



This is the Baronial Newsletter For the Barony of Aquaterra

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Words from Their Excellencies:

To our beloved populace,

Ursulmas was once again the start to a beautiful year for Aquaterra and An Tir. Since January we have seen the Kingdom Calendar filled with events that are near and dear to our hearts. As we return to camping events after far too long apart, we are reminded how enjoyable it is to spend time with you all. When we stepped into the roles of Baron and Baroness of these fine lands, one of our primary goals was to help introduce and promote the talents and experience of our populace to farthest corners of An Tir. With this in mind, we will continue our practice of an Aquaterra Baronial camp, open to all who would join, experienced player and newcomer alike. Our next 2 kingdom events that will host a camp are May Crown (May 20-22) and July Coronation (July 15-17). If you would like to join us for one or both of these events, please send you tent dimensions, and number of people in your personal group to aquaterra.coronets@antir.org.

There are also several Baronial events in need of volunteers to help work on event teams, as well as Officers who are looking for deputies to help learn the different aspects of keeping the Barony going. We encourage you to seek out the officers or asking if there is mentor for an event team area you would like to assist with. Many hands really do make lighter work for everyone, and for us all to have fun things to enjoy.

You should not give
only big gifts;
often a little thing will win you favor.

I have won friends
with just half a loaf of bread
and a bowl of soup.

— Hávamál 52



In ever joyful service,
Zahra and Geirleikr
Coronets of Aquaterra

Baronial Awards

Unto the populace, please note recognition for the deeds and actions recognized by our Coronets:

Sophia of KeyPoynt (Midhaven) – The Order of The Silver Dolphin

Biorn biarnylr Atlason – The Order of The Silver Dolphin

Siobhan a Burc (Midhaven) – The Order of The Silver Dolphin

Landinn de Marest – The Order of The Silver Dolphin

Mýrún Bjarnardóttir – The Order of The Falcons Talon

Katryne Mackim – The Order of The Plate

Jadwiga Radomyskowa – The Order of the Heron's Quill

Caitlin of Aquaterra – The Order of The Red Boar

Adrianna the Fierce – The Order of The Heron's Quill

Premier recipient

Gideon Hrafensfuri – The Order of The Shield of St Ursul



Learn about the newest Baronial Award!

At Ursulmas, Your Excellencies announced the creation of a new Baronial Award, and bestowed it upon His Excellency Gideon Hravensfuri.

Can you tell us about the award in particular?

Zahra: The Shield of St. Ursul is an award meant to honor those who have significantly contributed, and by their very presence, improved the marshaling community in Aquaterra.

What was the gap in recognition you were aiming to fill?

Geirleikr: When we stepped into the role of Coronets of Aquaterra, one of the first things we looked at was the Awards. I felt there was an opportunity to introduce something to show appreciation to those who've contributed to the various martial aspects of our community over a longer term in a way that I felt was lacking. Not only contributing to the various fields of martial competition, but in the fostering and sharing of knowledge with others.

How did you decide on the name of the award?

G: Having studied various martial arts throughout my life, one thing has remained consistent. Martial prowess is for defense of yourself and those important to you. How could I address this in a name? Well, I primarily use a shield for defense. So, to me, that is a symbol easily recognized for protection.

Z: Additionally, we wanted to honor Aquaterra's history and so we pulled from The Legend of Saint Ursul by Dianna of the Silver Shore. Saint Ursul himself wielded a sword and shield in defense of his lady and land. So naming the award The Shield of Saint Ursul seemed appropriate.

What are the criteria you consider for a recipient?

G: Long term contributions to the martial activities of the Barony, be they Armored, Rapier, Archery, or Thrown Weapons. We are looking for significant contributions both on the field of competition and in the instruction and guidance of others thereby strengthening the community overall.

Is this an award that you consider populace recommendations for, and if so, what would you like the populace to consider when recommending someone?

G: I would absolutely love to have recommendations for this to continue, not only through our time, but on into the future. I believe that only through the sharing of our knowledge can we continue to grow. I also recognize that as a primarily armored fighter, I don't have the visibility into the other disciplines to truly recognize those deserving thanks.

Z: We'd ask those recommending fellow populace members to consider the impact the person has had on the martial community and the length of time – looking for marathoners, not sprinters. Again, the person doesn't always have to be on their field of choice, we know that bodies aren't always as

able as we want them to be. It's why we want to stress the continuation of sharing knowledge and fostering growth within the community.

What made you select His Excellency Gideon Hravensfuri as the premier recipient?

G: As we were discussing who should receive the first Shield of Saint Ursul award, there was one person who was at the front of my mind. He has been a mainstay of the barony throughout my time in the SCA. I can't think of a baronial armored fighter who has not been influenced by Gideon to some extent through his years fighting at Tournaments, Wars, and practices. That doesn't even take into account the time he's spent working with newer fighters, helping people develop their skills and gear to get authorized.

Z: Gideon was the first person to come to my mind when we were discussing the premier. Even though he doesn't make it into the eric or on to the war field as often as he once did, there isn't a rattan fighter in Aquaterra who doesn't know him. He's impacted every generation for as long as he's been playing here. Gideon shares his story and by doing so we learn. He has created his own legacy within the martial community and somehow manages to keep his legend going every year through his usual Ursulmas Gideon de Noirville Over 40 Tournament. He is the example.

Do you have someone you would like to recommend to the Coronets for an award? Here is the link on the Baronial website to make a recommendation: <https://aquaterra.antir.org/award-nomination/>

Ursulmas A. S. 56

Ursulmas is the Barony's largest annual event. This year an 11th hour decision was made to scale back from a public demo to an SCA Event due to lingering Covid19 and volunteer concerns. Despite the late decision, feedback was consistent that the event was fun and successful.

Words From The Event Steward: "Though this Ursulmas was less the event is has been in the past is was by far a much bigger success. We were granted the opportunity to see friends and family. We got the chance to feel the magic that has been too long gone from our lives. I hope that everyone felt again, the love, the passion and the feeling of community that we have built over the many years. I urge you all to think about how our differences don't matter, our politics don't matter, our color, our preferences and our status in society don't matter. What matters is the love we feel when this enormous family joins together. I thank you all for coming and hope you too are reminded that the family you have chosen to be part of is still out here and waiting for you. I am humbled just to be part of it. Gideon Hravensfuri Event Steward Ursulmas 2022





Updates from Kingdom/Society Officers:

In early January, the Society released a new edition of The Marshal's Handbook, which made several changes to the rules for armored combat. An Tir will implement these beginning with Summits Spring Coronet the weekend of March 25-27. There are three major changes in the Society's rules that will affect An Tir; please see the [March Crier](#) and the revised [SCA Marshal's Handbook](#) for detailed information.

1: Rawhide will no longer be allowed as a covering on swords.

2: Non-Newtonian Fluid garments, such as those manufactured under the Zoombang brand, will now only be allowed as padding.

3: Fighters using a side strapped shield must wear padding on their elbows, even if that is more than 4 inches from the edge of the shield. If it's less than 4 inches away, then rigid protection is required.

Barony of Aquaterra Contact Information

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Senechal: Maighster Conal MacLaren

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Baroness: Sheika Zahra bint al-Ramma

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This is the Spring 2022 issue of the Murmurs, the official newsletter of the Barony of Aquaterra in the [Kingdom of An Tir](#). Aquaterra is a branch of the [Society for Creative Anachronism](#), Inc. The SCA is devoted to the research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century skills, arts, combat, culture, and employing knowledge of history to enrich the lives of participants through events, demonstrations, and other educational presentations and activities.

*Photos provided by HL Landinn de Marest unless otherwise credited.