

Kenning Points

Barony of Smoking Rocks | East Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism

GREETINGS TO NEW FRIENDS

Are you new to the SCA?? Smoking Rocks welcomes you!

The Barony encompasses Southern Massachusetts including the Cape and islands. If you just moved to the area, Welcome to the Barony!

Please reach out to our Chatelaine (welcoming officer) if you would like to join us at one of our gathering, events, or if you have questions.

STAY IN TOUCH

Please visit our website for more information and upcoming events.

SmokingRocks.Eastkingdom.Org

Join our Facebook Group:

Barony Of Smoking Rocks

There is also a Discord Group. Reach out and an invite can be sent to you

JOIN US

- Ice Weasel- February 24, 2024 Fall River
- Watch the Facebook Group for Craft Days at the Baronial Manor

A LETTER FROM THE BARONIAL MANOR

Greetings to the populous of the Barony of Smoking Rocks,

It has been a year of champions for the Barony of Smoking Rocks



At The Silver Wyvern Challenge, the Barony A&S Championship took place for judging. There was one brave combatant that brought their research skills to the table. Layden Octavia Verita wrote her piece on the mysteries of Greek Fire and wowed the judges. Their Excellencies also found a new Fencing Champion during the battles held at the event. &&& impressed Baron Ceawlin Alreeding, the Champion at the time, and gave his praise to Their Excellencies and they agreed. At court that night they both received their regalia and in tradition, &&& did a lap around the crowd with the cup raised above his head.

The Archery Championship was held in June, despite the weather deterring most participants. However, two brave individuals, Lady Amy verch Rychard and her son Edmund, competed. With these two now holding the titles of Archery and Youth Archery Champions, they join another family member, Muriel, the Bardic Champion, to stand with the rest of the Barony Champions.

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HELP WANTED: BARON AND BARONESS FOR THE BARONY OF SMOKING ROCKS

The Barony of Smoking Rocks in the East Kingdom is seeking a dynamic and dedicated person or couple to serve as the next Baronial Leaders! This is an exciting opportunity for individuals passionate about the SCA, leadership, and fostering a thriving community.

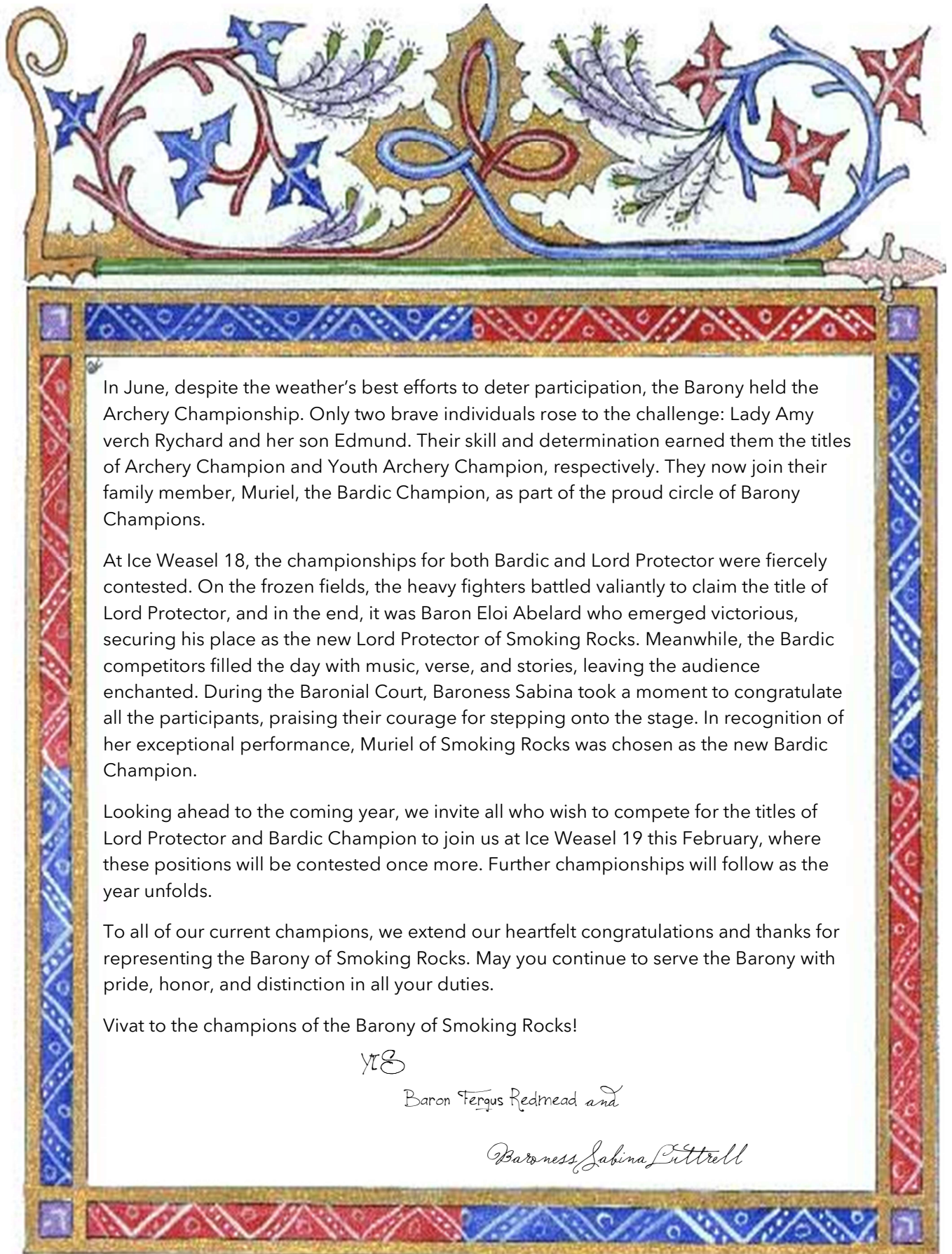
About the Barony of Smoking Rocks: Located in the beautiful East Kingdom, Smoking Rocks is a vibrant and diverse community of people who are committed to preserving and sharing the arts, sciences, and martial traditions of the Middle Ages. As Baron and Baroness, you will play a key role in guiding and nurturing the Barony, while representing the Crown and the Kingdom with grace and honor.

***What We Seek in Our New Baron and Baroness: *** - A deep love and respect for the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), with an understanding of its traditions, cultures, and activities. - A commitment to the Barony and the Kingdom, with an emphasis on supporting local events, gatherings, and members. - Strong communication and organizational skills to manage the day-to-day operations of the Barony. - The ability to inspire and encourage participation from all members, from new comers to seasoned veterans. - A willingness to serve as a visible presence, both locally and at Kingdom events. - An ability to work closely with the local officers, the Crown, and the Kingdom to ensure the Barony thrives.

Duties Include: - Representing the Barony at local and Kingdom events, as well as at Crown events and meetings. - Working closely with the Barony officers to ensure the smooth operation of the Barony. - Serving as ambassadors for the SCA and promoting a welcoming and inclusive environment. - Receiving and presenting awards, and encouraging the growth and recognition of the Barony's members. - Supporting and participating in the planning of local events and activities.

Qualifications: - A resident of the Barony of Smoking Rocks with active membership in the SCA (East Kingdom). - Previous experience in a leadership role within the SCA is desirable, but not required. - A passion for the arts, culture, and martial activities of the Middle Ages. - The ability to work as a team with your partner to share the responsibilities of the role.

How to Apply: If you and your partner are ready to take on this rewarding leadership role and make a lasting impact on the Barony of Smoking Rocks, please submit your letters of intent by January 8, 2025 to the current Baron and Baroness or the Barony Seneschal at [Insert Email Address Here]. We look forward to seeing the next leaders of Smoking Rocks step forward and



In June, despite the weather's best efforts to deter participation, the Barony held the Archery Championship. Only two brave individuals rose to the challenge: Lady Amy verch Rychard and her son Edmund. Their skill and determination earned them the titles of Archery Champion and Youth Archery Champion, respectively. They now join their family member, Muriel, the Bardic Champion, as part of the proud circle of Barony Champions.

At Ice Weasel 18, the championships for both Bardic and Lord Protector were fiercely contested. On the frozen fields, the heavy fighters battled valiantly to claim the title of Lord Protector, and in the end, it was Baron Eloi Abelard who emerged victorious, securing his place as the new Lord Protector of Smoking Rocks. Meanwhile, the Bardic competitors filled the day with music, verse, and stories, leaving the audience enchanted. During the Baronial Court, Baroness Sabina took a moment to congratulate all the participants, praising their courage for stepping onto the stage. In recognition of her exceptional performance, Muriel of Smoking Rocks was chosen as the new Bardic Champion.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we invite all who wish to compete for the titles of Lord Protector and Bardic Champion to join us at Ice Weasel 19 this February, where these positions will be contested once more. Further championships will follow as the year unfolds.

To all of our current champions, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and thanks for representing the Barony of Smoking Rocks. May you continue to serve the Barony with pride, honor, and distinction in all your duties.

Vivat to the champions of the Barony of Smoking Rocks!

YB

Baron Fergus Rednead and

Baroness Sabina Pittrell



PERSONA SPOTLIGHT: OCTAVIA VERITA, CALLED VERITAS

By Baroness Molly Blythe

If you play in the SCA for any length of time beyond casually attending the occasional event, you'll inevitably be asked the question – "what's your persona?" In essence, your persona is the character you play when you are at an SCA event. It's the fictional person you might have been, had you lived in the pre-17th century time period covered by the SCA.

Some people join the SCA already knowing the time period and culture they want to focus on, and they pick a name and persona that aligns with their interests; for others, it takes months or even years to decide. If you're one of the latter, here are some questions that might help spark ideas:

1. What are your real-life interests or hobbies?
2. Is there a specific historical aspect that's important to you (e.g. having a persona from a time and place where women could inherit property, or where religious/racial diversity flourished?)
3. Are you drawn to a particular aesthetic (in clothing, armor, or artifacts of daily life)?
4. Do you want an era or culture that's already well-documented so information is easy to find or are you drawn to culture that's more obscure, even knowing there's not a lot of research on it is available out there?

In this series installment, I interviewed Octavia Verita, also known as Veritas (and as Patricia Volpe outside the SCA) and our new Baronial Arts & Sciences champion, about how she developed her persona.

Tell me, who is Octavia?

Veritas: Octavia, the daughter of a legionary named Octavius and an artisan named Cornelia, was born in the year 336 BCE in the Italian region of Abruzzo. Married off to a wine merchant her father's age in the year 323 BCE, she found herself a young widow only 2 years later.

How did you pick your name and your persona?

Veritas: I didn't put nearly that much thought into my name. I'm a huge Boondock Saints fan, and that's where Veritas came from but, unfortunately, I couldn't register the name. The Roman goddess of truth is Veritas, but the Romans didn't allow people to be named after gods or goddesses (according to the SCA heralds). I haven't personally seen proof of this but didn't want to fight it. So, Octavia came from a Google search for Roman names from that particular time period.

My name and all of my sisters would have been determined by my father. My name is Octavia and my father would be Octavius. I made myself an only child. Initially, I was going to be Roman 500 BCE and it recently switched it to 300 BCE. The reason for the switch of 200 years was because during this time period, I could inherit property after the death of my husband.

Abruzzo is the region where my father's grandparents immigrated from Italy in the 1920s. I chose that particular region because that's the part of my family I never had connection to, and it was a way to make a connection to that part of my family.

What kind of resources did you find helpful when developing your persona?

Veritas: I actually referenced Encyclopedia Britannica a lot because that's where a lot of the Google searches pointed me to. Even working on Arts & Sciences stuff I use Encyclopedia Britannica as a starting point.

I really didn't have any contact with the Italian side of the family and from everything I read from my from my grandfather's siblings – they knew the family was from the Abruzzo region, but they couldn't agree on a village, so I went with the region and kind of worked from there.

My persona is the daughter of a legionary, so I could have been a little more inland. Also I ended up very briefly married to a wine merchant. I looked up what the most common types of merchants would have been in that area, and found they were wine, cheese, and fiber, and wine was the most interesting.

My persona was married to the friend of her father. The way it would have worked in the time period was that a 13 year old would have been married off to a man in his late 20s or early 30s, so it wouldn't be implausible for Octavia to end up marrying a friend of her father's.

The average marriage age for women at that period in Rome was 12 to 15, so my persona was married at 13 (which is icky at the best of times) and widowed at 15 because her husband went missing. I will not be discussing the circumstances of his disappearance further. This is all I will say on this matter.

In conclusion, developing a persona in the SCA is a deeply personal and evolving journey that combines historical research, creativity, and connections to one's own background. For Octavia Verita, her persona was shaped by a blend of family heritage, historical context, and the pursuit of a meaningful connection to a past she had yet to explore. By choosing the region of Abruzzo, tying her identity to both her father's legacy and her interest in Roman history, Octavia created a rich and authentic character. Her process illustrates how crafting a persona is not only about finding the right historical facts but also about uncovering connections to one's own life and interests. As with many SCA participants, the journey of persona development is ongoing, shaped by both personal growth and new discoveries, ensuring that each event brings an opportunity to explore and refine the character one inhabits.



THE BARONY NEEDS THEE

PRACTICE SCHEDULES

If thou has questions or intreats in offering your service please contact Baroness Molly Blythe at seneschal@SmokingRocks.EastKingdom.org

There are vacancies for the following offices:

❖ Chatelaine

In this office you would help guide newcomers from first garb to first event. You would also answer their questions or point them in the direction to a gentle that could.

❖ Deputy Seneschal

This position would assist Baroness Molly Blythe in Seneschal duties including baronial business

❖ Deputy Exchequer

This position is to assist Lady Elaine with duties that would include bookkeeping and other treasurer tasks

❖ Deputy Chronicler

This would be assisting the chronicler with editing the newsletter and writing articles as needed

❖ Master/Mistress of the Lists

This would be running tournaments and helping maintain records for our fighters.

HEAVY FIGHTER PRACTICE

P.A.L Hall - 31 Franklin St, Fall River

Sunday December 22 at 2:30 PM. Friday January 3rd 7 PM.

Sunday January 5th at 2PM. Friday January 17th at 7 PM.

\$5/Fighter. New fighter's first visit is free! Loaner gear can be provided with advanced notice. Join the Facebook Group for updates! PAL SCA Practice

MELEE PRACTICE

P.A.L Hall or Springfield Ma locations- any changes in location will be announced on the Facebook Group)

Doors open at 9am to armor up and practice starts at 10am

December 14- PAL Hall

January 11- PAL Hall

February 8- possibly Springfield

March 8- PAL Hall

April 12- TBD

Join the PAL SCA Practice Facebook Group for updates on Melee Practices and the return of Two Sword Sundays



REGNUM

Baron and Baroness

Fergus Redmead and Sabina Luttrell (Mike Meyer and Linda Meyer)

baron@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org
baroness@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Lady Gwenlliana Vachan (Beth Sanford)
exchequer@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Chancellor Minor

Lady Toi Poisson de Mortagne (Toi Fiore)
Email pending

Chatelaine

Position available

Chronicler

Lady Vølva-Kaðlín knutr (Kate Thorn)
chronicler@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Knight Marshal

Master Pdraig MacEanruig (Pat Harrington)
knightmarshal@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Marshal of Thrown Weapons

Baron Fergus Redmead
baron@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Captain of Archers

Position available

Leviathan Pursuivant (Herald) Lady Amy verch Rychard (Amy Jump)
herald@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Minister of Arts & Sciences

Mistress Nest verch Tangwistel (Tanya Sanders)
artsscience@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Mistress of the Lists

Baroness Nejla Hattice Saime Dogan (Amelia Dogan)
mol@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Seneschal

Baroness Molly Blythe (Mali Lim Howe)
seneschal@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org

Steward

Lord Gudporn inn Irski

Webminister

Lady Vølva-Kaðlín knutr (Kate Thorn)
webminister@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org



Kenning Points is a publication of the Barony of Smoking Rocks of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. *Kenning Points* is available from Lady Vølva-Kaðlín knutr (Kate Thorn) at chronicler@smokingrocks.eastkingdom.org. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.