

# The Blue Strand

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*Saturnalia*, by French painter Antoine Callet, 1783. Picture sourced from Wikimedia Commons.

## Io Saturnalia!

Come to December Crafthall for Saturnalia

### — NYMANDUS DE TEMPESTA

Io Saturnalia and greetings to all! This December we will be holding a Saturnalia themed Crafthall. Unlike most Crafthalls, it will be garbed, so dust off your best Roman outfits!

You probably already know what Saturnalia is, but if not, here are a couple of quotes to set the tone:

Marcus Junianus Justinus Frontinus in the 2nd century CE wrote of Saturnalia: The first inhabitants of Italy's king, Saturn, is said to have been a man of such extraordinary justice, that no one was a slave in his reign, or had any private property, but all things were common to all, and undivided, as one estate for the use of every one; in memory of which way of life, it has been ordered that at the Saturnalia [...] the rank of all be made equal.

SUETONIUS, LIVES OF THE 12 CAESARS, § Aug.75

Festivals and holidays he celebrated lavishly as a rule, but sometimes only in a spirit of fun. On the Saturnalia, and at any other time when he took it into his head, he would now give gifts of clothing or gold and silver; [...] another time nothing but hair cloth, sponges, pokers and tongs, and other such things under misleading names of double meaning. He used also at a

dinner party to put up for auction lottery-tickets for articles of most unequal value, and paintings of which only the back was shown, thus by the caprice of fortune disappointing or filling to the full the expectations of the purchasers, requiring however that all the guests should take part in the bidding and share the loss or gain.

DIO CASSIUS, HISTORIES, § 60.19.3 Then they [...] suddenly shouted with one accord the well-known cry, "Io Saturnalia" (for at the festival of Saturn the slaves don their masters' dress and old festival), and at once right willingly followed Plautius.

PLINY THE YOUNGER, LETTERS, § 2.17.6

I find it delightful to sit there, especially during the Saturnalia, when all the rest of the house rings with the merry riot and shouts of the festival-makers; for then I do not interfere with their amusements, and they do not distract me from my studies.

MARTIAL, EPIGRAMS, § 2.84, TO A FRIEND: A bottle of iced water, bound with light basket-work, shall be my offering to you at the present Saturnalia. If you complain, that I sent you in the month of December a gift more suited to the summer, send me in return a light toga.

## WHAT'S ON?

### December Activities

- ☞ Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Fighter Training + A&S
- ☞ Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Saturnalia
- ☞ Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Council Meeting
- ☞ Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Fighter Training + A&S

### Coming Soon!

- ☞ February 7<sup>th</sup> 2026 – Return of the Kraken

More information:

<https://kraeglas.lochac.sca.org/>

## Awards Given:

### Latest Barony awards

Awards given at Day of Champions (not including the champions which are listed in the B&B missive)

- ☞ Baron Airdin Mac Dara – Athena's Spear & Choris Homeri
- ☞ Master Cormac Lenihan – Athena's Spear & Apollo Delphinus (service)
- ☞ Lord Muireach mac Gréine – Penelope's Loom (*pending registration and finalisation of the award name and associated accoutrements*)



The Baron and Baroness awarding Airdin at Day of Champions. Photo by Julia of the Ravens.





Baron Jon and Baroness Margie with the new Champions of Krae Glas – Lady Sorcha ingen ui Chainnigh for Archery, Lord Robert de Mar for Armoured Combat, Drottin Ailbhe éccnaid aka Lord Nymandus de Tempesta for Arts and Sciences, and Blythe Venell for Rapier Combat. Photo by Julia of the Ravens.

# December Missive

## From the Baron and Baroness

As we draw nigh to the Summer Solstice we send warmest greetings to our populace of Krae Glas, and reflect on the month that has been, as we look forward to Saturnalia on the 13th day of December, our final Kare Glas event for this calendar year. Ably stewarded by Lord Nym and their minions, this Roman-themed event promises to be an afternoon and evening of fun and frivolity, turning usual order on its head for the day. Please join us for this celebratory day with a shared potluck feast in the evening.

We have been gladdened to see the endeavours both martial and creative across our wonderful Barony in recent weeks.

The Annual Ironbeard Challenge, in memory of our dear friend, Roland Ironbeard, was well attended and enjoyed by all. We were greatly pleased to have Roland’s partner, Linda/”Bob” to bear witness on this day. There were archers of all degrees, and all ages, present to do honour to the day. Lady Maude atte Weylete, our baronial Captain of Archers, together with the support of The Honourable Lord Sharr, of Stormhold, provided us with an interesting and challenging round or varied archery target options to truly test our mettle. We were able to thank Sharr for his ongoing service to archery in our Barony by awarding him The Apollo Dionysi. We congratulate Lady Sorcha ingen ui Chainnigh, who was chosen as our Krae Glas Baronial Archery Champion for the coming year. We know you will be steadfast in our defence and the defence of our fair Barony.

Our remaining Champions were chosen at our Day of Champions, stewarded by our Seneschal, Lady Rúnfríðr Keiliselgr, and ably supported by a horde of collegians

and Barony members. It was a wonderful day of sunshine, cheer, and fine camaraderie between our enthusiastic St Monican collegians and our populace. It is heartening indeed to see so many of the collegians actively participating at a baronial level. The arts and sciences entries from the members of the college far outweighed those from our general populace. We need rise to meet the enthusiasm, and artistic levels of our collegians! Congratulations to Lord Nymandus de Tempesta who was chosen as our Baronial Arts and Sciences Champion. Lord Robert de Mar will be our Baronial Heavy Champion, with Blythe Venell defending our honour on the rapier field as our Baronial Rapier Champion. We look forward to a fine year ahead with such gentles at our side.

We greatly enjoyed a meal shared with our populace after Crafthall where Emelye and Eliza were able to step into the breach when Mistress Alliette fell ill and could no longer come and share her dancing skills. As always, we thank The Honourable Lady Emma de Lastone for her musical accompaniment on the day, as well as those who cooked or foraged to feed our stomachs and those who tended the door and the fire. It is so welcoming to have a friendly face when entering, and a fire in the hearth when the weather is inclement.

Jon and I appreciated the opportunity to recognise those deserving gentles in our populace that through their service, combat or skills in the many arts and sciences, make Krae Glas such a wonderful Barony.

In service,  
Jon and Margie  
Baron and Baroness of Krae Glas.





A detail from Schachzabelbuch painted by Konrad von Ammenhausen (Hagenau), circa 1467, & Lengberg Bra (from Institute for Archaeologies).



From the editor  
Technically it's all  
from me, but still

Hello.

Are you like me and  
interested in going on a  
newsletter related power  
trip?

You could have an article  
about whatever niche topic  
you want added to this very  
newsletter!

You could be as unhinged  
as me. It could happen.

Send any write ups  
(between 100-800 words)  
completely without context  
to  
[joannabraidwood@gmail.com](mailto:joannabraidwood@gmail.com)  
Make it happen.



About the editor  
Joanna of Braidwood is  
probably a little mad.

If you made it this far,  
thanks for joining us.

That's all folks! Huzzah, and  
io Saturnalia!

# Bras Aren't Period

## Busting (get it) Medieval Myths

———— JULIA OF THE RAVENS

There has long been debate about what women in medieval Europe used for breast support prior to stays & corsets becoming popular. Theories have included binding, tight overdresses, & even that they simply went about entirely unsupported. What was generally agreed upon - prior to 2012 - was that the answer was “obviously not bras”. Bras (short for brassieres) were a 20th century invention & nothing like them had existed before... except it had.

In 2012, BBC History Magazine published the details of an incredible archaeological discovery that explained things that had previously been dismissed as unexplainable. In 2008, Lengberg Castle in Austria was undergoing reconstruction when a large amount of clothing, shoes & woodwork, all dating from the 14th-15th Centuries, was discovered under the floorboards in impressive conditions. Among these items, were four linen garments that bore a very strong resemblance to modern bras.

As with last month's Pink Myth, the name change may be part of the reason this knowledge was lost, as there are several medieval sources that mention these bras

but they are referred to as “bags” or “breast bags”. Different styles & uses are described - some for minimising the breasts & some for emphasising them (though it should be noted, these descriptions all appear to be written by men, so whether their perceptions matched the intent of the women wearing the bras is unknown). There are even paintings showing these “breast bags” being made, but without knowing what they actually looked like, it would have been easy to miss the connection between the names & the pictures.

The four “breast bags” discovered at Lengberg were of different styles, two were essentially shirts with built in “bags” & the other two look very much like modern bras, only with side-lacing instead of clasps. Multiple women have made recreations of the Lengberg bra (there are far too many wonderful creators to list here, but searching “making the Lengberg Bra” on Google, YouTube or Pinterest will lead you to them) & the general consensus seems to be that the end result is both comfortable and supportive... which is more than can be said for many modern bras!

## Regnum:

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☞ Chatelaine – Bermund Wandelber  
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☞ Captain of Archers – Lady Maude atte Weylete (any)  
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☞ Armoured Combat Marshal – Lord Muireach mac Gréine  
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☞ Fencing Marshal – Elef á Suðrmannalandi (they/she/he)  
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