a table.
 - a. Sign the list as you place your gift on the table.
3. At the potluck - each person who brought a gift draws a number.
4. The people who draw #1 thru #5 pick from the table.
5. Whoever draws # 6 either
 - a. picks from the table or
 - b. steals a gift.if a: the next number picks.
if b: whoever's gift is stolen then can either (a) pick from the table or (b) steal
(stealing can continue until there is no gift that has not been stolen during this round - the last person then takes from the table)
6. Repeat #5 till everyone has selected a gift.

Extra rules:

1. Only one gift per person.
2. Gifts stay wrapped until the end of the gift exchange.
3. 20 seconds to chose your pick - or the timekeeper will choose for you.
4. All disputes settled by the Baron or Baroness

As you can tell, this is a drawn out affair. It usually ends up being the entire after dinner entertainment. It can be almost as fun to watch as to participate. We also do a smaller exchange for the younger crowd with a \$5 - \$10 dollar gift. Come join in or just watch. See you at 12th night.

WEBSITE UPDATES FROM CRISTEN FYNLO

Website updates!

Greetings, I hope you are all staying warm and cozy as the temperatures dip this holiday season!

As I am writing this the plan is for the new website to go live the first week of January. What this means is that a forward will be put in so that any traffic going to www.shatteredcrystal.org will now go to our new website www.shatteredcrystal.midrealm.org.

This way any links that go to shatteredcrystal.org will still send traffic to our new website.

Once the new website becomes our primary, work will begin on retiring our old website fully. This involves ending our web hosting with Hostpapa.

Once we have ended the web hosting the expenses for the website will drop considerably.

Timing wise not sure if the Shard will be published before or after the website has gone live. So I also wanted to take a bit of your time to point out some new features.

The website has had a substantial change to its design. I have worked to try and make the website easily readable and organized.

As such you will see when visiting the website has a menu bar now. Some sections of the menu have drop down menus.

For example, the populace is now a menu containing pages about our members. The Activities menu holds information about our meetings, Baronial events, and the new calendar!

Speaking of which, the calendar has returned to the website! We have a nice set of tools available now for scheduling events on the website and integrating into a calendar for the Barony. As you check out the new calendar when you click on an event it takes you to the event page. Like our old website you can get information there. A great new feature is if you scroll toward the bottom of the

event page there are 2 things that are new.

1. There is a countdown to the beginning of the event. Much easier to track how long you have to finish any projects!
2. There are now 2 buttons. One lets you add the event to your google calendar and the other to your calendar for Apple devices. I am really excited about this as you no longer have to rely on Facebook for Baronial event reminders!

Another change made is that for the most part portrait style photos have been removed from the website. As SCA requires a waiver (model release) form for each photo it was much easier to remove these photos.

We do have some group photos on the Website. The only portrait style photo is of their Excellencies on the officer's page.

The old populace page is now the members page in the populace menu. The entry for each person is like the old site. It now features each members heraldic device and lists their name and interests.

If you do not have a device, then the Baronial badge was used in its place.

SOME HOLIDAY RIDDLES FOR CHILDREN OR GOOD-NATURED ADULTS

BY MISTRESS CAROLINE

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Where does the snowman keep his money?

Why didn't the turkey eat anything?

What do gingerbread men use when they hurt their legs?

What type of photos do elves take?

What does a gingerbread man use on his bed?

What do you call a snowman in the summer?

Why did the holiday cookie go to the doctor?

What kind of laundry detergent does Santa use?

Answers on Curia Call page

WEBSITE UPDATES CONTINUED

A new section of the website is an In Memorium page. The entries currently on the website are from the June 2016 issue of the Shards. Sadly, we have lost dear friends since then. I would ask for a volunteer to write a few paragraphs for,

Lord Cinaed Ulric Amhranai tan Briongloid
Lady James Ainsley
Lord Liam Meyrick

If there is someone, I have forgotten for the Memoriam then please let me know.

I have included one of the current memorials as an example.

“Dragon’s Flower:

Dragon’s Flower was one of the early members of the second founding of Three Rivers in the Midrealm in 1975 and was active and present with Three Rivers during the formation of the Kingdom of Calontir.

Her early SCA life was also spent as a member of the Dark Horde. She retained ties within the Middle Kingdom and when Shattered Crystal was formed she regularly participated in our event as well as

Three Rivers’ in Calontir where she was often a regular merchant selling wares.

Sadly she passed away in June of 2006.”

There have also been a few other changes that have happened as part of the process.

All Baronial officers should have a midrealm.org email address for their office. No officer should be using their personal email for official duties. Any officers that do not have access to their Midrealm email address please contact me.

If you notice anything that doesn't work or typos on the website, please let me know so that I can correct them, as I am sure things have been missed. I am also open to suggestions about additions to the website going forward.

In service,
Cristen Fynlo
Webminister

CURJA CALL

Their Crystalline Excellencies

Baroness Berengaria Mordaunt
shatteredcrystal.excellencies@midrealm.org

Pursuivant (Herald)

Kallinikos Gavras
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Chatelain

Lady Beatrix van der Bosch
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Demonstration Coordinator

Lady Celestria De Surmulot
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Equestrian Marshal

Mistress Alpha Biras-Parz
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Thrown Weapons Marshal

Vacant

Minister of Arts and Sciences

Lady Catalina Mellini (Lina)
shatteredcrystal.moas@midrealm.org

Seneschal

Lady Celestria De Surmulot
shatteredcrystal.seneschal@midrealm.org

Answers— not in order

candy canes, Yule Tide, he was feeling crummy, frosted flakes, cookie sheets, it was stuffed, in a snow bank, Elfies, a puddle

Baron Avery Austringer

Knight's Marshal

Master Avery Austringer
shatteredcrystal.marshal@midrealm.org

Archery Marshal

Master Bubba Godgodson
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Rapier Marshal

Lord Bartelmeu le Wis
shatteredcrystal.rapier@midrealm.org

Chronicler

Asa the Nine-Fingered
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Minister of Youth

Baroness Caroline de Mercier
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Web Minister

Lord Cristen Fynlo
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Exchequer

Cellach ni Thighearnaig
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January 2023

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A Long Winter's Night						Middle Marches 12th Night Pentamere 12th Night Winter Court 2023
8	9	10 Meeting	11	12	13	14 12th Night
15	16	17 Meeting	18	19	20	21 Masque of Courtly Love Winter Revel
22 Winter Revel	23	24 Meeting	25	26 Business Meeting	27 Bardic Skirmishes II	28 Bardic Skirmishes II Festival of Maidens Winter Wassail Clothiers Seminar
29 Bardic Skirmishes II	30	31 Meeting				

February 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4 Candlemas XXXIII
5 Flame Day	6	7 Meeting	8	9	10	11 St Valentine's Day Massacre
12	13	14 Meeting	15	16	17	18 Courting on the River
19	20	21 Meeting	22	23 Business Meet- ing	24	25 Winter Solar Chieftains
26	27	28 Meeting				

March 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
						Winter War Maneuvers IX Midlands Vil- lage Green
5	6	7 Meeting	8	9	10	11 Gulf Wars
12 Gulf Wars	13 Gulf Wars	14 Meeting Gulf Wars	15 Gulf Wars	16 Gulf Wars	17 Gulf Wars	18 Gulf Wars
19 Gulf Wars	20	21 Meeting	22	23 Business Meet- ing	24	25 Better War Through Ar- chery
26	27	28 Meeting	29	30	31	