

*Crown Tournament Praise Poetry Project*

*Spring, Anno Societatis LIII*

6/1/2018

Sternfeld Rapier Bards: Baron Breddelwynn ap Taliesin,  
Lady Brigitta Rosa von Metten, Lord Dai Gerdwr, Khellian  
of Sternfeld, Lady Líadan Liathán, Maestra Lucia Elena  
Braganza, Lady Meadhbh Ramsey, Master Tonis van Driele,  
and Lady Tualaith of Sternfeld

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## *Introduction*

So....what's all this then?

Your Majesties, Your Highnesses, Lords, Ladies, Gentlefolk all – Greetings and fair tidings!

In the weighty words of the First Tournament, “NEXT time, I’m going to ----.”

Welcome to The Next Time!

Last Crown Tournament (October AS LII), the Sternfeld Rapier Bards (yes, we're all Rapier Bards, even if some of us don't pick up a sword) tackled a mighty challenge - Iron Bardic. Our intent was to try the concept of Viscountess Wander Riordan of writing poetry about an event, while AT the event. And what more juicy event is there than Crown Tournament?

Every project must start *somewhere*, and we learned a great deal from our first salvo. First, there's absolutely NO time to present poetry to combatants during the tournament. As rapier fighters, it never occurred to us how intensely focused *everybody* is on the tourney, regardless of whether they're still in the running. It was much more successful to present ALL the poems as pre-court entertainment and feast entertainment. Second, with only 2-3 of the nine participants physically attending the event, it would be impossible to write all of them on-site, so we decided to pre-write the poems (have something in the back pocket) and write on-site if we could. Several of the poems worked in “fill in day-of” blanks, like “Fiercely he fended off >>NAME HERE<<'s flying sword” or “Needs one line about the fight, and the end must rhyme with Shield.”

This round, we decided to write in honor of the Consorts. In theory, the goal of Crown Tourney is to place your inspiration on the throne. In practice, we all agreed we see more of this in Crown Tourney than in most other tourneys, but it can be sparse some years. So here's an opportunity for us to shine the Bardic Spotlight on what really matters in our Society. We gave voice to a good theory, and hopefully encouraged all of us in putting our inspirations first and forward.

For future Crown Tourney Poetry Projects (am I really saying that?!), we plan to honor the Fighters in the Fall (war king, ya know) and the Consorts in the Spring. It seems a good balance.

Also this round (Laurels - this is for you!), we also decided to Up The Game, asking each author to attempt to write in a period form or style. I'm significantly impressed with the results! We found and shared quite a few resources that will be valuable for ALL poetry writing, such as the iconic Compleat Anachronist #67, *Ars Poetica Societatis*. Go read it.

Really.

V-8 publication.

"Why did I never read this book?!"

It makes documentably period poetry almost easy. And, yes, all you syllable-counters will find off lines and slant rhymes. We allowed ourselves the freedom to break the rules, as long as we knew which rules we were breaking. I didn't realize my Englynion should include Cynghanedd. But I know now! And I'll bet at least 10% of you are going to look up those words on Google. See? It's working!

Once again, if you're reading this, thank you. Thank you for your interest, and thank you for giving us a venue. All the performing arts require an audience, and so this is for the fighters, the consorts, the Crown, and, especially, for you.

In Service,

-- Maestra Lucia Elena Braganza

Bards of Sternfeld Praise Poetry Project Crown Tournament, AS LIII 5/27/2018

Baron Breddelwynn ap Taliesin, Lady Brigitta Rosa von Metten, Lord Dai Gerdwr, Young Lad Khellian, Lady Líadan Liathán, Maestra Lucia Elena Braganza, Lady Meadhbh Ramsay, Master Tonis van Driele, and Lady Tualaith of Sternfeld

*The Honorable Lady Bella Roison, Honored by Sir Akos of Roaring Wastes*

*By Lady Brigitta Rosa Von Metten*

With bright eyes shining, sweet Bella Roisin  
Aims her camera well, the shot to take.  
A happy bride's love beaming from within  
As bold Sir Akos fights for honor's sake.

Great deeds to one and all does Bella make.  
As Midrealm Army's Roster Clerk does she  
Leave guidance and assurance in her wake.  
Her noble service shines for all to see.

While not one gentle can truly foresee  
Whose mighty arm and aim will win the Crown,  
Sweet Lady Bella's love for family  
Will encourage Akos not to back down.

Her shining inspiration all shall know,  
Should Akos' win the Crown to her bestow.

-----

*Style – 16th Century Spencerean Sonnet*

*Duchess AnneMarie de Garmeaulx, Honored by Duke Dag Thorgrimmson*

*By Lady Tualaithe of Sternfeld*

A lady like none other  
This flower, sweet but rare  
Epitome of Roses  
She is beyond compare

Cheeks as soft as petals  
Eyes alight with fire  
Her intellect is sharper  
Than the rose's briar

Combine these traits together  
It's clear for all to see  
A Rose who's like none other  
The Duchess Anne Marie

-----

*Style – Quatrains with rhyming second and fourth lines*



*Lady Acelin of the Wilds, Honored by Sir Machonna of Dark River*

*By Baron Breddfwyn ap Taliesin*

Flame fire fed passion  
Heart love filled overflows  
With Spirit strong  
She guides  
She guards  
She serves  
She inspires

Hand in hand  
She walks with the one  
Who sees and feels  
Her love  
Her dignity  
Her beauty  
Her strength

-----

*Style – Free style*

*Baroness Angharad ferch Tangwystl, Honored by Sir Calum MacDhaibhidh*

*By Lord Dai Gerdwr*

Dance for Angharad! Dance the joy, the tune,  
That nimble steps may employ  
The tread she calls and enjoy.

Inhale her rich savouries! Let the scent  
Represent the golden keys  
That unlock all memories.

Never has a stranger met - all who come,  
Wherever from, friends not yet  
Drawn into the circle set.

Her hand on the helm is guidance - gentle,  
Elemental, ev'ry chance  
Nudges student to advance.

She calls to take the challenge on, aim high!  
Maximum growth, goals redrawn  
Then pass the wisdom along.

Still Angharad sets forth - still more she leads  
And succeeds in finding worth:  
Inspiration giving birth.

-----

*Style – Poetic form is Englyn Penfyr, one of the two oldest Welsh forms.*

*Master Azriel le Fey, Honored by Sir Gebhardt von Rauden*

*By Lady Tualaiith of Sternfeld*

Her energy charges  
Kindness inspires  
Her beauty the tinder  
Stoking heart's fire

Brave bouncy blade master  
She beckons us on  
Her banner before us  
We follow anon

Let heralds cry summons  
Sound trumpets and drums  
When Gebhard's love enters  
Hark! Azriel comes!

-----

*Style – Quatrains with rhyming second and fourth lines*

*Mistress Bianca Rosamund, Honored by Sargeant Reichart von Drachenstein*

*By Lady Brigitta Rosa Von Metten*

When painting delicate eggs pysanky  
Or scrolls both colorful and truly bold  
Does Mistress Bianca Rosamund di Firenze  
Her skills and knowledge she gladly unfolds.

Fair dancer and fine costumer is she  
Fair Mistress Bianca, kind gentle soul,  
Who shares her skills to all most gladly  
Whose tenderness we lovingly extol.

She stands in joyful, encouraging pride  
As her good Sargeant she proudly observes,  
As mighty Reichart von Drachenstein  
In gloried battle deftly ducks and swerves.

A Mistress good and true, of great renown,  
A Mistress truly worthy of a crown.

-----

*Style – 16th Century Shakespearean Sonnet*

*Lady Ciara Eirikswif, Honored by Master Eirik Dweorgax*

*By Maestra Lucia Elena Braganza*

Eirik Dweorgaxe	Dragon of Old
Comes to Crown list	Ciara to praise
Freya's humor	Hair of Hugin
Fiber she twists	Teaching others
Long serving Sternfeld	Behind the scenes
-----	
Fenris shows favor	Family blessed
By two house wolves	Hairy helpers
Two hands, eight paws	Always involved
Thus attended	Tyr strong but quiet
Queen-like, Ciara	Waits tourney's choice

*Style – Anglo-Saxon alliterative verse*

*kennings:*

*Hair of Hugin – dark, like Odin's ravens*

*House wolves = Livy and Jojo*

*Lady Diamn Ban, Honored by The Honorable Sargeant Jean LeBref*

*By Baron Breddfwyn ap Taliesin*

By his side  
She has stood  
Long time in this  
Giving him her love  
Giving him her comfort  
Giving her her counsel  
Giving him her support

For the Middle Kingdom  
She too has done this  
And as Queen  
She will continue  
For this is in  
Her Heart and Soul

-----

*Style – Free style*

*Baroness Eilis the Stone, Honored by Sir Marcus Pinarius Draconarius*

*By Maestra Lucia Elena Braganza*

Eilis, you are all to me  
Siluran Valkyrie  
My strength in every journey

You grow more lovely every year  
I thank the fates who see clear  
To let me keep such joy near

I would show Dragon nation  
Faithful love's celebration  
To proclaim with elation

Center of my foundation  
My rock and inspiration  
My quest - your coronation

-----

*Style – Englynion - an early Welsh style 7 syllable lines in triads, sharing an end rhyme.*

*Poet's note: Sir Marcus praises his ladywife often on his own FB page. I borrowed a few of his own heart-warming phrases.*

*Mistress Ellowyn Kittle, Honored by Captain Sigmund Kittel von Drachenstein*

*By Lord Dai Gerdwr*

Service abounds, so review  
Ellowyn's spur - her purview:  
The best to bring! As singer  
Sharing heart solid and sure.  
As hostess, who has sought so  
Many gifts to give. May no  
Kitchen lack her fire! No choir  
Unspirited sing! Inspire  
Us all to love, so lightly  
Free all hearts fair lore to see.

-----

*Style – Cywydd deuair hirion ("Long-line couplets") are seven syllable lines where the rhyme must be an accented syllable at the end of one line with an unaccented syllable at the end of the other. Each line must also be in some form of cynghanedd ("harmony")*



*Mistress Finepopla Gunnarswif, Honored by Syr Gunnar Redboar*

*By Master Tonis van Driele*

Flower burning	Ring keys Royal
Oak strong lifting	Redtusk loyal
Cloud-wing, red drops	Giving, serving
Sunray hilltop	Heart unswerving

-----

*Style – Inspired by the Nordic poetic form Fornyrdislag (4 split lines, 4 syllables per split; with “Kennings” or alliterations)*

*Kennings in this poem:*

*Cloud-wing – white bird*

*red drops – blood*

*Cloud-wing red drops – Pelican*

*Sunray hilltop – Baroness coronet upon her head*

*Her Ladyship Honor von Atzinger, Honored by Sir Cedric Adolphus*

*By Lord Dai Gerdwr*

When that Springtime Crown should send their call,  
'Tis then for Honor praises sing we all!  
We cherish love so selfless shared throughout,  
Her song, her joy, her laughter spread about.  
"While we live, we LIVE!" her service cries-  
Then, "While we live, we serve!" her life replies.  
By this example legions are inspired:  
That she the best in everyone admires;  
That, more than in her own bountiful deeds,  
She takes delight to see others succeed.  
So many graces in one heart combined  
No greater love may Inspiration find.

-----

*Syle – Iambic Pentameter rhyming couplets as in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales*

*Poet's Note: Line 1 recalls the first line of the praise poem for Sir Cedric Adolphus, Fall Crown List AS LII  
Lines 5-6 "dum vivimus, vivamus" (while we live, let us live), "dum vivimus, servimus" (while we live, let us serve)*

*Countess Isolde de la Ramee, Honored by Count William of Fairhaven*

*By Lord Dai Gerdwr*

Isolde, dream ally,  
She observes Saxons  
Pens the poetic  
Then strums wooden song box

storm soother.  
with studied passion,  
dish-maker process,  
to sate aspiration.

Steadfast in service,  
Fond of flower  
Dares unplanned play  
As smile spreads through all

striking in manner,  
and fauna's friend,  
and public creation  
that starts in her soul.

-----

*Style – Anglo-Saxon alliterative form*

*kennings in this poem:*

*Wooden song box – her cittern / ukulele*

*Dish-maker process – Cookbook*

*Baroness Maddie McRae, Honored by Pan Zygmunt Nadratowski*

*By Lady Liadon Liathan*

Slender dancer, wicked glancer,  
Bester of a hundred foes,  
On light feet goes skipping, tripping,  
Soft rose scenting where she flows.

Gentle Maddie, soulful singer,  
Luller of the soldier's heart,  
Crafting her art with discernment,  
Singing air rent sweet apart.

Hear the laughter from enchanter,  
Duty's daughter, honor's home.  
Still the sea foam on the shoreline  
Should roam Zygmunt e'er alone.

-----

*Style –Irish poetic style called Séadna Mhór.*

*Mistress Maggie McKeith, Honored by Baron Fergus MacPherson*

*By Lady Meadhbh Ramsey*

Brave Baron Fergus enters now the field  
Of his deeds and qualities, all would swear.  
In his hand, his sword he'll ready wield,  
But on his arm a power far more rare.

To know her, set your compass by the stars  
Beyond the Limberlost, across the heath,  
Where rivers meet, 'neath trees seen from afar,  
You'll find bonnie Mistress Maggie MacKeith.

Welcome Maggie as she would welcome you,  
With cheers and joy, a heart hearth-stone warm.  
Her counsel wise and comforts kind, for you  
Her strength will stand and weather any storm.

She lead with love, with vigor and with vim,  
Belov'd by her people and baron both.  
Now let t'whisky flow, pour it to the brim.  
She serves us all, this we know an'hold in troth

For Maggie the Bold, raise a cheer! HUBBAH!

-----

*Style – Modified ballad, iambic pentameter with alternating rhyme pattern*

*Lady Neassa O'Cathasaigh, Honored by Sir Wigthehn the Younger*

*By Lady Liadon Liathan*

Lady Neassa O'Cathasaigh  
Bearing sword and peacock shield,  
Makes her foes yield in their terror.  
She wields death unconcealed.

Persian-clothed or Anglo Saxoned,  
Parti-colored harlequin,  
Laughing, dancing to war's drummer,  
Silken summer swelterin'.

Hail to Neassa! Battle's true bride.  
Give wide way; she overcomes.  
There may be some foolish doubting,  
Wise run seeking asylum.

Wigthen wooed the red-haired warrior,  
She for whom he must arise,  
Won the high prize as his consort,  
"Those eyes!" his heart's paradise!

-----

*Style – Written in the Irish poetic style called Séadna Mheadhanach.*

*Dame Nicholaa Halden, Honored by Sargeant Gareth Bloodworth*

*By Maestra Lucia Elena Braganza*

Amethyst, citrine, garnet and pearl  
Nicholaa crafts to ornament divine  
And frilly veils for modest maid or girl  
But then behind the scenes she spends her time  
Working, teaching, cooking in a whirl  
Reminding us: not all that's gold must shine

So Gareth takes up sword, shield and renown  
To gild so fair a jewel with Midrealm Crown

-----

*Style – Ottava rima – introduced 15th c Italy, eventually made its way to 16th c England. Eight lines of iambic pentameter, rhyming abababcc*

*Lady Norelle of Scolaire, Honored by Sir Ixtlixochitl de los Indios*

*By Master Tonis van Driele*

Northern Lady of Light  
Crown for her, one must fight  
Land of blue cross sight cast  
Spy Vahallan there fast

Spot and circle tail twitch  
Equal prowess claws which  
Foemen fell and bring doom  
Yield to woman shall soon

Ten wands, five by five cast  
Lover's calling heart grasp  
Mystic lifebeat thrumming  
Turning, willing, coming

Waves like heat twist spiral  
Nordic Willow Norelle  
Great cat snare and spell net  
Jaguar hunter thus get

-----

*Style – Inspired by the Norse poetic form Galdralag – “magic spell meter”*



*The Honorable Lady Odette d'Amboise, Honored by Captain Dyderich Wolfhart*

*By Young Lad Khellian of Sternfeld*

Odette, feathered swan cloak of sable  
Sewing teacher string and able  
Field of crimson, gentle of heart  
Golden spirit, patron of art

Dyderich Wolfheart, strong and tall  
Warrior, server, answers call  
Wolf and swan, black and red  
Side by side in honor wed

Dragon throne seeking heir  
Consort Dyderich favor bear

-----

*Style – Modified ballad, iambic tetrameter, two quatrains followed by a couplet with rhyme scheme aabb ccdd ee*

*Editor's Note: Khellian is our youngest author, and just graduated high school this week! He wanted especially to write for Odette, and for Dyderich who has been teaching him combat.*

*Lady Rowen Hen Enaid, Honored by Sor Ustad the Dreaded*

*By Maestra Lucia Elena Braganza*

Dread Ustad bestirs himself to Tourney because of you  
Sweet lady wife Rowan - he hopes a crown because of you.

Creator Rowan, draped in silk waterfall,  
Jealous birds envy such feathers - faces long because of you.

Treasure of the Gryphon - sweet voiced bulbul  
Moonlit gardens dappled with tender song because of you

Mother Rowan teaching young Jafar ways of the world,  
Decendents of the dragon grow strong because of you

Welcoming laughter refreshing as rain,  
The kingdom would be Royally well served because of you.

-----

*Style – Ghazal - poetic form starting in 7th c Arabia, 5-15 couplets of the same length, ending in the same 1-3 word refrain, with a rhyming word right before it.*

*(I didn't get it perfect, but made the attempt!)*

*Poet's Note: Bulbul is the nightingale – known for its beautiful song*

*Lady Sadb ingen Neill, Honored by Captain Criomhthán CuRua*

*By Lady Liadon Liathan*

Small statured  
Does not limit one so treasured.  
Strength internal stands defined,  
Depth unmined for pride or pleasure.

Watch her form  
Holy soles in new shoes, worn  
Through from running down each task.  
“How,” you ask, “is she untorn?”

Banners raise  
And Sadb Ingen Neill we praise  
Whose tasty cheese and Viking beads  
Bedeck deeds worthy of our lays.

Lucky man  
CuRua holds heart and hand  
More dear than land or treasure.  
Her pleasure crowns him grand.

-----

*Style – Written in the Irish poetic form called Rannaicheacht Garid.*

*Her Ladyship Sarai Tindall Sogliano,  
Honored by The Honorable Sargeant Luca Sogliano*

*By Master Tonis van Driele*

Venetian Lady, Sergeant Luca spy  
Her chestnut hair aglow with sun's first ray  
Her smile dances, he whispers for to say  
To add a crown, thus soon will Luca vie

With thread and cloth, her skill within doth lie  
A single rose upon the field display  
Around the rose a wall like waves at play  
On field of blue beneath an argent sky

Her brow he seeks to grace with gem and gold  
A merchant rise in station come anon  
His lady's favor in his heart he'll hold

Sarai her eyes she lifts and gazes on  
The list where fate is made and tales are told  
Her heart a-race with pride she hears, "lay on!"

-----

*Style – Petrarchan (Italian) Sonnet: stanzas of 3-4 lines iambic pentameter, rhymed abba, abba, cdc, dcd*

*Lady Sighni Alvadotti, Honored by Sir Brandr Halfdanr*

*By Lady Brigitta Von Metten*

When seeking one who habits fairly show—  
A willingness to help a friend in need,  
A generous heart and bright eyes aglow—  
Is Sighni Alvadottir guaranteed.

With gentle pride and grace does Sighni stand  
As Brandr, proud and strong, does take the field.  
She offers loyalty and loving hand  
While her love his mighty weapon doth wield.

How shall this gentle seamstress and good cook  
Her valiant knight's great victory reward?  
With warmest coat, good soup, and loving look,  
Or with Crown, book, and ceremonial sword?

Sweet Dragonfly Lady, your pride we'll share,  
Should good Sir Brandr in victory fare.

-----

*Style – 16th Century Shakespearean Sonnet, iambic pentameter with rhyme scheme abab cdcd efef gg*

*The Honorable Lady Ynes de Jaen, Honored by Sir Seto Gesshuko*

*By Maestra Lucia Elena Braganza*

Sir Seto takes the field to honor Spanish lady fair,  
Hopes to adorn with golden crown equally golden hair.  
Honors Dragon throne and strives to place her rightly there.  
Ynes' laughing smile banishes all fear and care.

Hearken Midrealm - we ALL should honor lady of such worth,  
Faithful servant of the Midlands since the hour of her birth.  
Lightening duty's burden with quick wit and gentle mirth.  
Peer into her soul, and a Dragon's Heart you will unearth.

-----

*Style – La Cuaderna Via - a Spanish form developed in the 13th century.  
Alexandrian quatrains: stanzas of 4 lines, 14 syllables, all with the same end rhyme.*