

Unto Their Royal Majesties An Tir, King Christian Bane and Queen H el ene d'Anjou,
and Their Excellencies Dragon's Laire, Baron Conchobar MacEoin and Baroness Eilidh Keldel eth,
Greetings and Health!

We, M aenach na Cailled and Ciar ingen Fiachnae, hereby convey our intent and put ourselves forward
as candidates to serve as Baron and Baroness of Dragon's Laire. We would be honored to serve the
Barony of Dragon's Laire and her Populace, and by extension An Tir, in this capacity.

Since joining the Society and the Barony we have engaged in diverse efforts including target archery,
culinary pursuits, the scribal arts, and more. The backbone of our participation, though, has been
service to the Barony and the Populace and the camaraderie resulting from that service. Ciar currently
serves as Seneschal for Dragon's Laire, is Event Steward for the upcoming Kingdom Feast, and has
led a handful of feasts within the Barony. M aenach serves as the Baronial Webminister and has
assisted in Ciar's pursuits when possible. In addition, we both enjoy assisting in the setup, teardown,
and cleanup at any event that would have our help -- including the Harvest Feast we enjoyed as our
very first event after joining this great Society.

In preparation for declaring our intent, we sought counsel from many and listened to more. In part we
sought to better understand the several burdens of the Coronet. Ciar's efforts to revise the Customary
of Dragon's Laire have helped us to understand the formal duties and obligations of tenure but former
Barons and Baronesses, various Peers, fighters, artisans, and newcomers alike have all helped us
understand the informal and sometimes unspoken duties we would be accepting. We believe we are
duly prepared for the three-year commitment of service to the Barony.

As with any organization above a certain size, there are of course a variety of opinions. In fact, no two
members of the Barony seem to hold quite the same opinion regarding which priorities the Dragon's
Laire Coronet should hold above others, or even the core purpose of the Coronet in the abstract. That
said, collecting a variety of counsel and opinions has begun to paint a picture and, if we should be
selected to serve as Baron and Baroness, we will continue to seek such counsel.

While our priorities and intentions will develop according to the ongoing needs of the Barony and the
Kingdom, we have identified two areas which we believe the next Coronet would do well to consider as
they begin their tenure. Each is a form of division within the Barony: one between the various interests
a member of the Barony might pursue, the other between those who have extensive experience and
those who have the energies of the Newcomer.

To a degree, a divide between interests within a barony is to be expected. After all, practicing the
martial arts could be considered disruptive to those engaged in illumination, for example, as the
excitement inspired by a good fight might cause a scribe an unsteady hand. However, we must
recognize that each realm of interest is another facet of The Dream, and a healthy barony includes a
variety. Dragon's Laire does host a healthy variety of activities but we believe we could do more to
encourage individuals to engage each other across these perceived boundaries and, where
appropriate, better support those who wish to engage in multiple activities sometimes seen as
incompatible with each other.

The experience divide is perhaps an even more pressing concern within the Barony. Dragon's Lair is not unusual in that the majority of our events, feasts, and official duties are fulfilled by a small portion of our Populace. In an organization of volunteers, it is natural that some would find their bliss in serving others in this way, and that those would be a minority. Our task lies in encouraging those with experience -- especially those who enjoy such service -- to sometimes step aside in order to allow a relative newcomer to discover this same joy, to sometimes offer counsel to these newcomers, and over all to recognize that the longevity of the Barony lies in the combination of wisdom with excitement.

In principle we believe that, in a way, the role of the Seneschal -- the role Ciar currently serves for the Barony of Dragon's Lair -- is to clear the way for The Dream by removing obstacles which might lie outside of Society interests. Similarly, we believe that the foundation of the role of the Coronet is to guide the Populace -- the whole Populace -- toward The Dream in its many forms. We hope to serve Dragon's Lair as Baron and Baroness but even if we do not, we will continue to serve the Barony and the Kingdom as proud members of Dragon's Lair, An Tir, and this great Society.

In Service and Gratitude,

Lord Máenach na Cailled and Lady Ciar ingen Fiachne