

*The  
Gryphon's  
Roar*

April 2023

LOOKS A LITTLE BORING DOESN'T IT?  
WELL YOUR ART OR FAVORITE HISTORICAL IMAGE COULD GO HERE!!! JUST CONTACT  
THE CHRONICLER AT: [chronicler@gryphonslair.org](mailto:chronicler@gryphonslair.org)

## **Note from the Chronicler**

Greetings good Barony,

Welcome to the first Gryphons Roar of 2023. I'm hoping to showcase all the wonderful things our great barony does every quarter. This one will be a little shorter than what I hope to put together. In the future I hope the populace will participate and submit articles, recipes, photos or anything else SCA related and help us celebrate all the things that we do together. I will also try to make a theme for each quarter to give folks some Ideas. Next quarter will be Tips and tricks for New members. What do they need to know and what is helpful to get started. Please have all submissions in by May 20th 2023 so that there is time to put it all together for the June release.

YIS

Hasan Ibn Bekir

## **Officers of the Barony**

**Baroness:** Meraud des Belles Feuilles

**Minister of Arts and science:** Rebekah of Loch Salann

**Chancellor of the Exchequer:** Richeza the Red

**Knight Marshal:** Domnall Lunn "Griff"

**Rapier Marshal:** Johanne Kathrijn die Waeyer

**Social Media officer:** Yamashiro No Irou

**Webminister:** Hasan Ibn Bekir

**Chronicler:** Hasan Ibn Bekir

### *Vacant Offices:*

- Thrown Weapons Marshal
- Minister of Youth
- Chatelaine
- Spike Pursuivant Herald

If you are interested in one of the vacant offices please send your letter of Intent to our seneschal at [seneschal@gryphonslair.org](mailto:seneschal@gryphonslair.org) and our baroness at [baroness@gryphonslair.org](mailto:baroness@gryphonslair.org). We'd love to have you on the team!

### **Musings with HE Meraud:**

Greetings this day, do I, Meraud, Baroness of these Amazing and Wonderfulest lands, where the Artemisian Gryphon doth reside, bring forth to my generous and self-serv, er, sacrificing populace.

Our hardworking and ever helium-handed, bright and shiny new chronicler, Lord Hassan, has asked for a list of tips and tricks for newcomers. In my own vernacular: ten things to do to survive your first year in the SCA.

1. Make lists. Haha, 'cause I'm funny. No, really, make lists. Lists for camping events, list for day tripping, lists for when you plan to attend feasts, lists for your fighting gear, lists for your A&S stuff, lists for light packing, lists for heavy packing, lists for your responsibilities and/or planned activities at said event. Don't pull the "list in my head" bit; that is how you forget to pack half the food needed for feast. If you young peoples are going to use a mobile device for the list, make sure you can check it off. I have list documents on my computer that I can print out and check off. Ya know, old school.

2. Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Water, smart water, flavored water (which is juice in my book and I will give you a hard time), sports drinks, etc. Things that don't count as water: alcohol, soda, coffee (unless it's frou-frou, then it's just sugar). Rule of thumb for those that choose to imbibe, one to one. One water for every one alcohol. I don't drink. I still get the after-event hangover, which can be seriously mitigated by the amount of water I drank at an event. Being well hydrated can be the difference between a fantastic event and a trip to the hospital. Ask an old timer for the story of our founding B&B, Thorvald and Bianca's investiture.

3. Sunscreen is your friend. And it goes in weird places: the tops of your feet, under the chainmail bikini, back of your neck, your face even if you are wearing a hat, that hat-line across your forehead is embarrassing at work on Monday. And hats. And parasols. And wet towels. And personal fans. And those cooling things that go on the back of your neck. I have personally been involved with shoving an ice pack up the back and down the front of a corset at an event. Not my corset, mind you, but I was there. Our current Majesty will bring a baby pool to events for feet soaking. You should probably just slam #2 and 3 together. Stay hydrated, stay protected, stay cool.

4. Some sort of wagon is a must have. A second-hand little tike or radio flyer is just fine as long as the wheels work. Also, a cooler with wheels that can double as a seat is very helpful.

5. This game gets expensive, however, we all were starting out at one time. Unless you have no mundane life and a ton of money, you are not going to have a period encampment out of the gate. Your nylon pop-up and plastic shade fly are nothing to be ashamed of. We all started there. If you are going to take the camping season seriously, get a cot and a camp potty. You stay warmer if you are up off the ground and you don't have to go halfway across the encampment at 3:30am 'cause all your water just kicked in.

6. Here's the thing about garb: a reasonable attempt is all that is really necessary. If you wear the same outfit for the first six months, nobody notices but you, let alone cares. Multiple outfits for multiple day camping is nice, it keeps you from being stinky, but there are ways to "cheat." Borrowing garb is a great idea, some of us have stuff we can't/don't wear anymore. A sewing frenzy making a few simple t-tunics to wear with jeans is also acceptable. We want to see your face not your clothes. Garb is spendy, but there are ways to go cheap: look for fabric (sheets included) at thrift stores. Go in with somebody on a bolt off the internet, there is usually some sort of discount for the whole bolt. You don't need all your pieces all at once, a long-sleeve t-shirt is perfectly fine for one of the underlayers for your fencing gear. Period shoes can wait. However, natural fabrics are best, you are going to be a whole lot cooler in cotton or linen than polyester and spandex. Oh yeah, and the ten foot rule: if you can't see it from ten feet, then it doesn't matter. All the not-straight sewing lines, wrong colored thread, modern patterns and added-in-not-period pockets are just fine.

7. Don't think you need your name and personae right away. Try stuff out, play with garb. Some of us (me) chose our names and time periods based on what we could wear. And then totally ignored it anyway and have a bunch of garb from all over. Some people based it on what type of armor they could wear. Personae and time periods get trendy, just like everything else. We are currently going through a Russian and Mongolian phase, just because of the last two royal couples. When I started, it was Celtic and Scottish, kilts were the thing. We are kind of winding down on a Viking trend. One really cool thing is to research your time period, know who is pope, who are your rulers, what wars are occurring, what is happening in exploration and trading areas opening up; did you go on crusade? I did, that way I justify my perkish clothes. I've got nothing for my Norse, Japanese and Greek, I wear them

anyway.

8. First aid kit is important. Not a big deal, until you need it. Bandages, anti-biotic ointment, anti-itch cream, sunburn spray, bug spray, sunscreen, Benadryl, ibuprofen, acetaminophen. If you're really fancy, pain patches, chemical cold pouches, braces (hand, wrist, ankle, elbow, knee), medical tape, gauze, elastic bandage wrap and a sling. The SCA has had broken bones, sprains, concussions, heart attacks, carbon monoxide poisoning, allergic reactions, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, diabetic blood sugar reactions and people passing out after donating blood (that was me, and these are just events I have attended). This is also why you need to sign a waiver.

9. Food. This is my personal pet peeve. If you have allergies or sensitivities, it is on you to take care of the food you eat. You cannot expect everyone to cater to your physical or religious needs. That being said, as a group we are making more of an effort. People are just randomly making things that fit one standard or another to bring along. As long as you politely decline, no one should be offended, and it is no one else's business why you don't or can't eat or drink something. Responsible providers of foodstuffs will tell you what is in whatever they have made, but do not be afraid to ask. If someone refuses to tell you the ingredients, just politely decline (there is probably gerbil hair in it or something). Make arrangements for your own meals, you shouldn't just assume people will feed you. I mean, they probably will, some of us don't know how to cook for less than ten, but you shouldn't assume. As a side note, if you intend to partake of adult type beverages, you should provide some.

10. Real life first. Period. End of discussion. In fact, this should probably be the first rule. Yes, we enjoy this hobby. For some of us, this is our only social life. We make amazing friends and find new family members, however, your dentist appointment or sister's wedding is more important. This is how grown-ups live. If your choices are Uprising or new alternator, fix your damn car.

This has been many many many words of wisdom from your loving and truly amusing Baroness.

Meraud

## **Musings with Meraud pt 2:**

Other things I thought of after I had finished (isn't that the way it always goes)

Real life first

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate

Bring extra stakes

Do a once around merchants row with no money first and then go back and buy

If you take medications, bring an extra day or two's worth

Almost everybody has a knife

Almost all the fighters have duct tape

Put a car air freshener in your armor bag and Lysol it out at least once a month

Do not bring dry clean only garb camping

If you wanna hang out at somebody's fire pit, bring fire wood

S'mores aren't period but we don't care

Thrift stores are your friends, things can always be replaced with "real" stuff later

Real life first

Always put flags or glow in the dark something on your tent ropes for late night navigation

Take a light source to the portapotty, not the fire kind

Don't let your favorite skull bowl sit in the car for two weeks to mold beyond use because you are too lazy to unload the car

Hydrate hydrate hydrate

Pee before court

Bring extra water

Don't be snarky or judge others by their garb, gear or whatever. If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all

Let other people's enthusiasm buoy you up

If you want to have fun and meet people, volunteer

Layers layers layers, easy to take off and put on depending on temperature

Always pack for rain

Don't be afraid to ask questions or talk to people, most of us are nice and aren't going to eat you

Yes, this is an adultish game, but we have kids around. Have some situational awareness and moderate your behavior and language. Don't use your

personal standard, use mine, I am the premier persimmion

Get AAA

Always fill you car by the time you've hit 1/3 tank. Coasting into Snowville is scary

Hydrate hydrate hydrate

And most importantly

Real life first

This has become TLDR. I'm going to stop now.

YIS

Meraud, Baroness



**A humble Chroniclers Final note:**

This copy of the Gryphon's Roar is looking a little bare isn't it? Just walls of text and some notes on who is leading our great barony. By the next issue in June I would like that changed. I have already requested articles from our good populace and I am collecting photos from the events from the start of April. But please if I Hasan have not reached out to you and you have a great photo of your friend getting hit with a leg of mutton at ST. Pyres, or perhaps striking a winning blow at honor war. Or just some wonderful projects you want to brag about at A&S please send me your pictures and Comments. This is a Publication for the good populace of our wonderful Barony and it would be wonderful to show you all off. Thank you for reading and I'll see you next issue (and hopefully at events and practices.)

YIS

Hasan ibn Bekir.

This is the April 2023, issue of the Gryphons Roar, a publication of the Barony of Gryphons Lair of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Gryphon's Roar is available from Hasan Ibn Bekir, abuckius96@gmail.com. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright 18 © 2021 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Kingdom Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors."