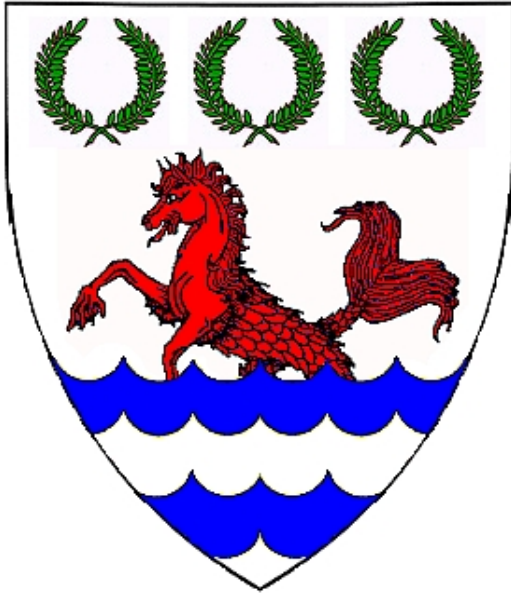


INTRODUCTION



Greetings from Her Excellency of Stromgard,

I am honored by your interest in the Sergeantry of Stromgard. The following pages outline the requirements and privileges of the Order as well as the process for becoming a member of the Order. The Sergeantry Trials are not to be entered into lightly. They were developed, in part, to prove to all that one is qualified and educated at the level of a knight. This includes knowledge that extends well beyond the areas of combat. To be a Sergeant of Stromgard is to have achieved a very high standard. The Trials will challenge each candidate to step out of their normal routine and explore new areas. I invite your petitions.

Meistara Reginleif in hárfagra,
Baroness of Stromgard

THE HISTORY OF THE SERGEANTRY IN AN TIR

Many years ago, when The Principality of An Tir was still part of The West, the heart of the Kingdom lay in The Principality of the Mists -- known modernly as the San Francisco Bay area. Because most of the Western peerage lived fifteen to twenty hours away from the An Tirian heart-land, they had little opportunity to consider those of us who had attained a peerage level in our endeavors as artist, administrator and/or combatant. Often our skills and abilities were readily apparent, but ascertaining our peer-like qualities was not so easy. Was a particular An Tirian fit company for a civilized court? Did they dance or scribe? Did they possess knowledge of period entertainments and have a basic understanding of heraldry? Did they willingly share their knowledge with others?

In order to facilitate the advancement of An Tirian fighters, the landed Baronesses developed a series of Trials that focused on peer-like qualities as well as things martial. Those who passed the Trials became part of an elite Baronesses' Guard. The theory being that when an An Tirian Sergeant came up in Knight's Council, or any Peerage council for that matter, it would be obvious that many a pertinent question had already been answered.

The Guard became a Kingdom Order that bore the title "Sergeant", a designation borrowed from the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem where, in period, a mounted fighter, often of some means but without title or fief, swearing to the service of a noble for a specific term of service, was called a Sergeant. Thus was born the uniquely An Tirian tradition of Sergeantry. Today a member of The Sergeantry is an accomplished fighter whose peer-like qualities make him or her welcome at any court. With the advent of missile and rapier combat, The Sergeantry was opened to Yeomen and Gallants, respectively.

SERGEANTRY IN STROMGARD

In An Tir, the Sergeantry of each Barony expresses a unique character that is a reflection of the current Baroness, the founding Baroness and of The People who comprise The Barony at large. In Stromgard, the Order is not only responsible for the security and safety of the Baroness but is also responsible for many ceremonial and service obligations, which are the sole domains of The Order. Members of the Order act as role models, mentors, ambassadors, administrators and more. They are among The Barony's most frequent and vital contributors to projects, guilds, and social activities. Further, while it has never been demanded of them, most of The Sergeantry have held, or do hold, office at Baronial and/or Kingdom levels. They also act as autocrats for many major Baronial events. They do all this while maintaining their combat authorization status and prowess. The Sergeantry within Stromgard is open to Sergeants, Yeoman, Gallants, and Lancers.

DUTIES, RIGHTS, AND PRIVILEGES OF THE ORDER OF SERGEANTRY

Should you succeed in this most personal of trials, what are the ramifications for you and your consort? A fairer question has rarely been asked, and you should know the answers to this before you go into The Trials.

Each member of the Order shall:

- Swear a personal Oath of Fealty to The Baroness of Stromgard and through Her to The Crown.
- Protect and defend the Barony, the Baroness, her Baron, and her people.
- Be in the forefront in the instruction of novices in matters of the combat arts and other forms of courteous and noble behavior.
- Uphold the ideals of chivalry, courtesy, and honor with their every word and deed.
- Strive to maintain their skills, and to increase them, to such extent that, should Coronet or Crown have need of them, they are ready.
- Defend or represent the Barony in at least one war (or big event for the Lancers/Gallants) per year and to maintain regular contact with the Baroness.
- Teach study classes open to the entire barony prior to the trails.
- Attend all future Stromgard Sergeantry Trials and provide input on to the Baroness on the degree to which each candidate meets the requirements for entry to the Order.
- Each Member of the Order shall form the goodly strength of the Baronial War Levy, and answer Her Excellency's summons in times of strife.
- A Member may request up to a one year leave of absence to attend to mundane matters.

CURRENT STROMGARD SERGEANTS

CAPTAIN OF SERGEANTS:

HL Octar Wolfkiller a.k.a. Jacques Avec De'leau, Premier Gallant since AS XXXVI and Captain since AS XXXVII

ROSTER OF ACTIVE SERGEANTS:

HL Ivon Dreng, Sergeant since AS XXXV

HL Edeline de Bayonne Hofling since AS XXXIX

Lord Eoin MacEanruig, Stromgard Yeoman since AS XXXV

SERGEANTRY EMERITUS:

Countess Miranda Faoltiarna, Stromgard Lancer

Master Togrul Guiscard, Stromgard Lancer

Sir Wredech Tiernanson, Stromgard Sergeant

Sir Rodrigo Alfonso de Granada, Stromgard Sergeant

AN INVITATION

Now that you have a general overview of the Order, read on. What follows are the requirements that must be met in order to be considered for membership in The Sergeantry of Stromgard.

Again, let me say that the interest you express in standing one of the most definitive Trials this Kingdom has to offer does me great honor. You have both my invitation and my best wishes for your success.

THE PROCESS TO BECOME A SERGEANT

LETTER OF INTENT

At any time up to a minimum of three months prior to the Trials, each Sergeantry hopeful must speak with the Baroness of Stromgard concerning his/her intent to enter the Sergeantry Trials. Following acceptance by Her Excellency, the Candidate will then present a hand calligraphed "Letter of Intent" during a Baronial Court. This must be at least two months prior to the Trials. These requirements may be amended at Her Excellency's discretion.

The "Letter of Intent" tests your calligraphic skills. The script and language used should be appropriate to your persona. You need not be a Kingdom level scribe, but a little research and honest effort is expected.

The hand calligraphed letter thus begins the first part of the Trials.

The first baronial court that Her Excellency will accept letters of intent is Yule Feast 2008. An exact date for the Trials has not yet been set, but the next opportunity is anticipated to occur during summer or fall of 2009. Once a date is known, it will be posted on the baronial web site (www.stromgard.org and on The Stream, the barony's Yahoo Group).

SPONSOR

It is Stromgard custom for Candidates to have a sponsor as a principal helper and advisor in order to enter the Trials. On petition, the Candidate must designate his/her sponsor, and both Candidate and sponsor must be acceptable to the Baroness. This sponsor should be a well-rounded member of the Society who understands and upholds its ideals. The sponsor will guide

the Candidate through the Sergeantry classes, support the candidate during the trials, and answer any questions or worries that may arise.

If the Candidate has no sponsor, they are to request one from Her Excellency or the Captain of the Sergeantry as soon as possible.

STUDY GUIDE

When your petition is accepted by Baroness Reginleif, you will be provided with a study guide. Those that apply themselves and study will do fine. The Baroness will also be studying and learning these things as well. You do not need to be a Candidate in order to request a manual; they are available to all who desire them.

DURING THE TRIALS: GENERAL TRIAL REQUIREMENTS

COURT PRESENTATION

On the morning of Trials, Candidates will present themselves in Court to Their Excellencies and the people of Stromgard. During this presentation they will share the history of their persona, wearing at least one garment made by their own hand, demonstrate their courtly skills, and display their device in the form of a banner or shield.

HERALDRY

Heraldic devices and registered names, if not already passed, must be in submission to The Kingdom Principal Herald before the day of Trials. Time your submissions accordingly.

Candidates must also be able to identify the devices of kingdoms, baronies, important kingdom and area nobles, and the offices. Know the order of toasts for a feast and be able to explain the order of precedence.

Other aspects of the Trials will include testing in period dance skills, a well-documented Arts & Sciences entry, and a passing grade in the written test. A passing grade on the written test is determined to be a minimum of 60% accuracy.

COURTESY AND CHIVALRY

The Baroness will convene a Ladies Court of Honor to discuss past and present courtesy of the candidates. Questions concerning Chivalry, Courtly Behavior and Honor will also be asked of the candidate.

ART OF WAR

Candidates will be asked to identify different parts of fortifications, identify machines of war, name parts of basic armor from all Sergeantry categories, explain various siege techniques, recite the rules of the list, and conduct armor inspections.

ARTS & SCIENCES

- Make one item of clothing.
- Make one piece of armor and one weapon for their own use.
- Complete an arts and sciences project other than armor or clothing.
- Perform a 3-6 minute bardic presentation for entertainment.
- Perform and help teach three dances of different styles. One must include a court dance and another must be a bransle.
- Play and teach 3 in-period games.

DURING THE TRIALS: COMBAT AND SPECIALTY SKILLS

All candidates are to show their skill in their chosen area of combat. You will be put through your paces, so be prepared for a long day. All must become warranted as a junior marshal for their chosen area of combat before or during the trials. All must own and use their own armor and weapons and have made at least one piece of armor and one weapon.

Judging of the Specialty Skills portion is done by the Baroness, the Sergeantry, the Baronial Marshall and any others Her Excellency deems necessary.

SERGEANT

- Must fight with sword & shield, great weapon, and ax or mace.
- Be proficient in one style and challenging in two other styles.
- Armor and weapons must pass armor inspection.
- Constructed a minimum of one item of armor and one of the weapons they use.
- Marshal during the Trials, and then maintain marshal status as Sergeant. Please reference the kingdom minimum requirements in the An Tir Book of Combat for your particular fighting art.

GALLANT

- Must defend against single blade, double blade, single blade and parrying device against a single and multiple opponents.
- A score of proficient in one area and challenging in two areas is considered passing.
- Armor and weapons must pass armor inspection.
- Constructed a minimum of one item of armor and one of the weapons they use.
- Marshal during the Trials, and then maintain marshal status as Sergeant. Please reference the kingdom minimum requirements in the An Tir Book of Combat for your particular fighting art.

YEOMEN

Target Archery

- Be at least a Junior Target Archery Marshal during the trials, and maintain marshal status as a Yeoman
- Be proficient with at least two types of bows: recurve bow, longbow and/or crossbow
- Shoot a minimum score of 60 with three Royal Rounds, and as Yeoman must continue to attain this score at least twice a year.
- Posses the necessary equipment for Target Archery including at least one bow of the archers choice and 6 target arrows

Combat Archery

- Have constructed a minimum of one item of armor (for combat) and one item of the weaponry that they intend to use.
- Be at least a Junior Combat Archery Marshal during the trials, and maintain marshal status as a Yeoman
- Be proficient with two types of missile weapons in a variety of situations. Must use some form of Combat Archery.
- Possess a combination of the following weapons: 12 war arrows, tennis ball crossbow with 6 target bolts or 12 war bolts, 4 javelins, 4 throwing axes, and/or 12 balls with sling.

- Exhibit a proficiency in one-on-one combat. Please reference the An Tir Book of Combat for your particular art.

LANCER

- Be authorized at the games and participate regularly at a canter showing safe control of the horse and self.
- Maintain horse in a healthy manner (i.e., proper weight, trimmed hooves, no untreated wounds) and equipment in safe working order
- Construct a minimum of one item of tack or barding (for the horse), and one item of the weaponry that they use.
- Marshal during the Trials, and thereafter at an equestrian event at least once every two years in order to maintain marshal status.

CALLIGRAPHY AND ILLUMINATION

