

# From The Tower



## Barony of Southron Gaard

Special Edition

November A.S. LIV

(2019 C.E.)

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## Chronic Ramblings

Welcome to this special edition!

Trying to find medieval election / ballot / voting / polling artworks has been a bit challenging, and I assumed it was because there were few elections in period, all family succession, surely? Nope! Elections certainly did happen, both royal, church and secular. I found a very engaging article from Björn Weiler published in History Extra (linked below) and recommend a read to get you into the medieval mindset while pondering this decision.

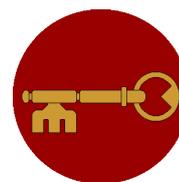
<https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/medieval-elections-facts-history-vote/>

So here for your reading pleasure, the Baronial Candidates introduce themselves and their plans to you. Have a read and a think, and then follow the link the in King and Queen's missive to communicate your thoughts to the Crown.

Yours in Service, Agnes Graye



## Seneschal



Good morning to all the populace of Southron Gaard

To our Baronial candidates, It's not an easy decision to put yourselves up for this role. You have my thanks and respect for doing so. Best of luck and I look forward to working with you going forward.

To our current Baron and Baroness, I have greatly enjoyed your tenure, and believe you have done this Barony proud; and while the excitement of choosing new representatives is high, it is tinged with sadness as you choose to step down. I couldn't have done this role without your support.

Please remember to give all those who are applying, and all those who have gone before your thoughts and your thanks. We wouldn't be here without them.

Elena

### Image credits for this issue:

A coin from 113-112 BC, depicting voting in the Roman Republic. On the left, a voter receives a ballot from an attendant below. On the right, another voter casts his ballot into the ballot box (cista). Both voters are standing upon a pons.

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman\\_voting\\_scene.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_voting_scene.png)

Coronation scene pg 5 from <https://brewminate.com/elections-in-the-middle-ages/>

Images from the candidates as submitted.



## Kingdom of Lochac

### King Niall inn Orkneyskii and Queen Sabine du Bourbonnais



Unto the conscientious populace of the Barony of Southron Gaard does Niall and Sabine, Undoubted King and Queen of Lochac, send warmest Greetings.

In conjunction with Their Excellencies Ginevra and Richard, We are undertaking an endeavour to poll the Populace to find your excellent Barony, worthy successors.

This task will be completed by use of a fairly simple Google Survey (link below). All responses will be collated directly by Us, and all individual commentary will confidential.

<https://forms.gle/Yw8vY78sUxXbKXPA8>

We welcome feedback from any gentles who feel strongly connected to Southron Gaard, though, much as you might anticipate, the opinions of the residents of Southron Gaard will take precedence.

The poll will close on Sunday, December 1, 2019, at 21:00 NZDT, so please file your responses as soon as possible.

Yours in Service to the Kingdom of Lochac,  
Niall & Sabine



## Baron and Baroness Southron Gaard

To the Populace of Southron Gaard.

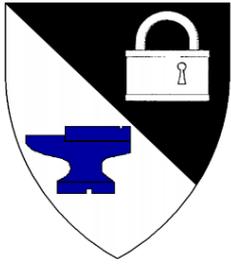


We are now able to announce that the Crown of Lochac have approved two sets of candidates to stand for the role of our successors. These couples are Master Grim of Thornby with Baroness Alexandra di Santiago, and The Honourable Lord Cesare d'Orso with The Honourable Lady Violetta Vasari.

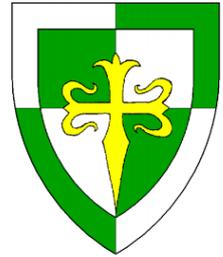
The Crown will be seeking your feedback shortly, via a poll that they will be administering directly, and We would ask that you all send them your thoughts.

In Service,  
Richard and Ginevra  
Baron and Baroness, Southron Gaard





**The words of  
Baroness Alexandra de Santiago  
and  
Master Grim of Thornby**



Unto the Populace of Southron Gaard, do Baroness Alexandra de Santiago and Master Grim of Thornby send greetings. We write to you as candidates for Baroness and Baron of Southron Gaard, to introduce ourselves to those of you who do not know us well, and to let you know our intentions.

Southron Gaard is a robust Barony with a history encompassing two kingdoms and as such has a unique perspective and traditions. We embrace these traditions, and enjoy the point of difference that this gives the Barony. We believe that the Barony is in a good place right now. There are good numbers of events, recruitment has been achieving good results and retention of members has been maintained.

Our involvement in Southron Gaard has been since the days of the Shire, with a combined SCA experience of over 50 years. Baroness Alexandra started actively participating in AS XXVII (1993), and Master Grim's first event was in AS XXVII (1992). Our core beliefs are ones of honesty, integrity, and community. We endeavour to get along with everyone, and to encourage people to meet their potential.

We currently reside in the Hamlet of Gildenwick, in the northern reaches of the Barony. We believe that through technology and our commitment that the distance between groups is easily overcome. We intend that the monthly tournaments continue, and would ensure that at least one of us would be present at each of these. We would travel for all of the Barony events, and would represent the Barony at other Crescent Isles, and Terra Rosa events where able. We envision, if successful, to fulfil this role for around 5 years, and see no reason at this time why this would not be possible.

We look at the position of Baron & Baroness as being responsible for the in-game side of the Barony, and as the conduit between the populace and the Crown. As such, we do not feel that they need to be involved with the day to day running of the mundane aspects of the Barony. However, we recognise that it is important that they keep their 'fingers on the pulse' of the Barony, remain cognisant of the needs and wants of the populace, and also the need to encourage and support officers and event stewards in their roles. Mundane events can have a great impact on the Barony, both good and bad. It is important for the Baron and Baroness to be seen to stand with the populace during these times.

We think that the Baronial Awards play an important part in our Society, and are something the citizens of the Barony personally own and celebrate. We would endeavour to create an environment where the populace readily



recommends people for Baronial awards or other forms of recognition, and where 'legacy' awards are passed from recipient to recipient more often.

We will seek to promote the Barony and the Society pro-actively to aid in recruitment, looking beyond the avenues commonly pursued by the Society to endeavour to gain a broader demographic. One of the things we love about the society is how it can fit people of all backgrounds and interests, allowing people to explore the areas that appeal to them with a worldwide structure of support for those endeavours. We will look at how to retain new and existing participants, and how to support the populace in making them feel a part of the group. The youth are the future of the Barony, and we will be supporting ways to encourage their participation, recognition, and enjoyment.

Our goals in standing as Baron and Baroness are to continue the strong history of the Barony, supporting it and its inhabitants and working to strengthen its spirit of community, inclusiveness, and tradition. We hope that the Barony grows and flourishes and we will support, as always, those who endeavour to work towards these goals.

Yours in Service Master Grim of Thornby Baroness Alexandra de Santiago



**Youthful king crowned by the people (King: Scene, Right of Royal Succession and Election by People). (Paris, mid. 14c). Avis aus Roys, Pierpont Morgan Library, M.456, fol. 82v**

**The words of  
the Honourable Lord Cesare d'Orso  
and  
the Honourable Lady Violetta Vasari**

Greetings

Firstly we shall take a moment to introduce ourselves, there may be some friends we have not made as yet.

We are, the Honourable Lord Cesare d'Orso and the Honourable Lady Violetta Vasari and we are happy to put forward our nomination to become the next Baron and Baroness of the great Barony of Southron Gaard. We started in the SCA as part of the Shire (now Canton) of Dragon's Bay, located in the southern reaches of Perth, Western Australia, back in 2005, we were very active in all the groups in the local area, including the Barony of Aneala and the now defunct Canton of Abertridwr. We began visiting Canterbury Faire 7 years ago whilst serving as part of a royal household, and eventually with a mundane work opportunity moved to Christchurch in 2017.

We have very wide and varied interests in the activities of the SCA, Cesare as a heavy combatant, we both have competed in archery, and have many interests in the Arts and Sciences fields.

We have a small household, House Annwn, most of the members are back in WA but we keep in touch and still enjoy the friendships and support this brings.

During our time in the SCA we have served in officer roles such as deputy seneschal, reeve, A&S and chatelaine many times and stewarded large number of varied events from small demos to being part of the team running crown events. We have travelled widely to SCA events and hope to continue and expand our horizons further.

We believe that awards and recognition are a very important, and wonderful part of SCA life and we like to see the people in the group awarded for the work they do. It would be an honour to be part of this process as Baron and Baroness.

Our SCA vision is one of courtesy, respect and inclusiveness. We strongly believe in welcoming all with open minds and positivity. The SCA is often referred to as "The Dream", and we hold that everyone has a different version of this dream, and that it is our goal to respect, embrace, encourage and help each other to nurture all our various dreams and bring them together to ensure the SCA is an exciting and fun thing to be part of.



One of our most deeply held beliefs is that of service to the group, the SCA is what we make it for ourselves. We enjoy doing everything we can to help in any manner that we are able to, be it being involved in council by holding positions or running events, or just quietly stepping up when something needs to be done or someone needs a hand, it is what makes the SCA work after all.

Southron Gaard is full of wonderful people who have made us feel so welcome and we feel confident that we could serve as the next Baron and Baroness. There are many long held traditions that we would like to see brought back into the foreground, and conjunctively, we would like to work towards the introduction of some new ones. We would like to work on the recognition of newcomers and the youth of the group, as these are important to a prosperous future growth and development for the Barony. Inspiring, teaching and nurturing them can help us all have an even greater group to be part of.

We believe it is very important to foster good relations with our surrounding groups, the wider kingdom and the entire SCA, but in particular it is important to focus on nurturing the local Hamlets where they feel they need it. Cesare travels to these areas quite often with his mundane work and is very open to being available in the evenings whilst there for meetings, training or just to chat, to help these geographically distant groups feel more an integral part of the Barony. We both would also love to try to travel to the Hamlets on a regular basis to help inspire and keep healthy communication flowing.

We see the role of Baron and Baroness as one of leadership, communication and inspiration. These are all areas that we are confident we can serve the barony well. Groups thrive with good leadership teams, and it is our goal to have open communications with all the populace, and very importantly to work well alongside the Seneschal and council ensuring the day to day workings of the group are efficiently and properly taken care of. Good leaders also serve to inspire, both by word and deed, leading by being good examples is something we have long aspired to as parents and as SCA members, we are confident in our ability to bring this to the baronial roles. Being open to communication from everyone is key to us. Our door is always open, our ear is here to listen, our shoulder to lean on, as a sounding board, or a place to vent, or to talk things through, this is true now and would be moreso if we are chosen for baron and baroness. To be able to show support, kindness and friendship are very important to us, hospitality and largesse is a basis to our personal dream of the SCA.

Pagentry is one feature of the SCA that we love and we would envision promoting it as much as possible at SG events, through court and decoration to enhance the overall ambience and feel of events. We also love themed and fun events, for example the tournament held this past weekend was fun and engaging for all and we would encourage more of these, we have ideas, many, many ideas, but we'll not go into those right now. Assisting the ideas of others to become reality is also something we are keen interested in.

It is difficult to put into this short statement all that we wish and hope to be given the chance to do for the group. Our overall vision for the role of Baron and Baroness is to promote and foster a fun, healthy, strong and cohesive group through the values of friendship, courtesy, diversity, acceptance and belief. We considered and talked extensively before putting ourselves forward for this nomination, it is not something we have entered into lightly or half heartedly. We sought counsel from many SCA wide that have served in similar roles to make sure we were confident nominating. We can be honest in saying our only agenda is to serve the group to the best of our abilities and we would be humbly honoured if we are chosen.

We thank you all for taking the time to read our statement and for giving us your consideration.

Your in Service

Cesare and Violetta