

JANUARY 2025

VOLUME XLII ISSUE 2 A.S. LIX

# EDICTS & EPISTLES



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# BLACK DIAMOND BARON & BARONESS



Baron Alonzo Falcone & Baroness Alys d'Avignon

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[baroness@blackdiamond.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:baroness@blackdiamond.atlantia.sca.org)

## BLACK DIAMOND BARONIAL OFFICERS

Seneschal - Lady Kale Cinnabarrissa - [seneschal@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:seneschal@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org)

Chatelain - Lady Agatha la Sommeliere - [chatelain@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:chatelain@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org)

Chronicler - Bridgid of Black Diamond - [katealicebrown1994@gmail.com](mailto:katealicebrown1994@gmail.com)

Exchequer - Lady Drinneth - [exchequeroofblackdiamond@gmail.com](mailto:exchequeroofblackdiamond@gmail.com)

Herald - Lord Edward Perry of Middlegate - [jbrice1982@gmail.com](mailto:jbrice1982@gmail.com)

Knight's Marshal - Vacant - if interested, please contact the seneschal

Minister of Arts & Sciences - Genevote - [moas@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:moas@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org)

Minister of the Lists - Vacant - if interested, please contact the seneschal

Quartermaster - Vacant - if interested, please contact the exchequer

Webminister - Lady Helena Isabelle de Soleure - [webminister@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:webminister@black-diamond.atlantia.sca.org)

Deputy Webminister - Phoebe Priestess of Eir - [amarantewere@gmail.com](mailto:amarantewere@gmail.com)

## BLACK DIAMOND BARONIAL CHAMPIONS

Archery Champion - Lady Agatha la Sommeliere

Armored Combat Champion - Lord Bjorn of Black Diamond

Arts & Sciences Champion - vacant

Bardic Champion - Master Johann von Solorthurn

Baronial Scribe - Lady Genevote la Feseresse

Scroll Wrangler - Lady Jocelyn of Black Diamond

Rapier Combat Champion - Yuri no Kitsume

# BARONAGE UPDATE!:

## Welcome to our newly elected Baronesses: Agatha la Sommeliere & Yuri Murasaki

*Good people of Black Diamond! Your Regional Seneschal, Tiarna Lughaidh O Murchadha comes with exciting news! At the direction of Their Majesties, a Polling has been conducted to determine the next Baronage of Black Diamond. Your voices have been heard, and I am honored to have the privilege to announce that the next Baronage will be Lady Agatha la Sommeliere and Lady Yuri Murasaki! Many thanks to Lord Fujiyama Takamori and Lady Catlin Kavanaugh for their offer to serve Kingdom and Barony. I would also like to thank Baron Alonzo and Baroness Alys for their services as Baronage, and wish them well in all future endeavors. Please join Their Majesties, His Highness, and Their Excellencies at Ice Castles/Barony of Black Diamond Investiture on Saturday the 25th of January at the Boonsboro Ruritan Club in Lynchburg, VA to witness the Investiture of Agatha and Yuri!*

*Yours in Service,  
Tiarna Lughaidh O Murchada  
Virginia Regional Seneschal  
Kingdom of Atlantia*

## Announcement: Baronial Chatelaine Needed!

*Because of the elevation of our chatelaine, Agatha la Sommeliere, to Baroness of Black Diamond, we are in need of a new chatelaine. The Atlantian website reads that "This office is responsible for making sure that newcomers to the local group are made to feel welcome and receive the assistance that they need to become active members of the SCA. They are also responsible for ensuring that demos for recruitment and education are held.." Lady Agatha says, "Chatelaine is typically the first point of contact for newcomers and helps them find their footing in the Sca. Chatelaines also encourages both new and old and helps connect the newcomers with scadians that have been playing a while." If you are interested in becoming our next chatelaine, or a deputy, please reach out*

*If you are interested in serving the Barony in another capacity, please see our list of officers, there are some vacancies! And many of our current officers would enjoy the support of a deputy, if you prefer.*

# AN INTERVIEW WITH:

## Agatha la Sommeliere & Yuri Murasaki

### How did you get started in the SCA?

A: My story is actually two parts. My roommate in college is a second-generation Scadian. At the time she and her now husband kept encouraging me to come to events, but as an arts student I didn't really have time. When I moved back to Lynchburg I went to the Celtic Festival at the Sedelia Center and never really left the demo table. Juliana put me to work! I started there, helped break down the demo and went to dinner with everybody and started coming to practice!

Y: It's a kind of strange story. It happened back when I was in college. I was friends with Peter, and he introduced me to the SCA. He mentioned one day that he was going to something called an SCA event. Now, I thought that it was scholastics-based and sent him on his way since that was something he was part of on campus. After the weekend I saw Peter in class and the first thing he does is shows me all of his bruises. I was kind of shocked, since that doesn't sound scholastics based at all, and asked "What happened?!" He started telling me about everything the SCA does. I told him that the next Monday he was taking me to practice, since you get to dress up in armor and hit each other with swords. I've barely missed a practice since! And it's been almost 12 years.

### How long have you been involved with the SCA?

A: Six years in March. It's easy for me to calculate because I started almost a year to the day before the plague shut us down

Y: At this point, roughly 11 and a half years. Or at least that's how long I have been authorized.

### What is your full SCA name? How did you choose it?

A: Agatha la Sommeliere. I pretty much decided I was interested in a bunch of different things and wanted something that could cover lots of time periods and areas if I decided to change my persona but not my name. I had it narrowed down to Agatha, Sophia, and Ursula as sort of Europe-wide names. At that point it was down to I want to go with a surname of what I do or where I'm from. I was deciding between English, French, and German. I knew I had family history in German, but then did some research and found out that that family history was nonsense. Which is why I didn't go German

Y: Yuri Murasaki. It is another long story. I chose a Japanese persona has much more to do with my family than my interests. Though my interests are closely aligned. Both of my grandparents on my mother's side were stationed in Japan towards the end of the Vietnam war, and so they spend months over there just immersed in the culture there. They ended up dating and marrying over there. When they came back I remembered growing up around all of the things they had brought back with them. I actually have both of my grandparents at this point 60 year old silk kimonos that they had when they were over there. So being surrounded by things from their past definitely had an influence, especially since I grew up in their home. So when it came time to think up my persona all I could think of was a Japanese persona to pay homage to the culture I grew up around because of my grandparents. I also really like the textile work of Japan, so anything dyed, woven, or embroidered I fell in love with. So it was only fitting I take a Japanese persona.

### What is your favorite thing about being involved with the SCA?

A: Hmmm..., Found my wife, found my people, and the enabling of hobbies. Life is definitely a lot harder when you don't have your people. The fact that I have friends now that I can talk about hobbies with and geek out about stuff with

# AN INTERVIEW WITH:

## Agatha la Sommeliere & Yuri Murasaki

*Y: Obviously my wife, but if we're not saying our spouses, I have learned a lot by being part of the rapier community, and the SCA as a whole. I have met some of the most amazing people that I probably would never have met had I not been part of this crazy game, but because I have been part of all of this I have matured as a person in a way that I don't think I would have without being part of the SCA. And I will say that it has been for the better. I think that being part of the community has led me to do a lot more than I probably would have had I not been a part of the SCA*

**What would you change about SCA if it were up to you?**

*A: Probably SCA time. It drives my mother-installed anxiety crazy. I was taught that if you're early your on time, and if you're on time your late. In the SCA if you're on time you're early, if you're 15 minutes late you're on time, and any variation of that. There's some events you go to and you know it's going to be an hour before people show up. So, yes, SCA time*

*Y: There are a number of things that I could probably say. The one thing that just keeps popping into my mind is the fact that baronage seems to be on par with royalty in that there are no back-ups. When it comes to baronage a lot of pressure seems to be put on baronage and they are expected to do as much work as they can to help their barony with whatever they need. But that is a lot of pressure to put on just two people. I know that there are plenty of examples of baronage being able to do that. But almost every time I've been able to talk to baronage about that, especially in baronies that are having a hard time, they always end up burnt out. I wish that there was more structure, and something like deputies to spread out the load. Even their majesties have the prince and princess to help them. But even then, their reigns are short because of the amount of pressure put on them. Yet, baronage is a 3-7 responsibility on the shoulders of 2 people that are only offset by the amount of effort their officers and populace are willing to put in. I wish there was a way of spreading the load a little bit.*

**What is an SCA story everyone should ask you about? (Just give a bit, let people ask you about it!)**

*A: I never feel like I have any stories, but when I talk to other people they say "Well, that's a story" but it just feels like normal SCA stuff to me. I don't have any really good ones*

*(Enter Maise: Yes you do, you made you're own flying nun story!)*

*I honestly forgot about that*

*(So, ask Maise about Agatha's flying nun story)*

*Y: Part of my wants to be very sappy and say ask me about how I met my wife! And how convoluted that was. Yes, I will say that  
[editor's note: caution, incredibly sappy & cute]*

**Why do you want to be baroness?**

*A: So, we want to help encourage those who think that they're too new to do anything in the barony, and to help those who have been here a while to not burn out, to give them that encouragement and spark to keep the barony alive. This includes helping those who wish to teach, wish to fight, help newcomers figure out where to start. Help everyone find a direction to start with and encourage branching out*

# AN INTERVIEW WITH:

## Agatha la Sommeliere & Yuri Murasaki

*Y: I love my barony and I want to see it grow and flourish. And this is a very rough time for the barony. When a lot of people just seem to be very tired and very burnt-out. And I love my barony and if I can do anything to help it, if there's anything I can do to bring back the joy, bring back the fun, help our community come back together and be stronger, than I am more than willing to be baronage. Baronage is a great responsibility, but I am very willing to shoulder those responsibilities if everyone gets to have the fun they want and find the community that may become their found family. If there's anything I can do to make that happen, I'll do anything to make that happen.*

**What is one thing you would want to do as baroness?**

*A: For me it goes back to that being encouraging thing, and helping people find there spot*

*Y: I want to bring back the whole concept of make things comical, make things entertaining. I want our baronage to be filled with laughter and smiling.*

**What excites you about Black Diamond?**

*A: The comradeship and the feel of family, as crazy as it is*

*Y: So, as I mentioned earlier, Black Diamond and the people I have met over the years have given me the opportunity to grow, as a person. The more people that I meet, the more people I consider to be my found family. So, to me, Black Diamond is not just an SCA group, it is my family that I have grown to know and love over the many years that I have been part of the SCA. There were a bunch of people from our local group that were actually at our wedding, and I met my lovely wife in Black Diamond, so I have found my family here. And that's what Black Diamond is to me.*

# UPCOMING BARONIAL EVENTS

**01/25/2025 - Ice Castles - Boonsboro Ruritan**

**Club, Lynchburg, VA**

*Come thank Baron Alonzo and Baroness Alys for their years of service to the  
Barony as they step down and celebrate the investiture of our new  
Baronage, Agatha la Sommeliere & Yuri Murasaki.*

<https://blackdiamond.atlantia.sca.org/ice-castles/>

[https://atlantia.sca.org/event/?event\\_id=66cal76f](https://atlantia.sca.org/event/?event_id=66cal76f)



# UPCOMING “LOCAL” EVENTS

**1/11/2025 - Twelfth Night - Newport News**

**2/1-2/2/2025 - University of Atlantia - Online**

**2/21-2/23/2025 - Ymir 50 - Ellerbe, NC**

**3/8-3/16/2025 - Gulf Wars XXXIII - Glean Abhann**

**3/29/2025 - Defending the Gate - Spotsylvania, VA**

*For more events, see our kingdom calendar at <https://atlantia.sca.org/calendar/>*

# DECEMBER MEETING

## MINUTES

*Call to order*

*A meeting of Atlantia's Barony of Black Diamond was held online via Zoom on December 11, 2024.*

*Attendees*

*Alys, Bridgid, Sharon Shaffer, Agatha and Yuri, Juliana, Laura, Kale, Torbjorn (Jake), Edward Perry, Maesie, Stoffel, drynnith, Phoebe Eir Harris, Helena*

*Reports*

*Seneschal was presented by Kale*

*Unevent was Saturday*

*Lady Agatha and Lady Yuri will be our next baronage!*

*Seneschal will be handed off at the January business meeting to Thora. With the handing off, we may consider changing time & place. If we wish to continue to meet online, is Alys interested in continuing to manage a zoom account, or do we need to ask around, or look at other options*

*Financial policy and operating policy will be voted on in February or March to give incoming offices a chance to review policies*

*Officers: No herald, Knight marshal is stepping down, Agatha will no longer be Chatelaine when she becomes baronage. We need to find people to fill these positions*

*From unevent: NMR report is due within 5 days of event closing, the money is due within 14. Can be generated off of troll numbers.*

*Kingdom exchequer is requesting information about SCORES. She would like feedback from all of the groups; has it been useful, or a pain in the butt? Would you rather use PayPal*

*Current baronage was presented by Alys. Send in award recommendations.*

*Chatelaine was presented by Agatha. Had a couple of new people come to Holiday Faire. We have a transplant from East Kingdom coming to Monday night practice, along with another new person. After Christmas we will begin pushing Ice Castles and Missile Madness. Bridgid has offered to help as deputy chatelaine, especially during the first couple of months when we're looking for someone new. She cannot take over due to another officer position.*

*New baronage was presented by Agatha. Several people have offered to help with garb. Will get in touch with Alys to figure out what else is needed. We will ask for help as soon as we know what we need*

*Chronicler was presented Bridgid. Unevent was mostly the IOI course, and we talked about the use of AI and other such things, and the editing of other people's work and words, and where the limits are on that*

*Exchequer was presented by drynnith. Was not able to attend Unevent, will get in touch with kingdom to fill out information. The NMR policy was among the emails that were sent out. We also need to submit meeting minutes from bid approvals with the reports. We currently have \$16,549.95. Two outstanding checks, one for NMR for Bacchus and one for reimbursements for bacchus. With these in mind the actual balance is \$16,355.07. We are waiting to hear from the bank to make sure Mercy is on the account and has access to everything*

# DECEMBER MEETING

## MINUTES

*Fighter practice is at the church now on Thursday nights. Stefan and Evelynne are teaching dance on occasion, they will be there tomorrow night!*

*Webminister was presented by Helena. Attended Unevent with Phoebe. Changes coming on kingdom end. Email forwarding is going away. We will have a google suite with new emails for all officers. Hopefully we will have our new stuff in the next couple of months. There is now a Canton of Seven Hills tab on the baronial page. From Phoebe: Baronies are what they are working on now, so emails should come soon. They are specifically saying please don't forward emails, because emails go missing. Please use your official email. There will be a list of officers on the Canton page. 3 pages, a main page, a tab for officers, and a tab for meeting minutes under the canton (they have been moved). Events will still be listed under the barony with the qualifier "hosted by the canton." Calendar has also been moved to the main page. When the emails come through for the Canton officers we can decide what email to attach the calendar to and hopefully be able to add events to the barony calendar as well. Email has been sent to the kingdom webminister for warrant. Photos and permissions: need to make sure that permissions are correct for usage. Especially for photographers it is much easier if they check the box labeled "perpetual grant of use," which allows the photo to be used anywhere in the kingdom. Everyone should have a good look at the paperwork and sign a waiver if they consent to their photo being taken and/or used. The release forms are under <https://chronicler.atlantia.sca.org/Releases.php> (as posted in the chat)*

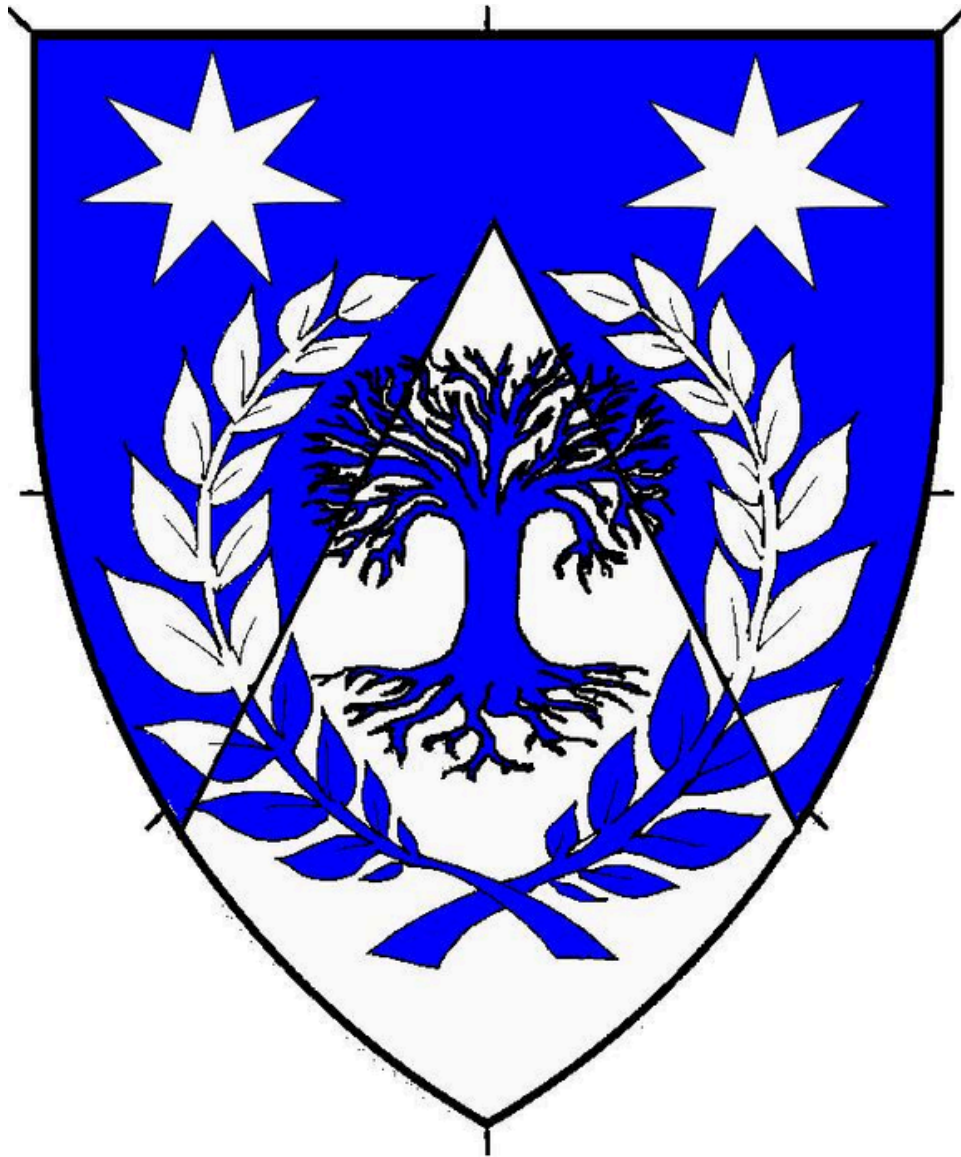
*Canton was presented by Stoffel. We're all doing well. Our big drive coming up is Missile Madness, event was spiked over the weekend. Right now we're planning some workdays to prepare. Hopefully we'll have one in January or February to help clean up the land a bit, and to put in a path for a walk-through. We're going to try to reassemble the tower we use and use it at practice a few times, it's fun, and we can use the pictures for advertising. Right now they're looking for people to help with parking, please contact Juliana or Aldemere if you can help. We're prepping for the new year: rolling over officers, reviewing the financial plan, etc. We're biding our time until we have official emails to post contact information, in hopes that it will be soon. We won't wait too long. We're excited for Ice Castles*

*Ice Castles was presented by Edward Perry. As of 5pm there were 17 people registered for event and 11 for feast. We are trying to sell all 50 feast slots by the end of the month so we can know how much food we're buying. Will have rapier and archery. There is a schedule for Ice Castles (posted in the chat). Everything should be ready, all of the administration work is done, now we just have to have the event. The site tokens are ready! And they're really cute. From Kale: it came up at the seneschal's meeting that we need to make sure that event stewards make sure that all things that happened at the event get reported at the end of the day court. All winners should be announced*

*Adjournment*

*Kale adjourned meeting at 8:49p. Next meeting will be January 8th, 2025 at 8pm via Zoom*

# CANTON OF SEVEN HILLS



## SEVEN HILLS CANTON OFFICERS

Seneschal - Stoffel die Waffle - [chris.eurice@gmail.com](mailto:chris.eurice@gmail.com)

Deputy Seneschal - Dame Laura Graley de la Moore - [laura.graley@gmail.com](mailto:laura.graley@gmail.com)

Exchequer - Shyslava Ruslanova - [Allisonoram501@gmail.com](mailto:Allisonoram501@gmail.com)

Deputy Exchequer - Maesie of Black Diamond - [maesieofbd@gmail.com](mailto:maesieofbd@gmail.com)

Chronicler - Bridgid of Black Diamond - [katealicebrown1994@gmail.com](mailto:katealicebrown1994@gmail.com)

Knight Marshall - Roland de Thompson - [nick.shelnut@gmail.com](mailto:nick.shelnut@gmail.com)

Minister of Arts and Sciences - Brittany Wilson - [brittanywilsonmoas17@gmail.com](mailto:brittanywilsonmoas17@gmail.com)

# CANTON DECEMBER MEETING

## MINUTES

*Call to order*

*A meeting of Atlantia's Barony of Black Diamond's Canton of Seven Hills was held at the Pelican's Nest on December 9, 2024.*

*Attendees*

*Stoffel, Sadb, Bridgid, Maisie, Brittany, Dakotah, Seraphina, Torbjorn, Agatha, Yuri, Phoebe, Hagar, Sigfrid, Aldemere, Julie, Holly, Eric, Harland*

*New Business*

*No new business from the populace*

*Unofficial Polling: Social Media? Besides facebook and discord*

*Instagram, Blue Sky?*

*Before the beginning of next year we need to review the financial policy. Does anyone else want to be on the financial committee? The job includes reviewing financial policy and signing checks. Job is to be available, no particular meetings*

*- Sigfrid volunteers, unanimous approval*

*Two people are stepping up for Knight Marshall, Roland (once his life has settled a bit), Connell will step up until then. Connell will be deputy, Roland will be Knight Marshall. All in favor*

*Winter University – Conflict resolution class – recommended for officers*

*SCORES – Kingdom is asking for feedback. Thinking about moving back to PayPal for smaller events. It was cumbersome in the past, Kingdom is trying to streamline PayPal for smaller event autocrats. If anyone has feedback contact Stoffel or the Kingdom Webminister*

*Reports*

*Webminister was presented by Phoebe. Have sent out emails to the correct people at the kingdom level about which email we should use for canton events. Every officer will have an email dedicated to their position. Can attach calendar to any of the officer email addresses. They are creating a Google Suite for officer emails. We will be using this new system. Since they are doing everything from scratch, they are currently working at the barony level. We are on the list to be done, at some point we will be assigned the Canton officer emails.*