

The Æthelmarc Arts & Sciences Faire 2024

On April 20, 2024, the Canton of Dunloch hosted a fantastic Æthelmarc Arts & Sciences Faire and Queen's Prize Tourney!

The A&S Faire has two components: an A&S display for anyone to share their amazing work with our populace, and the Queen's Prize Tourney, where entrants are offered an opportunity to meet face to face with a panel of advisors. The intent of the Queen's Prize Tourney is to provide a platform to receive constructive feedback in a friendly and non-competitive environment and to stimulate enthusiasm and motivation within our A&S community by sharing art.

Participants in the Queen's Prize Tourney were sponsored by a Laurel or Fleur (or the equivalent to the Fleur from another kingdom), who provided meaningful mentorship to the entrant and a gift for each entrant they sponsor. To show her appreciation to the artisans entering the Tourney, Her Royal Majesty honors her favorite entry with the Queen's Prize.

From the 13 amazing in-person entrants (with one virtual), Her Royal Majesty chose one entrant as her Queen's Prize recipient. The Populace also had an opportunity to choose. For our inaugural newsletter we will be interviewing both.

Baroness Antoinette DeLorraine, Queen's Prize Winner

WHAT WAS YOUR PROJECT AND WHY WERE YOU INTERESTED IN DOING IT?

I have a deep fascination of Mary Queen of Scots. While she was imprisoned with in the Shrewsbury castle, Mary and Elizabeth Talbot (Countess of Shrewsbury) made many cross-stitch pieces, as this was a skill taught to Mary while she lived in France. My project was the recreation of one of those pieces (Elizabeth's date tree).



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO ENTER IT IN THE QUEEN'S TOURNEY?

I started this journey two or three years ago, with my first entry being at last year's Faire. Since then, I have learned bunches and increased my skills. I entered my first completed project at the Kingdom A&S Championship in January and I felt that I needed to finish this adventure at this year's Faire.



WHAT SORT OF HELP DID YOU GET FROM YOUR SPONSOR?

Baroness Elena has been there for me in so many important ways! While I have the skill to gather knowledge, I do not have the ability to put it on a page in a coherent manner. Between the emotional support of putting me back on track when I get to hyper-focused on the 'right' way, helping me make my research papers make sense and encouraging me to jump out of my comfort zone in a healthy way, she has helped me progress to where I am now.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR ADVISORS?

The Faire is such a great place to learn and improve your craft! One set of suggestions I plan on working on is visual displays to show stitches in larger degrees to really see the difference. This will assist greatly for teaching so students can see better the process. I also learned ways on helping to improve my stitch alignment and creating my own patterns by laying a graph not only on the pattern graph but also on the ground fabric to prevent miscounting which can cause unalignment.

WHERE WILL YOU GO FROM HERE?

While I will continue to recreate that which Mary and Elizabeth originally finished, I will also be moving onto my next adventure of table carpets.



Brother Meuric Ap Gwillim Populace Choice Winner

WHAT WAS YOUR PROJECT AND WHY WERE YOU INTERESTED IN DOING IT?

My project was medieval uroscopy and included a representation of a urine wheel and bottles with liquids representing the different colors of urine.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO ENTER IT IN THE QUEEN'S TOURNEY?

I had been working on it and the project I entered at Ice Dragon for a while so I finished it up for the faire.

WHAT SORT OF HELP DID YOU GET FROM YOUR SPONSOR?

My advisor was Helena Mutzhasenin and she helped me with my documentation. Specifically, foot notes and citations.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR ADVISORS?

To mention why I did what I did and why I didn't do what I didn't do.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THIS PARTICULAR PIECE?

The wheel will live on amongst my collection of oddities and the bottles will be emptied and repurposed in future projects.

WHERE WILL YOU GO FROM HERE?

I have about half a dozen projects in the planning stages but my very next project/presentation is going to be a live "amputation" at the Road to Ruen 2 event.

