

Il Tempo

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto-Volume 17, Issue 50 May 2008

Barony of Ponte Alto, May 2008, Chronicler* Lady Wulfiwyn Ælfwines dothor



A portrait of [Conradin](#) hawking, from the [Codex Manesse](#) (Folio 7r)

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From the Chronicler...

May has arrived with beautiful weather, rain storms, earthquakes, and Sapphire Joust. Yes, we had a minor earthquake here in Northern Virginia with the epicenter less than a mile from where I work. It sounded like someone was bowling in the walls of my office building, the floor vibrating and a strange rumbling you could feel more than hear. Very odd feeling.

Spring Crown Tournament was held last weekend of course, and we have a new Prince and Princess. Vivant to TRH's Jason and Girhild!

As previously stated, Sapphire Joust is coming up quickly and hopefully, as it is a long weekend, we'll see many Pontoons there. The site, as usual, is in our not-too-distant neighbor Caer Mear at Tom Scott Park, Amelia, Va. It looks as if it will be a full weekend of camping, fighting, A&S, classes and competitions. If you haven't registered, there's still time, and preregistering makes it so much quicker and easier for those gentles handing the Troll Tables. And this year, there's a hotel nearby, as well. Please check the event website for all information.

And then there's Tir-y-Don's Baronial Birthday on the 10th in Newport News. And to the north; On Target in Lochmere on the 31st. All events are within a few hours' drive, and even with the rising gas prices, let's try to support those events in the northern region. Remember, carpooling can be your friend.

Let's not forget Pennsic, either. Whichever group you're camping with, be it the Barony, your Household, your friends or by yourself, or even if you are "hoteling" it, you need to preregister. As someone who has worked Troll at Pennsic, I can attest that preregistering will get you through quicker, easier and on your way to your campsite and friends with much less hassle. And if this is going to be your first Pennsic, check out the official Pennsic website at www.Pennsicwar.org to get all the information you'll need to make your experience wonderful. And you will have a great time.

See you at Sapphire!

Lady Wulfwyn AElf wines dohtor
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto

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Baronial Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting Minutes – April 26th Start Time 6:00

Practice continues at Bull Run.

A&S

Held a workshop on luceting given by Lady Iohanna; will try to repeat the workshop in May. Hopes to be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Renata if you are interested in teaching a workshop, or have any suggestions for future workshops.

Baroness Leidan has volunteered to be the new A&S Minister, handoff will be at Chalice.

Seneschal

Open positions: Deputy Chronicler,

With the barony's approval, I will be re-warranting for another 2 years to stay as your Seneschal.

Due to Sapphire Joust, the next baronial business meeting will be moved up a week to May 18th.

Exchequer

Currently, we have in the account \$11,826.72. Fighters fund currently has \$951.85, will increase when funds from last practices are received.

Coronet fund has \$253.10. 1st Quarter report done, Net worth is \$12,656.72, positive change in income of \$328.06, report being sent as soon as signed.

Heavy Marshal

Reports have been sent in.

Rapier Marshal

Rules being reviewed for possible modification. Next Practice will be Sunday after Sapphire.

Archery Marshal

Thanks to everyone that has send e-mail regarding finding a site for practice. Meeting held with park supervisor to get information as to possible site. Parks planning campaign has approximately 3 parks in Fairfax County for archery practice, but need to be developed. There is a dog run/kennel facility past Leesburg, and a contract is being developed to use this site. Still working through the plans for use by the SCA.

Chatelaine

Demo on Friday went well. Next demo coming up soon, info to follow.

Information for Newcomers meeting for May will be posted as soon as available.

Herald - not present

MoL - Nothing to report

Chronicler

Please continue to send articles, photos, stories, anything you would like to see published. We need your work. Currently looking for a new Deputy Chronicler; please contact the Seneschal or the Chronicler for more information. From now on, the Il Tempo will be provided only via PDF. If this creates a hardship for you, please advise the chronicler and we will send you a paper version.

Minister of Minors - Not Present

Webminister - Nothing New

Heavy Champion - Not Present

Rapier Champion - Not Present

Baron and Baroness

- Had great time at Night on the Town, thanks to Fallen from Grace and Ravenstreet.
 - o Congratulations to Geoffrey for his rapier work.
- Mini-tourney held in Manassas, thanks to Celia and Eldred for your support. Practice was very educational to all. Their Mundane Social had a great turnout.
- They enjoyed Tournament of Chivalry and thanks to all the fighters who came out.
- Blackstone Raids was going well (during the meeting) and had a great turnout of Ponte Alto fighters. The Barony was recognized by His Majesty.
- Apple Blossom Festival – Her Excellency is marching with and supporting Stierbach in Winchester, VA.
- Sunday Social & Fighter practice returning to the park on May 4th. They have acquired a new 15x20 day shade for A&S at the park.
- National Zoo Demo May 9th and Her Excellency will be attending.
- At the May 18th at the Sunday Park Social, the fighters will be hosting a practice tournament. It should be an Iron Man/Ragnarök style tourney, so fighters should start their endurance training.
- At the June 1st Sunday Social, an MOL class will be held by Bridget from Stierbach, the Regional MOL.
- Registration is now for both Sapphire and Pennsic as His Excellency is the land agent for both.
- A special thanks to all the Officers and Ministers of Ponte Alto for all their tireless work making this barony what it is.

Baronial Warlord – not present

Baronial Artisan – not present

EVENTS:

Sapphire Joust

Need to register with the event ASAP if you are going. Also register on our Baronial website and include information regarding your tent or pavilion.

University

Not sending in a bid. The city administrator turned down our application for permit for the school with no explanation. Summer University has been canceled as the other planned sites have fallen through as well.

Pennsic

Please register on our Baronial Website for Pennsic and include information regarding your tent or pavilion. There is a wonderful calculator on our site to figure out ropes and amount you will need to give back to the group for walkways, fire pit, and common area. You are always able to share additional registrations with members of this group.

The group has been registered as Barony of Ponte Alto. You need to register with Pennsic as soon as possible if you will be camping with the Barony.

Chalice of the Sun God

Application for Prince William Forest Park being sent ASAP.

Crown Tournament

Budget to be presented at next meeting.

Tournament of Love and Beauty

No new information

Bloodbath

Nothing new

OLD BUSINESS

Coronets –meeting being held to discuss the plans on Friday Night.

New Business

The Fairfax County Government Building is a possibility for a future Unevent.

A few other schools are possibilities; still looking into the sites. More information to follow when it becomes available.

Announcements

None

Meeting ended

6:35pm

18 attendees

Monthly Calendar

May 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	2 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	3 Crown Tournament	4 1:00 Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
5 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	6	7	8 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	9 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	10 Tir-y-Don Baronial Birthday	11 1:00 Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
12 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	13	14 7 pm Armor Night	15 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	16 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	17 Hidden Mountain Baronial Birthday	18 1:00 Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts 6:00 – Baronial Business Meeting
19 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	20	21 7:00 Newcomers Meeting	22 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	23 Sapphire Joust* 4:30 pm Archery Practice	24 Sapphire Joust*	25 Sapphire Joust* 1:00 Sunday Social – Fighting & Arts
26 Sapphire Joust* 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	27	28 7 pm Armor Night	29 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	30 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	31 On-Target Northern War Muster	1 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
2 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	3	4	5 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	6 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	7	8 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts
9 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	10	11 7 pm Armor Night	12 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	13 4:30 pm Archery Practice 7:30pm Ponte Alto/Steirbach Bardic	14 Highland River Melees	15 1:00 Indoor Social – Fighting & Arts

* = Baronial Progress



Baronial Progress for May 2008

Date	Event
May 23 rd to 25 th	Sapphire Joust

May 2008 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
3	Crown Tournament	Nottingham Coil	Bennettsville, SC
10	Tir-y-Don Baronial Birthday	Tir-y-Don	Newport News, VA
23-26	Sapphire Joust	Caer Mear	Amelia, VA
31	On Target	Lochmere	Glen Arm, MD
31	Northern War Muster	Bright Hills	Baltimore MD

ARCHERY PRACTICE NEEDS A NEW SITE—Archery practices are still on Friday night - but we need to put in a plea that if anyone knows of any land that we can use to practice archery on, please have them contact Lord Miles de Locwode (archery AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org) or Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo.com). Archery is still shooting indoors at Bull Run and can only shoot 20 yards - most events have 20, 30 and 40 yard targets but that is not available to us with the indoor range. I believe we need over an acre and no houses to hit in the path!

NORTHERN WAR MUSTER

From Baron Max:

We strongly urge all fighters who wish to join the King's Northern Army at Pennsic to show up at this War Muster so that we might train our melee skills for the greater glory of Atlantia!

THE GRAND ARMY OF ATLANTIA NORTHERN WAR MUSTER

-- ALL MÉLÉE FIGHTING --

This has been approved and ok'd by Their Excellencies of Lochmere and by the autocrat of "On Target"

May 31, 2008 8 AM – 5 PM

On the grounds of Christ the King Church, Baltimore, MD

Sponsored by the Barony of Bright Hills

Organized by Haus Wulfshaven

Autocrat: Lord Kollack von Zweckel [Ken Kepple] H:(410) 672-0544 ~ Email: kepplekd@cablespeed.com

The Barony of Bright Hills (www.brighthills.net) Baron Heinrich Kreiner, Baronial Warlord

A hearty day board will be provided to participants by Haus Wulfshaven

"Warrior's Arts & Ladies' Favors" An A&S display open to all who wouldst show their art

Classes for Noncombatants: TBA

Merchant's Contact: Lady Livia, Abramsonsm@comcast.net; 301-807-5476

Water Bearers and Cheering Populace in garb are welcome!

Members: Site Fee by Donation

DIRECTIONS: On the west side of Baltimore, go west from the I-695 beltway onto Security Square Blvd (Exit 17). Continue west about 1 mile, pass Security Square Mall, then cross over Rolling Road. Once past Rolling Road, turn left at the second pass-through onto the first side street (Brookdale Road). As soon as you are in the side street, the church is on your right.

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY	
Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting	Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idylwood Rd., Falls Church. Take your best route to I-66. Get off at the exit for Route 7 West (Tysons Corner). Turn left at the first light after the interchange onto Idylwood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.
Sunday Social – - Heavy Weapons Practice - Arts/Sciences	Lemon Road Elementary: Indoor Winter Practices for Heavy Weapons, Rapier, and an area for A&S activities are all included. Come and join the gathering and bring whatever you're working on. This is a great time to meet & socialize with other people in the barony. Activities held at Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 1pm-4pm. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity. <u>From Southern Virginia, Maryland and Alexandria, VA</u> Take I-495 (the beltway) to the VA-Route 7 East exit at Tysons Corner labeled Leesburg Pike/Falls Church, Exit #47B. Continue on Leesburg Pike towards Falls Church for 1.2M. Turn left onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. * Turn left into the Lemon Road Elementary School front parking lot.. <u>From Northwestern Virginia and Washington, DC</u> Take I-66 to the VA-Route 7 West exit for Leesburg Pike/Tysons Corner exit #66B. Continue on Leesburg Pike under 0.1M towards Tysons Corner. Turn right at the first light onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. Follow from * above.
MONDAY	
Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)	Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon. Contact Mistress Anne of Carthew (anne AT ravenstreet.org) For more information or directions. Music files can be found at http://www.ravenstreet.org/ Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm and on the Yahoo Group AllePsallite.
TUESDAY	
Ponte Alto Scriptorium	Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for information and directions.
WEDNESDAY	
Weaving Night	Second Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions.
Armoring Night	Fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions
THURSDAY	
Rapier Practice	Every Thursday at Shreveview Elementary school from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Please contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information. Indoor Rapier Directions. This is a school location activity.
Heavy Weapons Practice	Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6 pm - 9 pm. Practice is geared to developing beginning and intermediate fighters through intensive hands on training with experienced instructors, as well to providing ample opportunity for more advanced fighters to sparr with knight level combatants. All are welcome. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity.
FRIDAY	
Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	Fridays from 4:30 pm until 8 pm, the indoor season archery practice site is Bull Run Regional Park's shooting center. Archery Practice Directions. Practices are jointly held with Stierbach. You may also contact the Baronial Archery Marshal for carpool or other information. Contact and practice time/location information for Stierbach practices can be found at the Stierbach Archery website: http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html .
Ponte Alto A&S Night	May meet on a Friday during the month. Contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (dwatsonirwin AT cox.net, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for information and directions.

Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic	Come and share your songs and stories! Meets the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Contact Baroness Briana Maclukas (darbyjanieAT hotmail.com) for information.
MONTHLY	
SCA Newcomer Meetings	<p>Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony.</p> <p>May's meeting will be Wednesday May 21th at the home of Luce Antony Venus and Miles de Locwode Contact our Chatelaine for information and directions.</p> <p>This month we will discuss Camping Events, expectations and what you need to have with you.</p>

*** Note on school locations for activities:** There will be no activities at schools during school holidays or on other days when Fairfax County schools are closed or all nighttime school recreational activities are cancelled. Notification of cancellation or alternate site location will be posted on the web as soon as possible. You can visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Emergency Announcement page for school closure status: <http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm>

Special Thursday Night parking instructions at: We have received some complaints about lack of parking spaces from residents of the Peachtree of McClean apartment complex which adjoins our practice site. After some informal negotiations we have arrived at an agreement with the building management. We beseech those attending Thursday night practices to adhere to the following procedures from now on:

You may unload your gear from parking spaces adjoining our practice area. But then please move your car to another space either at least a block further away from Route 7 in the complex parking lot or in the library parking lot closer to Route 7. At the conclusion of practice you may once again move your car to a space adjoining the practice area in order to reload your gear before exiting the site. In this way we hope to be able to continue to use the parking facilities of the complex without inconveniencing the residents.

the Real Middle-Ages

We all enjoy playing in it, but what was it, really... Part 99



High Middle Ages

The High Middle Ages were characterized by the urbanization of Europe, military expansion, and intellectual revival that historians identify between the 11th century and the end of the 13th century. This revival was aided by the conversion of the raiding Scandinavians and Magyars to Christianity, as well as the assertion of power by castellans to fill the power vacuum left by the Carolingian decline. The High Middle Ages saw an explosion in population. This population flowed into towns, sought conquests abroad, or cleared land for cultivation. The cities of antiquity had been clustered around the Mediterranean. By 1200 the growing urban centers were in the centre of the continent, connected by roads or rivers. By the end of this period Paris might have had as many as 200,000 inhabitants. In central and northern Italy and in Flanders the rise of towns that were self-governing to some degree within their territories stimulated the economy and created an environment for new types of religious and trade associations. Trading cities on the shores of the Baltic entered into agreements known as the Hanseatic League, and Italian city-states such as Venice, Genoa, and Pisa expanded their trade throughout the Mediterranean. This period marks a formative one in the history of the western state as we know it, for kings in France, England, and Spain consolidated their power during this time period, setting up lasting institutions to help them govern. The Papacy, which

had long since created an ideology of independence from the secular kings, first asserted its claims to temporal authority over the entire Christian world. The entity that historians call the Papal Monarchy reached its apogee in the early 13th century under the pontificate of Innocent III. Northern Crusades and the advance of Christian kingdoms and military orders into previously pagan regions in the Baltic and Finnic northeast brought the forced assimilation of numerous native peoples to the European entity. With the brief exception of the Mongol invasions, major barbarian incursions ceased.

Crusades

The Crusades were, in some aspects, Europe's defense against Islamic expansion and aggression. These were armed pilgrimages intended to liberate Jerusalem from Muslim control. Jerusalem was part of the Muslim possessions won during a rapid military expansion in the 7th century through the Near East, Northern Africa, and Anatolia (in modern Turkey). The first Crusade was preached by Pope Urban II at the Council of Clermont in 1095 in response to a request from the Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos for aid against further advancement. Urban promised indulgence to any Christian who took the Crusader vow

and set off for Jerusalem. The resulting fervor that swept through Europe mobilized tens of thousands of people from all levels of society, and resulted in the capture of Jerusalem in 1099 as well as other regions. The movement found its primary support in the Franks; it is by no coincidence that the Arabs referred to Crusaders generically as "*Franj*". Although they were minorities within this region, the Crusaders tried to consolidate their conquests, as a number of Crusader states – the Kingdom of Jerusalem, as well as the County of Edessa, the Principality of Antioch, and the County of Tripoli (collectively Outremer). During the 12th century and 13th century there were a series of conflicts between these states and surrounding Islamic ones. Crusades were essentially resupply missions for these embattled kingdoms. Military orders such as the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller were formed to play an integral role in this support.

By the end of the Middle Ages the Christian Crusaders had captured all the Islamic territories in modern Spain, Portugal and Southern Italy. Meanwhile, Islamic counter attacks had retaken all the Crusader possessions on the Asian mainland, leaving a de facto boundary between Islam and western Christianity that continued until modern times.

Substantial areas of northern Europe also remained outside Christian influence until the 12th century or later; these areas also became crusading venues during the expansionist High Middle Ages. Throughout this period the Byzantine Empire was in decline, having peaked in influence during the High Middle Ages. Beginning with the Battle of Manzikert in 1071, the empire underwent a cycle of decline and renewal, including the sacking of Constantinople by the Fourth Crusade in 1204. Despite another short upswing following the recapture of Constantinople in 1261, the empire continued to deteriorate.

The Late Middle Ages

The Late Middle Ages were a period initiated by calamities and upheavals. During this time, agriculture was affected by a climate change that has been documented by climate historians, and was felt by contemporaries in the form of periodic famines, including the Great Famine of 1315-1317. The Black Death, a bacterial disease that spread among the malnourished populace like wildfire, killed as much as a third of the population in the mid-14th century, in some regions the toll was as high as one half of the population. Towns were especially hard-hit because of the crowded conditions. Large areas of land were left sparsely inhabited, and in some places fields were left unworked. As a consequence of the sudden decline in available laborers, the price of wages rose as landlords sought to entice workers to their fields. Workers also felt that they had a right to greater earnings, and popular uprisings broke out across Europe. This period of stress, paradoxically, witnessed creative social, economic, and technological responses that laid the groundwork for further great changes in the Early Modern Period. It was also a period when the Catholic Church was increasingly divided against itself. During the time of the Western Schism, the Church was led by as many as three popes at one time. The divisiveness of the Church undermined papal authority, and allowed the formation of national churches. The final fall of the Roman Empire was the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. It had a great effect upon the European economy and intellectual and religious life.

The Late Middle Ages also witnessed the rise of strong, royalty-based nation-states, particularly the Kingdom of England, the Kingdom of France, and the Christian kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula; Aragon, Castile, Navarre and Portugal.

The long conflicts of this time, such as the Hundred Years' War fought between England and France, actually strengthened royal control over the kingdoms, even though they were extremely hard on the peasantry. Kings profited from warfare by gaining land.

France shows clear signs of a growth in royal power during the 14th century, from the active persecution of heretics and lepers, expulsion of the Jews, and the dissolution of the Knights Templar. In all of these cases, undertaken by Philip IV, the king confiscated land and wealth from these minority groups. The conflict between Philip and Pope Boniface VIII, a conflict which began over Philip's unauthorized taxation

of clergy, ended with the violent death of Boniface and the installation of Pope Clement V, a weak, French-controlled pope, in Avignon. This action enhanced French prestige, at the expense of the papacy.

England, too, began the 14th century with warfare and expansion. Edward I waged war against the Principality of Wales and the Kingdom of Scotland, with mixed success, to assert what he considered his right to the entire island of Great Britain.

Both the Kings of France and the Kings of England of this period presided over effective states administered by literate bureaucrats and sought baronial consent for their decisions through early versions of parliamentary systems, called the Estates General in France and the Parliament in England. Towns and merchants allied with kings during the 15th century, allowing the kings to distance themselves further from the territorial lords. As a result of the power gained during the 14th and 15th centuries, late medieval kings built truly sovereign states, which were able to impose taxes, declare war, and create and enforce laws, all by the will of the king. Kings encouraged cohesion in their administration by appointing ministers with broad ambitions and a loyalty to the state. By the last half of the 15th century, kings like Henry VII of England and Louis XI of France were able to rule without much baronial interference.

Hundred Years' War

The Hundred Years' War was a conflict between France and England, lasting 116 years from 1337 to 1453. It was fought primarily over claims by the English kings to the French throne and was punctuated by several brief and two lengthy periods of peace before it finally ended in the expulsion of the English from France, with the exception of the Calais Pale. Thus, the war was in fact a series of conflicts and is commonly divided into three or four phases: the Edwardian War (1337-1360), the Caroline War (1369-1389), the Lancastrian War (1415-1429), and the slow decline of English fortunes after the appearance of Joan of Arc, (1429-1453). Though primarily a dynastic conflict, the war gave impetus to ideas of both French and English nationality. Militarily, it saw the introduction of new weapons and tactics, which eroded the older system of feudal armies dominated by heavy cavalry. The first standing armies in Western Europe since the time of the Western Roman Empire were introduced for the war, thus changing the role of the peasantry. For all this, as well as for its long duration, it is often viewed as one of the most significant conflicts in the history of mediaeval warfare.

Middle Ages in history

After the Middle Ages ended, subsequent generations imagined, portrayed and interpreted the Middle Ages in different ways. Every century has created its own vision of the Middle Ages; the 18th century view of the Middle Ages was entirely different from the 19th century which was different from the 16th century view. The reality of these images remains with us today in the form of film, architecture, literature, art and popular conception.

Medieval and Dark Ages

The term "Middle Age" (*medium ævum*) was first coined by Flavio Biondo, an Italian humanist, in the early 15th century. Until the Renaissance (and sometime after) the standard scheme of history was to divide history into six ages, inspired by the biblical six days of creation, or four monarchies based on Daniel 2:40. The early Renaissance historians, in their glorification of all things classical, declared two periods in history, that of Ancient times and that of the period referred to as the "Dark Age". In the early 15th century it was believed history had evolved from the Dark Age to a new period with its revival of things classical so some scholars began to write about a middle period between the Ancient and Modern, which became known as the Middle Age. It was not until the late 17th century when German scholar Christop

Callarius' published *Universal History Divided into an Ancient, Medieval, and New Period* that the tripartite periodization scheme began to be used more systemically.

The common subdivision into Early, High and Late Middle Ages came into use after World War I. It was caused by the works of Henri Perinne (in particular the article "Les periodes de l'histoire du capitalism" in *Academie Royale de Belgique. Bulletin de la Classe des Lettres*, 1914) and Johan Huizinga (*The Autumn of the Middle Ages*, 1919).

Dorothy Sayers, a noted scholar in medieval literature as well as a famous writer of detective books, strongly objected to the term. In the forward to her translation of *The Song of Roland*, she writes "That new-washed world of clear sun and glittering colour, which we call the Middle Age (as though it were middle-aged), has perhaps a better right than the blown summer of the Renaissance to be called the Age of Re-Birth." It is difficult to decide when the Middle Ages ended; in fact, scholars assign different dates in different parts of Europe. Most scholars who work in 15th century Italian history, for instance, consider themselves Renaissance, while anyone working elsewhere in Europe during the early 15th century is considered a medievalist. Others choose specific events, such as the Turkish capture of Constantinople or the end of the Anglo-French Hundred Years' War (both 1453), the invention of printing by Johann Gutenberg (around 1455), the fall of Muslim Spain or Christopher Columbus's voyage to America (both 1492), the Protestant Reformation starting 1517, or the Battle of Lepanto (1571) to mark the period's end. In England the change of monarchs which occurred on 22 August, 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth is often considered to mark the end of the period, with Richard III representing the old medieval world and the Tudors, a new royal house and a new historical period.

Similar differences are now emerging in connection with the start of the period. Traditionally, the Middle Ages is said to have begun when the West Roman Empire formally ceased to exist in 476. However, that date is not important in itself, since the West Roman Empire had been very weak for some time, while Roman culture was to survive at least in Italy for yet a few decades or more. Today, some date the beginning of the Middle Ages to the division and Christianisation of the Roman Empire (4th century); others, like Henri Pirenne, see the period to the rise of Islam (7th century) as "late Classical". Another argument for a late beginning to the Middle Ages was presented by Peter Brown. Brown championed the idea of Late Antiquity, a period that was culturally distinct from both the preceding Empire and from the rest of the Middle Ages. Brown's argument rests less on the economic changes within the Mediterranean than on social and religious change within the Empire between 300 and 750. To Brown, the slow collapse of the Empire allowed a period of great creativity and expressiveness in which Christianity flourished and became institutionalized.

The Middle Ages in Western Europe are often subdivided into three intervals. This includes an early period, sometimes called the "Dark Ages", at least from the fifth to eighth centuries, of shifting politics, a relatively low level of economic activity and successful incursions by non-Christian peoples, Slaves, Arabs, Scandinavians, Magyars. The middle period (the High Middle Ages) follows, a time of developed institutions of lordship and vassalage, castle-building and mounted warfare, and reviving urban and commercial life. The last span is a later period of growing royal power, the rise of commercial interests, and weakening customary ties of dependence, especially after the 14th century plague.

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Dispatches

From Baron Maximilian Von Halstern

Tribunus Angusticlavius and Warlord of Ponte Alto

Great and auspicious have been the activities underway amongst the fighters of Ponte Alto, Stierbach, and the Northern Army (of Darkness) of Atlantia (Legio del Tenebras Borealis). I shall endeavor to maintain an ongoing dialogue of these activities so that all may be informed of what is going on and so that those that wish may join in any and all activities for which they are inclined and which are appropriate for them to do so.

The War Council

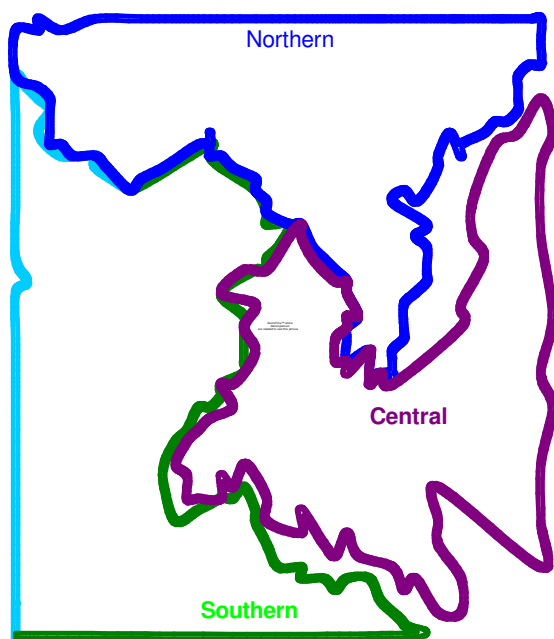
The War Council was first convened and comprised a number of the most senior fighters and members of the Chivalry from our region – both active and inactive – to discuss broad matters concerning the health, status, and future of the area; and actions to take regarding those matters. Remarkable consensus was achieved and led to real progress and next steps. Members include Sir Strykar, Sir Grethferth, Sir Brian, Sir Thomas, Sir Guy, Duke Bedouin, Baron Max, Baron Jurgen, Mistress Sofia, Sir Michael, Sir Tascius, Sir Eldrid, Lord Conner, Lord Finn, Lord Aethilgar.

Ponte-Bach Co-Baronial Prosperity Sphere Alliance

One of the actions resulting from the War Council was the development of the greater Pone-Bach Co-Baronial Prosperity Sphere Alliance with both Baronies working in harmony for the greater good through integrated efforts of their units and other personnel efforts. Both Baronies have agreed that the units will work together to mutually support each other and to integrate as separately commanded units within a broader structure with Stierbach acting as an independent sub-command within the broader command structure.

The Grand Army of the Potomac/Northern Army (of Darkness)/Legio del Tenebras Borealis

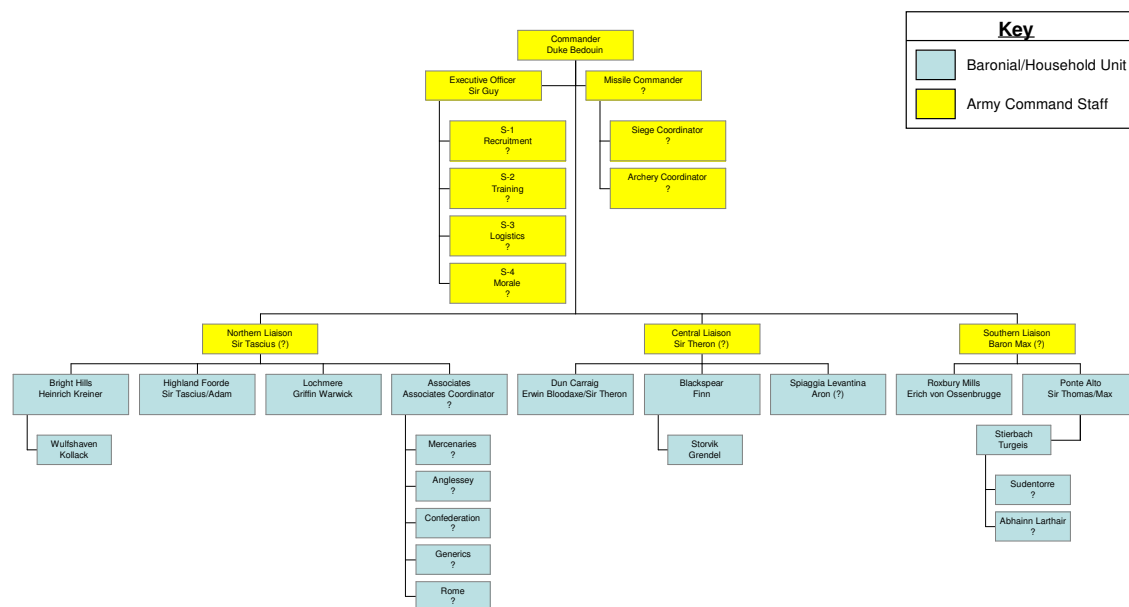
War Council efforts have also led to the creation of three Military Districts within the Grand Army of the Potomac. Our Southern Military District consisting of Ponte Alto, Stierbach, and Roxbury Mills (led by Baron Maximilian Von Halstern, the Tribunus Angusticlavius for the District); the Northern Military District consisting of Lochmere, Bright Hills, and Highland Foorde (led by Sir Tascius as their Tribunus Angusticlavius); and the Central Military District consisting of Storvik, Dun Carraig, and Spiaggia Levantina (with Sir Theron as their Tribunus Angusticlavius). The Grand Army



itself is led by his Grace, Badouin, Dux et Legatus Legiounus who is ably assisted by our very own Sir Guy, Praefectus Castrorum of the Legio del Tenebras Borealis (Northern Army of Shadows).

The Northern Army (of Darness) itself is thus broken into a unit structure as follows:

Northern Army (of Darkness) / K.I.S.S. Army aka Grand Army of the Potomac



The Logistics Corps (Copiis Militaribus)

As the Romans demonstrated and as Napoleon most recently explicated, an Army is ruled by its stomach. To sufficiently care for our on-field logistics needs (water, gatoraide, pavilions, pretzels, pickles, chairs, etc...), we have called for creation of a Logistics Corps with any and all who might be willing to volunteer and assist our units and our army in these vital tasks. Mistress Sofia Mikhailovna Wofsguard (OP) has volunteered to take a stab at the role of Copiis Militaribus so we might get our Logistics Corps off-the-ground and organized. Anyone willing to help out in this regards, please see her immediately and offer whatever you might to help get our on-field capabilities the best that they could be. I know she's looking for all the help she can get. You may have noticed they have already taken the lead in getting things organized for our war practice last month. They need help getting things ready for ToC, Sapphire Joust, and Blackstone Raid.



A number of miniature 'beneficiarius lance' badges have been found on military sites in Northern Europe, and would have been attached to leather belts or strap ends and showed that the person was an official of the governor and operating on his behalf. The origin of the design is otherwise

The Expeditionary Corps (Beneficarius Militaribus)

Not only do both Baronies need to be taken care of on the field, but first we have to figure out how to get ourselves to the field, where we're staying after the fighting, and how we're getting home. Those tasks fall on the Expeditionary Corps. Kat has thus far been willing to take a shot at acting as the Beneficarius Militaribus attempting to gather all the information together about what our travel options are, select amongst those options, and coordinate and juggle the needs of all those who plan on attending. This information gathering, coordinating and decision-making job can be overwhelming and any and all help would be tremendously appreciated in helping manage the constant barrage of issues that crop-up. Please contact Kat with any offers of assistance you might be willing to provide to help us get where we need to go and to keep things running smoothly. You may have note they have already taken the lead in trying to get things organized for Blackstone Raid.

War Council Event Agenda

In consultation with their Excellencies and the Legatus, the War Council has developed a calendar of Optional, Recommended, and Must-Attend events for the unit that we urge all fighters to work towards and hope to see as many support personnel, fencers, archers, youth fighters, artisans, and baronial members at to demonstrate as much Baronial pride as possible.

Date	Event	Unit	Newcomers	Logistics	Expeditionary
4/8	Mini-Tourney	Optional	Should/Push	Should/Push	Optional
4/18	Mundane Social?	Optional	Should/Push	Optional	Optional
4/18-4/20	Tournament of Chivalry & War Practice	Should/Push	Should/Push	Heavy Push	Optional
4/25-4/27	Blackstone Raid	Should/Push	Optional	Heavy Push	Heavy Push
5/2	Movie Night	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
5/6	Mini-Tourney	Optional	Should/Push	Should/Push	Optional
5/23-5/26	Sapphire Joust	Should/Push	Optional	Should/Push	Heavy Push
Early June	Regional Practice	Should/Push	Should/Push	Heavy Push	Optional
6/13-6/15	Highland River Melees & War Practice	Should/Push	Optional	Should/Push	Should/Push
6/20-6/22	Assessment	Heavy Push	Heavy Push	Heavy Push	Heavy Push
Early July	War Practice	Heavy Push	Heavy Push	Heavy Push	Optional

Pontoon Unit Awards (Incentive Committee)

The Incentive Committee (led by Sir Eldrid and Baron Jurgen) has proposed a three-tiered incentive structure for Pontoon Solidiers:

Initiation Incentive – **The Soldier of Ponte Alto/Stierbach**

Given upon the ritual after the request to join the army and demonstrated intent to be a member of the army and the unit

A Yellow/Black (Ponte Alto) or Red/White (Stierbach) rectangular favor is given to the new soldier and Baronial colors are distributed.

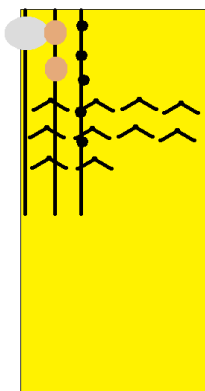
Practice Attendance –**The String of Progress (Knots/Beads/Centuries)**

A short thin black and gold cord (Ponte Alto) or red and white cord (Stierbach) of 1/8th inch at 10 inches long attached to the top of the Soldiers favor with a single knot at 1/2" from the top. Each 4 consecutive fighter practices attended one more knot is added to the cord. Once 10 (a decade) knots are acquired the commander of the individual will present the soldier with a "Bead". The original cord is untied or removed and replaced with one cord with a bead. When the soldier earns a new knot a second string is added starting a new decade. Once 10 beads are rewarded the baron will present the soldier with a metal token (TBD) called a century that fits on the cord. It is placed on a cord similar to a bead or knot.

Participation Attendance – **The Arch of Veterans**

Attend a war with the unit and fight with or support the unit in at least 50% of the battles.

In the upper left corner of the soldiers favor a chevron shaped object shall be added for each arch "Λ". Arches are added from left to right top to bottom 4 across. Arches can be stitched in with black thread or light cord

**Stierbach Alliance**

We have formed a bond with Stierbach whereby we are integrating our combat forces through shared practices and training behind-the-scenes and integrated command structures on-the-field. Ponte Alto and Stierbach will fight as a unified command, with Stierbach acting as an independent lance under the overall command of the Ponte Alto unit. We are extremely proud of the ties we are building with our neighbors and allies and hope to continue building ever-broader and deeper ties with our friends and partners. We are strongly supporting their new Tuesday evening practice at the Prince William Fencing Academy (8440 Kao Circle in Manassas) and urge anyone with any interest in Armored Combat, Fencing, Western Martial Arts, or just joining us for a fun evening to join us in Manassas!

We are seeking to enhance the activities and populace of our fair lands by recruiting new members to our illustrious Baronies. The Recruitment Committee has developed a strategy and materials for reaching out to people and is seeking volunteers to help in these efforts. If you are willing to take copies of the printed flyers and brochures (shown below, developed by James) to targeted retail establishments (e.g., comic book stores, gaming stores, book stores, etc...) and ask the managers and proprietors for the right to display the material and to assess their interest in a potential future demonstration at their location, then we would love to have you join the recruitment committee!

[illegible][illegible]

The Recruitment Committee has also been working through a GMU Subcommittee to help develop a renewed on-campus medieval group at GMU that would enable us to take advantage of Campus facilities for demos, practices, and other venues for events and recruiting purposes. Current efforts are centered around the difficulties associated with the prior existence of similar clubs and the need to determine how to work around rules regarding prior clubs in the same mission space. The Subcommittee continues to gather information and will be reporting back their findings regarding potential workarounds and solutions in the near-term. Anyone with recommendations or contacts with prior leaders in the former GMU organizations or in the current GMU administration is encouraged to contact Lady Sian.

Magister Scholum Artis Bellum (Fighter School of the Syllabus Committee)

The Syllabus Committee of the War Council has been and continues to put together an ongoing series of classes designed to construct or deconstruct and reconstruct fighters in an integrated and holistic, analytical and scholastic, inclusive and syncretic school of fighting oriented around continuous improvement in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere. The Lanistae of the school are commitment significant time and effort to the development of the curriculum and the training of the students. And thus they expect commitments from the student who pledge to study and train at the Novicius level until they pass the school's test and become authorized fighters. After the Novicius level, fighters can move on to the Scholum's 201 "Legionnaire" level of training where they are taught more advanced "how-to" techniques prior to even more advanced training at the 301 level. The syllabus and lessons of the Scholum are provided online in an interactive forum at scholumartisbellum.pbwiki.com where students are encouraged to provide interactive updates to the material and help develop the material as they learn and grow. I encourage everyone to checkout the Scholum website and see the wealth of material about armour, fighting videos, the approach to training, etc...

Sunday Socials

Armored practice at the Sunday Socials continues to grow apace and the A&S activities continue to attract practitioners. Lack of access to the gym has slowed our ability for interactive communication across groups, but we have been increasingly more interactive in post-practice dinner events. Our Fuddruckers Viking Long-Tables have become increasingly legendary and soon we will need our own long hall. While we still suffer from the lack of integration with the fencers, we hope some day we can have a fully integrated Sunday Social. We understand that the "Lord of the Dance" might soon bring dance practices to the Sunday Socials. We encourage everyone to come-out with us on Sunday to spend some time with us chatting, doing A&S, watching the fighting, or just coming out to eat with us at Fuddruckers.

Mundane Socials

The first Mundane Social at Sir Grethferth's in mid-March was a smashing success and great tales of yore were told and great ideas for today were generated and much merriment and amusement was had by all. We are currently discussing plans for another Mundane Social around 4/18 or a Movie Night on 5/2 (Iron Man is coming....). Thus far Kat has been helping coordinate the Mundane Socials and Sir Grethferth, Baron Jurgen, Sir Eldrid, Lady Sophia, and some others may have offered their homes for Socials. If you are willing to help coordinate or to offer your home for a gathering, please let us know, as we can use the help!

Mini-Tournament of Honorable Elevation

We have worked hard to put together the first in an ongoing series of co-Baronial Mini-Tourneys of Honorable Elevation that jointly honor the friendship and alliance between the two Baronies; the recent elevations of both Barons and Baronesses; the continuing elevation in prowess of our Baronial fighters; and our respect for honor, chivalry, courtesy, and pageantry – traits which elevate us all. The first mini-tourney will be held at the new Stierbach Tuesday night practice on April 15th (to help elevate attendance at the new practice) which is held at the Price William Fencing Academy at 8440 Kao Circle in Manassas, VA. There is a \$5 floor fee per fighter, no street shoes or boots will be allowed, and attendees must arrive by 6:30pm to check-in by 7:00pm for a tourney which will start promptly at 7:30pm. Prizes will be given for the tourney winners, for the most honorable and chivalrous participants, and for the most improved fighters. Extra MoLs and Marshalls are sought for the Mini-Tourney, and all fencers, fighters, (regardless if you are authorized yet or still a youth fighter) are invited to participate, as the mini-tourney is simply a practice.

Armor and Weapon Workshops of the Armor Committee

Lord Aethilgar is leading the Armor Committee in its efforts to get our newer fighters the armor and weapons they need to become effective members of our fighting community. Body armor and shield-making workshops at his home. Swordmaking classes at Viscount Eldrid's Monday Night open houses in Sterling, VA. Loaner shields and loaner armor availability. Recent rattan runs up to NJ. Armor site recommendations on the pbwiki website. Personal consultations. You name it, the Armor Committee is here to make sure any newcomer has any and all answers met to

figure out the best way to get them into armour the fastest. If you have armor or armoring skills to offer the armoring committee, please talk to Lord Aethilgar. He could use the help!

Unit Structure and Membership

Finally, we are trying to finalize who is, should and should not be considered part of the core and surge components of the Ponte Alto war unit. We have large lists of people who were involved with us and our practices in the past, but seem to have become completely inactive for years. If anyone is willing to go through the large lists of names we have to make recommendations as to whether we should try to contact some of these individuals to see if they are still interested in participating (and are willing to attempt such contact), then we could **really** use the help! We're trying not to dismiss folks out-of-hand and are looking to get any and every able bodied hand into the unit that we possibly can. Your help would be **tremendously** appreciated!

As promised, there has been and continuous to be a tremendous amount of activity and progress with our fighters, in our units, and in the Northern Army.

With your support, encouragement, and assistance, this progress will continue and expand for the greater glory of Ponte Alto, the Northern Region, and Atlantia.

We deeply and sincerely hope you will join us as we do our best to make Ponte Alto and Atlantia a better place for us all.

In Service,

Baron Maximilian Von Halstern

Tribunus Angusticlavius and Warlord of Ponte Alto

Landsknecht Hat and Coif

By: Lord James de Biblesworth M.K.A. James Barker

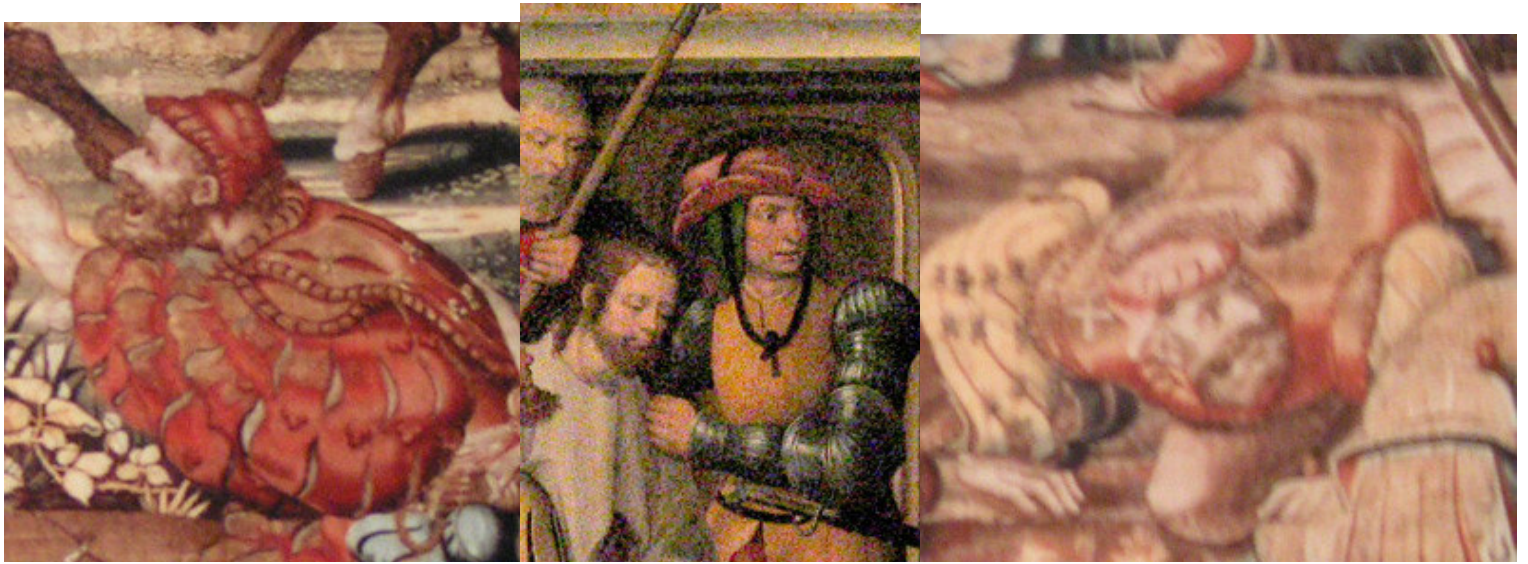


Image taken in October 2006 the Royal Armory at Leeds, England Display created by Gerry Embelton

The Coif

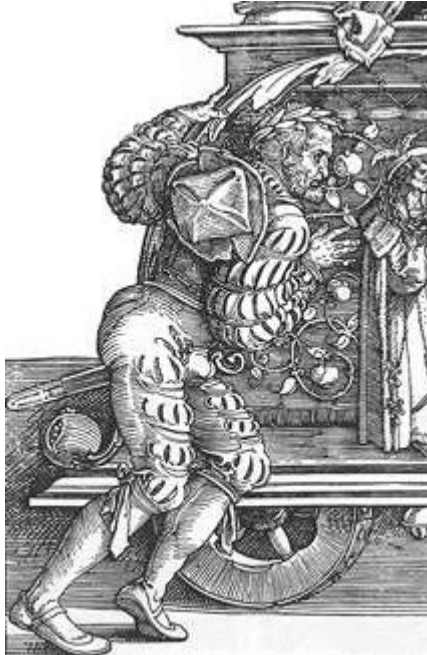
The coif is based of the standard 3 piece coif seen through out the medieval and renaissance era with a shorted back and ear flaps added. To get the look you seen in so many Landsknecht woodcuts I made the coif 2 layers. The first layer is colored linen the second one is wool. The wool layer is longer in the front and back to give it the puffy look when slashed you see in the wood cuts. I choose my slashing and cut out designs based of several aspects from different pictured woodcuts (*The returning Landsknecht by Urs Graf, the other three are by an unknown from private collection. Bottom of this section*).

The wood cuts do not give an indication of color but a painting of the Battle of Pavia by an unknown French or Flemish artist, Christ before a High Priest by Jean Baegart (1520), and a Tapestry of the Battle of Pavia in Brussels (1530) shows coifs of red and green material so I believe any color combo is possible.





The Hat



There are many different styles of hats in the Landsknecht art work out there I picked a square top hat with a seemingly circular brim with slashes which can be seen in the art in this section. Looking at the art I concluded these hats are not made of felt they are made of thick wool. None of the hats seem stiff, they are drawn in a way to look floppy. In the Portrait of a Young Man, 1521 and the Portrait of Ulrich Varnbühler 1522 by Albrecht Dürer (bottom images) it is clear the hats are soft and floppy.

The Top of the Hat

For the top square area I used the design you see on the left from The Small Triumphal Car or the Burgundian Marriage Circa 1518 by Albrecht Dürer. As you can see the top is folded in on itself creating an open look to the top.

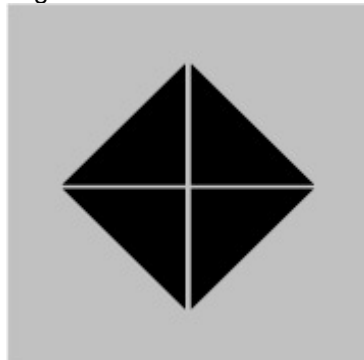
Step 1: Cut two squares of fabric both 18 inches x18 inches and one with a hole for the wearers head to go into.



Step 2: Pin them together with the good side of the wool facing each other in the middle and stitched around the square.

Step 3: Trimmed the edges and corners the turn the top inside out so the stitching is on the inside of the hat. Use an iron to press the sides to help flatten the seams.

Step 4: Fold the four corners together to create the top with the open areas. In the diagram to the right the gray area represents the top sewn together with the head hole facing down, the corners are folded into the center to create a shape like the black area. I used waxed linen thread to sew the four corners together in the center.



The Brim

In the Portrait of a Young Man, 1521 and the Portrait of Ulrich Varnbühler 1522 by Albrecht Dürer (bottom images) you can see the brims of the hats are made up of two pieces that slightly overlap and are folded over so when slashed you are not cutting through a sewn seem. Also in The Small Triumphal Car or the Burgundian Marriage Circa 1518 by Albrecht Dürer (first images in the hats section) you can see it's a two section brim. I believe all the slashed hats pictured are done with a two-piece top.

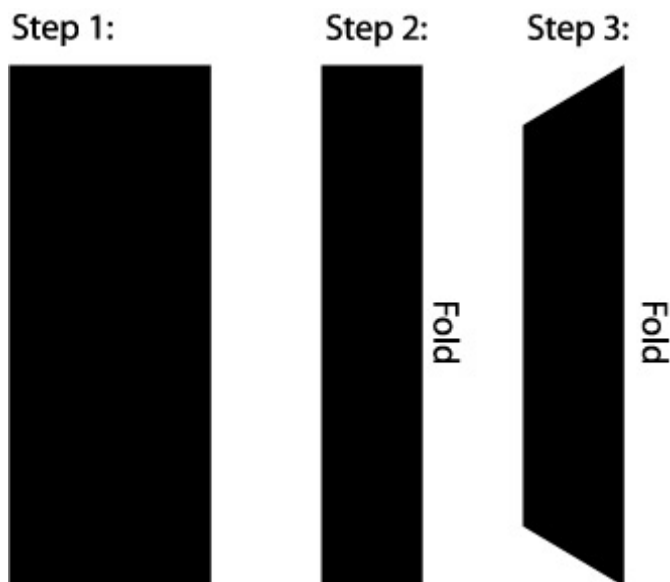
The only way I can figure to get the fold so it can be slashed like we see is to make a rectangle and pleat it into the opening of the top of the hat. A curved brim would have to be made of a top and bottom section meaning a seam on the edge of the brim which I do not see in any of the art of the time.

Step 1: Cut out two rectangle 26 inches x10 inches.

Step 2: Fold each rectangle in half facing the good side of the wool together

Step3: From each corner of the folded side draw a 5 inch line to the other side and sew along that line

Step 4: Turn the brim so the seams are inside and press the edges.



Step 5: Pin each corner of the two brim sections to the top so they are facing a corner of the hat top. Pleat in the material as evenly as you can get it. **Note only pin one side of the two sides of the folded brim to the top.** Sew the one side of the brim to the hat top.

Step 6: Create two linen ties about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch thick. I start with a 2 inch wide piece and fold in half and then each side in half again turning the raw edged of the material inside the fold and sew them closed.

Step 7: Turn in the raw edges of the hat brim that is not sewn and the side now sewn to the top into the brim adding the 2 linen ties at the half way point of each brim piece and sew shut.

Step 8: Slash the outside of the brim as you see fit there are many options in the art of the time.
Reislauder Musicians, Urs Graf 1523. Three different brim options shown:



Ties as shown in several period woodcuts: Young Confederate Nobleman and Wife, Niklaus Manuel 1515; Urs Standard Bearer, Urs Graf 1516; Unknown Urs Graf 1516.



Portrait of a Young Man, 1521 and Portrait of Ulrich Varnbühler 1522 by Albrecht Dürer

