



# The North Wind

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Photo Credit: HL Aine inghean ui Chonchobhair

Baron's Column -	1
Editor's Letter -	2
Council Highlights -	3
Calendar -	4
Ask Our Alchemist -	5 & 6
Bard and a Banquet Photos -	7 & 8
Baronial Memories -	9 & 10
Baroness' Tourney Photos -	11
Baroness Favours -	12
Scroll of the Month -	13
Twass the Night Before Jule -	14
Baronial Council -	15



# Baron's Column



“The SCA is taking itself too seriously these day,” the young gentleman told me. “I am going to form my own medieval group so we can have fun again.”

Sound familiar? Perhaps, you have even said the first part yourself. Perhaps I have said it myself.

But there is a trick, of course, and the trick is this conversation happened over 30 years ago at a Norwescon in Seattle. There were always SCA demos at the SF Conventions back then. The future and the past had a strong kinship.

Perhaps the SCA does take itself too seriously and maybe it would be great to just press the reset button. This also tells me that some of the issues facing the SCA today have been issues for decades. It is all about change and how we fit into the change. Do we embrace the change? Are we the reason for the change? Does the change disenfranchise us?

There are many people that feel disenfranchised by changes in the way we play the game. Some people feel that this is generational - that we have an old guard and a new guard.

I am not really sure this is totally true because while I know of some long term Lionsgators that feel this way, I know others that have been around just as long but are the ones doing the moving and shaking of the group. At the same time, I have found new members that have felt that the older members don't want anything to do with them.

Some people feel this is interest related. They feel heavy rule the world and Rapier, A&S, Archery, Dance, and Service can play as long they don't get in the way. Again, I am not sure this is really true because I have loosed arrows with heavy fighters, rapier fighters, scribes, artisans, and dancers. I have seen many rapier fighters crossover to heavy and heavy fighters crossover to rapier.

Yes, things change. Attitudes change. Some of us outgrow certain activities. Clench a Wench might have been fun when we were 20 and single but the game can lose its appeal when you are older and married and have children.

There is room for all of us to play. We might not always get along. Sometimes, we might feel this household or generation or discipline is getting all the breaks while our household or generation or discipline is being disenfranchised. Chances are that other household or generation or discipline feels the same way. Things shift.

One of the best things, you can do whether you are new guard or old guard, rapier or heavy, archer or dancer is to go to an event or a practice and sit down with someone from the “other side”. Find out what makes each of you tick. Find some common ground if you can. If you can't just try to appreciate what the others do or even just their enthusiasm for doing it. Who knows, maybe you will even want to give it a try.

One of my favourite quotes is from Kipling's Jungle Books. “For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.”

# Editor's Letter

Greetings,

Welcome to the next great chapter in the illustrious history of the North Wind. With Archos James Wolfden stepping up as Baron, we needed a new Chronicler, and we needed one fast. I am his replacement. My name is Winifryd Euphemia Doiron, or Wendy, by the way.

I've been active in our Society for five years now, but in that time have only held one other official officer position – I was the last DragonWard before the Council chose to disband the position. Since then I have acted in a supportive, deputy role for the Watch of Lions Gate, under the leadership of my persona husband, Garet Doiron.

Mundanely I have a BA in English Literature, with a minor in Film and Video Studies from SFU. Currently I'm working on a certificate in Technical Writing from BCIT to supplement my original degree, and to hopefully become something when I grow up. As such, I'm looking forward to my new role as Chronicler as an opportunity to practice and refine my Technical Writing abilities.

Within the Society, I've mainly been a Heavy Fighter, but I'm finally getting involved with my real passion, which is archery - with the eventual, combined goal of combat archery. It feels like it's taken these past five years to get really comfortable, and to start properly coming into my own, and I hope becoming the Chronicler for Lions Gate will be a part of that.

Please enjoy the new issue, and have a wonderful holiday season!

In Service to Our Dream,  
Lady Winifryd Euphemia Doiron  
Chronicler for the Barony of Lions Gate

## **About the North Wind**

This is the November & December 2010 issue of The North Wind, a publication of the **Barony of Lions Gate**, of the **Society for Creative Anachronism**, Inc. (SCA, Inc.) The North Wind is available from the Chronicler, Marissa Fischer (Lady Winifryd Euphemia Doiron), amethyst@gmail.com and is also available from the Barony's website <http://lionsgate.antir.sca.org/public/>. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA, Inc. Policies.

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# Council Highlights Nov. 2010

## Council Change Over!

With the induction of the merciful James, and his beautiful Margaret as our new Baron and Baroness, it seems that much of Council will be changing hands over the next few months. Already we have a new Chronicler, Winifryd Doiron, Lists will shortly be taken over by the lovely and capable Baroness Caitrin, and Exchequer is still looking for an applicant.

Additionally, Francesca will officially be stepping down as Seneschale and that position will soon be posted as well. Applications will be due one week prior to January's Council.

## Lawsuit Hikes Membership Fees!

Due to extraordinary legal expenses from an ongoing lawsuit, the SCA has determined that our best option is to raise membership fees in most classes by \$8.00, effective January 1, 2011. Family membership rates will not increase, although the family cap for memberships will be raised by \$5.00 effective the same time.



## Achieve Lasting Fame in Your Barony - Become an Event Steward!

Seeking event bids at the Kingdom, Principality and Baronial levels.

Kingdom is now seeking bids for 2012.

Principality is seeking bids for Investiture.

Lions Gate still requires bids for:

- TOA
- Baroness' tourney
- Banquet
- Winter Defenders'
- Summer Defenders'

So, pick an event, put in a bid, and become an Event Steward!

## Looking for a New Way to Warm Up at Fight Practice?

Jaqueline Lefleur

To ward off the barn chill, there will now be hot drinks available at fight practice (every second Monday – on Archery nights) in Cloverdale! Tim Horton's hot chocolate mix and vanilla cappuccino mix, instant skinny lattes, and various caffeinated and non-caffeinated teas. All hot drinks only \$1 each. All extra funds raised will go to the barony of Lions Gate.



Please bring your own mug, or travel mug and come warm up with us!



# Lions Gate Calendar of Events



December-2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Event Listings for December-2010

Date	Branch	Event
4		<a href="#">Baronial Banquet</a>
Mon		Cloverdale Practice - <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">13</a> , <a href="#">20</a>
Thu		Baronial Council - <a href="#">16</a>
Wed		North Wind Deadline - <a href="#">22</a>
Thu		Rapier Practice - <a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">9</a> , <a href="#">16</a>
Thu		Dance Practice - <a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">16</a>
Fri		Newcomer Information Session - <a href="#">3</a>


January-2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## Event Listings for January-2011

Date	Branch	Event
7-9		<a href="#">An Tir 12th Night</a>
Mon		Cloverdale Practice - <a href="#">3</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">24</a> , <a href="#">31</a>
Thu		Baronial Council - <a href="#">27</a>
Wed		North Wind Deadline - <a href="#">26</a>
Fri		Bransle - <a href="#">14</a>
Thu		Rapier Practice - <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">13</a> , <a href="#">20</a> , <a href="#">27</a>
Thu		Dance Practice - <a href="#">6</a> , <a href="#">20</a>
Fri		Newcomer Information Session - <a href="#">7</a>

February-2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	5

## Event Listings for February-2011

Date	Branch	Event
18-20		<a href="#">Tir Righ February Investiture</a>
Mon		Cloverdale Practice - <a href="#">7</a> , <a href="#">14</a> , <a href="#">21</a> , <a href="#">28</a>
Thu		Baronial Council - <a href="#">24</a>
Wed		North Wind Deadline - <a href="#">23</a>
Fri		Bransle - <a href="#">11</a>
Thu		Rapier Practice - <a href="#">3</a> , <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">24</a>
Thu		Dance Practice - <a href="#">3</a> , <a href="#">17</a>
Fri		Newcomer Information Session - <a href="#">4</a>

# Ask Our Alchemist



*Dear Dr. Carus,*

*My hearing is not the best, so when a comely lass at an event I won't name asked if I wanted to go see the sex tent, I was quite eager to follow her. I hope I didn't appear too disappointed when she brought me to you and your astrolabe. It was quite fascinating really but I did wonder afterwards what was all that different between quadrants, sextants, and octants and which is better?*

*(Signed) Signor Casanova de C.*

Dear Signor Casanova de C.,

Though Dr. Carus is unfamiliar with the meaning of "sex tent", he supposes it would be a tent where "sexing" occurs – that is, the sorting of young animals into male and female, prior to converting the former into geldings, oxen or capons, presumably in the "unsex tent" next door. But that is just a guess, and there are more things in Heaven and Earth than are dreamt of in his monastery.

From Biology, to Astronomy. Whatever be the true nature of stars, they seem to be dots of light on the surface of a vast sphere – compared to which, the entire Earth is to be regarded as a point, without dimension – which we contemplate from the inside. The Ancients developed an array of instruments for mapping these, and reading them for purposes of timekeeping, navigation and surveying. Without going into details about the operation of each, a few (there have been many others) have evolved roughly as follows:

The Celestial Globe, which is much like a globe of the Earth, but marked with stars instead of continents and oceans. From this 3-D representation has been generated 2-D celestial charts by similar geometric projections as for terrestrial and nautical maps. Reported from the 6<sup>th</sup> C BC; the one held by the "Farnese Atlas" (a 2<sup>nd</sup> C Roman copy of an earlier Greek sculpture) is an example that has survived to the present time.

The Armillary Sphere, dating from the 3<sup>rd</sup> C BC, consists of graduated circular bands representing the celestial equator, tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, arctic and antarctic circles, ecliptic (along which the constellations of the zodiac are distributed, and the sun and planets pass), horizon, lunar orbit, and various meridians. Sighting through this instrument was the original means to catalog the stars and their positions.

The Astrolabe, from about the 4<sup>th</sup> C, can be considered as a cross-section (disk or circle) of the Armillary sphere. In its simplest form, the Mariner's Astrolabe, it measures the altitude of the sun or a star (especially, Polaris) above the horizon, for purposes of determining latitude (the full version has many other functions & features).

Since such altitude only varies from 0 to 90°, the Quadrant, which is one-quarter of a disk, suffices for this purpose. Its common use dates from 9<sup>th</sup> C Baghdad; European mariners had it by the 15<sup>th</sup> C. Building-sized versions ("mural quadrants") also existed, for extremely precise measurements, such as the one at Tycho Brahe's Uraniborg; another at Samarkand had a radius of 40 m.

The Octant incorporated a mirror so that both the celestial object and the horizon (or, a bubble artificial horizon) could be viewed side-by-side, greatly facilitating accurate reading on a rolling vessel; the mirror halved the arc of the instrument necessary to measure up to 90°, to 45° or 1/8 of a circle. Soon after it was realized that certain kinds of measurements somewhat larger than 90° would also be useful, hence the 1/6-circle Sextant. However, both these optically more complex instruments (soon incorporating small telescopes) only date from the 18<sup>th</sup> C, and are therefore post-Period.

On the other hand, the astronomical use of the very smallest slice of pie – a single thin line – was positively prehistoric, such as by early Polynesians to navigate thousands of miles over open ocean in outrigger canoes. By sighting along a simple plumbline towards a particular star that is known to pass directly over one's destination, one can find and follow that line of latitude to the goal. It has been proposed that it was by this means that certain wise men from the East did "follow" a supernova in the Andromeda Galaxy, that around the BC-AD transition would have passed directly over the little town of Bethlehem.



Further Reading:

Burlew R *Brotherhood of the Stick*, 2009; <http://tinyurl.com/2dj2ztw>.

Zachary MA "The Astrolabe I & II" *Compl. Anachr.*, 2010, No 147-148.

Holbein H *The Ambassadors*, 1533; <http://tinyurl.com/26cpt27>.

Paselk RA *Medieval Scientific Instruments*, 2008; <http://tinyurl.com/23egwtj>.

Brahe T *Astronomiae Instauratae Mechanica*, 1602; <http://tinyurl.com/2bsy6x3>.

Tipler FJ "The Star of Bethlehem: A Type Ia/Ic Supernova in the Andromeda Galaxy?" *Observatory*, 2005, June, Vol 125, p 168-174; <http://tinyurl.com/2andf2z>.

Dr. Carus, a Scholar of Alchemy, answers your questions on Medieval Science & Technology every month in the North Wind: email your question to either Dr. Carus at [darlingg\(at\)activematerials\(dot\)ca](mailto:darlingg(at)activematerials(dot)ca) or to the Chronicler.

# Bard and a Banquet Photos



(Top Photo) Don Pierce O'Brian, Baron Griffin, Noah Arney and Anthony James. (Bottom Photo) Jason Isaak and Shannon Hames. Photos Credit: Viscountess Safiye







(Top Photo) Don  
Pierce O'Brian, Anna  
Braumberger, and  
Jason Isaak.

(Right Photo) Noah  
Arney, Don Pierce  
O'Brian, Jason Isaak

Photos Credit:  
Viscountess Safiye



# Baronial Memories

Greetings to the populace of Lions Gate from your new Baron and Baroness,

We have heard the thank you's and accolades for a very memorable event. As your Baron and Baroness, We would also like to thank some people and congratulate a few others. This was a momentous event for us. We felt the excitement and support in the hall as we stood and accepted the responsibility of Baron and Baroness and the memory is only magnified with everything that happened.

Myrrim de Lancaster, you did an outstanding job as event steward. I know that the changeover of the Baronial Coronets threw some new challenges into your original concept but you adapted well and everything ran smoothly.

My thanks also go out to your team that you have already thanked. Your co-autocrat, John MacAndrew, Ylas and her gate crew including Wendy and my two daughters, the decorating team of John, Jaqueline, Fiona, and Isolde, Morweena for keeping the merchants happy, and Lord Stefano di Armani who kept the children entertained. I hope the birdcall has been found. I am sure there are others that I am missing.

Thanks to Dame Elena de Maisnilwarin and her team for running the lists. This includes Her Ladyship Algae McBeign, Her Ladyship Floralyn MacBrian and the lady Mina from Avacal running the heavy list and Brian Steele assisting Elena on the Rapier Lists.

Speaking of the rapier lists, thank you to the 21 rapier fighters that chose to challenge for the Rapier Defender of Lions Gate. I was very impressed by both the number and quality of the competitors.

Congratulations to the newest Rapier Defender of Lions Gate, Lord Callen Drakkar, inspired by Lady Francesca Wallace Drakkar. Good show.



Jaqueline Lefleur receives the Lions Claw.  
Photo credit: Winifryd Doiron

Congratulations to Matthias Blennerhassett for winning Gerhard's Riposte and to Lady Alessandra for winning the Chivalry Prize.

Congratulations to His Highness Kirk Einarsson, Prince of Avacal for winning the unbelted heavy tourney and to His Lordship Hraði inn Rakki for being the member of the Sargeantry that went the furthest. Hraði is now the owner of the Boar Spear.

During the day, we knew of at least one squire, one cadet, and one apprentice being taken. Best of luck on your journeys.

I, Baron James, was quite delighted to see my Arcarius, Lady Jaqueline Lefleur, receive a Lions Claw as well as Clan MacAndrew.



Viscountess Chiara warms up Court with some bardic.  
Photo Credit: Winifryd Doiron

William Arwemakere finally got the land he wanted – albeit briefly. Why do we feel William will want to talk to us about getting it back?

Speaking of land, it seems Lions Gate just got a little larger. We would like to welcome our recently acquired friends from Eisenmarche into Lions Gate.

Both Alzbieta and Isolde the Celt received her Award of Arms. Caemgen received his Goutte. Aelana Cordovera received the Lions Strength for long term service to the Kingdom. I thought the belt that Queen Miranda was wrapping Aelana with was never going to end.

We saw two Dons made this evening. Congratulations to Don Warwick Drakkar and Don Draven McRaith.

And, of course, Caitrin received her Pelican.

A wonderful evening that we will always remember.

Baron James Wolfden  
Baroness Margaret



William Arwemakere briefly acquires some land.  
Photo credit: Winifryd Doiron



Don Draven MacRaith  
Photo credit: Alessandra  
Giancomo



Provost Warwick Drakkar  
Photo Credit: Don Talon

# Baroness Tourney Photos



Elsbeth watches as her husband Wulfstan receives a period instrument.  
Photo credit: Winifryd Doiron



Caemgen receives his Goutte.  
Photo credit: Winifryd Doiron



The entire Clan MacAndrew receives the Lions Claw  
Photo credit: Winifryd Doiron



Malie looks on as Warwick becomes a member of the Order of the White Scarf.  
Photo Credit: Winifryd Doiron

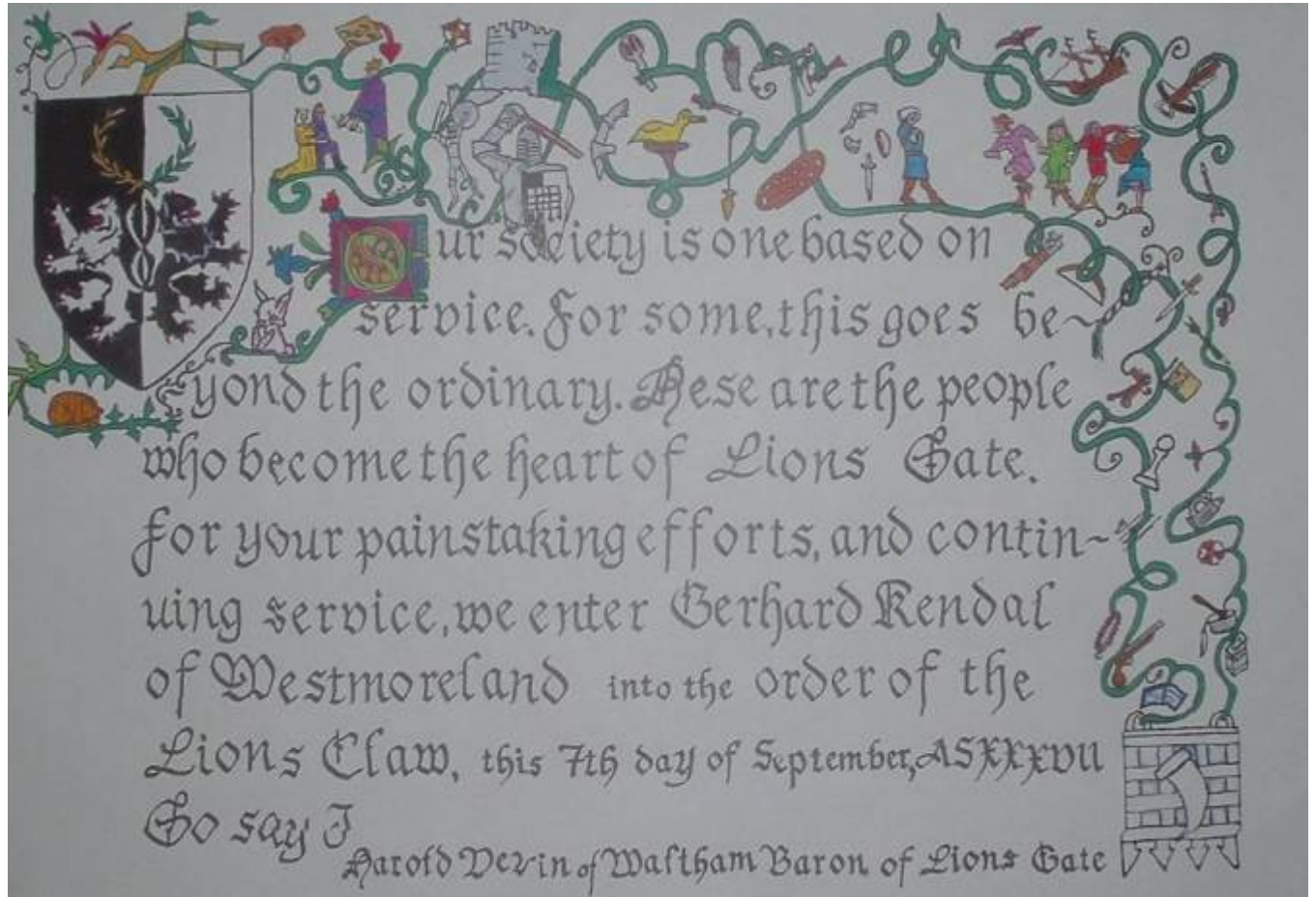




Baroness' Favours, presented at Baronial Banquet



# Scroll of the Month



As this issue marks the start of Baron James and Baroness Margaret's reign as the fourth baronial couple of Lions Gate, it seems only fitting that this month's Scroll of the Month should feature a scroll given to Lions Gate's first baron - Gerhard Kendal.

Scroll by Sergeant Miles.

# 'Twas the Night Before Jule

By HL Sionann in Ui Fhlaithbheartaig  
MKA: Sheila Louise Wright

'Twas the night before Yule, when all through the hall  
Not a Viking was stirring, not Saxon nor thrall.  
The horns were all hung from limp, drowsy hands  
While wee drunken Norsemen dreamt of far away lands,  
Of gold, of jewels, and yes, silver too,  
Of cloths, of bread and yestereve's stew,  
Of women, of raiding and houses to pillage,  
Of churches, of plunder and burning that village.  
And every so often from under the furs  
Came a grunt and belch and sleepy night purrs.  
And the Jarl and his wife, all snug in their bed  
Deeps under covers, right over their heads.  
The fires grown dim, burned down to the embers  
While grey curling smoke rose up to the rafters.  
When out in the yard there arose such a clatter,  
Norsemen came running to see what was the matter.  
Away through the great doors they flew in a flash,  
Brandishing weapons with a thrust and a slash.  
Stumbling and strapping on armor and axes,  
(With King Alfred about, no-one relaxes)  
Out into cold air and new fallen snows,  
Icy chill numbing cheeks, fingers and nose.

When what to their wondering eyes did appear,  
But three jolly fat Friars, with a cartload of beer.  
"Odin be praised" shout the Vikings around.  
"Merry Christmas," retorted the priest with a frown.  
"Tis not about glory to false gods and libation,  
But love, and peace and meek adoration.  
This is the season of joy, mirth and awe,  
For Jesus Christ's birth, the King of all Gods."  
Danes scratched at their beards, and stood there thinking,  
Wishing preacher would stop and they could start drinking.  
But ooon and ooon spake the longwinded friar,  
And Viking patience was beginning to tire.  
The Jarl with a smile and a twist of head  
Silently signaled, and the friars knew their dread.  
They relieved the good Brothers of their burdenous brew,  
And their cart... and their clothes... and their pair of nags too.  
And each grateful Viking drank hearty and long.  
They roasted horse flesh, spoke riddles, sang songs.  
And before they dug in to their feast for the night  
Jarl shouted these words o'er the din of delight  
"To the friars and their Christ, for the beer and the meat,  
Hail Odin and Thor! Now, good gods, let's eat!"





Their Royal Majesties of An Tir - King Tiernan Mor Dal Cais and Queen Miranda Faoltiarna  
([king@antir.sca.org](mailto:king@antir.sca.org), [queen@antir.sca.org](mailto:queen@antir.sca.org)).



Their Highnesses of Tir Righ - Prince Alden ap Owain and Princess Katherine atte Moure  
([prince@tirrigh.org](mailto:prince@tirrigh.org), [princess@tirrigh.org](mailto:princess@tirrigh.org)).



Baron & Baroness of Lions Gate - Their Excellencies James Wolfden and Margaret Hamilton  
([baronandbaroness@lionsgate.antir.sca.org](mailto:baronandbaroness@lionsgate.antir.sca.org))

# Baronial Council

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