



# The Cataract

Winter 2021 Issue



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**The newsletter of the Barony of Rising Waters, The Kingdom of Ealdormere**

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**January 2021, A.S. LV (55)**

Facebook: [Official SCA The Barony of Rising Waters](#)

Baronial Website: [baronyofrisingwaters.org](http://baronyofrisingwaters.org)

## *The Cataract*

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Any member who wishes can subscribe to receive an e-mail when the latest issue of the Cataract becomes available. In order to do so, please send an email to the chronicler: [chronicler.risingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:chronicler.risingwaters@gmail.com)

## *Contribute to The Cataract*

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This publication is only as interesting as its content. Please consider making a contribution in the form of photographs, articles, art work, event reports, medieval recipes, items of historical interest etc.

The next issue, Spring 2021, will come out in April 2021 so please send in any submission by the end of March 2021. Thank you!

Corrections, Submissions, Suggestions, please send to the Chronicler, Lady Bera Oddsdottir [chronicler.risingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:chronicler.risingwaters@gmail.com)

## *Barony of Rising Waters Online*

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The Barony of Rising Waters can be found online at: <http://baronyofrisingwaters.org>



[The Barony of Rising Waters Official SCA](#)



[SCA Barony of Rising Waters Official Channel](#)

## *Recent Historical News*

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Here are some of the latest articles about historical studies and discoveries that might be of interest to our members:



[1,200-year-old pagan temple to Thor and Odin unearthed in Norway](#)



[The College Student Who Decoded the Data Hidden in Inca Knots](#)



[Metal detectorist unearths rare medieval knife near Penicuik](#)



[Climate change caused the demise of Central Asia's medieval civilizations, study finds](#)





## *Missive from Her Excellency, Sciath*

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Greetings, Rising Waters Friends and Family,

This evening, We sit in the Crumphold enjoying the comforts of home and in the glow of our wonderful community, We wish all of you the best of this new year! Thank you for your continuing efforts to stay with us, the vulnerable, the health care and

essential workers, the survivors. I look forward to a future when we could all come together as a community in the coming year.

I'd like to start off by thanking Baroness Gema for her service as Baronial Seneschal, thank you for your leadership during this difficult period. I look forward to working with Baroness Abhilin in supporting our fine community. We know that Their Majesties, Privy Council and the Board of Directors of the SCA are currently set on May 31st as the date to reconsider in-person SCA activities. This, coupled with the new vaccines, leads me to be feel cautiously optimistic.

The College of Heraldry has approved two new awards for our Barony: the Award of the Golden Lion-Dragon (recognition for our youthful members), and the Award of the Red Pillar (recognition for allies supporting our barony). Now, this brings up the challenge of organizing such recognition - a recent poll in our Baronial Facebook group showed that community members were amenable to the idea of virtual recognition. To that end, I'd like to know how individual members feel about this. Please complete this survey to let me know: <https://forms.gle/P1z8oxryMf9C8TGn9> The results will remain confidential, and only accessible to me for the purposes of planning for court business and recognition. I welcome any feedback from our community, and you can reach me via Facebook or email ([risingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:risingwaters@gmail.com)).

Remember that I hold each of you in my thoughts and in my heart.

Yours in Service,  
Sciath  
Baroness of Rising Waters

# Baronial Calendar

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Normally, this would be the part of the Cataract where I would show the Calendar of events for the barony over the upcoming months. Due to current events however for at least the nearest part of our future has seen all in person meet-ups being cancelled.

Due to the up in the air nature I will leave that information to be available in it's most current format on the Barony Website and Facebook Page.

Stay safe everybody, Bera

[https://baronyofrisingwaters.org/event\\_calendar/](https://baronyofrisingwaters.org/event_calendar/)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BaronyOfRisingWaters/events/>

## Now Seeking

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We are seeking applications for a few positions within our growing community.

### Exchequer

Responsible for the financial affairs of the group.

### Community Liaison

Develop and strengthen relationships with the local community.

### Minister of Children

Responsible for activities & supporting engagement with youth in the Barony.

### Minister of Accessibility

Responsible for ensuring Baronial activities include accessibility concerns.

If you have any questions or wish to apply please send an email application to both the Baronial Seneschal Baroness Aibhilin kennari fra Skye [seneschal.risingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:seneschal.risingwaters@gmail.com) and Baroness Sciath ingen Chaennaig [risingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:risingwaters@gmail.com).

## Virtual Pastimes

Every Sunday @ 2:00 PM: [Jerusha's Embroidery Salon](#) - A short lecture on an embroidery topics and social work time from Caid.

Every Sunday @ 8:00 PM: Sunday [Evenings with the Scribes](#) - A weekly recurring scribal practise the West's Cynagua College of Scribes

Every Monday @ 9:00 PM: [SCA Performer Social](#) Live streaming with the East Kingdom's Facebook group

Every Tuesday @ 6:00 PM: [Backyard Basics - Longsword](#) series of videos designed for HEMA and Heavy combat students, general concepts with a focus on the longsword.

Every other Wednesday @ 10:00 AM: [Ealdormere at Home](#) Featuring interviews, event news, with spotlights on artisans, music, and more!

Every Thursday @ 7:00 PM: [Ask the Knights - Live!](#) - Each week two guest knights answer questions submitted by unbelts from around the Known World!.

Every Friday @ 7:00 PM: [SCA Coaches Corner](#) Hosted by a partnership of coaches from several kingdoms on training, teaching and coaching for SCA combat.

Every Friday @ 8:00 PM: [Three Rivers Bardic Zoom](#) - Hosted by the Kingdom of Calontir's Barony of the Three Rivers.

Every Second Sunday @ 8:00 PM: [A&S Get Together](#) - Hosted by the Barony of Rising Waters

## Virtual Practicum

A day of classes:  
A&S, Marshal, and Service

February 20, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF ATLANTIA



Winter Session  
February 13, 2021

✓ Classes

✓ Teaching  
Opportunities

✓ Social Time

✓ Officer Sessions

✓ Round Tables

SERVICE SYMPOSIUM



Save the Date!!

Presidents Day Weekend  
(February 13 and 14th, 2021)



# SCA Online

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## Virtual SCA Collective Calendar

<http://research.fibergeek.com/virtual-sca-calendar/>

## Known World Entertainment Guide

<https://www.facebook.com/KWEGuide/>

## Facebook Groups

The Honorable Clover

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/967942963341698/>

SCA Virtual Classroom and Artisan Display

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/virtualsca/>

Ealdormere Internet Arts & Science Event

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/896001760844623/>

## Online Universities/Learning

Harvard University Free Humanities Courses

[https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog?keywords=&subject\[\]=8](https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog?keywords=&subject[]=8)

Coursera Free History Courses

<https://www.coursera.org/browse/arts-and-humanities/history>

edX Free History Courses

<https://www.edx.org/course/subject/history>

My Mooc Archeology Courses

[https://www.my-mooc.com/en/moocs?search\[query\]=archeology](https://www.my-mooc.com/en/moocs?search[query]=archeology)

[More?? big list of free e-learning resources](#)

## A Message from the Seneschal

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Greetings onto the people of Rising Waters

I wish to thank you for you confident in the choice of me as your new Senechal.

I most wholeheartedly wish to thank Baroness Gema Krasil Ni'Kova for her work as Senechal for these last few years. She has had to navigate an unprecedented time within our Society. She has lead us into the lockdowns and helped keep the barony going during this time. I only hope I can do as well.



Who knew in March we would still be in this situation in December, and then into the new year. The SCA has decided that no in person events can happen at least until the end of May 2021.

Good news is that a vaccine for this plague has now made its way into the populous. It will be some months before the majority of us can access it, but there is hope once again that we can resume our activities and meet face to face.

Our next Baronial meetings can be found on the Baronial Calendar page. [https://baronyofrisingwaters.org/event\\_calendar/](https://baronyofrisingwaters.org/event_calendar/)

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. While we cannot meet in person yet, there is usually a link on facebook and one on the Baronial Calendar to join.

I hope you have had a good holiday season and that everyone remains healthy!

Your in Service  
Aibhilin



# Congrats Team Onguiaahra!

SMASH 2nd Place • SCA Magnificently Awesome Scavenger Hunt



There once was a warrior named Beowulf  
Who thought he rid Hrothgar of his bane  
Then giant grendel's mum  
Kicked the other guy's bum  
Now Beowulf's  
defeat of her son is his fame.

~Sciath Ingen Chaennaig

[The Yhyakh Festival](#)

[The Cahokia Mount](#)

~ Nicolaa de Bracton

Jessica Andress, Gillian Barclay,  
Christian Bernard-Brewster, Susan  
Carol Clark, Trudi Crumpwright, Leslie  
Falzone, Angie Gott, Stephan Szeke







## ***Post Seminars of Saint Antoninus Update***

Warm winter greetings Rising Waters!

I hope that you are all keeping toasty and comfortable in your homes. The past year was a rather difficult one and I hope that this new year is treating you all much better!

As many of you are aware, on November 14th we hosted our very first online educational event, The Seminars of Saint Antoninus. The event was very well received, despite accidentally being scheduled the same weekend as two other online events from different kingdoms! In total we had 42 registrants in 17 classes representing several kingdoms throughout the Knowne World. We had a short lunch court which was graced with Her Royal Majesty Queen Isabel Atwyll, who shared a few words of encouragement with us all. Then classes resumed until 6pm when the day finally ended.

Thanks to the staff, students, and teachers, this inaugural event really shone brightly and much learning was done.

I would like to specifically thank Baroness Sciath ingen Chaennaig, Magistra Nika Dmitrieva doch'Zvezdina, Abhilin kenari fra Skye, and Baroness Annabelle Makmyllane for their guidance and assistance in ensuring that the Seminars went on so smoothly. I truly could not have done it without you.

So, what's next for the Seminars of Saint Antoninus? Keep an eye out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintantoninuscollege> for up-to-date news and announcements. We're coming back soon.

YIS  
Rhys of Anglesey

## ***Sakha-Yakutia***

*~ Nicolaa de Bracton - For Smash*

Sakha-Yakutia is the coldest inhabited place in the world, with temperatures at times reaching as low as -70C and the average winter temperature in the capital of Yakutsk being -35C. As you would expect for a region in what is commonly known as Siberia, the summer solstice rather than the winter one is more significant for festivals. The Sakha people, a group of Turkic nomadic/pastoral origin who began to settle the area in the 9th century, celebrate the Yhyakh (“abundance”) festival at midsummer, which is considered the New Year in Sakha culture. The main ritual takes place outdoors. The Sakha people put up their uraha – traditional tent-like summer structures.

Women and children decorate the space, bedecking trees and tethering posts for horses with salama—nine bunches of horsehair, strung on ropes also made of horsehair. Yhyakh is the ceremonial dampening of the ground with the sacred kymys (or kumiss—fermented mare’s milk) by the oldest man present, who is clad in white garments. This summons the Aiyy, the divine beings who offer protection to the people, their homes, and the hunt. Accompanying the main celebrant are girls, also dressed in white, extending sacred birch branches to encourage the friendly spirits to come closer, while offerings of food are cast into fires to keep less-friendly ones at bay.

After this opening ceremony, an hours-long round dance and song known as the Ohuokhai takes place. “Dancers form a circle and dance, arm in arm, hand in hand, with the left foot put forward, while making rhythmical, graceful movements with their bodies, legs, feet and arms. A lead singer improvises the lyrics and the other dancers repeat them.” A competition is held at this national festival for those who lead these dances—a skill that includes both singing and poetic improvisation, as well as the ability to attract the most participants to the leader’s circle. The music used for the Ohukhai is a special melody that can be performed by a variety of instruments, but is especially associated with Kylyhakh or throat singing. Another prominent instrument is the national instrument known as the khomus, a mouth harp used to imitate the sounds of horses and other animals.

Other activities at the festival include, of course, food—including the raw liver of a white mare slaughtered no more than an hour before. Horses are decked out in their finery, merchants ply their wares, and traditional competitions such as wrestling take place. In modern times, this festival has been revived after declining somewhat during the years of Soviet rule, and the largest gathering, near Yakutsk, can attract over 10,000 visitors.

## Cahokia

~ *Nicolaa de Bracton - For Smash*

I am a lover of the abandoned. Nothing evokes for me a sense of history than looking upon ruins, now crumbling or overgrown, or disappearing beneath a blanket of green, their sharp edges rounding into gentleness, as the years erode their meaning until it is nearly forgotten.

While I was growing up in Ohio, I saw the landscape was marked by earthworks—some of them simple mounds, others in forms such as snakes—relics of peoples who roamed those lands in years before—but not my own people, I thought at the time, so of less import. They were primitives, I believed, ancestors of those who were civilized by the Europeans who were my own progenitors. As such, their lives and their ruins did not fascinate me like the tales of Egypt or Rome did. No great cities of those peoples lay in ruins for the archaeologist to wander, musing, at what had been lost, or had been transformed after long years into current glory.

In Illinois, not far from St. Louis, an immense mound, 100 feet tall and covering 14 acres—dominates over the remains of 120 smaller mounds. Such mounds are a hallmark of the Mississippian peoples, who often built their villages—and earthworks—along their trade routes. But this site was different by the sheer factor of its size—somewhere between six and nine square miles—and the fact that this was no city that sprang up organically as a natural outgrowth of trade or agriculture. No, Cahokia (named for a local Indigenous group in the area when Europeans first happened upon the site), situated in the middle of nowhere on land that was not particularly favourable for settlement, was a planned city. Archaeologists believe it was founded in around 1000, and by 1050 was home to 10,000 to 20,000 people—rivaling European cities like London in population and outdoing them in sheer acreage and scale (London during this period had barely spread beyond the “square mile” of the old Roman city.) In just a few decades the people who built Cahokia moved 55 million cubic feet of soil to construct the city.

Within the bounds of the city could be found homes, workshops for pottery, textiles and metalwork; storage buildings for food; wide plaza; administrative buildings situated on mounds; and at the centre, atop the huge central mound (constructed in 14 stages, with four terraces) a massive religious complex surrounded by a wooden palisade that seems to have been the reason for the settlement. Human remains found at the site come from a wide variety of different groups of Mississippians, including possible victims of human sacrifice. At least a third of the city’s residents were not local. The religious significance of this site is reflected in the east-west orientation of the site’s centre, based on using

the positions of the sun, moon, and stars for accuracy. West of the central mound, remnants were found of a circle or wooden posts oriented to the rising sun that were used to mark the solstices and equinoxes.

By the time Hernando de Soto saw Cahokia in 1540, the site was deserted and overgrown. No account of Cahokia seems to survive in any Indigenous historical or folklore tradition. Although there is no evidence the settlement was ever attacked, it was rebuilt four times in a hundred-year period before 1275. By that time, the population had been declining for nearly 200 years, and within another 75, seems to have vanished completely.

Today, the site has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Besides the large central mound, known as Monk’s Mound after the Trappist monks who once farmed it, the site also features the remains of 51 other mounds. It’s been on my list of places I want to someday visit since I heard about it several years ago and it shattered my assumptions of what North America before European contact was like.

### Sources for Cahokia:

“Lost cities #8: mystery of Cahokia – why did North America's largest city vanish?” The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/aug/17/lost-cities-8-mystery-ahokia-illinois-mississippians-native-americans-vanish>

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/198/>

### Sources for Sakha-Yakutia

“When Siberians Greet the Sun,” <https://www.junglesinparis.com/stories/in-remotest-russia-a-pagan-solstice-festival-celebrates-high-summer>

“The Yakut celebrate their New Year by worshipping the summer sun,” <https://www.rbth.com/arts/328601-yakutia-sakha-russia-holiday>





# Baronial Officium

*No calls before 9am or after 9pm unless by previous arrangement.*

**Baroness:** Sciath ingen Chaennaig (Trudi Crumpwright)  
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**Herald:** Baron Dmitri Kievskoi (Sam Hardie)  
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**Web Minister:** Lady Bera Oddsottir (Angie Gott)  
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**Heavy Weapons Marshal:** Baron Richard Larmer (Andrew Lowry)  
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**Archery Marshal:** Magestra Nicolaa de Bracton (Susan Carroll-Clark)  
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**Thrown Weapons Marshal:** Baroness Sciath ingen Chaennaig  
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**Minister of Accessibility:** Vacant [access.risingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:access.risingwaters@gmail.com)

**Minister of Children:** Vacant [ministerofchild.risingwaters@gmail.com](mailto:ministerofchild.risingwaters@gmail.com)

**Minister of Horse:** Vacant

## Baronial Champions

**Armoured Combat:** Lord Eustace di Cordoba

**Thrown Weapons:** Lady Rúna Sólveigardóttir

**Rapier Combat:** Lord Hamish MacLeod

**Arts and Sciences:** TBD

**Bardic Arts:** TBD

**Archery:** TBD

**Youth Champion:** TBD



# Kingdom Regnum

*No calls before 9am or after 9pm unless by previous arrangement.*

## ***Their Royal Majesties:***

Prince Amelius Claudius Rattanicus and  
Princess Isabel Atwyll  
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### **Chamberlain**

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### **Head Retainer**

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## ***Trillium Herald***

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## ***Earl Marshal Deputies***

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**Youth Rapier Marshal**, Master Eyrny Ormarrsdottir (Kathleen Gormanshaw)  
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**Emergency Deputy Rapier Marshal**, The Honourable Lord Kurushima Saborou Yoshitatsu (Yoshi) [paul4791@gmail.com](mailto:paul4791@gmail.com)

**Minister of the Lists**, Master Kolbjorn skattkaupandi (Jason Kingston)  
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