

ASLXI, Issue 23, November 2026

NEWSLETTER

The Annals of Eplaheimr

Credits: Viscountess Agnes and Máistir Aodh, winners of Coronet Tourney. Photo property of Melisende Fitzwalter.

Masthead in JSL blackletter and JSL Ancient. Internal Text in Tahoma. The Annals is created in Open Office. All stock images are royalty free.

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Cluain Oir Day

St. Nicholas Parochial School 14th November 2026

The Cluain Oir Activity Days return for November with the usual social day of crafting, music and Rapier fencing practice. From 10am to 4pm, come down and join the fun and work on your project!

More information

From Their Excellencies

Beannachtaí, a chairde dílis,

We hope that you have all weathered the recent storms in safety and comfort, and that any plague may pass by your houses swiftly.

We recently travelled Southwest to the Burren to witness Insulae Draconis' Coronet Tourney, won by our first Princess Sovereign Agnés Boncuer fighting valiantly for the honour of Prince Consort Aodh Ó Siadhail. All fighters were up against a mighty foe in the elements but did their consorts and their Principality proud.

Once again we are thankful for the Herculean work of the event team, lead by the Honourable Lord Eplaheimr-jin Ünegen. Máistreas Meadhbh and the Honourable Lady Kytte kept everyone fed beyond compare as always, and all mentioned (and many more who are not) are truly the jewels in the crown of Our Barony.

Gods and Plague willing, We will be travelling to Glendalough for Kingdom University. This event will be hosted by Our dear neighbours in the Shire of Dun in Mara, and will also bring much rejoicing with the truly wonderful Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter's elevation to the Order of the Pelican. We hope to see as many of you there as is possible, and if not that We will see you before next year!

Our calendars are preparing for what 2027 will bring, which will include the election of new Baronial royalty. It is an honour to serve Our lands, but We cannot do so forever - so start thinking about whether you (yes, you!) would be able to carry these bronze coronets and lead Our populace to brighter days and sunnier skies.

Until next we meet, stay safe and be excellent to each other!

Le meas agus buíochais,

Robert agus Fianna
Ardthiarna agus Ardbhanthiarna Eplaheimr

The Saga of the Storm Princess



Or The Tale of Coronet of the Dead

Hear now, O ye who gather in the halls, and lend your ears to the telling of deeds of valour, of storms and strife, of the breaking of ships, and of a Coronet won by the strength of the sword arm.

For it came to pass in those days, when the leaves had long since fallen and the winds of winter prowled the western shores, that the fate of the Principality of Insulae Draconis was to be decided upon the wild Atlantic coast of Eplaheimr, in the desolation of the Burren, where the stones are ancient and the sea is never silent.

And at that time came great tumult in the heavens that was visited upon the land. The name of the first great tempest was Austen, whose breath had already laid waste to field and shore. Yet scarcely had its fury departed when there arose another, more terrible still, and her name was Beola. And she came upon the land with a wrath that was not easily withstood.

Her chariots were the dark clouds, her steeds the racing winds, and her weapons the rain that drove sideways across the earth. She roared above the cliffs and howled through the hollows of the Burren, and the waves of the western ocean rose like great walls, seeking to devour all that stood before them.

Yet the call had gone forth, and the gathering was ordained.

For the warriors of the Principality were summoned to the lists, that they might contend for the right to rule Insulae Draconis. And many were those who set out upon the roads, and many were those who sought passage over the waters, trusting in their ships and their sails to bear them safely to the appointed place.

But Beola was not minded to permit such a gathering.

Woe to the ships that ventured forth! For the winds seized their sails, the waves rose against their prows, and the sea cast its fury upon them. Some were turned back, some were scattered upon distant shores, and others, whose names were entered upon the roll of those expected, were lost to the gathering through despair of hope of passage.

Thus was the host diminished before ever a blow was struck.



Nevertheless, there were those who would not be turned aside. Hardy were they, and stout of heart, and they took the roads through the storm, beneath skies as dark as iron, with rain upon their faces and the wind striving to tear the cloaks from their shoulders.

Over the stony ways of the Burren they came, until at last they reached the stone hall and found shelter within its walls.

And when they had gathered, they looked upon one another and Prince Michéal spake thusly: "Shall we turn back because the heavens are angry? Shall we abandon the contest because the sea roars? Shall the storm decide who shall wear the Coronet of Insulae Draconis?"

And the answer was given:

"Nay!"

For the tournament would be held.

So it was that the field of combat was sought out and prepared. Yet the wind was fierce upon the open ground, and the rain fell without mercy. Therefore did the marshals and those charged with the keeping of the lists seek a place where the wrath of Beola might be lessened. And they found a grassy place beneath the lee of the stone hall, where the walls stood firm against the storm's blast.

There were some among the watchers who, possessing wisdom greater than their enthusiasm, took refuge behind the glass windows, and there beheld the deeds of arms from a place of warmth and safety.

But the mighty rulers Michéal and Gwerful, the doughty Baron and Baroness of Eplaheimr, the gathered consorts and other hardy souls were not so easily persuaded to abandon their station. They took up their cloaks, the thickest and warmest that could be found, drew them close about themselves, and stood forth to witness the contest. For it was not fitting that those who sought the coronet should face the storm alone.



And there stood the fighters, armed and ready, with the rain upon their helms and the wind tugging at their tabards. Before them lay the field; above them the raging heavens; and around them the gathered company, who had come despite the wrath of the elements.

Then did the Marshals call the Lay-on, and the first blows struck.

Great was the thunder of weapons upon shields, and great the cries of those who watched. The warriors pressed against one another, and each sought to overcome the other by strength, by skill, and by cunning.

But Beola, seeing that the gathering had not been broken, sent forth another assault. The rain beat harder upon the lists, and the wind swept across the field, seeking to unseat the fighters and drive them from their purpose.

Yet the combatants stood firm. Here shall they shall be named: Agnes, Erin and Etienne, may their word-fame ever endure.

And such was the strength of those who contended, and so evenly were they matched, that the rounds passed without any one warrior establishing mastery over the rest. Each had their victory, and each their defeat; none could claim the field as their own. Again and again did they meet, and again and again was the contest brought to a balance.

Thus was the deadlock maintained.

Until at length the third round was reached, and there the fortunes of battle began to turn.



For two among the fighters had distinguished themselves above the rest, and it was ordained that these should advance to the final contest.

One was Viscountess Agnes, steadfast of heart and sure of hand. The other was Viscount Etienne, a warrior of renown, whose courage had been proven upon many fields.

And the company gathered closer, for all knew that the hour of decision had come.

Now it appeared as though Beola herself seemed to lean over the combatants, eager to see the outcome of the contest and the discomfort of the gathered populace.

But the two champions gave no heed to her.

They faced one another, and the final combat began.

Blow answered blow, and stroke answered stroke. Each sought an opening in the other's defence, and neither would yield the advantage lightly. Once, twice, three times were they called to meet in the contest, and the gathered company watched with breath held fast.

And when the count was made, it was found that Viscountess Agnes had prevailed in all three bouts out of the five that were sought.

Thus was victory hers!



And a great cry arose from the company, for a thing had been accomplished that had not been accomplished before in all the annals of the Principality.

For Agnes had become the first Princess by Right of Arms of Insulae Draconis!

Let this deed be remembered, and let none say that the storm drove all before it, for there upon the western shore, beneath the roaring heavens, a Princess had been made by the strength of her own sword arm.



Then in hall, did Agnes and Aodh come forth and were proclaimed successors to Prince Michéal and Princess Gwerful, and the earth of the very field upon which the combat had been fought was gathered and prepared. With this earth were they anointed, and it was laid upon them as a chrism of the land itself, that they might bear the mark of the ground upon which their right had been won.

For they had not gained their station in warm sunshine, nor beneath a gentle sky untouched by the tempest, but upon the sod and stone of Eplaheimr, where the winds had tested them and the rain had witnessed their deeds.

And the people rejoiced.



Fires were kindled in the halls, and their warmth drove back the chill of the storm. The tables were laden, the drinking horns were filled, and the company gave thanks that they had endured the trials of the journey and lived to see the investiture of their new rulers.

Yet the deeds of the weekend were not ended.

For there remained further contests of arms, and those who had not been satiated by the great tournament found fresh opportunities to prove themselves.

A dagger tournament was held in the halls to delight the storm-bound multitude, fierce and keen, in which the combatants displayed their skill at close quarters, and the watchers cried out at each turn of fortune.

But Beola had not yet surrendered all claim to the land.

Throughout the night her winds continued to rage, and her rain continued to fall. Yet the walls of the hall stood firm, the fires burned, and the company remained gathered together, waiting for the day when the heavens might relent.



And behold, when morning came, the storm had at last been vanquished.

The clouds withdrew, the winds abated, and the land was granted a brief peace. Then did the archers take their bows and go forth, for at last the skies permitted that ancient art to be practised. Arrows flew, and bowstrings sang, and the targets bore witness to yet more feats of skill. At that time there was rapier play also, swift and intricate, wherein the blades flashed like lightning across the field.

Thus was Beola overcome, not by any single warrior, but by the steadfastness of all who had gathered at Coronet of the Dead.



Ah, yet let no bard be so foolish as to recount the deeds of warriors while neglecting those who sustained them! The stewards, the Marshals, the helpers and the gracious presiding courtesy of the Baron and Baroness of Eplaheimr. And last, but not least, the cooks who had laboured mightily, and their craft was no less essential to the success of the gathering. They had taken provisions and transformed them into a feast worthy of kings and queens, and their works brought delight to every stomach within the hall.

Verily it was said amongst the company that while Agnes had conquered the lists, the cooks had conquered all who sat at table.

And none disputed this judgement.

So let it be recorded in the chronicles of Insulae Draconis and Eplaheimr, that such were the deeds done in those days.

In Witness from behind the glass

Text Credit:
Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter

Photo Credits:
Lord Keir of Eplaheimr
Lady Erin Volya
Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter



Dispatches from the Court of the Úll Órga!

Court of Their Excellencies Fianna and Robert at Coronet of the Dead

New Awards

Tuatha de Lamh Airgid (Excellence) – Noble Mallymkun Rauđi (posthumous)

Court Business

Their Excellencies Fianna and Robert held Court at Coronet of the Dead while Storm Beola raged around the Hall. Attending them were the Brute Squad appropriately armed with Scythes and as Their Herald, Lord Kier of Eplaheimr. They thanked those who were able to attend in despite of the weather, in order to witness the succession of Their Leige Lords of Insulae Draconis. They also were generous in their gifts to Charioteers and others.

In a moment of poignant grief and joy, their posthumously awarded the Noble Mallymkun Rauđi, membership in the Tuatha de Lamh Airgid, for that their excellence shone in everything they did and they brought joy to all who knew them. Alas that they were taken from us too soon.



This quarter in History

CE42 – November 27th, The forces of the Second Triumvirate, consisting of Octavian/Augustus, Mark Antony, and Lepidus, defeat the forces of Brutus and Cassius at the Battle of Philippi.

1000 – October: The Icelandic parliament, Althing, is established, making it one of the oldest extant parliamentary institutions in the world.

1120 – November 20th The disaster of the White Ship, when it founders and sinks carrying King Henry I's only son and 17 year-old heir William.

1216 – November 12th Magna Carta Hiberniae Issued 17 months after the first Magna Carta, extending rights and libeties to Anglo-Norman Lords.

1368 – January 23rd The Ming Dynasty officially begins with the ascension of Zhu Yuanzhang as the Hongwu Emperor; marking the end of the Yuan dynasty and the beginning of a new era of Chinese rule.

1477 – November 28th William Caxton publishes his first book "The Dictes or Sayengis of the Philosophers", in London

1533 – January 25th King Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn in a formal wedding.

1591 – December 25th Red Hugh O'Donnell escapes from Dublin Castle, after being held hostage for 4 years.

Source: historyplace.com, onthisday.com



What's On

In Eplaheimr, Lough Devnaree and Beyond!

Kingdom University

6th - 8th November
Glendalough, Co. Wicklow

Come to the premier Teaching event of the Kingdom, this time in Lough Devnaree! There will be classes on all sorts of subjects delivered by teachers from around Drachenwald. Don't miss out!

Info & Booking

Cluain Oir Activity Days

Saturday November 14th
St, Nicholas School, Galway City

Cluain Oir is hosting it's monthly Acitivty Day of the year. Come on down and join us for crafting, music and Rapier practice!

Info & Booking

Cluain Oir Activity Days

Saturday December 5th
St, Nicholas School, Galway City

Cluain Oir is hosting it's final Acitivty Day of the year. Come on down for some seasonal cheer and the usual Music, crafting and Rapier practice!

Info & Booking

Imbolc

Saturday 30th January
Clara Scout Den, Co. Offaly

Hosted by our neighbours in Dun in Mara, Imbolc is a one-day Revel to get together and break the darkness of winter with the making of candles, cheese and planting seeds! Keep an eye out for information on this event, on the Dun in Mara website.

Blogs and Vlogs



A selection of Blogs and Vlogs from Eplaheimr and around the Knowne World.

This Issue's Theme:
Metal-working

Sandcasting Metal
Instructions on how to do Sand casting.
https://www.instructables.com

Eirny
Soapstone moulds
https://eirny.com/2015/02/16/casting-metal-soapstone-molds

Cast and Curio
Pewter Casting for Beginners
https://castandcurio.com.au/blog/pewter-casting

Guides to Industrial Art
Lost Wax casting
https://www.thecrucible.org/guides/metalworking

Medieval Foundry
Medieval casting techniques
https://medievalfoundry.wordpress.com/

Baronial News

Seamus Fraser is now LORD Seamus Fraser by gift of Prince Michéal and Princess Gwerful at Coronet of the Dead Abú!!

For anyone wishing to vote or stand in next year's Baronial election, your memberships need to be active by **1st December**. Only fully paid members can vote or serve as Baronial Royalty.
To renew or buy a membership

Baronial Directory



Barony

Baroness Fianna Rua Nic Mhathúna – baroness.eplaheimr@gmail.com
Baron Robert of Eplaheimr – baron.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Seneschal (Chairperson) – Mistress Órlaith Ildánach & Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter – seneschal.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Exchequer (Treasurer) – THL Meadhbh Rois Inghean Uí Chaoimh – exchequer.eplaheimr@gmail.com

MoAS (Arts & Sciences)– Lady Mór ní Bheag – eplaheimr.moas@gmail.com

Chronicler (Newsletter) – Baroness Melisende Fitzwalter – chronicler.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Marshal (Combat activities) – Vacant

Signet Clerk (Award Certificates and Scrolls) – THL Kitte of the Lake signet.eplaheimr@gmail.com

Uisneach Herald (Voice Heraldry) – Lord Keir of Eplaheimr uisneachherald.eplaheimr@gmail.com
Cruachán Herald (Book Heraldry) – Vacant

Tuatha

Canton of Cluain Óir (Galway City & County)
Sheriff: Lord James of Cluain Óir – seneschal.cluainoir@gmail.com

Báile Ceann an-tSionnan (Limerick)
Sheriff: THL Ünegen – coussotyann@gmail.com

Capall Uisce (Dromineer & North Tipperary)
Sheriff: Lady Marina de Grado – marinapostir@gmail.com

Tir Chroi (Athlone and surrounds)
Sheriff: Lord Robaird of Eplaheimr – roborourke@gmail.com

Eiscir Airgead (Clara and surrounds)
Sheriff: Ildánach Órlaith – sheriffeiscirairgead@gmail.com

Name TBC (Longford Town and surrounds)
Sheriff: Lord Aodhán de Pairc – aodhanhudson@gmail.com