

AN TIR FINANCIAL MEETING -- Fall Crown Council 11/13/16

Attendance:

ROYALTY

King Kjartan Daegarson
Queen Sha'ya Kjartanskona
Crown Prince Stykarr Jarlsskald
Crown Princess Dagrún Stjarna
Tir Righ Princess Gwyneth Gower
Summits Ban-Tanist Alina of Follkstone

KINGDOM & PRINCIPALITY OFFICERS

Exchequer Arontius of Bygelswade
Seneschal Julia Sempronia
Curia Clerk Althaia filia Lazari
Summits Seneschal Piaras mac Toirdhealbhagh
Arts & Sciences Minister Cristiana de Huntington
Chamberlain Charles de Bourbon
Crown Events Deputies Francisca de Montoya
Earl Marshal Einar Knuteson
Scribe Sarra the Brave

OTHER INDIVIDUALS

Alessandra da Montefeltro (Baroness of Wyewood)
Attia Prima
Etiennette de Montagne (Financial Focus Committee)
Finn Grimm (Baron of Dragon's Mist)
Francis Darcy
Lenora Truble (Incoming Kingdom Seneschal)
Matheus Bane
Rapeal the Rogue
Rowland Greene
Thorkell Pálsson
Ysabella Greene
Ysolt Tayler of Windhill

Approximately 3 others, names unknown

Today's meeting runs about 1:20

Report by Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade

Current Financial Status

- All amounts reported throughout these notes are in US dollars.
- The Kingdom currently has an asset total of \$136,777.83. Details are:

Primary Checking	\$47,568.14		CD 4950	\$17,065.47
Savings	\$14,671.22		CD 4953	\$15,491.79
CD 1404	\$13,260.61		CD 4957	\$14,835.74
CD 4949	\$13,384.86			

- The Kingdom Seneschal and Exchequer need to review the September and October 2016 bank statement and sign that these and the corresponding Monthly Bank Reconciliations are correct. They also need to review and approve the third quarter Kingdom financial report.
- Major changes since September Crown include:
 - Profit share received from the Shire of Hauksgardr for September Crown in the amount of \$3439.31.
 - Kingdom Feast was two weeks ago. Expenses are still being paid out, and the income calculated, but a profit is anticipated. Because the Kingdom Feast is funded through An Tir's main bank account, there were a large number of checks in and out during third quarter related to this event.
 - \$5000 in funds were given to the Barony of Wastekeep to pay the hotel expenses related to An Tir Collegium. Hopefully this amount will be refunded if the event makes a profit. (Attendance was much higher than expected this weekend.)
 - The cost of the storage unit used to store the event and practice waivers has increased from \$700 to \$1166 over the past two years. We also paid \$120 for storing the trailer with Kingdom property at the Pensic War site.
 - The standard demands of Royal and officer travel, as well as the transit of NMR payments through the checking account.
- Special fund accounts
 - NMR is currently at \$11.36. We passed on nearly \$9000 in September through November to the Society for late summer and fall events.
 - Raven Travel Fund has a balance of \$4089.36
 - Kingdom Feast: This account grew considerably in the past couple of months as the final pre-registrations were received. It now stands at \$7017.31, but this is likely to change as the final expenses are paid and the Kingdom receives its profit share.

Non-Member Registration

- Please see prior editions of the Financial Committee notes for a detailed explanation of when NMR applies and the timelines for it being submitted. In addition, a copy of the FAQ on this topic is available on the Society

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Exchequer's website at <http://www.sca.org/officers/exchequer/#nms>. It is crucial that An Tir adhere to these rules, particularly if we wish to be eligible to use PayPal for gate fees at future events.

- An Tir is doing well in meeting the Society's rules at this time. As a result we might be able to qualify to use PayPal next summer.
- After much effort and discussion between An Tir officers, and the Society Exchequer, Treasurer, and NMR Deputy, an agreement was reached about what NMR is owed from events prior to 10/1/15, which is \$4,077.50. (Since October 2015, An Tir has been in compliance with the NMR requirements as far as we know.) The core Kingdom Financial Committee agreed in a phone conference on 8/31/16 to authorize that payment and the check was written on 9/3/16.

Updates on ongoing projects:

- Status of the Kingdom pavilions -- HL Sarra the Brave says she thinks the gold dag pavilion was fixed prior to September Crown, but not back in the trailer by then to be set up. Arontius will verify this with the Kingdom Teamster. Otherwise it needs to be fixed by May Crown.
- Office 365 program for Kingdom officers -- Arontius still needs to coordinate with Mistress Ysolt Tayler of Windhill to obtain the copy of this software she offered to donate to the Kingdom.
- Online survey tools that the Web Team requested. \$300 was set aside at September Crown to purchase or design something that will meet the Kingdom's future needs. Additional research needs to be done to figure out what program will work best for our purposes. More information on this project can be obtained from Arontius or Web Minister Duke UlfR Blodfotur Fallgrson.
- Minors attend Kingdom level events for free -- While this hasn't been formally written into the Exchequer's policy manual, An Tir has now been operating under this principle for two years. Arontius is still working on a more thorough analysis of the impact the decision has had on attendance and revenue for events.
- Kingdom Financial Policy: Arontius is conducting a major revision of this manual to bring it up to date with our current practices, including NMR policies and that minors attend Kingdom events for free.

Financial Committee Discussions

Royal Travel Budget Requests

- TRM would like to attend Seagirt Yule on 12/3/16. Cost for the ferry tickets and two hotel nights would be \$283.91.
- TRM intend to attend Twelfth Night in the Kingdom of the West the first weekend in January, in part to support their friends there, and also to take advantage of the opportunity to discuss increased cooperation around An Tir – West War. (Maybe even forming a joint committee to manage the event.) As no other Monarchs will be attending, the Raven Travel Fund cannot be used for this trip, and the amount would have to come out of the regular travel budget. The cost is estimated as \$710.

Proposed Budget for 2017 -- This was distributed to the Royalty and officers this weekend.

- Officers need to review their allocation and consider whether this is appropriate to their needs. In particular, are you anticipating additional travel or educational costs in the coming year? This budget needs to be finalized by mid-December.
- For the past few years, An Tir has budgeted for expenses of \$40,000 per year, although we hope not to actually reach that amount.
- Changes that have already been incorporated include:
 - Kingdom Waiver Storage Unit: The cost for this is up to \$1166 per year, so the allocation has been increased to \$1200.
 - Seneschal's Office: Viscountess Lenora Truble will step into the job at Twelfth Night and she resides on Vancouver Island, which is an expensive place to travel in and out of. Each round trip is approximately \$143. As her attendance is required at all Kingdom level events, her budget is increased by \$900.
 - Herald's Budget: The Black Lion Herald, Oddr Thiálfason, wants to attend the Knowne Worlde event for his department, which will take place in Tri-Cities, TN in June 2017. Typically this expenses is only approved every other year, and since Oddr attended the 2016 event as well, he's willing to pay half of the \$1068 amount himself. -- The Heralds would like the Silent Herald officer admitted to Kingdom events for free so that she can provide sign language interpreter services for court at those events, and organize other heralds to provide this.

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- Youth and Family Activities: The Society YAFA program is ready to be implemented. An Tir is increasing its budget in this area by \$500 for printing and other supplies associated with this program. This program is still in its infancy, and we don't know what the actual costs will be.

Royal Ready Pavilion

- At July Coronation we decided to authorize funds for a new pavilion for use by the Royal retinue at major events. This would give them a designated and enclosed space to hold meetings, sign scrolls, assembling largess, planning out the agenda for court, or other tasks. Most likely this would be set up in the Royal encampment, but at a given event the Royals could speak with the event team about setting it up on the erics, perhaps attached to the Royal pavilion.
- Their Majesties and Their Royal Highnesses planned to work on this topic this fall, but they've been busy with other projects. They both have tents within their households that they can use for this purpose, so this isn't an urgent need, but it could be helpful to future rulers. Perhaps something can be accomplished by next summer.

Royal Regalia -- Master Charles de Bourbon is the Chamberlain.

- Crowns:
 - Travel versions: See the next section of these notes.
 - King Kjartan has been talking with Master Torfin Torgulsson on a regular basis about our longstanding pair of crowns, and Arontius expects another update this coming week. The reports are more optimistic than they were a month ago, but it's still uncertain whether it will be possible to repair them to a condition where they can be worn on a regular basis. There is \$4902 remaining in the dedicated account for this purpose, but additional fundraising will likely be needed for the repairs. If it turns out they cannot be made useable again, then we need to consider what should happen to them.
 - What most people think of as our "first crowns" are actually the second pair in our history. Viscount Matheus Bane is currently conducting a search for the original set. He has photos and would welcome any leads as to where these are stored. There are no notes in the Chamberlain's or other known files about who last had possession of them.
- Thrones:
 - At July Coronation the Financial Committee accepted HL Alasdair Mac Roibeirt's bid to craft two new thrones for \$1300 by Twelfth Night. His design is 13th century Gothic in concept and maintains the general profile of our current thrones. The thrones would be constructed from durable white maple wood, and there would be a cheque gold and silver gilding under lacquer on the backs. The current throne pillows would fit on the new chairs. HL Angharad ver' Reynulf is willing to sew and donate bags for the new thrones.
 - There was a recent set back with a broken lathe, but Alasdair says he is still on track to deliver these at Twelfth Night. The populace can follow the progress of this work on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/New-An-Tir-Thrones-1542002872770303/?fref=ts>
- Scepter -- King Kjartan will speak with Master Torfin Torgulsson about the time and cost involved in him recreating the lost scepter. If this plan isn't deemed acceptable, then bids for a new scepter can be requested. We probably should commission a new rod as well, but this time without the knife blade inside: It becomes distracting as people cannot resist pulling it in and out, and causes complications when traveling across borders or by airplane.
- King's Signet Ring -- This silver ring had a miniature version of the Kingdom seal embossed in it to be used on scrolls where the normal seal would fit. Unfortunately it was lost in late 2015. At May Crown, the Financial Committee authorized Magister Arion the Wanderer to create a small conventional seal as a quick solution; and this has now been delivered. After some additional discussion, a decision was made to replace the signet ring version as well. Charles de Bourbon put out a request for bids for a new ring in late summer, based on the specifications he had from the original design. Today we discuss either keeping the ring on a chain, and thus finger size won't matter. Or we could create several simple rings in different sizes, and be able to attach the seal to whichever one the Monarchs chose to use. Charles will amend the bid request to say we are open to any of these options. Once we have a specific proposal, the Financial Committee can decide whether we wish to authorize this expense.
- Champions' Tokens -- No new information.
- Insurance for Regalia -- We are awaiting the result of the appraisal on our current crowns. Depending on that figure, the cost to insure them could be anywhere between \$250-1000. Master Phelan Tolusmidr is researching policy options. Arrangements still need to be made to appraise other regalia items.
- Decommissioning of regalia -- Viscount Matheus Bane says we need to create a comprehensive plan for items that are no longer being used, rather than allowing them to disappear into some well-meaning individual's attic, as has already happened too many times.

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- What should be stored in its original form? How are we going to keep that available to the populace so they see it at least periodically and remember the role it played in our history and the people associated with it?
- What pieces could be incorporated into new projects? (E.g. the first Kingdom Champion's cloak that was turned into barding for the Riderless Horse ceremony.) What could and should be sold as mementoes? (That's more about sharing our history than the money it would raise for the Kingdom.)
- Matheus suggests cutting the large plain panels of our longstanding Kingdom thrones into shield tiles which fighters could purchase for \$5-10 to support future regalia projects. He is willing to take the thrones home after Twelfth Night and start working on this and could have the tiles ready by May Crown. More thought is needed about what to do with some of the other throne parts.
- The audience reacts positively to these ideas.

Fund raising proposals

- Queen Sha'ya and Earl Edward Ean Anderson have both been working on ideas to increase fund raising efforts for the Raven Travel Fund and other projects. Tir Righ also does a lot in this area.
- Arontius has a copy of Edward's proposal if anyone would like to review it. Do we want to attempt this as a trial project? Then if it's successful we can add it to our formal financial policy.
- While it is not required, our tradition is that Monarchs should replace through fund raising what they spend out of the Raven Travel Fund.
- Queen Sha'ya's idea was to speak to merchants about offering some type of frequent buyer or discount card for their wares. The cost of the actual card would be donated to the Raven Travel Fund, while the presumed increase in populace spending with the merchants would benefit their businesses. She still needs to speak with more merchants to see if they would be interested in this idea.

Travel Crowns

Information is presented by Chamberlain Master Charles de Bourbon. There is a lengthy discussion with the audience about various aspects of this project.

Many Kingdoms have "travel crowns" for the Monarchs to wear when they are walking around camp all day, or to take on trips to distant events. At July Coronation, the Financial Committee decided that An Tir wanted to explore this idea, and so a request for bids was published. The intent was for something lightweight, durable, reasonably priced, and adjustable for various heads. While it does increase the stress on the pieces, a design that was hinged and could be folded flat for storage and transport, would also have advantages. We spent \$10,000 on our current crowns and they are going to appraised for a much higher amount. We cannot and do not want to spend that again here.

A bid has been received from Master Sigmund Helmschmiede (mka Vrin Thomas). Photos of his proposal and the subsequent work can be seen at https://www.facebook.com/newantirtravelcrowns/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf. His design looks very similar to our current two pairs of crowns, as he wanted to keep that "brand". His proposal to do the crowns in silver would cost \$5700 for the pair, or if constructed with bronze it would be \$3900. These prices would include travel cases.

Audience Discussion:

- See the remarks by Viscount Rapheal the Rogue below.
- King Kjartan wants to use An Tirian artisans for this and other projects. Master Sigmund and Master Ugo de Mori are experts in their field, and we should utilize their talents.
- Crown Prince Styrkarr Jarlsskald: Bronze is cheaper and lighter, but it is also brittle and inclined to break in situations where silver would bend.
- Chamberlain Charles de Bourbon says he likes the idea of using bronze for the crowns as it is cheaper, and it will provide a different look than our current primary crowns. However, sterling silver is more durable, and with the addition of some gold plate would create the bronze look of our longstanding pair that everyone loved.
- Several members of the audience express positive feelings about the bronze look, but the durability of silver construction. Some say that if our current long-standing crowns cannot be repaired, then they would be more in favor of bronze so we maintain that part of our heritage.
- Tir Righ Princess Gwyneth Gower asks how the crowns will be packed. King Kjartan Daegarsson says the padding can be removed, and then the crowns will fold flat to go into the box.
- Finally TRM ask for a show of hands of silver versus bronze, and the audience is overwhelmingly in favor of silver. TRM will consider further whether the crowns should be hinged so they can be folded flat.

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Words from Viscount Rapheal the Rogue

Despite the fact that most of those in the room were in favor of using silver for the travel crowns, Rapheal spoke eloquently in favor of crafting them in bronze instead. And not just that color, but actually using that metal. This came from his experience having his formative years as a young man fighting in An Tir while it was still a Principality, and then moving to other Kingdoms for about 10 years during the time when An Tir was still a young Kingdom and people were reacting to its decision to craft its crowns in bronze. Curia Clerk Althaia filia Lazari wasn't able to capture Rapheal's words well as he spoke them, so she asked him to put them in writing after the event. This is what he sent:

- 1) *"Our Crowns should be Bronze.*
- 2) *A bit of history, the An Tir Crowns were initially looked down upon for their base material. When the Crowns started traveling the artistry amazed the known world. The bronze material enhanced the artistry while a more precious metal would have detracted from it by focusing the eye on the gleam rather than art. In this way the An Tir Crowns became the envy of the known world and their influence is easily seen throughout.*
- 3) *An Tirians are bronze. Bronze is historic, it is hard, and it can be brittle. It has been used in its time for weapons and for art, sometimes in the same object. The people of An Tir are known throughout the known world as great warriors, great artists, and great researchers. We can be hard, and brittle, and beautiful. We Are Bronze our Crowns should be likewise.*
- 4) *In practical terms, I have seen many Crowns come and go in many kingdoms. I have seen them damaged, lost, and destroyed through inattention, dismissiveness, and wrongful faith in the ability of them to withstand poor treatment due to their not being as beautiful, and brittle, as those of An Tir. The very nature of An Tir's crowns, the care that must be taken with them has in many ways protected them.*
- 5) *I will end as I began, the Crowns of An Tir, should reflect it's people and should be Bronze."*

Event Bids

Summary of decisions to date:

- An Tir Collegium (November 11-13, 2016) -- Barony of Wastekeep. Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA.
- Twelfth Night (January 13-15, 2017) -- Barony of Wyewood. Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac, WA.
- Kingdom Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championships (March 10-12, 2017) -- Barony of Dragon's Lair.
- May Crown (May 19-21, 2017) -- Barony of Madrone. Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake, WA.
- July Coronation (July 14-16, 2017) -- Shire of Danescombe. Salmon Arm Fairgrounds, in Salmon Arm, BC.
- Twelfth Night (January 12-14, 2018) -- Barony of Wastekeep. Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA.

Bids are being sought for:

- An Tir – West War (June 30 to July 3rd, 2017) -- See below.
- September Crown (September 1-4, 2017)
- An Tir Collegium (November 2017)
- All 2018 events except for Twelfth Night.

An Tir – West War (June 30 to July 3rd, 2017) -- Dishner property in Gold Beach, OR. Event Steward is yet to be determined.

- Event website http://antir.sca.org/Upcoming/index.php?Event_ID=3618
- Statistics from the 2016 event: Gate income was \$44,000. Expenses were \$33,811. This resulted in a profit of a little over \$10,000.
- It is An Tir's turn to host, but so far no one has stepped up to lead the team. The Event Steward who ran the event for the West this past summer told Seneschal Julia Sempronia that she would be willing to lead the team again in 2017 if An Tir helped with some of the other officer positions. (This was Elsa Naherin van Aurec.) An Tir's leaders are excited by this idea as we've been trying for a few years to convince the West to partner with us to run this as a joint event like is done with other Inter-Kingdom wars in the US.
- The preliminary plan would admit kids for free and pay for a shower truck, so the final profit margin would be lower. The plan also had duplicate West and An Tir team members in almost every department, which doesn't work out in practice. It would make more sense to alternate which Kingdom supplied the Event Steward each year, and then fill the other jobs with the most qualified and interested volunteer regardless of which Kingdom they live in.
- **DECISION:** An Tir will graciously thank the West for their proposal, but say that we will supply the Event Steward for the event, and then welcome as many Western citizens as wish to volunteer for the event team. We also want to talk with them in more detail about deepening this partnership in subsequent years. There

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are a lot of subtle cultural issues that will take time and effort to work through: shower trucks, gate procedures, land allocation, and much more. There's also some power differences to navigate as the West is An Tir's parent Kingdom, while the event occurs in our lands. It will probably take 2-3 years to hammer out the majority of the details, write these into a manual, and be able to train volunteers to follow them.

- Crown leadership in these discussions will be critical, which is one reason why Kjartan and Sha'ya want to go down for the West's Coronation in January. Then once we know who the new Monarchs of the West will be at the time of the War, further discussions can take place. Many conversations will also be required between the Seneschals and Exchequers of the respective Kingdoms.
- Mistress Attia Prima and Viscountess Nadezhda Volynskaiia have been the Event Stewards at this event before. They were waiting to see if someone else volunteered and for the Kingdom to consider the West's proposal. However, since we're now 8 months out, they are finalizing a plan to lead the team again themselves. They are willing to partner with Elsa Naherin and other volunteers from the West, although when they tried to do so in the past, they often were met with the response of "this is our vacation year." Even if more Western citizens want to help this time, they'll need a huge amount of help from An Tirians. This is a great event to learn at.
- Arontius and Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronia will talk with their counterparts in the West, and then contact the landowners, Lyle and Diane Dishner about renewing the contract to host the event on their Gold Beach property for 2017-2020.

Kingdom Feast & Bardic Celebration 2018 (October 12-14) -- Barony of Dragon's Laire. Event Steward is HL Ana de la Sera, supported by Master Renart le fox de Berwyk.

- Event website http://antir.sca.org/Upcoming/index.php?Event_ID=4125
- Site will be the same as before: Ocean Shores Convention Shores in Ocean Shores, WA. There are multiple hotels within a few blocks, including the Shilo Inn where we've held multiple events. http://shiloinns.com/search_results.asp?PI=COSWA
- The Barony of Dragon's Mist will be the primary organizing team for this event. They had hoped to find a site in the Portland area to host, but that plan fell through so they agreed to use the Ocean Shores site again because it works so well for this event. Their Majesties state in the meeting that they understand it's tough to find a kitchen that meets our needs, and that Ocean Shores is a good location.
- We have been doing this event annually for the past couple of years, but now it will be held in the fall of even numbered years. Many of the cooks who work the feast are also involved with Sport of Kings in August of the odd numbered years, which is another huge demand on their resources.
- DECISION: Bid accepted.

Twelfth Night 2019 -- Barony of Three Mountains. Event Steward Unknown

- Site would be the Doubletree Hotel in the Rose Quarter of Portland, OR which is a location we've used for Twelfth Night several times before. Room rates would be \$115-125 per night. Our cost for the conference and ballrooms would depend on the number of room nights reserved, but based on past years, it will end up being free. <http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/oregon/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-portland-RLLC-DT/index.html>
- Discussion of budget line items:
 - \$1500 for attendee food. This would include snacks at the Masked Ball and for officers and Royals. The Financial Committee says that all of the food must be available for the general populace, so this amount will be smaller.
 - HRH Stjarna asks why the decoration costs are so high. A lot of items have been created by various branches over the past few years, it should mainly be a matter of asking those storing this to bring it to the event and buying Command Strips to hang the items. The costs to decorate the merchant's area are not the reason for the high rate. Francisca says that the event team did estimate on the high side for this and the actual costs will likely be lower.
- Discussion of accepting this bid more than two years out:
 - Julia Sempronia: If we accept this bid now, it closes the door to other branches bidding.
 - Queen Sha'ya: Accepting this bid now would allow us to lock in the facility costs and room rates.
 - King Kjartan: Hotels are booked for conferences far in advance and we need to do the same. On the other hand, we'd like to encourage some other branches to host.
 - Attia Prima: The Portland area is growing quickly and there is a high demand for conference space. If a branch is willing to host an event, we shouldn't discourage this initiative.
 - Queen Sha'ya: The Kingdom Events Deputy has a timeline for bidding and planning events. However, this may need to be adjusted for hotel versus camping events.
- DECISION: We don't need to decide today. Let's encourage some other branches to bid and we can reconsider this issue at Twelfth Night.