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# *The Chanticleer*

## *Monthly Newsletter of Barony Beyond the Mountain*

*September, 2017*

*AS52*

### *The History of Our Barony*

*In this (hopefully) first in a series of articles about the history of the Barony, Lady Evaine ferch Brangwen interviews our founding Baron, Balin the Fairhaired.*



*Balin showing mail at The Cloisters. Sometime in the 1970s.*

*Dale Plummer/Balin the Fairhaired, founding baron of the Barony Beyond the Mountain, and his wife Sharon/Morgana Eressea di Sanpere, joined the SCA with Dale's brother, John Plummer/Mitchell Gray Cloak, in Seattle in 1970. John Plummer learned about the SCA through the writings of a favorite author, Poul Anderson, then a member of the SCA in California.*

*John, Dale and Sharon discovered what would later become the Barony of Madrone in Seattle and joined. Events were held in the arboretum at the University of Washington, where they both were students. Balin started to fight, wearing an 18-gauge propane tank helmet.*

*"The blows were taps compared to what you see today," Balin said. "It was a lot of fun."*

*When he graduated in 1971, Balin and Morgana moved back to his hometown, Woodbury, CT in 1971. They contacted the SCA to find the local group and quickly learned there wasn't one.*

*"I was told there was a man in Meriden who wanted to start a group, but he didn't do anything," Balin recalled. "So we decided to do it."*

*Continued on page 5*

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## Baronial Officers:

**Baron & Baroness** - Baron Dorigen of Lewes, [baron@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:baron@bbm.eastkingdom.org), and Mistress Eloise of Coulter, [baroness@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:baroness@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Seneschal** – Marcus Allectius Felix, [Seneschal@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:Seneschal@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Deputy** – Mistress Elizabeth Vynehorn, [electiondep@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:electiondep@bbm.eastkingdom.org) & Lady Leandra deLeon, [leandrasuz@aol.com](mailto:leandrasuz@aol.com)

**Chatelaine** – Lady Gwenllian ferch Llewellyn, [chatelaine@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chatelaine@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Deputy** – Sybill Teller, [mpeckham83@gmail.com](mailto:mpeckham83@gmail.com)

**Chronicler** – Lady Johanna de Glastingburi, [chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.com](mailto:chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.com)

**Company Captain of Archers** – Rumhann MacDuibhsithe an Bhlog Seolta, [archercap@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:archercap@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Exchequer** – Lady Ciara McRobbie, [exchequer@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:exchequer@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Deputy** - Lord Gwilym of Fflint, [willied0296@yahoo.com](mailto:willied0296@yahoo.com)

**Herald** – Mistress Camma an Daraich, [herald@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:herald@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Knight Marshal** – Lord Angus Gove MacKinnon, [knightmarshal@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:knightmarshal@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Marshal of Fence** – Lord Grimolfr Skulason, [rapier@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:rapier@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Marshal of Thrown Weapons** – Vacant

**Mistress of Arts & Science** – Lady Alys du Bois, [moas@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:moas@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Minister of the List** – Lord Mark of the Red Hand, [mol@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:mol@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Web Minister** – Lady Sisuille Butler, [webminister@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:webminister@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

**Youth Marshal** - Vacant

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# Combat Arts

**NOTE: Practices are subject to change without notice. Please call ahead.**

## Archery

**CT: BBM –** By appointment Sundays, 3-5 at the Norwich Archery Club. Contact Siobhan 860-859-2773.

**CT: BBM -** Tuesdays – 5:30 p.m. Burlington, CT - Dorigen & Eloise's at 17 Bittersweet Lane, Burlington, CT. Contact Dorigen at 860-673-2240.

**CT: Dragonship Haven:** Sundays 12-3 pm (in season, weather permitting) Oxford, CT. [DragonshipHaven@yahoo.com](mailto:DragonshipHaven@yahoo.com)

**MA: Carolingia – Carlisle, MA: Sundays** from 10 am to 1 pm - Archery practice runs year round, by Master Peter the Red, at his home at 94 Laurelwood Drive, Carlisle, MA. All are welcome and loaner equipment is available. Contact Peter at [peter.carmichael@comcast.net](mailto:peter.carmichael@comcast.net) or call 978-287-0808.

**MA: Quintavia - (Worcester County; Central Mass):** Sunday from 1-3 pm weather permitting. Rozi and Brokk's, 472 Gleasondale Road, Stow, MA.

**MA: Smoking Rocks -** Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 pm and Fridays 6-8 pm – Trader Jan's, 288 Plymouth Avenue, Fall River, MA. Lane fee is \$8. Loaner gear is available.

**RI: Tobyn's practice:** Practice is open by appointment. Website has current information: [www.baronyofthebridge.eastkingdom.org](http://www.baronyofthebridge.eastkingdom.org). Contact Tobyn 401-741-9130 or Radagast 401-741-9067.

## Fencing

**Sundays, 1-3 pm –** 29 Florida Road, East Haddam, CT – Adult rapier only – Contact Grimolfr at 860-682-2526.

**Mondays, 7-9 p.m.** at Mary Elizabeth McGrath Educational Center, 130 Elm Street, Millbury, MA (Quintavia).

**Thursdays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.,** Keefe Community Center, Hamden, CT (hosted by Barony of Dragonship Haven). Contact the Fencing Marshal (Christophel) @ [fence@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org](mailto:fence@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org).

## Heavy-List Fighting

**Tuesdays, 7-10 pm,** Middlefield Federated Church, 402 Main Street, Middlefield, CT.

Contact: Áine at [ainethefearless@gmail.com](mailto:ainethefearless@gmail.com)

**Wednesdays, 7 pm,** Barony of Bergental at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 455 Island Pond Rd., Springfield, MA. Contact Knight Marshall of Barony of Bergental for more information.

**Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., Keefe Community Center,** Hamden, CT, hosted by Barony of Dragonship Haven). Contact the marshal at [heavy@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org](mailto:heavy@dragonshiphaven.eastkingdom.org).

## Thrown Weapons Practice

**1st & 3rd Sunday, 64 Orchard St,** Vernon, CT. Contact [sisuile@gmail.com](mailto:sisuile@gmail.com) for times.

**Saturdays, 9-12 Aschehyrst,** 258 Edgell Rd, Framingham, MA. Contact Symon of Barnesdale, [thrown-weapons-marshall@carolingia.eastkingdom.org](mailto:thrown-weapons-marshall@carolingia.eastkingdom.org)

## Youth Fighter Practice

**Tuesdays, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm** at Middlefield Federated Church, 402 Main Street, Middlefield, CT. Contact Aine at [ainethefearless@gmail.com](mailto:ainethefearless@gmail.com)

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## Baronial Champions:

**Archery Champion:** *Jonathan Buchanon*

**Fencing Champion:** *Sir Arnwult Aethelreding*

**Heavy Weapons Champion:** *Lord Mark the Red Hand*

**Thrown Weapons Champion:** *Lord Rumhann MacDuibhsithe an Bhlog Seolta*

## Meetings:

**Baronial:** Next meeting is September 18, 2017 at New Britain Public Library, 20 High St, New Britain, CT. Contact Seneschal Marcus Allectius Felix, [Seneschal@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:Seneschal@bbm.eastkingdom.org)

## Arts & Science

### Middle-Eastern Dance

Sundays, 1-4 p.m., Authur Murray Dance Studio, Glen Lochen Marketplace, 39 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT. Contact Mistress Su'ad (Nancy Barrett) at 860-228-6933 (before 10 p.m.); [nancysuad@gmail.com](mailto:nancysuad@gmail.com).

### Dance

First Tuesday of month – 7:30-9:30 pm - Camelot Co-Housing 46 Sawyer Hill Rd. Berlin, MA (Quintavia)

### Sewing

Sewing & Throwing is the 3rd Sunday, bring your string based projects, hang out, throw sharp objects at wood. 64 Orchard St, Vernon, CT Contact [sisuile@gmail.com](mailto:sisuile@gmail.com) for times.

## Baronial Election News!

Greetings to the barony!

The ballots for our election will be mailed out during the first week of September, and a notice will be posted to the listserv and social media sites when the ballots are sent out. If you reside within BBM and do not receive your ballots within a week of the mailing notice, please contact me at [electiondep@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:electiondep@bbm.eastkingdom.org) to arrange for a replacement ballot.

The ballots will be due in mid-October (check the ballot itself for the exact date). Please note that the return date listed on the ballot is the date by which the ballot must be received, and \*not\* the date by which it must be postmarked. Because you will be mailing the ballots to Pennsylvania, please mail the ballots at least 3 mailing days before the deadline, in order to give the USPS enough time to deliver your ballot.

Once the deadline for the ballots has passed, all ballots will be counted within 2 weeks by the Branch Polling Deputy and forwarded to the EK Seneschal and Crown (allowing 3<sup>rd</sup> week for postal mail).

After receiving the results, the Crown typically takes 1 month to consider the preference/ recommendation expressed by the barony. They may have questions or need more information. If they deem it necessary, they may take additional time in announcing their decision. Hopefully, we should have heirs by the end of November or beginning of December.

If at any time you have questions about the election or the process, please do not hesitate to contact me at [electiondep@bbm.eastkingdom.org](mailto:electiondep@bbm.eastkingdom.org) or at [vynehorn@gmail.com](mailto:vynehorn@gmail.com).

In service,

Mistress Elizabeth Vynehorn

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Balin in armor: taken at a school demo.

They organized the first tourney in June 1972 on a field in Woodbury across the street from his mother's house. It turned into their baronial investiture. Eight to ten people attended, including John, Dale and Sharon, a couple of women from Waterbury and an artist who created posters to advertise the event.

East Kingdom Seneschal El of the Two Knives came to conduct the investiture ceremony to name Balin and Morgana the first baron and baroness.

"We became barons by virtue of starting the group," Balin said.

They chose the English translation of the Native American name of the Housatonic River, meaning "beyond the mountain," as the new barony's name.

"It seemed like a nice medieval sounding name," Balin said.



The outdoor court with Balin and Morgana definitely is at UConn, outside the old Student Union in 1982 or 1983. Salaamallah is at the right, but he didn't know the others in the photo.

Richard of Rideja, served as first baronial seneschal. Richard was best known for creating expert replica medieval coins of both pewter and silver, and later became a member of the Order of the Laurel. Balin served as both baron and seneschal for a time before Richard took the position.

Dale Plummer went to graduate school at the University of Connecticut in Storrs in 1972-73 for medieval studies. He didn't recall when he first met Salaamallah the Corpulent, but it was at UConn.

"When did I not know Salaamallah?" he said.

Salaamallah joined early on and soon became baronial seneschal. The barony continued to grow, with the cantons of Ravenhill in the western part of the state, Fennbrycg, centered at UConn, and Dragonship Haven in the southwestern portion of the state. The barony hosted a Crown Tourney on the same field across from his mother's house in Woodbury. Balin entered.

"I didn't do too badly," he said. "I fought pretty well, but I was eliminated by Akbar, who became king."

Prior to fighting Akbar, Balin defeated one combatant with a "classic" blow to the head, he recalled. But at the same time, the man slashed Balin's knee. He continued fighting, but the knee grew worse.



Balin demonstrating mail construction was at The Cloisters. They had a booth set up for him to do the demo. Sometime in the 1970s.

After the weekend, Dale missed his UConn class on High Germany. His professor knew he had entered the medieval tournament and joked to the class that he probably got his leg cut off. The next day, Dale hobbled into the classroom on crutches.

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*"The whole class burst out laughing," he said.*

*The early barony hosted many events at Woodbury High School, including a poetry contest that brought fantasy author Marion Zimmer Bradley to town. Her husband won the poetry contest.*

*"It was pretty neat knowing Marion Zimmer Bradley," Balin said.*

*One incident, however, wasn't so neat. Duke Cariadoc of the Bow (formerly King of the Middle, King of the East, and progenitor of the Pennsic War) came to one post-event gathering at Balin's mother's house in Woodbury. As they chatted, Cariadoc wielded his rattan broadsword to demonstrate a move, made an upward thrust and poked a hole in ceiling. "Maybe she won't notice," someone said.*

*She did.*

*Balin remained baron, but in the 1980s, virtually disappeared, to the point where people referred to him as the "phantom baron." He had moved to New London and had become an activist in the New London Landmarks group, pushing to save historic buildings in the Whaling City. Eventually, on January 4, 1986, his old friend Salaamallah the Corpulent replaced him as Baron.*

## *Artifacts of a Life III*

**September 30th, 2017**

### **Barony Beyond the Mountain**

*The Barony Beyond the Mountain invites the populace of the East to join us on September 30, 2017 for Artifacts of a Life III.*

*Have you ever thought how cool it would be to walk into a museum or an archive or an archaeological dig and see the things that your persona left behind? This is your chance to create that experience!*

*Depending on the culture and time period, these could be grave goods buried with you, recreations of items mentioned in your will or probate inventory ("my second best bed to my wife..."), documents such as charters, indentures, or receipt books, or items that might be found in an excavation of your life context -- all the ways that we know about the material culture of the past and can reconstruct a plausible life. Examples can include votive gifts found in a bog, the tools found in your workshop when they dug up the old town to put in a parking garage, and the cookbook passed down for 8 generations. In short, the things that could have*

*ended up in a museum that were associated with your life, or the life of a persona that you wish to recreate (it doesn't have to be your current SCA persona).*

*To add spice, there will be a contest and rich prizes will be given -- chests of goodies from artisans of the East, as well as materials for future projects. The rules for the contest, as well as information about registering your entries, can be found at the event website, located at <http://sca-artifactschallenge.blogspot.com>.*

#### **Schedule:**

*9:00 Site opens*

*9:00-10:30 – Entrants check in and set-up*

*10:30 -- Meeting of Judges*

*11:00-3:00 – Judging*

*12:00-1:00 - Lunch Break*

*3:00-4:00 – Judges meeting and tabulation of scores*

*3:00-4:30 – Breakdown of entries*

*4:30 – Court*

*6:00 Site Closes*

**Site is damp.** *Beer, wine, mead or champagne ONLY. No spirits or spirit-based cordials are allowed on site.*

**No smoking or vaping on site.** *Not even in the parking lot. You must go outside the fence to smoke or vape.*

**No animals are allowed on site except Service Animals** *as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (guide dogs, signal dogs, or other animals individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability).*

**Site Open:** *09:00 am - 09:00 pm*

**Location:** *HSC Community Center, 370 Osgood Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053*

**Registration:** *The site fee is \$10.00 per person. Note the site will be open for set-up from Noon Friday the 29th to 9:00pm and from 7:00am Saturday the 30th. Clean-up ends at Midnight Saturday (Or, hopefully, MUCH earlier!) If you are still on site after 6:00, THANK YOU for helping with clean up.*

**Feast:** *A dayboard prepared by the talented Lady Sisule Butler will be available for a separate fee of \$5.00 per person. Dayboard is limited to 75*

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people, but please pre-register if you are interested in purchasing.

**Event Steward:** Mistress Elizabeth Vynehorn, Susan Scoville, [vynehorn@gmail.com](mailto:vynehorn@gmail.com)

**Send Reservations to:** Contest registrations should go to: Mistress Elizabeth Vynehorn, Susan Scoville, [vynehorn@gmail.com](mailto:vynehorn@gmail.com)

**Those interested in judging, please contact:** Baron Jehan du Lac, C.T. Iannuzzo, [baronjehan@gmail.com](mailto:baronjehan@gmail.com)



The photo of Balin presenting a subtlety to Salaamallah probably was taken at an event at the Unitarian Universalist Church in New London. The subtlety looks like a thistle. He didn't remember who the bagpiper is.

## Archaeology News

<http://www.archaeology.org/news/>

**8/30/17 - LOST MEDIEVAL VILLAGE DISCOVERED WITH AERIAL LASER SCANNER - WROCLAW, POLAND**—According to a report in *The International Business Times*, archaeologist Maria Legut-Pintal of Wroclaw University of Science and Technology has discovered the village of Goschwitz in southwest Poland. The small village consisted of about 20 farmhouses, constructed of timber framing on stone foundations, arranged around a central square. Scholars have

been searching for the village, thought to have been founded some 700 years ago by the Duke of Löwenberg, who was also known as Bolko I the Strict, for more than 70 years. Using airborne laser-scanning technology, Legut-Pintal found the village, which was occupied for only 50 years. She has two ideas regarding the failure of Goschwitz: The village may have been destroyed during the Hussite Wars, or poor soil may have made survival impossible. “We will be able to answer this question only after excavation studies, when we establish the exact time of village abandonment,” she explained. For more on archaeology in Poland, go to “Off the Grid: Krakow.”

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/long-lost-medieval-village-bolko-i-strict-discovered-poland-1637270>

**8/30/17 - SKULL STUDY OFFERS VIEW OF VIOLENCE IN MEDIEVAL LONDON - OXFORD, ENGLAND**—Kathryn Krakowka of the University of Oxford examined hundreds of skulls recovered from six London cemeteries dating between A.D. 1050 and 1550. According to a report in *New Scientist*, she found that violence in medieval London may have been tied to sex and social status. Nearly seven percent of the skulls bore evidence of violent trauma, or about double the rate of trauma found in cemeteries in other parts of England. And, the rate of signs of violence was even higher in the skulls of young men aged 26 to 35, and higher in those who had been buried in free parish cemeteries rather than monastic cemeteries, usually associated with the paying upper classes. Krakowka speculates that the upper classes may have turned to officials in the developing legal system of the time to address disputes, or even resorted to formal duels while wearing armor. Historic coroners’ rolls record that most homicides occurred on Sunday nights, when Krakowka says men would have been visiting taverns, and on Monday mornings. “This, in combination with my results, possibly suggests that those of lower status resolved conflict through informal fights that may or may not have been fueled by drunkenness,” she said. For more, go to “The Curse of a Medieval English Well.”

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2145415-medieval-london-was-the-most-violent-place-in-england/>

**8/25/17 - GATE DISCOVERED AT MEDIEVAL CASTLE IN SLOVAKIA - VINNÉ, SLOVAKIA**—The *Slovak Spectator* reports that Viniansky Castle’s main gate has been found. The ruined castle, located in eastern Slovakia, sat on a hill overlooking the trade route to Poland. “When we

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started our research six years ago, we had no gateway, now we have two of them,” said researcher Jaroslav Gorás. The newly discovered gate is thought to date to the thirteenth century, and is located in the oldest part of the small castle. But the second gate is located just 100 feet away, puzzling archaeologists. “It was a big investment, moreover, every extra opening in a castle wall was harder to keep from enemies,” said Peter Bednár of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. To read in-depth about excavations at the site of another castle, go to “Letter From England: Stronghold of the Kings in the North.”

<https://spectator.sme.sk/c/20633435/archaeologists-find-gateway-from-13th-century-in-vinne.html>

### **8/22/17 - 8TH-CENTURY SETTLEMENT DISCOVERED SOUTHWEST OF DUBLIN - SALLINS, IRELAND**

—Archaeologists working at a bypass construction site near the village of Sallins in County Kildare have made a host of discoveries dating back over 1,000 years, according to a report in the *Leinster Leader*. Excavations have revealed layers of the area's history from post-medieval roads to prehistoric cremations, including evidence of an 8th-century settlement on the banks of the River Liffey. According to Noel Dunne, an archaeologist with Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the enclosure complex is marked by a series of roughly six-and-a-half-foot-deep ditches and has produced artifacts such as rings, pins, a book clasp with a design similar to the St. Brigid's cross, and the remains of a very large guard dog. To read more about the archaeology of early medieval Ireland, go to “The Vikings in Ireland.”

<http://www.leinsterleader.ie/news/home/266292/archaeologists-discover-8th-century-settlement-near-sallins.html>

### **8/16/17 - PARTS OF TUDOR PALACE UNEARTHED IN LONDON - LONDON, ENGLAND**

—Parts of Greenwich Palace, where Henry VIII as well as his daughters Mary I and Elizabeth I were born, have been unearthed, according to *The Wharf*. Two rooms from the Tudor Palace were discovered during construction of a new visitor center at the Old Royal Naval College in southeast London. The rooms are thought to have been used as kitchens, a brewhouse, or for doing laundry. One of the rooms included a lead-glazed tiled floor, and the other had what are thought to have been “bee boles,” pockets in the wall where beehive baskets could be kept during the colonies’ winter hibernation. In the summer, when the hive baskets were kept outdoors, the cavities may have been used to keep food and drink cool. The palace

was built in the fifteenth century and included state apartments, a chapel, courtyards, gardens, and a jousting area, but was demolished in the seventeenth century under the Stuarts and ultimately replaced with Greenwich Hospital, which today houses the Old Royal Naval College. “To find a trace of Greenwich Palace, arguably the most important of all the Tudor palaces, is hugely exciting,” said Duncan Wilson, chief executive of Historic England. For more, go to “Letter from England: Stronghold of the Kings in the North.”

<http://www.wharf.co.uk/news/local-news/discovery-old-greenwich-palace-sheds-13475973>

### **8/15/17 - ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY ON LINDISFARNE EXCAVATED - DURHAM, ENGLAND**

—Two complete skeletons have been discovered in what is thought to be an Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, off the northeast coast of England, according to a report from *Chronicle Live*. The cemetery is believed to have been linked to the island's monastery, and those buried in it may have included those who worked the monastery's land or pilgrims who traveled to the island. Another dig on the island recently discovered an early church. “They found the church and we have found the congregation,” said Durham University archaeologist David Petts, who led the cemetery excavation. The two complete skeletons will be analyzed for insights into the individuals' diet, health, and geographic origins. The discovery of seal bones along with the remains of other animals offers an initial clue into what the people on the island were eating. “They are hunting seals and making the most of the resources available to them,” said Petts. A charnel pit containing bones that may have been gathered together after being turned up by plowing was also discovered. To read in-depth about Anglo-Saxon England, go to “Letter From England: Stronghold of the Kings in the North.”

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/complete-skeletons-anglo-saxon-cemetery-13474400>

### **8/11/17 - ARCHAEOLOGISTS CONFIRM VIKING FORTRESS - AARHUS, DENMARK**

—Archaeologists in Denmark have used advanced remote-sensing technology to confirm the existence of a tenth-century Viking ring fortress, reports the *International Business Times*. While the site had been tentatively identified since the 1970s as a fortress of the Trelleborg type (characterized by a telltale circular shape and precise internal structure), only recently has technology such as LiDAR been available that allows researchers to

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measure subtle differences in the ground of long-overgrown earthworks. There have only been five confirmed Trelleborg fortresses discovered in Denmark to date and, at 500 feet in diameter, the Borgring fortress is the first of its kind to be found in 60 years. The Trelleborg fortresses appear to have been built between 975 and 980 during the reign of King Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson, who may have sought to centralize a previously factional alliance of Viking leaders in the face of threats from the Holy Roman Empire. To read more about Harald Bluetooth, go to "Bluetooth's Fortress."

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/1000-year-old-massive-perfectly-circular-viking-fortress-discovered-denmark-1634131>

**8/11/17 - MEDIEVAL PARCHMENT DNA AND PROTEINS STUDIED - COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**—Research on the proteins and DNA held in medieval parchment manuscripts is providing new insights into how the manuscripts were made and used, according to a report from *New Scientist*. Researchers from the University of Copenhagen, University of York, and Trinity College Dublin studied manuscripts including the York Gospels, which were written around A.D. 1000. Since conventional methods of extracting DNA from the manuscripts were deemed too invasive, the researchers used rubbings from the parchment that are removed as part of routine cleaning and typically discarded. The proteins found in the rubbings indicated that the York Gospels were primarily made from cattle, while some pages were made from sheepskin. A Gospel of Luke dating to the twelfth century and owned by Cambridge University's Corpus Christi College was found to have been made with skins of calves, sheep, goat, and two different species of deer. DNA from the rubbings suggests that most of the animals used to make the parchment were female. In addition, pages of manuscripts containing clerical oaths that would have been touched or kissed regularly were found to contain higher levels of human DNA. "You can even see the use to which the text is being put," said Matthew Collins of the University of Copenhagen, "which is kind of amazing." For more on manuscripts, go to "Scroll Search."

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2142043-dna-of-long-dead-cows-read-from-pages-of-medieval-books/>

**8/8/17 - VIKINGS FREEZE-DRIED COD TO WEATHER LONG SEA JOURNEYS - OSLO, NORWAY**—Viking fishermen appear to have freeze-dried cod and transported it from the Arctic

to Germany hundreds of years earlier than the fish was known to have arrived there, according to a report from *New Scientist*. Researchers from the University of Oslo and the University of Cambridge compared DNA from four ancient cod samples found at Haithabu, a Viking-era village in what is now northern Germany, with around 170 modern cod samples and concluded that the ancient samples came from the northeast Arctic, close to the northernmost tip of Norway. This means that the Vikings transported the cod some 1,200 miles by boat, which would have taken at least a month. In order to preserve the fish for this length of time, the researchers conclude, they must have freeze-dried the fish by hanging it on wooden racks in the open air after catching it in the winter, which is when cod come close to the Norwegian shore to spawn. This is hundreds of years before the first recorded use of salt to preserve fish in Norway in the 1690s. "The early trade of dried cod, if this is what the bones represent, suggests the emergence of exchange in bulk commodities, not just prestige goods," says James Barrett of the University of Cambridge. For more, go to "Hoard of the Vikings."

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2143059-viking-hordes-dined-on-frozen-norwegian-cod-shipped-to-germany/>

**8/2/17 MEDIEVAL ARTWORK UNCOVERED IN COPTIC MONASTERY - CAIRO, EGYPT**—Aham Online reports that frescoes and architectural elements of a medieval church have been uncovered at the Monastery of St. Bishoy by restorers who removed a modern layer of mortar from its walls. Coptic inscriptions were found below the paintings of saints and angels, which date to between the ninth and thirteenth centuries. One painting on the western wall of the church depicts a woman named Refka and her five sons, who were martyred. The team also uncovered the church's ambon, a structure from which Christian scriptures were read. It was made of mud-brick covered with a layer of mortar and decorated with a red cross. Mohamed Abdellatif, deputy antiquities minister for Egypt's archaeological sites, said a review of historic documents revealed the church had been remodeled in A.D. 840, during the Abbasid era, and again in 1069, during the Fatimid caliphate. For more, go to "Afterlife on the Nile."

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/9/42/274317/Heritage/Coptic/Medieval-Coptic-wallpaintings-uncovered-at-Egyptia.aspx>

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**Baronial Election  
Ballots will be mailed  
out the first week of  
September. Don't  
forget to vote! See  
page 4 for details**



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Jane Brezzo  
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