

The Looking Glass



“February”

Dutch, 1772

(<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/387473>)

February

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 on 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 February 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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THE SCA PROHIBITS HARASSMENT AND BULLYING OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS. Participants engaging in this behavior are subject to appropriate sanctions. If you are subjected to harassment, bullying or retaliation, or if you become aware of anyone being harassed or bullied, contact a seneschal, President of the SCA, or your Kingdom's Board Ombudsman Copyright © 2020

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

Baronial Serjeants

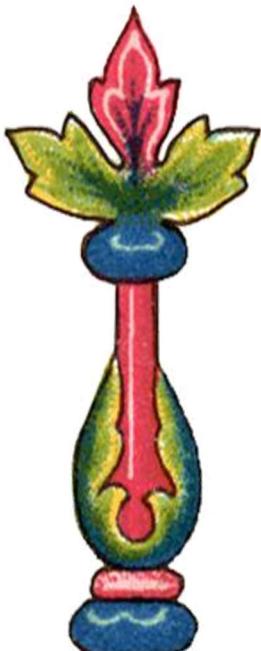
Baron Dunstan M'Lolane, Serjeant
Master Volk the Grey, Yeoman Emeritas
Sir Richard Fitzalan, Serjeant Emeritas
HL Karl von Miltenberg, Gallant
HL Ludwig Maltz der Brauer, Courtier
HL Besseta Wallace, Courtier
HL Snorri Bjornsson, Yeoman
Master Gryphon the Black, Yeoman Emeritus
HL Duihhinn Mac Faolan,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

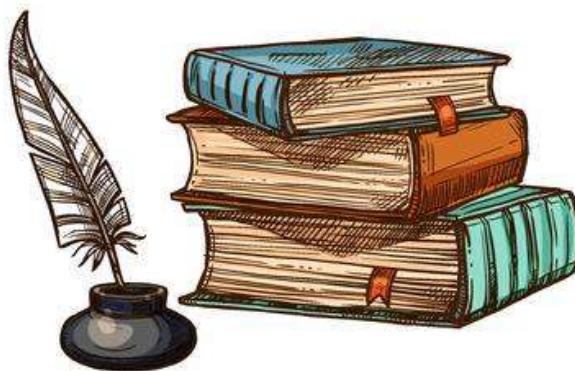
2nd Tuesday at 6:30 via Zoom is the Crow's Gate Business Meeting

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

Barbara de la Medewe

Alisdair Mac Roibert

Zanetta Zavatta

Fina of Glymm Mere

Caitlin Wintour

Ian Jameson

Daffyd Carramon

Volk the Grey

Paulus

Koźma z Łagówka

Melissa of Dalmatia

Aleksei Zateev

Jane Eagle

Meeting opens January 6 @ 6:30

Finance Report

- We have money!
- We have received a check from Blatha An Oir for Autumn War
 - Total profit: \$791.38
- Angelica would like to add Zanetta as an authorized signatory on the Glymm Mere account
 - Discussion. Motion approved to remove Alisdair from the account and add Zanetta
- We are waiting on the final numbers for Yule
- We have a bid for Mayfaire
 - Estimated expenses: \$742.15
 - Break-even is 90 people
 - Discussion. Melissa suggests we increase the event fee to \$15 and \$25 for members and nonmembers respectively to lower the break-even figure.
 - Some of the other numbers on the bid may also need to be adjusted
 - Discussion. Volk will update the bid and resubmit with adjustments.

Meeting closed @ 7:04pm

Business Meeting

Opens January 6 @ 7:04pm

Agenda Items

- **Approval of the December Meeting Minutes**
 - Motioned and approved
- **New WA food prep regulation impact on event logistics**
 - The new rules added a lot of complexity to Yule and significantly impacted our clean-up process afterwards
 - We will need to change some things moving forward so everyone can have a fun event while staying in compliance
 - Discussion
- **Gold Key fabric purchases**
 - We have made \$563 so far from selling off the old Gold Key stock that needed to be replaced.
 - The plan is still to replace what we have sold off with new, standardized tunics and other items
 - The main issue with this plan is that tariffs on EU linen are currently 7-9%, and tariffs on Chinese linen are 10-30%
 - Jane has requested a vote on what fabric we should buy and what style of garments we should make
 - Discussion. We will proceed with the original plan of making t-tunics out of blue and yellow linen/cotton blend, while trying to get the best deal off the current market

Event Follow-Up

- **Yule**
 - Awesome event, really good attendance, good food
 - Bardic circle went extremely well
 - Event space was roomy and gave us a lot of options
 - Special thanks to Alisdair and everyone who helped make the new banners; they really helped elevate the event
 - Our kitchen staff did an amazing job passing their food/health inspection mid-service
 - Lots of challenges because of the new food prep rules (see above)

Upcoming Events

- **Shamrock Demo**
 - Our preferred site is not going to be available for the 14th
 - We have a couple of choices how to handle this: move to our Harvest Demo spot in Heritage Park, move to Percival Landing, or change the event to the 21st or the 22nd in our preferred location
 - Discussion. We will move the event to Percival Landing on the 14th
- **Lyceum**
 - Event contract is signed
 - EIF is in
 - PayPal is set up
 - Will set up classes after 12th Night

- **Kingdom A&S and Queen's Rapier Championship**
 - Waiting until after 12th Night to get the PayPal paperwork in
 - We have a gate lead
 - Would like to borrow the Baronial banners and display stands for the event
- **Mayfaire**
 - Event proposal has been redone; motioned and approved
 - EIF is not in yet
- **Garden Party**
 - Will be at the same location as Mayfaire
- **Autumn War**
 - Bid has been accepted by Blatha An Oir
 - Working on centralizing the event space to make it more accessible
- **Rose & Thorn**
 - Rose & Thorn contract will be signed in the next few weeks.
 - Currently in contact with Jennifer to set a date to walk in and meet with her.
 - Dates are correct and I have the contract.
 - Room block opens when Jennifer has the contract in hand, which is why I want to give it to her personally
 - Check request should be in tomorrow
 - Will be putting together my team after 12th Night

Officer Reports

- **Exchequer**
 - We have money! (see financial committee report)
- **Arts & Sciences**
 - Glymm Mere
 - The monthly A&S Night was cancelled due to the holidays
 - On December 20th/21st, Master Thorvald taught a knife-making class
 - Caladphort
 - The monthly Althing was cancelled due to the holidays
- **Herald [UPCOMING VACANCY]**
 - Phase one of the banner project was a success
 - Had some people express interest in getting their heraldry added/creating new heraldry to display
 - Created a deputy position specifically to handle those parts of the banner project
 - Motion to create more display stands for the banner project; approved
- **Armored Combat Marshal [UPCOMING VACANCY]**
 - No report
- **Provost of Fence**
 - Purchased a batch of tips for the Baronial loaner box and submitted receipt for reimbursement
 - Looking forward to practice starting again soon
- **Cut and Thrust Marshal [OPEN]**
 - No report
- **Archery**
 - No practice because of the weather
 - Haven't tried the new indoor range yet
- **Thrown Weapons [OPEN]**
 - No report

- **Youth Combat**
 - No report
- **Lists**
 - No report
- **Chronicler**
 - Minutes for last month are posted and submitted
- **Bardic Coordinator**
 - No report
- **Chatelaine**
 - We've had a couple of newcomers reach out. They've been sent information about the Barony, social media, and upcoming events.
 - No Social Night in December; we will resume in January.
 - Got some trifold brochures about the SCA printed for distribution at South Puget Sound Community College. They have the Barony's name and web address on them.
 - Lastly, my warrant is up in October and I'm actively recruiting for a new Chatelaine.
- **Gold Key**
 - Working on the new tunic project
- **Scribe**
 - No report
- **Family Activities Coordinator**
 - No report
- **Chamberlain**
 - Not everything is back in storage yet from Yule
 - Will work on getting everything back into storage soon
- **Web Coordinator**
 - All website software up to date
 - Updated Indoor archery practice
 - Updated other events as needed
- **Social Media**
 - Social Media has been quiet.
 - Working on transitioning to a new SMO in February.
 - Facebook continues to flag legitimate posts as Spam. Daily checking all 3 accounts is required to keep up with it.
 - The Discord server is lively and growing.
- **Seneschals (CP, CG, GM) [UPCOMING VACANCY FOR GLYMM MERE]**
 - **Glymm Mere**
 - Yule was a really good event
 - **Caladphort**
 - The canton is doing good. We have a new member who is excited to do more things with us as a society.
 - The Grays Harbor Bowmen have opened their range to us for the 1st and 2nd Sunday of the month, 3pm-5pm. We had a marshal check it out Sunday and the indoor range is suitable for practice at 20 yards. If we want to do royal rounds, we will have to do that outside on that range.
 - Crossbows are only allowed outside. I tried to persuade them by showing them the types of crossbows we use, vs. modern ones used for hunting, but their argument was that if other members see us using crossbows inside, they will ask why they can't use their crossbows inside.

- We have access to the range and the property until March. They are open to holding day events there with enough notice and if it isn't over 100 people. They would feel better about it for smaller events to start so they can see how they work. I didn't think that was an unfair request.
- **Crows Gate**
 - No report
- **Their Excellencies**
 - Thanks everyone who helped make Yule amazing
 - Looking forward to 12th Night and Ursulmas

Old Business

- No old business

New Business

- No new business

Good of the Barony

- Jane Eagle – really glad this meeting was online. It's very hard for me to make it to the in-person meetings.
- Barbara – we should consider getting a camera/microphone setup to make our business meetings more accessible online. Discussion.
- Tamsyn – make sure you are checking officer emails, especially if you have sent anything out.

Meeting closed @ 8:35pm





New Year Celebrations Throughout Medieval Europe

by Paullus Quintilius Barbatus

Medieval Europe greeted the New Year with a remarkable diversity of customs shaped by local calendars, Christian observance, and older seasonal traditions. Unlike the modern world's near-universal January 1st celebrations, the medieval "New Year" might fall on January 1st, March 25th (Lady Day), December 25th, or even Easter, depending on regional practices. As a result, the turning of the year was less a single moment and more a shifting season of renewal.

Where January 1st was observed, its Roman roots remained visible. Medieval writers still associated the month with Janus, the dual-faced guardian of thresholds, and the day became linked with reflection and new beginnings. Gift-giving (known as *étrennes*) was central to the celebration. Nobles exchanged extravagant presents such as jeweled ornaments, fine fabrics, or ceremonial weapons, while common households offered modest tokens of goodwill. In some courts, these New Year gifts carried political weight, signaling loyalty or favor.

Across northern Europe, New Year festivities blended into the broader Christmastide season. Feasting was universal: households prepared roasted meats, spiced dishes, and strong winter ale. Music, dancing, and communal games filled the long winter nights. The burning of the Yule log, meant to smolder for days, symbolizing continuity and protection, its embers sometimes saved to bless the coming year's hearth.

Customs of luck and divination were widespread. The practice of first-footing; the belief that the first visitor to cross a threshold after midnight determined the household's fortune, appears in medieval sources and persisted for centuries. People cast lots, read omens, or performed small rituals to secure prosperity, health, or good harvests.

Sound and light played important symbolic roles. Church bells rang out to mark the transition and to drive away misfortune. Candlelit processions illuminated dark streets, blending Christian devotion with older winter rites of light conquering darkness.

Some regions embraced theatricality and social inversion. Mumming and masked performances brought humor and mischief to the season, while the Feast of Fools, celebrated in certain cathedral towns, allowed brief, sanctioned disorder. Clerical hierarchies were parodied, roles were reversed, and laughter served as a communal release before the return to ordinary discipline.

The New Year also functioned as a moment of social and administrative renewal. Guilds reaffirmed their oaths, communities settled accounts, and households renewed bonds of service. These practical acts grounded the festivities in the rhythms of medieval life.

Taken together, medieval New Year celebrations reveal a world where sacred time, seasonal change, and communal joy intertwined; where the arrival of a new year was marked not by a single countdown but by a constellation of rituals expressing hope, community, and shared identity.

Reference:

"How Did the Medieval World Celebrate New Year?" <https://www.historyhit.com/how-did-the-medieval-world-celebrate-new-year>