

Barony of Caer Mear

QUID NOVI

Crowning Moments



*The
Regalia of Atlantia*

SPECIAL EDITION

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The Crowns of Atlantia ... symbols of our kingdom and the visible symbol of our monarchs. Citizens of fair Atlantia are familiar with these symbols but how many know their storied histories? How many know why we have multiple sets? How many know the reasons for the variance of style and material? Herein are the histories of the Atlantian Crowns. Not those illustrious monarchs who have held the throne but those bejeweled circlets that have rested on such noble brows. Our fair kingdom has sets of both or and argent, jeweled in semi-precious stones and polished shell, and in a variety of styles to suit the mood of the monarchs, the style of their garb, or the theme of the event. These are the histories of these symbols of our kingdom.



Photo courtesy of Baron Ursus of Anglesey

For the first several years of Atlantia's history we were a principality of the East Kingdom and our reigning monarchs were Princes and Princesses. These Territorial Princes and Princesses were crowned with the Ancient and Venerable Prince and Princess coronets of Atlantia. They were commissioned by the 4th Prince and Princess, His Highness Bryetor I and Her Highness Khirsten in 1978. Received at some point during their reign, these coronets were worn by them and all subsequent Territorial Princes and Princesses. Following Atlantia's elevation to Kingdom Status, these Coronets continued in use as the Coronets of the Heirs of the Kingdom. Although very fragile with age, the Coronets are still in occasional use today - mostly for the Crowning of the Heirs at the conclusion of Crown Tourney.

For the first three coronations and the royal progress events of those reigns there were no Atlantian Crowns as it was a new Kingdom and none had been created. In the absence of Atlantian Crowns, a set was borrowed from the East Kingdom as a temporary measure and these were worn by most of the first sets of monarchs of the new kingdom. His Majesty Michael and Her Majesty Carissa were presented with a set of brass coronets by Cambria, a group then affiliated with the SCA as they had realized that Atlantia had no crowns of its own. These crowns' crafter is unknown and the crowns themselves were a personal gift and therefore remain with His Grace Michael. They were worn by His Majesty Michael and Her Majesty Seonaid at Atlantian 30 Year Celebration pictured below.



Photo courtesy of Mistress Tannis Baldwin

The first set of coronets belonging to the Kingdom of Atlantia are the Ancient and Venerable crowns pictured below. The name of the jeweler has been lost but these first crowns are adorned with jade and were commissioned by the eighth and last Territorial Prince and Princess of Atlantia, His Highness Breytor II and Her Highness Kathyn I in early 1981 and delivered to the third King and Queen, His Majesty Gyrth and Her Majesty Melisande sometime before July, 1982. These are a sentimental favorite among many of the royal peers as they are the premier coronets and they are, among the sets, "far more period, they were so pretty and easy to



wear. I thought they just reeked of period medieval goodness!” according to Her Grace Mary Grace of Gatlin.

The second set of Atlantian crowns were commissioned by His Majesty Michael and Her Majesty Seonaid, crafted by Masters Yanatan and Vortigern in 1990, neither having been elevated to the Order of the Laurel at the time of manufacture. These brass crowns adorned with paua shell, mother of pearl, and amethyst, were designed with the kingdom in mind, their design in keeping with the ocean theme of our kingdom heraldry and awards. Many have noted the varied styles of the decoration on these crowns but they reflect the hands of two artists creating the hand-carved seahorses and the delicately cut octopi. These crowns were delivered to His Majesty Olaf IV and Her Majesty Aislinn III at 12th Night in Charleston, SC. This set moves in and out of fashion like the tides that crest their points. They have been favored by our most recent and our current monarchs. It should be noted that our illustrious monarchs are not above showing a humorous side and a few have taken a moment to turn these upside down and wear them as the seahorses fall across the nose like the nasal guard on a Norman helm. (picture below)



The next set of crowns to be crafted are arguably the most recognizable and iconic of all the Atlantian coronets, the seashell crowns. The Prince and Princess set were commissioned first by His Highness Kane and Her Highness Muirgen in 1993 to replace the fragile and worn Ancient and Venerable Prince and Princess crowns. Crafted by Master Vortigern and adorned with sodalite they were likely worn first by the Heirs of His



Majesty Anton II and Her Majesty Luned II, His Highness Thorbrandr I and Her Highness Eorann I. The King and Queen set of seashell crowns soon followed in 1995, Commissioned by His Majesty Thorbrandr I and Her Majesty Eorann I and delivered to His Grace Cuan II and Her Excellency Brigit I at their Crown Tourney in 1995. Again crafted by Master Vortigern these crowns are larger than the Prince and Princess set and

adorned with amethyst and lapis lazuli. These rank as the favorites among the royal peers I spoke with in preparing this article. Her Grace Mary Grace said, “ ... the sea-shells are obviously very recognizable and very Atlantian (and frankly I still have a divot in my head from them).”



Her Excellency Kari feels “They are recognizable and beautiful.” Her Grace Isabel added “They are unmistakably Atlantian, and I am a proud Atlantian. I wholeheartedly agree with the others that they are the heaviest and a constant reminder of our duty to the Kingdom.”

The most recent set of crowns are the gothic plaque crowns commissioned by His Majesty Michael and Her Majesty Seonaid in 2006 with the assistance of His Grace Cuan and Her Grace Padraigin. There are both a Prince and Princess and a King and Queen set, both wrought by Lyn Punkari at Darkridge Jewels. Both sets are made of a series of plaques and are the only crowns that are adjustable as plaques can be added or removed to size them. The Prince and Princess set have silver accents and the King and Queen set have gold accents. Both sets are adorned with a variety of jewel cabochons. Delivered to His Majesty Rangarr and Her Majesty Anneke these sets were first worn by these monarchs and Their heirs, His Highness Valharic and Her Highness Arielle. Known among the royal peers as the Crowns of Thorns they are either loved for their lightness and exquisite delicacy and detail or disliked for the hair-grasping hinges of the plaques!



There are two other sets of coronets that do not see much service and have a limited provenance. The first is the set of brass field coronets, simple in design and adorned with engraved scallop shells, they are believed to be a gift from one of the baronies but the record of their origin and artist have been lost. Meant to be worn on the battlefield they are often overlooked as monarchs who take the field generally go out with another crown and exchange it for a helm. As a heavy fighter and combat archer our current queen, Her Majesty Lynette, favors these coronets and wore Hers at War of the Wings recently.



There is also a set of leather coronets that most often remain with the kingdom chamberlain and, like the field coronets, are rarely worn. Crafted by Baron Myles of Falkon Hold they are leather with painted seashells and accents and resemble the seashell crowns. The date of the gift is not known but it may have been during the reign of His Majesty Cuan and Her Majesty Aria.

Editors Correction Note: Sadly, there are no photos of the leather coronets. Lady Isabelle LaFar of House Barra sent us further information regarding the leather coronets worn at Pennsic 2011 and owned by TRM Bryan and Brianna. “They were in fact made by one of my household members, Lord Bassi inn fiskni Einarsson of the Canton of Crois Brigitte in Sacred Stone. He was approached by Duchess Brianna and Duke Brian at the dawn of their first reign, who requested of him to make



Photos courtesy of Kari Kel Dalton

a lighter-weight alternative to their conventional crowns to wear in the heat of Pennsic” **end note.**

Each pair of ruling monarchs finds a set that suit them best but all of our crowns have a long and proud lineage representing our kingdom. They are kept in the care of the royal chamberlain and as Heirs step up at Crown Tournament the Prince and Princess crowns are released to the Heirs. At Coronation King and Queen crowns are transferred to the new monarchs, all checked through the chamberlain with any damage or missing stones reported and inventoried at that time so that routine maintenance and repair can be accomplished.

The regalia committee maintains what history we have and provides the monarchs with care instructions as well as oversees any proposal to add new crowns or coronets to the list owned by the kingdom. But these items of regalia are more than simply pieces of jewelry to be cataloged and maintained. They are the true symbols of our Kingdom, they carry not

only their own weight but the weight of rule, and they are the shining stars that inspire our Dream.

Sajah bint-Habushun

Many thanks to Her Grace Seonaid ni Fhionn for her research and input in this piece as well as the Royal Peers who offered Their thoughts and the photographers who willingly contributed images. Any image not labeled is attributed to Her Majesty Lynette Seymore.



Photos on this page by Baron Ursus

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR CHRONICLER.....

The idea for this Special Issue of the Quid Novi (QD) started when our own *Count Amos* and *Countess Ysabella*, wore some really nifty looking crowns to Ruby Joust. I hadn't seen anything quite like them, resplendent with seahorses! I started looking at older photos and there seemed to be many different crowns used by the royalty of Atlantia. I was certain that there was a story that needed to be told. Being painfully aware of my limitations, I reached out to the fair populace of Atlantia and there was the gentle *Lady Sajah bint-Habushun*. She graciously took on the challenge of writing the history of the regalia. I am so grateful her generous spirit which benefits not only Caer Mear but all of Atlantia. She was helped by many kind souls in this task and I thank each one of them. *The cover* needed to be something special in order to do justice to the project. I sought out the gifted artisan and Chronicler of The Talon, from the barony of Hawkwood, *Lady Christiana de Haukworth*. She accepted and donated many hours to completing the lovely work you see here. This is a Caer Mear issue but was created by the whole heart of Atlantia.

All my best, Gytha



REGNUM

Baronage-Caer Mear

Baron Wolfgang Moennich von Luppin

Baroness Iseulte of the Red Cliffs

Moe & Kitty Moyer

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baroness AT caermeear.atlantia.sca.com

Seneschal

Lady Naomi

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Exchequer

Kadlin Fjorliefardottir

Debbie deTreville

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College of Yarnvid

Seneschal

Master Thomas Longshanks

Tom McDonald

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Canton of Caer Gelynniog

Seneschal

Broccan mac Ronain ui Lochlainn

William "Skip" Davis

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Seneschal

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Chronicler

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Ragnar Leifson

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Lady Anna of Calais

Brenda Pomfrey

Minister of Arts & Science

Kateryne Ferneley

Megan Shogren

Exchequer

Mary Beth Keller

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Exchequer

Elizabeth Tender Herte

Knight Marshal

Count Amos le Pious

Chancellor Minor &

VA Vice-Chancellor of Youth

Rosaleen Robertson

Ann Davis

youthchancellor AT caermeear.atlantia.sca.org

Minister of the List (acting)

Bojzena Z Osturna

If there has been a change in officers or if information is listed incorrectly you must email the chronicler. All additions or changes must be in writing, giving permission to print whatever personal info you wish posted. Minimum contact info is your SCA name, your legal name and your e-mail address. Any additional contact info is optional.

brockenspectre AT yahoo.com

Knight Marshal

Lady Osa

Samantha Baxter

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Herald

Ragnar Leifson

Ed Claytor

heraldcaerg AT gmail.com

Minister of Arts & Science

Sharon Miller

Isabel Henry

lumiere62 AT verizon.net

Scheduled Meetings

Caer Mear

Business Meetings

Monthly; 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm

Fighter Practice / A&S Gathers

Weekly; every Tuesday at 7:00pm

Both are held at Battery Park Christian Church,
4201 Brook Road, Richmond VA

College of Yarnvid

Business Meetings

Held as needed.

Arts & Science Gathers

Weekly; every Thursday at 7:30pm

Both are held at Epiphany Church
11000 Smoketree Drive, Richmond VA

Archery Practice

Weekly; every Sunday at 1:00pm

Held at Rockwood Park

3401 Courthouse Rd, Chesterfield VA

Caer Gelynniog

No meetings at this time

227 Bethel Church Road, Palmyra, VA, 22963

Canton of Rivers Point

No Meetings at this time

Both are held at the Colonial Heights Public
Library

1000 Yacht Basin Dr, Colonial Heights, VA

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