

The Looking Glass



"January"
Dutch, 1772

(<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/387472>)

January
Newsletter of the Barony of Glymm Mere
AS LXI (Gregorian 2026)

The Looking Glass

Barony of Glymm Mere

PO Box 1442
Olympia, WA 98507-1442

Submission Deadline: Deadline for submission for the following month's issue is the day of the business meeting 1 hour before the financial committee meeting. For example: content for August's newsletter is due the 2nd Tuesday of July by 5:30pm.

Submissions: Submissions welcomed! Artwork, articles, reports on events, poetry, or what have you. Acceptance of submissions and time of use will be at the chronicler's discretion and as space permits. Please create articles in the body of an e-mail or as a text document. Please cite your sources and fill out a release – which will be happily shared!

Editing: Articles will be edited for common spelling errors, grammar errors, and formatting style.

Disclaimer: This is the January 2026 issue of the Looking Glass, a publication of the Barony of Glymm Mere of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Looking Glass is available from the Glymm Mere Chronicler, via the official email address GlymmMere.chronicler@antir.org or the mailing address of the Barony of Glymm Mere at PO Box 1442, Olympia, WA 98507-1442

Newcomer information: The Barony of Glymm Mere is a part of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA), a not-for-profit educational organization and an inclusive community pursuing research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century skills, arts, combat, and culture. The lives of participants are enriched as we gain knowledge of history through activities, demonstrations and events.

The SCA is participatory: Every person plays a part in creating the atmosphere. For some, this means making an attempt at the proper clothing. For others, it means learning calligraphy, fencing, dancing, or whatever activities are of interest.

There are a variety of gatherings weekly, as well as events nearly every weekend. Check out the information offered in this publication and our other outlets for details.

You can also check out these useful websites:

Kingdom Website: antir.org

Baronial website: glymmMere.antir.org

Facebook: ["Barony of Glymm Mere Populace Group"](#) and ["Canton of Caladphort"](#) and ["Fire Mountain Keep"](#)

Instagram: [Barony of Glymm Mere](#)

YouTube for the Barony: [Glymm Mere SCA](#)

YouTube for A&S Classes: [EarlySweden](#)

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Rapier Marshall: [OPEN] – crows.gate.rapier@antir.org

Baronial Serjeants

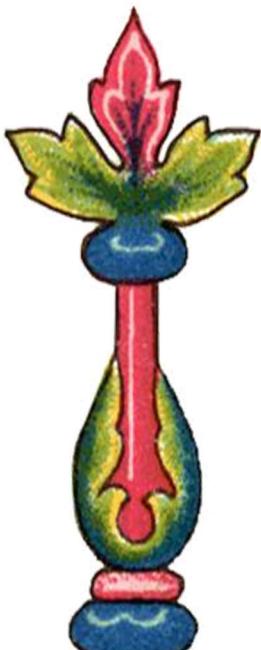
Baron Dunstan M'Lolane, Serjeant
Master Volk the Grey, Yeoman Emeritas
Sir Richard Fitzalan, Serjeant Emeritas
HL Karl von Miltenberg, Gallant
HL Ludwig Maltz der Brauer, Courtier
HL Besseta Wallace, Courtier
HL Snorri Bjornsson, Yeoman
Master Gryphon the Black, Yeoman Emeritus
HL Duihhinn Mac Faolan, Courtier Emeritas
HL Rosamund Wynder, Courtier Emeritas

Baronial Champions

Champion Title	Name	Event received
Arts and Sciences	Lady Gracia Abrabanel	Lyceum 2025
Archery Protector	Culfre MacQuohollistar	It's Only a Garden Party 2025
Bardic (Hummingbard)	Mistress Caitlin Wintour	Lyceum 2025
Equestrian	Ivan Leskov	Honey War 2019
Rapier Protector	Defenseur Jacques de Normandie	May Faire 2025
Caladphort Rapier	HE Valentine l'Argent	May Faire 2022
Heavy (<i>Shield of the Barony</i>)	Ronan Mac an Leagha	May Faire 2025
Thrown Weapons	Lord Iohn deMar	It's Only a Garden Party 2025
Thrown Weapons Guardian: Lord Defender of the Barony of Glymm Mere	HL Gerald De Huntington	Perennial
The Sweet of Glymm Mere	Duke Thorin Njalsson, Lion of An Tir	Perennial
	Lord Koźma z Łagowa	Yule 2024

Financial Committee Members

HL Angelica Carramon – Exchequer
HE Tamsyn l'Argent – Baroness
HE Valentine l'Argent – Baron
Sir Seumas mac Brehon – Seneschal
HL Melissa of Dalmatia – Member at Large



Glymm Mere Calendar

Business Meetings

First Tuesday at 6:30 PM at St Benedict's Episcopal Church (910 Bowker St SE Lacey) is the Baronial Financial Committee Meeting, followed at 7:00 PM by the Baronial Business Meeting

- Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. This is the best way to find out what is happening in our barony and see who is in charge of what. It is also a great way to meet people and get involved. The meeting lasts about an hour.

3rd Monday at the Hoquiam Timberland Library at 5:30 is the Canton of Caladphort business meeting

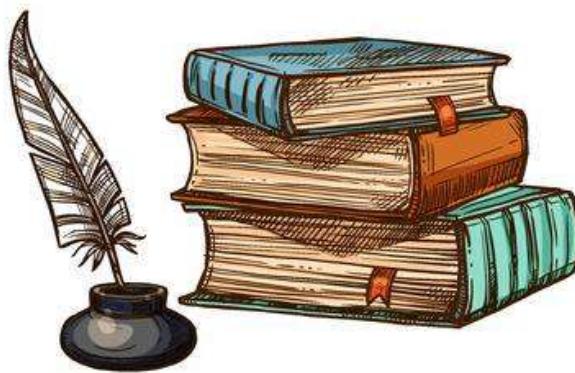
2nd Tuesday at 6:30 via Zoom is the Crow's Gate Business Meeting

Weekly events

- Wednesday fight practices at Garfield Elementary in Olympia starting at 6 pm
- Friday fight practices at Winter's Edge Gallery (2104 Sumner Ave, Hoquiam) starting at 5:30

Monthly events

- 3rd Tuesday is Family Activities and Social at St Benedict's Church Lacey starting at 6pm
- 3rd Thursday is an Arts & Sciences night – watch Facebook for themes and locations
- 3rd Sunday is the Arts & Sciences night – watch Facebook for themes and locations



*Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health.

Financial Committee Meeting

Quorum: Seumas mac Brehon, Angelica Carramon, Tamsyn l'Argent, Valentine l'Argent

Melissa of Dalmatia

Natasha Orionova

Zanetta Zavatta

Paulus Quintilius Barbatus

Volk the Grey

Caitlin Wintour

Daffyd Carramon

Isabella de Wallingeford

Barbara de la Medewe

Koźma z Łagowa

Polgy of Bramlynn

Meeting opens December 4 @ 6:35

Finance Report

- We have money!
- Have not received a check from Blatha an Oir
- Payment for storage fees is in the mail
- Have budgeted \$250 for a donation to St Benedict's Episcopal Church (same as last year)
 - Motion approved
- We had a suggestion to create a continuity binder for all our perennial events
 - Will start by collecting info on our big four events
- Looking into potential fundraising opportunities we might be able to do in the future
- We have a bid for Rose and Thorn
 - Motioned and approved
- Motion to approve use of PayPal and credit cards for Kingdom A&S and Queen's Rapier Championship
 - Motioned and approved

Meeting closed @ 6:50

Business Meeting

Additional attendees: Alexei Zateev, Snorri Bjornsson

Opens December 4 at 7:00

Agenda Items

- **Approval of the November Meeting Minutes**
 - Motioned and approved
- **Baronial donation to St Benedict's Episcopal Church**
 - Motioned and approved (see financial committee minutes)
- **New procedure: Event bid and recap**
 - Recommendation from Melissa of Dalmatia to include basic info about the location, expected budget, break-even point, etc, in the minutes and posted in the Looking Glass
 - Motioned and approved

Event Follow-Up

- No items

Upcoming Events

- **Yule**
 - On track with cooking
 - Have rented the hall for an additional evening so we can do setup and final meal prep the night before
 - Still very short on volunteers: please sign up to help wash dishes if you can
 - Will also need help on Friday around 2pm to pick up stuff
 - Will have banners displaying the heraldry of our members
 - Working on getting the site copy sent over for printing
 - Currently have an RSVP total of 135
- **Shamrock Demo**
 - Looking at doing a blanket tourney for Heavy
 - Jaques de Normandie will have some exciting tourney formats for Rapier
- **Lyceum**
 - Still in a holding pattern until January 1
 - Was able to get a few things done, more info to come in January
- **Kingdom A&S and Queen's Rapier Championship**
 - Found someone to potentially handle the pre-reg
 - Have someone I'm working with to run gate
 - Working on named insurance
 - Corrected Kingdom A&S officer on some event details and updated Kingdom calendar
 - We had some issues with having enough water for people last year, but I have a solution I'm working through
- **Mayfaire**
 - Will have a bid for the event at the next meeting
- **Garden Party**
 - Will have a bid to submit in February, not sure I can make the January meeting because I will be in Pennsylvania

Officer Reports

- **Exchequer**
 - We have money! (see financial committee report)
- **Arts & Sciences**
 - Glymm Mere:
 - The monthly A&S Night was moved to 11/20/25 (3rd Thu, because of Thanksgiving) at House RavenHart with many in attendance and multiple projects worked upon.
 - Caladphort:
 - The monthly Althing was held on 11/16/25 (3rd Sun) at the Household of HL Seraphina Quintana and Paullus Quintilius Barbatus
 - Caladphort:
 - The monthly Althing was held on 10/19/25 (4th Sun) at the Household of HL Seraphina Quintana and Paullus Quintilius Barbatus
- **Herald**
 - Several consultations on devices
 - Phase one of the banner painting project will be completed in time for Yule
 - Phase two, the replacement of banners that have been damaged. Will commence after the first of the year
 - There has been discussion of the idea of creating a banner deputy for the herald's office. This deputy would be responsible for maintaining the banners, fixing any damage that may occur, updating banners and adding new devices as they are passed.
- **Armored Combat Marshal**
 - No report
- **Provost of Fence**
 - We are still getting around 3 or 4 people a week for rapier practice, sometimes more
 - We have been fielding at least four people simultaneously for C&T (very excited about that) for the last couple practices
 - Will be submitting a receipt soon for a batch of tips from Castille Armory and hockey tape so we can be in compliance with the new rule regarding securing tips to blades
- **Cut and Thrust Marshal [OPEN]**
 - No report
- **Archery**
 - Closed down for the season
- **Thrown Weapons [OPEN]**
 - No report
- **Youth Combat**
 - No report
- **Lists**
 - No tournaments at Yule
 - Would like to suggest that, in lieu of doing this at our tournament, please consider supporting Toys for Tots or another charity this season
- **Chronicler**
 - Minutes for last month are posted and submitted
- **Bardic Coordinator**
 - No report
- **Chatelaine**
 - Our Social Night is paused in December
 - We will resume in January 2026

- November's Social Night saw a few new faces, and donations from some members who are no longer active
- Suggestions for upcoming Social Night classes or presentations or themes are most welcome
- Our next Demo will be Shamrock Tourney and Artisan Village in March
- My warrant is up in October 2026. I am actively seeking a replacement. I will be happy to mentor them. A good candidate should be someone comfortable speaking to newcomers about the SCA and the Barony, both in person and on email and social media. The ability to connect newcomers with folks who can mentor them in the arts that they are interested in is key. Please talk to me if you're interested

- **Gold Key**

- One person reached out for garb but never followed up
- Would like feedback from the populace about what colors of linen we should buy to make our new loaner garb out of

- **Scribe**

- No report

- **Family Activities Coordinator**

- Attended Rose and Thorn, didn't see a whole lot of kids there but am open to scheduling something for next year
- Attended Crows Feast, did have youth there and we have activities for them
- Couldn't make it to the social last month due to scheduling conflicts

- **Chamberlain**

- We need a bunch of stuff for Yule

- **Web Coordinator**

- Plugins are renewed
- All software up to date and backups made
- Added all events I am aware of to the calendar. Updated Yule with most recent from event steward
- Uploaded Looking Glass
- Paid Calendar Plugins will renew in Nov and I will submit reimbursement with receipts against yearly budget at December meeting

- **Social Media**

- Mistress Caitlin Wintour has agreed to be my Deputy, with the understanding that she will take over from me in early February. I'm most grateful.
- The 2nd biggest news is that Facebook is randomly sending posts to spam. There is no reason. Established members, event hosts; it doesn't matter.
- If your post is not showing up, holler at me. I'm regularly checking all groups and events, but sometimes I forget.
- So far no bad actors. Just legitimate posts being flagged as spam by the AI overlords.
- It's happening all across Facebook and the Kingdom SMO group is aware.

- **Seneschals (CP, CG, GM)**

- **Glymm Mere**

- We had a lot of events recently
- Practices are still going strong
- We are doing another baronial fighter calendar this year; we will be offering copies for \$20 a piece to support the barony

- **Caladphort**

- November has been quiet for the canton.
- We still have A&S on the third Sunday of the month.

- Our business meeting is the third Monday of the month.
- Fighting has been shut down for the winter.
- We are looking forward to Yule.
- I will be at the archery meeting tomorrow to speak to them about winter practice in Aberdeen at their indoor site, as we now have three people as members – which was the requirement to use that site.
- Other than that, there is nothing else to report
- **Crows Gate**
 - No report
- **Games**
 - We're having a Pachisi tournament at Yule
 - The format will be different from other Pachisi tournaments I've run, but it should be fun
- **Their Excellencies**
 - You can still sign up for the baronial gift exchange
 - Looking forward to Yule this weekend
 - Having a Caladphort brunch potluck the day after Yule

Old Business

- Nothing presented

New Business

- Nothing presented

Good of the Barony

- There was a big chain of custody issue with the handoff of the baronial thrones and banners at a prior event. We need to have policies in place to make sure these high-value items are cared for and returned properly.
 - Discussion
- It would be nice for us to have a wash station to have at the archery range and at other events. There is one available on Ebay for a good price.
 - Discussion
- **Reminder: the January 2026 meeting will be online only**

Meeting closed @ 7:50



Saturnalia

Paulus Quintilius Barbatus

Saturnalia was a vibrant and beloved Roman festival held in honor of the god Saturn, celebrated annually from December 17 to 23. Rooted in ancient agricultural traditions, Saturnalia commemorated the mythical Golden Age; a time of peace, prosperity, and equality under Saturn's benevolent rule. As one of the most popular holidays in the Roman calendar, it offered a joyful reprieve from the rigid social structures and daily routines of Roman life.

The festivities began with a solemn public sacrifice at the Temple of Saturn in the Roman Forum, followed by a lavish state-sponsored banquet. From there, the city erupted into days of merrymaking, private feasts, and public revelry. Streets were filled with music, laughter, and the scent of roasted meats and spiced wine. Homes were adorned with wreaths and greenery, and citizens exchanged their formal togas for colorful, relaxed garments, often bright tunics or robes more suited to celebration than ceremony.

One of the most striking aspects of Saturnalia was the temporary inversion of social norms. Role reversals were central to the spirit of the festival: masters served meals to their slaves, and slaves were granted unusual freedoms, including the right to speak openly and even mock their superiors. This symbolic upending of hierarchy was not just tolerated but encouraged, reflecting the festival's core theme of *libertas*, a license to break from convention and embrace equality, humor, and spontaneity.

Gift-giving was another cherished tradition. Romans exchanged small tokens such as candles (*cerei*), which symbolized the return of light after the winter solstice, and clay or wax figurines (*sigillaria*), often humorous or personalized. These gifts were not extravagant but carried sentimental or symbolic value, reinforcing bonds between friends, family, and neighbors.

During Saturnalia, normal civic life came to a halt. Courts and schools closed, business transactions paused, and even military campaigns were suspended. Gambling, typically frowned upon, was permitted, and dice games became a common pastime. In many households, a mock "King of the Saturnalia" was chosen (often a low-ranking member of the household or a slave) who presided over the festivities with comic authority, issuing playful commands and orchestrating games and pranks.

Though Saturnalia gradually declined with the rise of Christianity and the transformation of the Roman Empire, its legacy endured. Many of its customs; feasting, gift-giving, festive decorations, and the celebration of light, were absorbed into later traditions such as Christmas and Carnival. The emphasis on joy, communal celebration, and the temporary suspension of social norms continues to resonate in modern winter holidays.

Ultimately, Saturnalia was more than a festival; it was a cultural release valve, a time when Romans could laugh at themselves, embrace the absurd, and remember a mythical past where abundance and equality reigned. Its enduring influence reminds us that even in the most structured societies, there is room for joy, inversion, and shared humanity.

For more details, see World History Encyclopedia's entry on Saturnalia
(<https://www.worldhistory.org/Saturnalia/>)