HL Sabina di Zorzi

♦ Barony of Aquaterra, An Tir ♦
Started in the Society June 2011



Contacts

SabinadiZorzi@yahoo.com
https://www.facebook.com/sabina.di.zorzi/
Discord – Sabina di Zorzi
sabinadizorzi.blog



Affiliations

Protégé of Ra'isa Zahra bint Al-Rammah
Current Head of the Aquaterra Costumer's Guild – NEW!

Areas of Focus

Seneschal
event Steward
volunteer support
Venetian ladder lace gown engineering
event beautification and hospitality
efforts at a period encampment
Scribal Arts

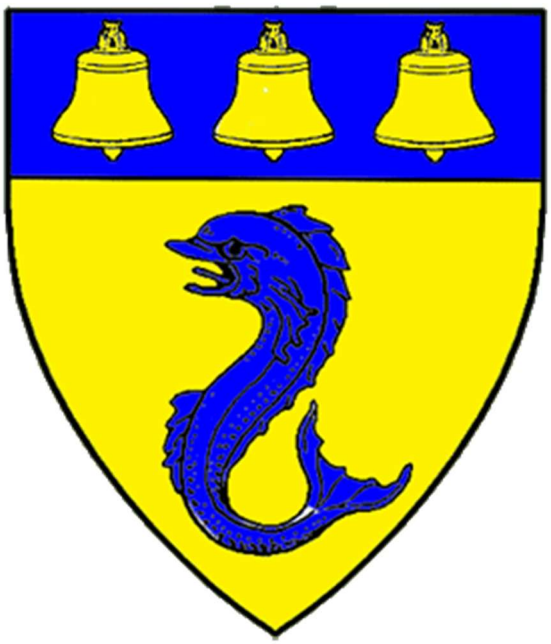
Motto

Mind the Fire

Persona

Born in Florence to a banker who arranged my betrothal to another banker's son for the sake of strengthening both families. Together, my husband and I moved to Venice to build the family's investments in real estate. Now it's the 1560's and I'm widowed and spending my time and energy supporting the arts, doing my best to add to the prestige of my family by continuing to run the estate and support the local artisans of various types.

(At warmer events, I can more often be seen wearing my basic tunics than my persona's gowns for the sake of convenience or suitability for volunteering, but I do have plans to remedy this!)



SERVICE

- **NEW! - Head of Aquaterra's Costumer's Guild –** October 2026 – current

  I *just* took on this role. I'm hoping my admin skills can help bring this guild back into action in the barony. My goal is to find a location we can have monthly gatherings, hopefully offset from the A&S meetup to give folk another chance to share their projects, work on their struggles together, and hopefully have classes if there's interest. I would also like to make the guild more accessible by improving our presence on the baronial website and promotion at local events.

- **Event Steward** – Barony of Aquaterra – 2012 to Current

  I have mentored many stewards along the way, and continue to do so, but these are the highlights of my personal stewarding experience in the SCA:

  - Co-Steward of Good Yule 2012 - For this event and others that I helped run, I created and maintained multimedia communications, updated the Kingdom Calendar on a regular basis, and provided promotion and advertising at events in other branches. I always pushed to build on previous events and provide the most experience for participants possible, as well as to pull in new talent and encourage more volunteer participation, all while staying on budget. I also strove to quickly turn around the paperwork at the close of the event to avoid holding up the Exchequer and to ensure reports were completed while minds were fresh.

  - Co-Steward Banner War 2013 - This was the same week that I became acting Seneschal, so I left site early Saturday morning to attend the in person Seneschal training that was happening the same weekend, during which they trained us on when events needed to be shut down, among other things, and upon my return to Banner War, it had become Banner Wet, and I had to shut it down mostly due to branches down in the roadway on my way back to site.

  - The most daunting project I have coordinated for the SCA to date was as the Event Steward for Ursulmas 2016 with 1,276 attendees. I led a team with three innovative goals in mind which resulted in improving audience reach, the traffic flow of the event, and adherence to the published schedule.

  - Our Event Steward for Boars Hunt 2023 came down with Covid immediately before the event, so I was the last-minute on-site Steward without access to information beyond what was published on the Kingdom Calendar to go on. Fortunately, the barony pulled together and everything went smoothly!

  - I also was Event Steward for Ursulmas 2025, with 1,133 attendees, bringing us nearly to the pre-pandemic numbers, and started work on a new Ursulmas Guidebook in the process since previous team's work had been lost over time. I also created an online presence that was aimed at the modern public as that was something that got lost over time, keeping the SCA specific things on the Kingdom Calendar so as to not be overmuch for the modern guests to sift through.

  - Recently, I was the Co-Steward for the first Ursulwyck Medieval Faire, held February 28th, 2026. The goal was to have a very interactive demo aimed at inviting guests in to join our community in the Society. I handled most of the admin side of things, but I was especially focused on our online presence, dividing the details from the Ursulmas website I put together for Ursulmas 2025 to be used for the appropriate events now that Ursulwyck had spun off on its own.

- **Seneschal –** Barony of Aquaterra

Contingency and Deputy Seneschal – January 2013 – September 2013

Seneschal – September 2013 – October 2015

- When I took the office in 2013, we had a shortage of qualified event coordinators available. Since we lacked a training program within the organization, I took the initiative to lead training in the budgeting, planning, and execution of events, from creating a bid through the final closing report of the event. To prevent shortages of qualified volunteers in the future, I also focused on volunteer recognition, advocacy, retention, and motivation efforts and as a result, this dramatically increased volunteer interest and commitment.

- In the course of attending Kingdom meetings and training sessions, I worked with other Seneschals on improving our knowledge and skills. Over time, I continued to pursue a deep understanding of the role and I became known for my focus on diplomatic solutions that lead to increased new member participation, restored volunteer commitment, and more comfortable collaboration with local government leaders and event sites.

Contingency Seneschal – October 2015 – April 2016

Seneschal – January 2023 – September 2024

- When I took the Seneschal role in 2023, it largely was to help the Coronets actively work on changing the local culture in ways I felt were necessary and that I believe are more in line with the direction the SCA is aiming to move regarding inclusivity and safety, including modern views on consent. A lot of that effort was driving folk to focus on lifting each other up and building community while encouraging real life balance and healthy boundaries.

- I also aimed to better support new officers so they had a better understanding of the expectations and the available resources and support available. To this end, I created a New Officer Introduction agenda to go over with each new officer and later used this to create an agenda for a class at a local event.

Contingency Seneschal – September 2024 – August 2025

- **A&S Champion** – Barony of Aquaterra – December 7th, 2024-December 6th, 2025

In this role, I ran these competitions at our local events:



- Iron Needle – Boars Hunt 2025
  A small challenge inspired by Their Excellencies' theme for the event: Freyr and Gullinbursti, the Golden Boar. The goal was to make a rag doll, a boar, or both, using the pattern pieces provided on site. This was a stash busting project designed for various skill levels in the hope of increasing participation. Items were allowed to be reclaimed, or they became largesse donations for the barony.

- Freyja's Favors: Largesse Competition – Boars Hunt 2025
  Folk were asked to submit six related items suitable for largesse that were matching, themed, or stylistically connected. The winner received the honor of selecting one item from the entries as their prize and the rest were added to Aquaterra's largesse coffers.

- A&S Tiny Talks – Banner War 2025
  In the style of Dame Lissette de la Rose, I hosted a Tiny Talks - a low-stakes opportunity to geek out about whatever one's current passion is, in this case something that fell in the theme of SCA Arts and Sciences, without the pressure of running a full class or even being a subject expert. Each Talk ran for about 15 minutes including Q&A. We ended up with 5 participants, with talks covering block printing, mancala, lucet, wood carving scrolls, and being a feast steward. The Chatelaine's Newcomers' Walk landed at this gathering partway through, as planned, so they got to be exposed to some good variety of skills in a short amount of time as part of their introduction to the SCA.

- A&S Championship: Anachronism within our anachronism – Good Yule 2025
  In this competition, artisans were invited to showcase their skills by creating an item using a technique from one time and place inspired by artwork or objects from a different time and place. Think of it as two SCA personas working together on one piece of art. This challenge is meant to encourage creativity, experimentation, and historical exploration, combining the beauty of one time and place with the techniques of another. Domina Aenor de Pessac did a fabulous presentation of creating a painted banner in the styling of painted stained glass and blew the judges away!

- Scribal Competition –Aquaterra's Good Yule 2025
  In an effort to increase interest in the Scribal arts locally, and hopefully help find a new Baronial Scribe, our Seneschal asked me to run this competition, asking folk to create new award charters for our Blue Stag and Blue Kraken awards. Folk were asked to create charter design entries that include the linework and calligraphy for the award done on white paper so the Scribe can more easily make copies onto 'parchment' paper later for folk to paint before use by Their Excellencies. Charters are painted by folk with different experience levels, so folk were asked to please keep that in mind when creating their design and consider how easily somebody will be able to interpret where to paint when looking at it with fresh eyes. Unfortunately, life got in the way of the folk who wanted to participate, so many entries were started but not able to be presented. But the day brightened when a couple of young folk decided to create entries on site, which folk were delighted to see. The goal of getting folk interested in the charter creation process was achieved, even if we didn't get the new charters in hand quite yet.

- **Gate**

Co-lead - Ursulmas 2013

Till changeover and assist with close out – Multiple Ursulmases over the years since 2013

Restructured Ursulmas gate – worked out the logistics within the SCA rules to cut out modern guests needing to be slowed down with waivers at gate, which sped up the wait time for everyone at the peak hours from 30+ minutes down to 10 minutes at the worst.

PayPal trained – January 2023

General gate volunteer - Many hours throughout various events since 2011

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE

- Royal Liaison – Ursulmas 2026
- Financial troubleshooting – Assisted Exchequer and Stewards with finding hiccups in financial reports, often from formula errors in Excel - various times since 2013.
- Work parties – Attended and hosted various work parties over the years to meet various goals including general labor at the Masonic Park to help maintain the relationship with that event site and gathering teams of folk together for charter painting or event specific projects.
- Volunteer Coordinator – Banner War 2013
- Merchant Coordinator – Many Aquaterra events (Boars Hunt/All Champions, Banner War, & Ursulmas) from 2013-2016
- Royal Retinue Attendant
  - 12th Night & Ursulmas 2023 for Athanasios Belisarios & Alianora Greymoor
  - Retinue for Their Royal Highnesses, 12th Night - July Coronation 2026: Ulfgar Hjartar Bani Thorvaldsson and Juahara al Azin. Camp Master - Royal encampment for TRM at July Coronation 2026.
- Baronial Retinue Attendant – various events since 2012
- Site copy – created for multiple baronial events since 2013
- Site tokens – helped in the creation and stringing for multiple baronial events since 2011

- Assisting at smaller local demos – helped provide general information about the SCA
    - Mt. Vernon Garden & Art Fair – June 2024
    - Midgard Viking Festival – Arlington - September 2024
    - Fables Faire – La Conner – October 2025
    - Faire du Well – Mt. Vernon – June 2025
- Newcomers – assisted at many baronial Newcomer Nights since 2013

Arts & Sciences

COSTUMING

Presented at Athenaeum 2026:

Engineering a 16th Century Venetian Ladder Laced Gown

Including a special focus on two main efforts:

– Achieving the silhouette of the time despite clothing an extreme hourglass figure.

– Achieving parallel rungs on the ladder lacing using techniques we know were used elsewhere in period. This includes a review of some methods other modern costumers have published as well as a couple efforts of my own.

For the presentation, I created 9 samples of different lacing methods and made a spare set of under things so I could wear a set and display a set. During my presentation, I went over the commonalities of the inspiration portraits, what my thought process was for making the choices I did, provided diagrams and photos of my process, and provided an



accessible method for recreating my preferred methods. I also published the details that were presented here: https://sabinadizorzi.blog/1560s-venetian-ladder-laced-gown/

Upcoming! I have been approved to present my Engineering a Venetian Gown project for Dragon's Laire Scholars on October 10th at their Harvest Feast!

Competitions won:

Aquaterra A&S Champion – Good Yule 2024
I presented my work engineering a 1560's ladder laced, flat fronted Venetian gown, including demonstrating a new method of achieving more parallel lacing and a pad-stitched under-bust support. My documentation for this has since been improved as I continued this journey, and I hope to keep sharing it!

Sable Courtier at Kingdom A&S March 2024 - part of the winning team led by HL Zanetta Zavatta. As a team, we created a full outfit of 4 separate garments for a newcomer during the course of the three day event. It was a wonderful experience!

Siege Cooking – Banner War 2014 – Herbelade
I made a re-creation of a recipe from *Two Fifteenth-Century Cookery-Books* (England, 1430), entitled "xxxj – Herbelade" – a pie made of pork shoulder, herbs, and dried fruits and nuts. This recipe can be found online with a couple different translations, but they both differ slightly from mine. My documentation that I submitted with my entry can be found here:
https://sabinadizorzi.wordpress.com/2014/09/24/xxxj-herbelade/

Sock knitting contest – May Crown 2013
The goal was to be the first to complete, or be the furthest along, by a certain time on Sunday. I was the only participant to finish the sock! Here's the pattern we used: https://chrisknit.blogspot.com/2007/12/pre-literate-stockings.html

Also competed in:

Iron Ink – Banner War 2014
The object of the competition was to take the bit of prose they gave you and either do the calligraphy on the blank parchment provided, or the art with room for the quote to be added later, or both. I opted for both, but as I was also participating in the culinary competition, I didn't have enough time to do as well as hoped on the scroll. However, the Scribe said that I may have inspired a class with my addition of a repaired hole (with documentation) in my parchment which would have been incredible! Details about my entry can be found here:
https://sabinadizorzi.wordpress.com/2014/09/22/ironinkbw14/

CULINARY

Vigils

- Raffaella di Contino (Pelican)– September Crown 2013 – kitchen assistant to Fiamma
- Fiamma the Unquenchable (Laurel) – Boars Hunt 2014 and July Coronation 2014 – assisted at the local celebration and catered the long distance one held the night before her elevation. https://sabinadizorzi.wordpress.com/2014/07/30/vigil-cooking/
- Zahra bin Al-Rammah (Pelican) – Collegium 2022 – assisted with set-up
- Aenor de Pessac (Pelican) – May Crown 2025 - hand pies and assisted with vigil set up and tear down.
- Michelino di Gino Martini – July Coronation 2026 – organized the vigil food, with Oz Von Baekyn has head chef.
- Francisca de Rosil – Autumn War 2026 – assisted Bella Beauregaurd with coordinating vigil food.
- **Upcoming!** Loftr Jolgeirsson – Twelfth Night 2027 – contributing to vigil food.

Other Culinary pursuits

- Midhaven's Harvest Feast – assisted in the kitchen at most since 2011.
- Aquaterra's Good Yule – assisted in the kitchen at most since 2011
- Siege Cooking – On House Gremlin's team at many events

MISCELLANEOUS A&S

- Baronial Charter Painting – Took a break, but getting back into this!
- Painted sandwich-board signs for the barony that Rollo made (2022)
- Created a new, more aesthetic site map for the Ursulmas site (January 2025)

- Created a new, more accurate site map for Masonic Family Park, a site used often by Aquaterra. (2025) and donated a 2' x 3' laminated copy to be used at Gate – June 2026
- Made a 10c Hedeby klappenrock coat for our new baron, Már Skál Óttarson (March 2025)
- Made chocolate covered cherries: Prize at Boars Hunt 2025 and Silent Auction donations at Good Yule 2025, Thronwold Yule 2025, and 12th Night Peers Auction 2026.
- Knit socks for Peers Auction 2022.
- On site garb repair for Her Majesty Juahara's coat at May Crown 2026.
- Sewed a Coptic tunic for Her Alpine Highness Ayla to wear at An Tir West War 2026. (Photo to come!)
- **Upcoming!** Loftr Jolgeirsson – Twelfth Night 2027 – assisting with elevation garb creation

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Special Projects, Publications, & Teaching

SPECIAL PROJECT: QUEST FOR OUR MODERN GUESTS

For Ursulmas 2025, I added a new element geared toward gamifying the modern guests' experience. Around site, they were able to find gold exclamation points (!) with numbers and corresponding letters to help them decipher the answer to a riddle. 3 winners were selected at random from all entries received over the course of the weekend to win a leather pouch adorned with a bear paw print in honor of winning the Ursulmas Quest!

I'm excited to be sponsoring the Quest again at Ursulwyck 2026, our barony's new demo event, and hope to help the Quest continue in the future.

SPECIAL PROJECT: EVENT GUIDEBOOKS

In 2025, I created a new Ursulmas Guidebook in OneNote to be added to the officer 365 accounts for future use – link available upon request due to the financial information it contains. This guide covers a To-do list for the Steward in a timeline format; a record of the 2025 timeline in the Steward's role with examples of prose to give future stewards a starting point for their posts; copies of the last contract, bid, gate numbers, final financial report, etc.; previous publication info, maps, etc.; and some explanations on WHY we did things the way we did. I've also included sections that can be expanded in the future for team roles as well as a backup for the website, Kingdom Calendar page, and various posts to social media sites.

I am now working on creating an Ursulwyck Medieval Faire Guidebook, starting with the one made for Ursulmas and using it during the event planning process and editing it as we go. I've been working with HL Jaida al-Sahrawiyya on the overall event guide project for the barony, and our two different approaches have resulted in what I believe will be a truly useful set of tools for future Stewards.

SPECIAL PROJECT: GATE RECONCILIATION AND TILL COUNT SHEET

In October 2025, I created a new Gate Reconciliation and Till Count Sheet in Excel in the hope that it will be a useful baronial resource. I started with re-creating the current, confusing Till Count Sheet in what I hope is a better walk through of the process. From there, I created a Gate Reconciliation spreadsheet based on that form, with the idea that each till would fill one sheet out on site, and that info would be filled in on its own tab on the event's Gate Reconciliation spreadsheet, with the first tab of the spreadsheet totaling everything for our final report for us. My aim was to be consistent throughout, and to have the labels, prices, etc. all in the same order as the final Event Financial Report to hopefully have everything move smoothly in that direction.

PUBLICATIONS

Created the Facebook Page for the Barony of Aquaterra in my first term as Seneschal and have helped maintain it off and on since then: https://www.facebook.com/barony.of.aq

SCA blog: *https://sabinadizorzi.blog*

Largesse Pinterest board to help artisans find inspiration: https://www.pinterest.com/sabinadizorzi/largesse-ideas/

As part of the Seneschal role, I was the Media Liaison at Ursulmas 2014:
http://www.heraldnet.com/news/at-monroe-medieval-fair-they-have-a-good-olde-time/

Created the Ursulmas.org website for Ursulmas 2025, designing it with the modern guests in mind. The site will be changed for 2026, but an archive is available upon request.

Created the https://aquaterra.antir.org/ursulwyck/ website for Ursulwyck 2026, again designing it with modern guests in mind.

TEACHING



Knitting Class - Boars Hunt 2013

This was a basic 'knitting in the round' class to get folk started on any number of period items, from basic bags to hats and socks. I provided some information on period knitting as well as some yarn and home-made wooden needles for folk who didn't own their own to use during the class.

What is an officer? – Boars Hunt 2025

This class was to help those interested in volunteering as an officer of the learn more about what that entailed. I used my New Officer Introduction agenda for the class, including the organization structure of the barony, the expectations of officers, available resources, some of the rules involved, what it means to be a leader, etc. and invited other current and previous officers to join the conversation and help answer questions about the different offices.

One-on-one Mentoring and Tutoring

I spend a lot of my time mentoring or tutoring folk whenever folk are interested. I've mostly mentored folk in Event Stewarding or Seneschal related things. In the Arts and Sciences, I have also tutored several folk in sewing at various skill levels and for various projects, as well as some knitting, lucet, and other fiber arts as well as a little bit of medieval culinary. I've also put work into creating spaces for folk to be able to learn these things, even if we're just exploring them together.

Adventures in engineering a late period gown – Banner War 2026

I presented an overview of my efforts at creating a 1560s Venetian ladder-laced gown as an example of how to meet the fashion of the time where it's at with whatever body one has, how one can achieve the looks we want without extant garments to study, and to show that there are many ways to achieve beautiful results.

FOR REFERENCE

Relevant modern professional experience – 26 years of accounting and logistics experience has benefited me in my various roles in the SCA. In addition the expected skills of my profession, when the company finds they have a project or position with undefined boundaries, lack of clarity, or missing information, either through a restructuring of the company or through expansion into a new type of business, I take on that project and tailor it to meet their needs before training others in the execution of the relevant tasks. I also have demonstrated my abilities to flexibly organize and manage multiple tasks while recognizing and maintaining shifting priorities, as well as my practiced talent for seeing the overall picture to proactively help multiple teams work together.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- **Award of Arms** (An Tir) by Caoimhe ingen Domnaille, UlfR Blodfotur Fallgrson ~ Jan 26, 2013 (AS XLVII)
- **Silver Dolphin** (Aquaterra) by Steinolf Ketilsson, Sineidin inghean an Bhiadtaigh ~ Jan 26, 2013 (AS XLVII)
- **Golden Estoile** (Aquaterra) by Steinolf Ketilsson, Sineidin inghean an Bhiadtaigh ~ Dec 6, 2014 (AS XLIX)
- **Goutte de Sang** (An Tir) by Havordh Ættarbani, Mary Grace of Gatland ~ Jul 18, 2015 (AS L)
- **Sanguine Thorn** (An Tir) by Athanasios Belisarios, Alianora Greymoor ~ Jun 3, 2023 (AS LVIII)
- **Baron's Favor** (Aquaterra) by Geirleikr Veðrson ~ Jun 1, 2024 (AS LIX)
- **A&S Champion** (Aquaterra) by Geirleikr Veðrson, Zahra bint al-Rammah ~ Dec 7, 2024 (AS LIX)
- **Green Bear** (Aquaterra) by Már Skál Óttarson, Tabitta Elizi Longtail ~ Jun 6, 2025 (AS LX)
- **Griffe et du Lion** (An Tir) by Octamasades Skuthikos, Achaxe Ek Auchatae ~ Dec 6, 2025 (AS LX)
- **Plate** (Aquaterra) by Már Skál Óttarson, Tabitta Elizi Longtail ~ Jun 6, 2026 (AS LXI)
- **Forget-me-not** (An Tir) by Ulfgar Hjartar Bani Thorvaldsson, Juahara al Azin ~ Jun 28, 2026 (AS LXI)
- **King's Favor** (An Tir) by Ulfgar Hjartar Bani Thorvaldsson, Juahara al Azin ~ Jun 28, 2026 (AS LXI)
- **Bountiful Hand** (An Tir) by Ragnar Styrkarrson, Theodora Asteria of Nicaea ~ Sep 12, 2026 (AS LXI)

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