



THE CITADEL

Third Quarter // OCTOBER A.S. LX

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WORDS FROM THEIR EXCELLENCIES BARON BJARKI AND BARONESS VALKA

Greetings to the Barony!

We once again return to the Tower from War.

Thank you to everyone who braved the heat to help with set up, making our camp so comfortable to live in for the duration of the War.

Members of Cynnabar were an inspiration as they contributed all throughout the war, including teaching classes, service, playing for the Ball, and different martial activities.

Forester Dillon represented the Barony as the Archery Champion for the Knowne World Baronial Archery Champions Tournament. He also helped with range set up and thrown weapons.

Kennari Ulfrun competed at Kingdom A&S with an amazing display titled Skeletal Materials Carving: Comparing Materials and Treatments.

Cynnabar fielded 17 armored fighters, following our own Captain Jorun as Pentamere Regional Commander. Thank you to Mistress Jadwiga, Master Aaron, and Ambrose for playing us out to the field, and Lady Caryn and Sir Bran for taking photos!

Warder Throckmorton, Johannes, and Baron Bjarki fought for the Midrealm on the rapier field.

Baron Tairdelbach represented Cynnabar as the Champion in the Knowne World Baronial

Armored Champions Tournament. The tournament was well attended and received glowing compliments, especially for the hospitality. Thank you to all that helped with set up and tear down, including Geirr, Andronicus, Marco, Louis, William, and Sir Crispin, and to Renaude, Hannah, and Simone for putting together and serving refreshments for the Baronage and the fighters. Sir Irenfest was once again the MiC and MC, assisted in marshaling by Sir Gregoire and Ugrath. The amount of support the Barony provides in putting on this event is greatly appreciated.

In Baronial court, heralded by Johannes, We were happy to bestow Louis and Geirr with Elephant's Hearts for their enthusiastic service, and Baroness Hannah received a Legacy Elephant's heart to honor her ongoing service in the Barony. In a Royal field court on Friday, Baron Bjarki was honored with a Dragon's Tooth for his spearwork against our enemies in the Woods battle.

Shortly after returning home from the Kingdom of Aethelmarc, many in the Barony made the voyage north to the lands of Donnershafen for Vikings Come Home. Members of the Barony helped with feast, taught classes, participated in archery and rapier, fielded 18 armored fighters, and took part in the cabin potluck block party. Congratulations to Ugrath, who was squired to Sir Jasen!

We are so proud to be a part of this Barony who shares so freely of their time, skills, and knowledge to make events and experiences better for other people.

We look forward to A Grand Day of Tournaments on October 25!

Huzzah Cynnabar!

In Service,
Valka and Bjarki

CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER/DECEMBER 2025

Baronial Armored and Rapier Practice

weekly on Thursdays, 7 pm start

Baronial Business Meetings

all Thursdays *except*
first Thursday of the month, 7 pm start

Baronial Thursday activities held at **Peoples Presbyterian Church**
Milan, Michigan

A GRAND DAY OF TOURNAMENTS AT THE BARONY OF CYNNABAR

Saturday, October 25, 2025

<https://www.cynnabar.org/grandday>

Cynnabar Baronial Wassail!

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at the Chelsea Community Fairgrounds

I Godhit Write this ...

This is my next-to-last issue of The CITADEL to publish. In our recent baronial Officers Retreat the baronial officers were given time to talk about their reasons for wanting to serve as officers of the Barony. Pretty much it was universal: to “give back” and to help keep the Barony’s heart beating.

I made a more controversial statement: to ensure the Barony’s legacy, its history. I think I said: as long as there’s electricity and an Internet connection, the Barony of Cynnabar lives. Ethereally, but indefinitely. Yes, what the Chronicler does “primarily” is produce a newsletter that is required by the SCA, Inc. – but in so doing, also preserves the history of the Barony.

To sum up my two years’ tenure as Chronicler I can say, I went looking for the baronial history I could find, and published it. In the summer of 2018, ahead of Cynnabar’s Ruby Jubilee for its 40th anniversary, I sat down with legacy member Baron Dabhid MacLachlan as well as first baron Sir Straum. I interviewed them extensively ... I still have pages of notes from those happy occasions. Baron Dabhid has written a wonderful history which he has published on his website. Baron Dabhid has asked that his history not be linked online in any CITADEL and I honor that request – anyone who wants to find it certainly can by using fairly obvious search terms in any browser. (Just note that there is an updated 3rd edition dated 2021.)

Baron Dabhid’s charge to me was simple: he wrote about Cynnabar through 1998 and I was to take it from there. I hope I have, even just a little bit, advanced that commission.

Yours in Service, -- Godhit of Cynnabar, outgoing Chronicler

Introducing ... Deputy Chronicler Lambert Eisvogel

Hail, friends! I am the current deputy Chronicler, Gentle Lambert Eisvogel. If you attend the Barony's regular Thursday night meetings or have attended an archery practice in the last few months, we've likely met, but in the extremely likely case that we haven't spoken in person, an introduction is in order. First, and this sentence clunks wherever I put it, I identify as queer, and I use they/them pronouns (though I will accept he/him at events). I am extremely new to the SCA - I attended my first ever event this year (the Barony of Andelcrag's Winter Revel) in garb I borrowed from my partner, Ásmundr. I'd love to say I was hooked and hurried next to the Cynnabar weekly meetings, but instead, life got in the way and (aside from one meeting I attended virtually sometime in March) it wasn't until Spring Revel that I actually made it out to a Cynnabar event.

Very quickly, Ása and I found ourselves a place in Cynnabar, and attending the weekly meeting became the highlight of our weeks. And just about every week, there was a call to volunteer for *something*. I have, perhaps, been known to throw myself into volunteer work and hobbies quickly become like jobs to me - a phenomenon I wish to avoid with the SCA, as it's been instrumental in returning a sense of fun to my daily life. I held off (valiantly!) until Forester

Godhit mentioned she would like to step down from the position of Chronicler.

So, why Chronicler? Why did this position pull me in? Well, first, I'd become comfortable enough that the itch to contribute to the Barony became less of an obligation in my mind and more an avenue for connecting with and getting to know the folks whom I don't see weekly. Second, as a creative outlet, there are few things with more potential than a newsletter. A newsletter can be anything, truly, so long as it fulfils the needs of the community as a baseline. I have a long history of working on literary magazines and small publications (I'm happy to share examples!) to flex my document design skills; I love tinkering with documents and working as a Chronicler seems the perfect opportunity to play in that space again. Third, I would be remiss if I didn't mention I am an archivist in my mundane life, and a chronicle is a written account of historic events - our *Citadel* is our history, and I am excited to help steward that history.

3rd Quarter (Jul-Aug-Sep) Officers Reports, Barony of Cynnabar

Business Meeting Thursday, July 24, 2025:

Seneschal

My report will be due before Pennsic (Aug 1), so I will complete it this week. Would like to have a retreat sometime in the fall – a simple meeting – with all the officers. The goal of which would be to discuss roles, responsibilities, and communication. It will likely be held at the church just after a meeting.

Herald

Mostly done updating the OP. We have a couple of people from Northwoods we will add in SCA names as we do not have release forms for modern names.

Exchequer

We have \$15,622.79 in the bank. We received a \$300 donation from the Celtic Festival for our participation. For church site rental donations, we have received \$1000 from pass-the-hat. That covers 20 Thursdays. We've had 18 or 19 rentals so far this year.

June's report balances out and needs to be sign

MOAS

Nothing to report

Social Media

Nothing to report

Rapier

Report is due at the end of the month. Bunch of participations, no incidents to report.

Armoured Marshal

Not in attendance/Not reporting

Chronicler

- The July CITADEL was published on time

- July 1 (2nd quarter) Kingdom Report was filed.
- According to our Regional Chronicler, finishing touches are being applied to the long-awaited training materials for branch chroniclers as of July 12, 2025.
- Lambert is now Deputy Chronicler and it's the intention that they will be voted in as Chronicler for the April 2026 (1st Q) CITADEL issue.
- We need to have a discussion about release forms and ownership as there's some confusion about management and maintenance across roles.

Webminster

Want to report that the website update project is progressing very well.

Will be asking all OFFICERS to review their pages on the original website to make sure the information there is up to date. Every officer should be able to update their own page in the current site; if anyone unable to do this, for whatever reason, please let the webminister know. These pages should be updated by the end of August.

Chatelaine

-- No report

-- Her Excellency reports we had 3 people show up from Celtic Festival to our Baronial meeting/practices

Their Excellencies

We're still a Barony. YEAH!

Business Meeting Thursday, August 28, 2025:

Seneschal: My report was filed before Pennsic (Aug 1). Would like to have a retreat sometime in September – a simple meeting – with all the officers. The goal of which would be to discuss roles, responsibilities, and communication. Sounds like we are leaning towards a virtual meeting. I would like to make sure that deputies and the populace are allowed to attend if they'd care to.

Herald: Nothing new to report. Working on some updates to the O.P. from Pennsic.

Exchequer: We have \$16,042.79 in the bank. No outstanding financial issues. Please remember to donate for the rental of the site for our meetings/practice. And please remind the rapier and armored folks that may be outside about the 'pass the hat'. Still on the Exchequer want-to-do list: Provide a slightly updated 'event proposal' form that will capture a couple of additional things needed for Kingdom event reports. Also on the want-to-do list is to update/reorganize the Google Drive files so everything is consistent.

MOAS: The theme of the Month poll was tied, but went with "Organics." Next month's Theme will be "Color" in anticipation of the Autumn leaves changing.

-- People have shown interest in learning "How to participate in an A&S Display". Will be making arrangements with Hannah.

-- Looking for an opportunity to arrange a "Pumpkin Decorating Contest" for October. Painting, carving, and adhering would all be acceptable. Currently considering a bean-count voting system.

-- Asa volunteered to do a Spooky storytelling, particularly a romantic werewolf story.

Webminister: Continuing to populate the new website with current information. Assisting with Grand Day website updates. Quarterly report submitted on time. Checking on O.P. updates.

Chronicler:

- Work on the October CITADEL will begin Sept.1.
- Following up with Lambert re: Chronicler training & transition
- Helping with website updates - in particular GDoT Website.

Social Media: Nothing new to report.

Rapier: Rapier practices are happening. Lots of people - no injuries to report.

Armoured Marshal: Not in attendance/Not reporting

Excellencies: Looking forward to the Vikings event – we have a full cabin; lots of great things coming up this fall.

-- We're still a Barony!

Business Meeting Thursday, September 25, 2025:

Seneschal

- The officer retreat went well. I still need to get the meeting minutes together - will work on this weekend. The officer team requested that we hold another one in six months.
- Officers – please connect to your email :) (You know who you are!)
- Finn and I are working on making me a signer on the bank account.

Herald

I submitted my 3rd quarter Herald Report on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd. I'll be working on the OoP this weekend. I'm a bit behind on the OoP updates.

Exchequer

- We have \$15,373.06.79 in the bank. This month's Exchequer report balances (with no outstanding checks) and has been submitted to Kingdom!
- Please remember to donate for the rental of the site for our meetings/practice. And please remind the rapier and armored folks that may be outside about the 'pass the hat'.
- Still on the Exchequer want-to-do list: Provide a slightly updated 'event proposal' form that will capture a couple of additional things needed for Kingdom event reports. Also on the want-to-do list is to update/reorganize the Google Drive files so everything is consistent.
- Looking for a deputy – mainly to help with signing checks – but would be nice if they wanted to know more about the role.

MOAS

- September's A&S Theme was "Color"
- Rosalyn hosted a class- "On Raising Pies".

- Upcoming Pumpkin Decorating Contest (hosted by self) and Werewolf Literature Discussion (hosted by Asa) happening Thurs. Oct 2nd.

Webminister

Continued to develop the new website:

- Created a to-do list for getting ready for cut-over
- Extracted the list of pages that were migrated last year and sorted by those to publish and those to archive. Removed a few duplicates.
- Converted the Google Sheets Order of Precedence (out of date) to two different formats for testing
- Met with Kingdom web minister to discuss forms
- Created a test contact form
- Met with the Seneschal to review progress and get suggestions

Attended the Officers meeting on Sept. 15

Continued to sort out the officers' email situation

Chronicler

1. The October CITADEL is nearly finished. Once I have the September Officers' Reports included, the issue is more or less finished.
2. We look forward to voting in October on Lambert's offer to be the next Chronicler.
3. The recent Chronicler email-to-officers-email "test" went well, with only the Rapier Marshal, Armoured Marshal, and Chatelaine officers not acknowledging. It's unknown if they didn't get the email or? I made updates to the Officers Roster email list that is published in every CITADEL.

Chatelaine

Looking to connect with Asa regarding the changeover. Hoping to transition the role at Grand Day. Nothing new to report.

Social Media

- Completed my quarterly report.
- Open to help with content creation.

Rapier

Rapier practices are happening. Lots of people - no injuries to report.

Armored Marshal

Not in attendance/Not reporting

Excellencies -

State of the Barony has been turned in. Planning on attending Coronation (with children!) and will swear fealty then. Updated the progress online.

We're still a Barony!

Book Reviews by Godhit of Cynnabar

Anthony Riches: “Empire” Series, Books I-III, “Wounds of Honour,” “Arrows of Fury,” “Fortress of Spears.”

Original publication dates 2009, 2010, 2011 respectively. I happened to find the first book of this series – now numbering 14 books with #15 expected in 2026 – at a local re-use store. I thought: Oh! It’s second-century Roman Britain! And it seems pretty true to the setting. The plot is fairly familiar: Young man from noble family, who is really the foster-child of said noble family, must assume anonymity and fight his way back to respectability and exact retribution for nasty injustices committed against *both* his families by corrupt emperor. His idea of low-key anonymity is as a Centurian of an Auxiliary cohort along Hadrian’s Wall where his noble training – he’s a former Praetorian! – gets him noticed nearly immediately. By Book #3 it’s one blood-spurting, faeces-voiding, anatomically-correct [male] dismemberment and beheading after another, versus a variety of Celtic badguys.

However: at least the first two are worth reading for the latter-day anachronistic chatter among Roman Legionaries and Auxiliaries. The banter is a mash-up of A-TEAM and BAND OF BROTHERS set along Hadrian’s Wall in CE 181. You could do worse, especially for 3-for-a-dollar at the re-use store.

C J Sansom: The Shardlake Mysteries (adventures of a Tudor lawyer, 1537-1549)

Among my three-books-for-a-dollar was “**Dissolution**,” published in 2003. “Dissolution” finds our protagonist lawyer Mathew Shardlake on assignment from Thomas (“Wolf Hall”) Cromwell, to investigate the mysterious murder of a Crown official at a monastery holding out against Henry VIII’s disestablishment. “**Sovereign**,” the third book (of seven) and set in 1541, has our hero on secret duty for Archbishop Thomas Cranmer and on his way to York for the King’s Progress there. I don’t feel that I missed anything by not having read “Dark Fire,” set in 1540, between the 1st and 3rd book: there were some allusions to events in “Dark Fire” but none that distracted from the plot-at-hand. “Sovereign” is clearly better writing with less obvious plot hacks, better suspense, and a faster pace. The fifth book “**Heartstone**” incredibly involves archery and the *Mary Rose* – but the pacing was a clip even faster than the previous two books I’d read, in my opinion. I skipped “Revelation,” between “Sovereign” and “Heartstone” without ill effect. The grittiness of the setting – the struggles of dynastic and religious dislocation in the reign of Henry VIII – can start to feel heavy (at least to this modern reader) but Sansom’s Shardlake – narrating in first person – is himself struggling through his own identity questions. The heaviness is, in my opinion, shared between main character and reader.

I’m sorry to report that author C J Sansom died in 2024. He was a historian and a lawyer by trade: his books cite plenty of historical sources. Shardlake novels are not just mysteries à la Poirot or Wimsey but interpersonal dramas that seem (to me) to parallel developments in our current culture. Much is made of the impetuosity and cruelty of kings and nobles and how the innocent and powerless are often damaged as bystanders. By the end of a Shardlake, especially “Sovereign,” you’ll feel like you’ve lived through it. Take heart! Serjeant Shardlake is on your side.

Got a book or a movie or podcast to tell Cynnabar about? Let the Chronicler know!
Cynnabar.Chronicler@midrealm.org



OFFICERS OF THE BARONY OF CYNNABAR

OCTOBER 2025

Baron	Bjarki Bjornson	cynnabar.excellencies@midrealm.org
Baroness	Valka Iansdottir	cynnabar.excellencies@midrealm.org
Seneschal	Hannah Schreiber	cynnabar.seneschal@midrealm.org
Exchequer	Finn Finnegan o'Flynn	cynnabar.exchequer@midrealm.org
Social Media Officer	Beth of Cynnabar	cynnabar.socialmedia@midrealm.org
Minister of Arts & Sciences	Wanda Zajackowa	cynnabar.moas@midrealm.org
Armored Marshal	Charles Gotzfürboter	cynnabar.marshal@midrealm.org
Fencing Marshal	Thomas Throckmorton	cynnabar.rapier@midrealm.org
Herald	Leopold Ruber	cynnabar.herald@midrealm.org
Chatelaine	Daeg ingen Aeda	cynnabar.chatelaine@midrealm.org
Chronicler	Godhit of Cynnabar	cynnabar.chronicler@midrealm.org
Webminister	Aeffe Torisdottir	cynnabar.webminister@midrealm.org

Required Inclusion:

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