



# The Barony of Settmour Swamp

# The MudPuppy

*Fall/Winter 2023 edition*

## **Schola is in session**

This Autumn, Settmour Swamp hosted a second, successful schola, welcoming newcomers and dedicated students to the lovely Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, NJ. The event included woodworking, silk painting, heraldry, fiber arts, and many more classes. The site also included a delicious dayboard prepared by Baroness Charis.

The schola was organized by the experienced team of Baroness Elizabeth Talbot and Mistress Vika Grigina z Prahy. The weather cooperated perfectly, offering the last beautiful day of long-summer and helped the barony welcome the long winter months with a warm gathering and many new inspirations to work on in the winter.

## 45 Perilous Days You Should Probably Stay Home

Budding dictators may be watching their backs on the Ides of March (March 15), but are you prepared for the other 44 days of bad luck that occur throughout the year?

Irene Meeks van Toer, a Dutch historian, warns us, “Bad events tend to happen on certain days of the week. It’s probably best to stay home on Monday and Friday.”

Her concern is echoed by Pleeskin the Pleasant\*, a Dutch astrologer and professional pessimist. *“The best and wisest scholars have named forty-five bad and unhealthy days,”* he claims. *“Anyone born on any of these days will not live long. And should anyone get ill, he will die; if a man has intercourse with a woman or a woman with a man, they will have to separate due to poverty. And should anyone begin any great thing on any of these days, it will not come to a good end.”*

Bad luck days include

- January 1, 2, 4, 9, 19, and 25
- February 4, 18, and 27
- March 1, 3, 16, and 18
- April 10, 12, and 20
- May 3, 15, 16, and 20
- June 4, 10, and 16
- July 12, 13, and 19
- August 1, 20, and 30
- September 3, 17, and 21
- October 3, 6, and 22
- November 2, 5, 17, and 18

Pleeskin refused to name the unlucky dates in December, leaving us with a confusing and unnamed 6 unlucky dates for the year. Plan your calendars accordingly!

Learn more at <https://www.medievalists.net/2024/01/medieval-perilous-days/>  
**[Als die maen is inden weder: Practical Advice in a Late-Fifteenth-Century Astrological Calendar Manuscript – Amsterdam UB MS XXIII A 8,](#)**

\*Actual author’s name unknown

## Medieval Book List

The snow is falling and winter is the perfect time to curl up with a great book. Whether you are learning something new or escaping to ancient realms, the weather is perfect for a book-journey. Here are some recent books that may interest medievalists:

*Trans and Genderqueer Subjects in Medieval Hagiography*, edited by Alicia Spencer-Hall and Blake Gutt  
<https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/61200>

This interdisciplinary study includes work from trans and genderqueer authors exploring questions of gender identity and sexuality in the medieval world. Best of all, it's FREE to download!

*Introducing the Medieval Fox* by Paul Wackers  
University of Wales Press ISBN: 978-1-78683-988-6

Crafty, playful, and occasionally a romantic hero—the fox has been a prominent character in Europe since the medieval times. This book delves into the fox in medieval art, poetry, and culture.

*The Vanished Settlers of Greenland: In Search of a Legend and Its Legacy* by Robert W. Rix  
Cambridge University Press ISBN: 978-1-009-35947-4

The Vikings lived in Greenland for almost 400 years, but then suddenly vanished. Where they went remained a mystery. In this book, Robert Rix digs into the lost civilization, what happened to its people and the lasting impacts of the Viking colonization of Greenland.

*A Compendium of World Sovereigns: Volume II: Medieval* by Timothy Venning  
Routledge ISBN: 978-1-032-36198-7

Have trouble keeping track of the Anglo-Saxon kings, or remembering the dynasties of France? This book is for you! A comprehensive list of who, when, where, and wives of the medieval rulers, not only of Europe but Africa, Asia, and pre-Columbian America!

*How Medieval Europe was Ruled* edited by Christian Raffensperger  
Routledge ISBN: 9781032100166

Not all of medieval Europe was ruled by a monarch. (There were some anarcho-syndicalist communes!) This book examines the different types of political leadership across Europe, including the Rus, Byzantium and Italy. This is a great opportunity to rethink what you learned about medieval politics.

For more medieval reading suggestions, visit <https://www.medievalists.net/category/books/>

## Calendar of Events

### **At the Sign of the Fir, Bear and Lion**

#### **Barony of Bhakail- Philadelphia, PA January 27**

Welcome to another year in Bhakail's Tavern! We look forward to seeing you again!

We are currently working with our Gaming and Bardic Champions as to the format of their contests this year, but various games will be available to play all day, and bards of all stripes are encouraged to offer music, story and song outside of the competition.

Due to the size of the venue and the nature of the event (as a training opportunity for folks to run other events), attendance is capped at 60 people, so pre-registration is encouraged.

### **East Kingdom Curia, Part 2 (Ethereal)**

#### **Kingdom of the East**

#### **February 1**

Their Royal Majesties Queen Feilinn and King Matthias will hold East Kingdom Curia on Thursday, 1 February 2024, at 8:00pm, conducted ethereally in accordance with SCA, Inc. guidelines.

The agenda and the Crown's proposed changes to East Kingdom Law are available at: <https://seneschal.eastkingdom.org/curia/>

### **Bellringers 40th: Beauty, Bells, and Brawn**

#### **Barony of Carillion- Manalapan, NJ February 17**

The Barony of Carillion proudly presents: Bellinger's 40<sup>th</sup>: Beauty, Bells, and Brawn

Gather round for our 40<sup>th</sup> annual birthday celebration—a day brimming with festivities awaits! Delight in a range of activities from period games to modern, from our Baronial arm-wrestling championship to activities for kids, there's something for everyone! Amid the revelry, explore our Arts & Sciences. As the day unfolds, a teasing question heightens the anticipation in the air: who will clinch the title of the next Baronial Arm Wrestling Champion? Could the arms of fate be pointing at you?

Bellringers Baroness A&S Challenge: In celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Barony the theme is...Ruby!!! Please use your imaginations and enter our challenge!

Baking Challenge: Tea Time: Bring a baked good inspired by or incorporating tea.

Awards of the East: For the New and the Forgetful. Learn about the awards of the kingdom, their badges, what an order of precedence is and more! A class taught by THL Gwalchmai ap Talan, Bell Persuviant emeritus

Youth: Make and take noise maker!

## **Black Gryphon Inn**

**Canton of Gryphonwald- Edison, NJ**  
**February 25**

From Chaucer to Shakespeare, and everyone in between, Love has often been a source for poetry, literature, song and dance, and so we too will use it as our Muse.

Come join us for The Black Gryphon Inn as we drive the cold of winter away with warm food and companionship. Not only will we serve up a delicious Grecian Feast (inspired by our Bardic theme), but we will also be celebrating the traditions of love through our Period Dancing, Brewer's competition, and Bardic Competition to award our Baronial Bardic Champion for the new year. Returning from last year will be our "Works in Progress" A&S Competition.

## **East Kingdom Arts & Sciences Competition**

**Shire of Quintavia- Worcester, MA**  
**March 2**

Come one and all to the seven verdant hills of the Shire of Quintavia and test your skills against the finest artisans in the East! In a separate hall a Dayboard will be served with space for fellowship.

## **Nova Schola**

**Shire of Hartshorn-dale-Collegeville, PA**  
**March 16**

Once upon a time, the Shire of Hartshorn-dale held an event that celebrated knowledge. It was called Nova Schola and it's happening again! Please join us for a day of learning, dancing, and fellowship. We plan to have classes on many subjects from service to A&S, as well as dance and martial activities. Whether you're new to the Society or have been around long enough to remember the original Nova Schola, we hope to have something of interest.

## **Mudthaw XLIII**

### **Barony of Settmour Swamp- Washington, NJ March 23**

**\*\* MUDTHAW IS AT A NEW LOCATION (AGAIN)\*\***

As winter turns to spring, their Excellencies Orlando and Charis, Baron and Baroness of Settmour Swamp, invite all and sundry to join in the celebration of the Thawing of the Mud!

The site is a heated indoor school with plenty of space for court, vendors, etc. indoors. Fighting and Archery will likely be outside but Fencing and possibly Archery may be moved indoors if inclement weather. Please bring outdoor seating if you wish to watch the martial activities in comfort.

Youth Activities will be available in the main gathering hall from the end of morning court through 3 pm. Lady Roseia Posey will be providing various crafts and activities to entertain our youth.

## **Coronation of Tindal II and G. Emerson True**

### **Barony of Concordia of the Snows- Schenectady, NY April 6**

The Barony of Concordia of the Snows welcomes all to the Coronation of Tindal II and G. Emerson True.

The site is the First Methodist Church of Schenectady, which was to have been the site of the Coronation of Tindal I and Alberic, had the Plague not forced us all to make other plans. The site is absolutely dry and smoking is prohibited throughout the grounds. There also is a ban on weapons, with an exception made for the Sword of State.

Ample parking is available on or near the site.

A dayboard presented by the Cooks Guild of Concordia is included with the site fee. The evening feast will be prepared by noted East Kingdom culinary masters. Further information will follow.

## List of Officers

Baron baron@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Orlando Sforza	Invested: March 2021 Expires: March 2025
Baroness baroness@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Charis Accipiter	Invested: March 2021 Expires: March 2025
Seneschal seneschal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Markus Farmaðr	Invested: November 2021 Expires: November 2023
Deputy Seneschals	Sefa Hrafnisdóttir Judith bas Rabbi Mendel	Volunteered: January 2022 Volunteered: October 2019
Exchequer exchequer@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Vika Grigina z Prahy	Invested: September 2022 Expires: September 2024
Deputy Exchequer	Phelippe le Vigneron	Volunteered: September 2022
Chamberlain chamberlain@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Emeline la Chauciere	Invested: March 2023 Expires: March 2025
Chatelaine chatelaine@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Gwenhoivar of Lindley	Invested: September 2020 Expires: September 2024
Deputy Chatelaine	Eva Vach Wylit	Volunteered May, 2024

Social Media Officer socialmedia@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Hrefna Sigurðardóttir	Invested: November 2021 Expires: November 2025
Deputy Social Media Officer	Thóra Kötrr	Volunteered: November 2021
Sinking Tower Pursuivant (Herald) herald@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Alys Mackintoich	Invested: April 2022 Expires: April 2024
Deputy Herald	Galefridus Peregrinus Lucas Abernathy	Volunteered: April 2022

		Volunteered: April 2022
Minister of Arts & Sciences moas@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Natal'ia Bolotnikova	Invested: April 2023 Expires: April 2025
Deputy MoAS	Iseaulte of the Clews	Volunteered September 2023
Chronicler chronicler@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Lillian Hutchinson	Invested: October 2020 Expires: October 2024
Deputy Chronicler	Judith bas Rabbi Mendel	Volunteered: October 2019
Webminister webminister@settmourseamp.eastkingdom.org	Dalek Bolotnikov iz Kabanov	Invested: October 2010 Expires: June 2025
Knight Marshal marshal@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Douglas Henry	Invested: February 2023 Expires: February 2025
Deputy Marshal	Alexander Krause	Volunteered December 2023
Captain of Archers archery@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Silvanus Woodwose	Invested: January 2022 Expires: January 2024
Marshal of Fence rapier@settmourswamp.eastkingdom.org	Alger von Ze'ev	Invested: December 2023 Expires: December 2025
Master of the List	Emidio di Arquata	Invested: January 2024 Expires: January 2025
<b>Gryphonwald</b>		
Seneschal seneschal@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org	Brogain O'Riain	Invested: October 2022
Exchequer exchequer@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org	Eleanor Callaghan	Invested: January 2018
Minister of Arts & Sciences moas@gryphonwald.eastkingdom.org	Dalek Bolotnikov iz Kabanov	Invested: March 2008

*This is the Fall 2023 issue of the Mudpuppy, a publication of the Barony of Settmour Swamp of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Mudpuppy is available from Amy Carson Gross ([apcgross@yahoo.com](mailto:apcgross@yahoo.com)). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2023 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors*



**Summary of Baronial Business Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2023**  
**Held virtually**

Present: Markus Farmaður (chairing), Judith bas Rabbi Mendel (taking notes), Alexander Krause, Alger von Ze'ev, Alys Mackyntoich, Charis Accipiter, Douglas Henry, Emidio di Arquata, Eva Vach Wyltt, Galefridus Peregrinus, Hekja Hornabrájotr, Martina de la Rosa, Natal'ia Bolotnikova, Orlando di Sforza, Vika Grigina z Prahy, Wulfgar Silfrahárr

The minutes and summary from November were approved.

**Officer Terms**

The officers voted in favor of having Hrefna continue as Social Media Officer. Wulfgar is stepping down as Marshal of Fence as of tonight. Alger is stepping up into that position.

**Mudthaw**

Eva submitted a bid to autocrat. The event would take place at the Warren County Technical School. She and several others are planning to do a walk-through of the site. Eva calculated a breakeven attendance of 350 people. The price to attend will be \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers, with lower cost for college students and youth. Eva is pulling together a team to work with her, putting newer people in more leading roles. We discussed dayboard. We could do it as a fundraiser as we have in previous Mudthaws, and this time it would be to benefit the barony. The officers voted to accept Eva's bid. The event announcement can now be posted.

**BGI**

Hekja said she will autocrat the event. They are still looking for a head cook. BGI is scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>. They are drumming up interest in the bardic and brewing competitions.

**Quest/Day of Champions**

We should be able to get a contract soon—we had to wait for the new year. Rosa is interested in autocrating and is working on a bid. The officers discussed having a brewing champion. We don't currently have that position. The advantage is that we could then challenge other groups to a brew-off. Do we need to add the position to the bylaws?

We would like to keep the A&S and brewing competitions for champions at Quest. The thought is that the Day of Champions would be for martial championships. We'd like to hold it in September. Alys pointed out that doing it this way would avoid the conflict with War of Roses. If people want to be on the champions teams at Pennsic, they have to fight/fence/shoot at Roses. We discussed possible sites for the Day of Champions. Charis will put out a call for bids to autocrat.

## **Officer Reports**

Chatelaine: Gwenhoivar sent a message: Nothing new to report. No new reach-outs or contacts. Eva sent: She replied to questions from one person, and he came to the schola.

Knight Marshal: Douglas said fighting is going well, with 25 or more people coming weekly. Rusted Woodlands is using the upstairs. The church where the practices are held put out a call for help in raising money to repair some doors. We contributed toward the cost—Douglas said he was very proud of the generosity of the fighters. Alexander is now his deputy.

Heraldry: Submissions made at Quest have been considered by the heralds, and a couple of Swamp submissions have passed. Next month the heralds will start on submissions made at NRWC. Pennsic submissions should be looked at in February. There will be a heraldic consultation table at 12<sup>th</sup> Night, with a number of people to consult with who have niche specialties, such as African names. No badge has been registered for Settmour Swamp, and there is no conflict if we want to use the sinking tower. The officers approved spending \$9 to make the submission.

MoL: Emidio said that after the holidays he will do a zoom call 1-on-1 with Ellesbeth to make sure he has the process down. She will provide backup at Mudthaw.

Marshal of Fence: Wulfgar gave a final report. Drew University may work out as a place to hold practices, but they are negotiating about the price. They have already begun advertising SCA fencing on campus. One advantage of this location is that it is on public transportation routes. Wulfgar will contact another place as well. Wulfgar will go over the final report he is making to kingdom. Fencing practice is starting up again on January 4. Alger also reported: About 10 people are coming to practice weekly, so they are close to the target of being able to cover the rental cost of the church. They are looking at moving the practice somewhere else.

A&S: Natal'ia said the Swamp Stomp was well attended though it was rainy. She'd like to do them quarterly; the next one might be in February. She'd also like to start up virtual A&S meetings again.

Exchequer: Vika said she has started to close out the quarter. There are some outstanding receivables. She drafted a budget for 2024, which she showed us. She projected that we would make about some money from Mudthaw, Quest, and the Schola in 2024, but said her numbers were just a good guess. She did not include Ducal or Day of Champions in her figures. Galefridus mentioned he would like to see more events with feasts, and Vika mentioned that she'd like real food budgets with feast bids. Vika recommended that we start talking about a land agent and bids as early as possible.

**Next meeting: Will be virtual. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm. The link will be posted. All are welcome to attend.**

Minutes submitted by Judith.

**Summary of Baronial Business Meeting Minutes**  
**November 14, 2023**  
**Held virtually**

Present: Markus Farmaður (chairing), Judith bas Rabbi Mendel (taking notes), Alger von Ze'ev, Brógáin Ó Ríain, Charis Accipiter, Ciaran Ua Meic Thire, Denis a Bheithir, Douglas Henry, Elizabeth Talbot, Emidio di Arquata, Eva Vach Wyltt, Galefridus Peregrinus, Gwenhoivar of Lindley, Hrefna Sigurðardóttir, Jessa d'Avondale, Natal'ia Bolotnikova, Silvanus Woodwose, Vika Grigina z Prahy, Wulfgar Silfrahárr

The minutes and summary from October were approved.

**Fall Schola - Nos Calan Gaeaf**

Elizabeth and Vika reported. It was a nice site and had a good kitchen. The event made \$25. Only 80 people came. They would like to make this a yearly event. 33 classes were held, with a mixture of beginner and advanced classes. Several of the teachers had never taught before. Lunch was incredible, thanks to Charis. Lots of pies. Thanks to all who worked to pull it off.

**Mudthaw**

Markus is looking hard for an autocrat. Galefridus volunteered to co-autocrat with someone—making it possible for someone less experienced to step up knowing they will have support. Ciaran is willing to co-autocrat with Galefridus. Markus said if he didn't hear back from the people he's been asking within a month, he will take the two of them up on their offer.

We have been looking for a site. Charis looked at the Warren County Technical School. It has plenty of parking and has room for fencing and fighting outside. While the site is easy to get to, there is no nearby public transportation. We could use the entire building, including the gym for fencing if the weather is bad. The fencers would need to wear non-scuff shoes. There is a paved area (not the parking lot) that heavy fighters could use if the grass is not useable. The kitchen looks good. We would have to have a police officer, which would add \$900 to the cost. We could overflow parking to the county college next door. Dayboard is not practical for an event of this size. We could also do something as a fundraiser.

We discussed pricing for admission. We used to charge \$25, but dropped it to \$20 as we subsidized it. The recommendation was to charge \$25 and \$30 for nonmembers; costs have gone up. We need rebuild our cash reserves. East Kingdom will take 20% since it is a royal progress. We considered offering a family cap on the price. We can tell the royals that the Mudthaw date is firm.

## **Quest**

We should start planning for Quest now. The price may be increasing. We will start looking for volunteers for Quest. The hard part is that the event is 3 ½ days long.

Could we use Vasa Park for a Day of Champions? Doing that would mean these contests wouldn't conflict with Roses. It will require another autocrat—is that possible? We'll consider the idea. One of the purposes of The Day in the Solar event is to help people get clothing ready for Pennsic. Maybe we should combine it with the Day of Champions.

## **Idea for a New Event**

A 16<sup>th</sup> century Venetian carnival immersive event. Maybe held in February 2025. Denis is willing to autocrat. We have other volunteers for some of the major jobs. We could focus some A&S sessions on making appropriate garb for it. A bid will be submitted. We should cap attendance at the event to around 100 people, but it means the cost to attend will be higher.

## **Officer Terms**

We will vote on the Social Media officer position next month. Hrefna is willing to continue.

## **Swamp Stomp**

Will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12-5pm at the Great Swamp Watershed Association in Morristown. It will include a weaving circle and a potluck.

## **Officer Reports**

Heraldry: Submissions are making their way through the system. Heraldry is prospering. Alys ran a track of classes at the recent schola and did consultations.

Chamberlain: Emeline sent a message saying she did not have much to report.

Chatelaine: Gwenhoivar said she is plugging the SCA everywhere. No one has reached out to us recently. The demo we discussed last month didn't happen because there was not enough interest. Gwenhoivar said she would like to follow up with the new people who attended the schola but has no contact information for them.

Exchequer: Vika said we are in decent financial shape. It is important that autocrats post site contracts so they can be used by others when needed. Vika is working on a 2024 budget and will have it ready for the next meeting. We need to decide what events to hold in order to do the budget. She reminded the officers that we need to include something for the operating costs of the barony when deciding on the cost for an event. No action is needed on the storage unit.

Chronicler: Lillain sent a message: "I have finished the Mudpuppy for the most recent quarter and will be ready to print with the approval of the October minutes."

Knight Marshal: Douglas sent a message: The Nutley practice is going well, with about 20 people attending each week. Douglas will have a deputy soon.

Marshal of Fence: Wulfgar said that the contributions from fencing practice have covered the cost of renting the site for the last three months. The practices are going well; 10-11 people are coming every week. He would like to rename the practice "Fencing and A&S Practice." Interest has been expressed in fencing garb. The practice schedule will be different for November and December: no practice on Thanksgiving or for 2-3 weeks in December.

Webminister: The baronial website is still running.

Social Media: The need for an autocrat for Mudthaw has been posted. The Mudpuppy is going out through email. Hrefna needs a deputy.

Captain of the Archers: Silvanus said they finally had a practice without rain. Temperature also determines whether to hold a practice--40° is the cut-off. He hopes to squeeze in one more practice this year.

A&S: Natal'ia said the metal working class had to be cancelled because of rain. They will reschedule in the Spring.

MoL: Ciaran said nothing has happened. There is not much to do until Mudthaw.

**Next meeting: Will be virtual. Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm. The link will be posted. All are welcome to attend.**

Minutes submitted by Judith.

**Summary of Baronial Business Meeting Minutes**  
**December 19, 2023**  
**Held virtually**

Present: Markus Farmaður (chairing), Judith bas Rabbi Mendel (taking notes), Alexander Krause, Alger von Ze'ev, Alys Mackyntoich, Charis Accipiter, Douglas Henry, Emidio di Arquata, Eva Vach Wyltt, Galefridus Peregrinus, Hekja Hornabrájotr, Martina de la Rosa, Natal'ia Bolotnikova, Orlando di Sforza, Vika Grigina z Prahy, Wulfgar Silfrahárr

The minutes and summary from November were approved.

**Officer Terms**

The officers voted in favor of having Hrefna continue as Social Media Officer. Wulfgar is stepping down as Marshal of Fence as of tonight. Alger is stepping up into that position.

**Mudthaw**

Eva submitted a bid to autocrat. The event would take place at the Warren County Technical School. She and several others are planning to do a walk-through of the site. Eva calculated a breakeven attendance of 350 people. The price to attend will be \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers, with lower cost for college students and youth. Eva is pulling together a team to work with her, putting newer people in more leading roles. We discussed dayboard. We could do it as a fundraiser as we have in previous Mudthaws, and this time it would be to benefit the barony. The officers voted to accept Eva's bid. The event announcement can now be posted.

**BGI**

Hekja said she will autocrat the event. They are still looking for a head cook. BGI is scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>. They are drumming up interest in the bardic and brewing competitions.

**Quest/Day of Champions**

We should be able to get a contract soon—we had to wait for the new year. Rosa is interested in autocrating and is working on a bid. The officers discussed having a brewing champion. We don't currently have that position. The advantage is that we could then challenge other groups to a brew-off. Do we need to add the position to the bylaws?

We would like to keep the A&S and brewing competitions for champions at Quest. The thought is that the Day of Champions would be for martial championships. We'd like to hold it in September. Alys pointed out that doing it this way would avoid the conflict with War of Roses. If people want to be on the champions teams at Pennsic, they have to fight/fence/shoot at Roses. We discussed possible sites for the Day of Champions. Charis will put out a call for bids to autocrat.

## Officer Reports

Chatelaine: Gwenhoivar sent a message: Nothing new to report. No new reach-outs or contacts. Eva sent: She replied to questions from one person, and he came to the schola.

Knight Marshal: Douglas said fighting is going well, with 25 or more people coming weekly. Rusted Woodlands is using the upstairs. The church where the practices are held put out a call for help in raising money to repair some doors. We contributed toward the cost—Douglas said he was very proud of the generosity of the fighters. Alexander is now his deputy.

Heraldry: Submissions made at Quest have been considered by the heralds, and a couple of Swamp submissions have passed. Next month the heralds will start on submissions made at NRWC. Pennsic submissions should be looked at in February. There will be a heraldic consultation table at 12<sup>th</sup> Night, with a number of people to consult with who have niche specialties, such as African names. No badge has been registered for Settmour Swamp, and there is no conflict if we want to use the sinking tower. The officers approved spending \$9 to make the submission.

MoL: Emidio said that after the holidays he will do a zoom call 1-on-1 with Ellesbeth to make sure he has the process down. She will provide backup at Mudthaw.

Marshal of Fence: Wulfgar gave a final report. Drew University may work out as a place to hold practices, but they are negotiating about the price. They have already begun advertising SCA fencing on campus. One advantage of this location is that it is on public transportation routes. Wulfgar will contact another place as well. Wulfgar will go over the final report he is making to kingdom. Fencing practice is starting up again on January 4. Alger also reported: About 10 people are coming to practice weekly, so they are close to the target of being able to cover the rental cost of the church. They are looking at moving the practice somewhere else.

A&S: Natal'ia said the Swamp Stomp was well attended though it was rainy. She'd like to do them quarterly; the next one might be in February. She'd also like to start up virtual A&S meetings again.

Exchequer: Vika said she has started to close out the quarter. There are some outstanding receivables. She drafted a budget for 2024, which she showed us. She projected that we would make about some money from Mudthaw, Quest, and the Schola in 2024, but said her numbers were just a good guess. She did not include Ducal or Day of Champions in her figures. Galefridus mentioned he would like to see more events with feasts, and Vika mentioned that she'd like real food budgets with feast bids. Vika recommended that we start talking about a land agent and bids as early as possible.

**Next meeting: Will be virtual. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm. The link will be posted. All are welcome to attend.**

Minutes submitted by Judith.