

THE URSUS SEPTENTRIA IN REVIEW



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Baroness Anne
Seneschal



TE Septentria
Brendan and
Jehanne



Master
Kersteken
Chronicler



Lord Thomas
the Pardon
Contributor

From the Camp of Their Excellencies

Greeting from the high seat of the Barony of Septentria to the populous, friends and allies, from close and far.

Already the season of harvest is coming to us and beyond, the long winter sleep. This summer was a different one because of the turbulent mundane world we live in but it was also a glorious one for the kingdom and for the Barony. It started by the 50th anniversary of the Royal City of Eoforwic, our oldest canton and one of the pioneers of the SCA in Ealdormere. It was a glorious event. This is heralding the 50th Anniversary of the Barony in a couple of years, to which more will be announced in time. We had a new and successful site for Trillium War where we had a successful baronial court full of excitements, including a marriage proposal, a get together and a wonderful court along our lupine Majesties. Many traditions were revived, many more upheld and continued. We most certainly hope there will be many more.



We finished our summer by visiting the Shire of Champcorbeau for their new camping event, which was a very promising start in a promising site. The fall will see two key events for our Barony, the first Step Spritely to which amateurs of music and dance will certainly enjoy and Coronation of Tristham and Anneke. The last is always of mixed emotions. Sadness that we see our Royal Majesty step down but joy to see their heir take the reign and continue the legacy of good stewardship and enlightened leadership.

There will be many more events on the lands or our cousins and our proud shires, and as usual I invite you to attend to as many as your life allows. It is always a pleasure to see you all in action whether on the field of glory, in the A&S or serving in all capacities our community. Without all your passion and efforts, in all aspects, our hobby cannot exist.

As mentioned earlier, the 50th anniversary of Eoforwic herald another anniversary, the 50th anniversary of the Barony. As you each know, Septentria was the first Barony of what would become Ealdormere but then part of the Middle Kingdom. It is an important moment in our history and we would obviously highlight such important moment to all of us. It means 50 years of stories and events, 50 years of wonderful people coming together and showing their prowess at fighting, shooting, organizing and as artisan, 50 years of tradition but, very importantly a door

opening to the future. As such, we would like suggestion and idea to make that year a memorable one. Bring your ideas for both events and traditions, old and new one. If you can, share them with your seneschal, or with us directly if you can.

Word fails when describing the pride and joy of seeing smiles on all of you at events, but if ever doubt and sadness comes to haunt your part of the dream, remember that what you do is unique and important to many. And if you doubt it further, come and see us and we'll prove it to you.

I must put the quill down for now, as I have taken ill of a little cold and need rest. As always in our modern and hobby world, take care of each other and spread joy and hope around. Making a better world only start by being a better person, for you, for us, for our world whether be it the modern middle ages or the mundane one.

Hoc'h e servij,

Baroness Jehanne de Bretagne and Baron Brendan



This is what happens when
Kiki and tech fight

Eoforwic 50!
Cheers to 50 years

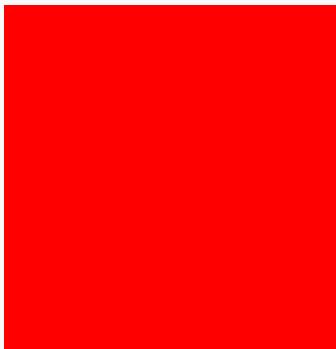




Still Going Strong!

The SCA attendance and Volunteerism has many ebbs and flows. Despite all of the changes in the world, The Royal Citie of Eoforwic remains strong in Ealdormere.











**Lord Thomas the
Pardoner**

What is it like to step away from the Society for decades and then return? This wasn't a question I thought I would be able to answer, but here we are, and I find myself in that situation.

In the 80s and 90s I was very active in the SCA. I was seneschal of Eoforwic during its Decennial celebration, Lord Mayor of the City, and at various times chronicler, autocrat (for the 100 Years War event), feastocrat (for the second Venetian event of AS 28) and filled various other offices. During this period I would occasionally see various pillars of the community drift away, to be rarely seen again and I did not understand it. How could someone who had centred their life around the SCA just drift away? It made no sense. Then it happened to me.

In the mid-90s, I started to drift away myself. My wife and I were self-publishing a comic book and spending most weekends at comic book conventions. The SCA started to move into the background. We attended fewer and fewer events and meetings. And I discovered that the SCA is a habit. When you keep it up, it is easy. When you fall out of the habit, it is no longer part of the routine. Then it is much more difficult. You don't have, as a matter of course, meeting nights and weekends free. You have to remind yourself to attend and you do that less and less often.

We came back for a bit in the mid-00s. We had a couple of young children and would bring them to events and Pennsic (where my wife had a close friend from far away that we loved to see). But then life got more busy and it faded away again.



I returned about a year and a half ago. Part of it was that I am retired now and have more time. Part of it was that I knew that the 50th was approaching and was interested in being there for that. This time, I determined to make it a habit again, part of the routine. So I made sure to set aside time to attend the weekly meetings (and, living on the Cliffs, I try and attend the Ard Chreag meetings, too). It is still tough to get that second weekly evening to attend fight practices, but I mean to do that, too. And I am attending events more. The more you do, the easier it is to do more.

What is it like seeing Septentria and Ealdormere after so many years of absence? Weird. The Septentria I know best, the one I spent the vast majority of my SCA time in, was presided over by Baron Aedan and Baroness Caffa and was much larger. (So was Eoforwic, which is also taking some getting used to.) It was part of the Middle Kingdom. My first impression was “There are so many freakin’ knights!” I used to be able to count the knights on the fingers of one hand and have some left over.

Returning after decades, there are a lot of well-established people I don’t know and I’m enjoying becoming acquainted with. Connecting with people who go back decades, however, is easy, as we have shared experiences that not so many others do. The past is fresher for me, though, as I don’t have the decades of Ealdormere experience to make it blurrier. I started the #ThrowbackThursday posts to try and lure out some of my old friends, who had also drifted away. But I am continuing them. I think they can help bridge the present to the past for others.



Some things haven't changed. There is still the focus on service, a wide variety of arts pursued and encouraged, and martial activities remain a draw and a centre of activity for many. People still have fun in many of the same ways. Septentria is still a very "down to earth" barony. I can still see the influence of Aedan and Caffa on our culture, all these decades later.

One major change I've noticed is, of course, the shift to online channels for communications. Everything seems to be Facebook and Discord these days. This isn't a bad thing. I use and enjoy these channels. But I miss the Canton newsletters and address lists. I've been reading the old chronicles recently and I think future ones are going to be harder to write without those newsletters. We've gained a lot here, but I think we've lost something, too.

Another major change I've noticed, and appreciate, is that the Society in these parts is much more inclusive now. People are more comfortable bringing and expressing their full selves to events. That's a great change, one without a downside.

From the desk of the Seneschal



Our beloved Baronial Seneschal has been serving for many years. It is now time to seek a successor.

Happy fall to my fellow Septentrions!

As we close out our summer days and head towards the shorter days of fall, it's often a time to think about things past and new adventures.

We have a new Arts & Science officer! And we have a new Armoured Combat marshal!

Welcome Lady Rusalka as our Arts & Sciences minister, and THL Koðran Inn Hvíti Gylðir (Korigan) as our Knight Marshal. I look forward to working with you and seeing you inspire the barony!

I would like to thank Lord Eogan for his enthusiasm and his smooth transition to Lady Rusalka. Lord Conal has served the Barony for a *very* long time, and we have been lucky to have him.

I also have been very neglectful in welcoming THL Eeva the Restless to the Baronial officer fold...Eeva is our exchequer, and has been doing an amazing job. Banks are a nightmare to deal with, and she has been an absolute force of nature in getting our accounts sorted. I am grateful for you!!!!

Speaking of transitions.... It is well past time that there be a successor for the Baronial Seneschal position. Their Excellencies have been fabulous to work with, and we have a very dedicated core of people who are great to work with. If anyone is interested in this position, please reach out to me and we can chat. I can be reached at baronyseptentriaseseschal@gmail.com.

Best to all!

Anne

The Ursus Must Haves

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THANK YOU!

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