

The Baronial List of Bryn Madoc, On the Occasion of the Investiture of Knut and Simon

My Lords and Ladies of the lymphad banner!
Attend now my toast, my testament to
the women and men who wore the pearl helm
for honor and glory, on the hill of Prince Madoc:

First came Ædward, founding baron.
Coronet claimed when kingdom was young.
Twice-ordered knight, yet knowing no peer.
Margala of Dovedale, the great traveler.
She wields her needles in worthy threadwork.
Sunflower token, tresses of raven.
We honor their names, who offered their service.

Next came Galan; green was his homeland.
Bearing the warshield unbroken in strife,
mighty as oak, and much the stronger.
Dominica star-signed, maiden of southlands;
mistress of horses, masterful teacher,
weaver of wood, wise earth-tender.
We honor their names, who offered their service.

I speak of Hywel, son of Ieuan,
the wielder of spears, the speaker for thrones,
a man of the cross, mighty ring-giver.
Irina the wise, wicked in humor,
middle-sea maid, marching the East Road.
Cordial crafter, campbuilder, feastmaker.
We honor their names, who offered their service.

I speak of Gwydion, of the golden sunburst;
his talents proved with pen and hammer.
Name-maker, ring-giver, raising the warblade.
Zofia clay-shaper, crafter of thread,
shepherd of gatherings (her shadow grows
long at feast time!), beloved by children.
We honor their names, who offered their service.

Then followed Oengus, the fame-speaker
of field and hall, Huginn's advocate.
Deep is his flagon, yet deeper his thoughts.
From Ulster hails Muirenn, mistress of mead halls.
Sharp is her sword, but sharper her tongue!
Shepherd of youth; yarn yields to her will.
We honor their names, who offered their service.

I tell of Orlando, Italian most dashing.
Thrice-crownéd noble, renowned for his courtesy.
Shrewd businessman, showering largesse.
Hail Leonora, noble free scholar.
The seventh Star, the seventh Dreamer.
A silent symphony is the song of her pen.
We honor their names who offered their service.

New hands on the tiller, new heads bear the pearls,
to govern the land, so green and hale,
in war and in peace; your wisdom shall guide them.
Stride forth in might, but remember your
longfathers,
nobles who paved the path you now tread.
Serve well the folk who follow the coronet;
then future be bright for best of all baronies!
We honor *your* names, who offer your service.

Notes

Anglo-Saxon style poetry is alliterative style rather than a rhyming one; that is, the structure is based on repeating consonant sounds. Lines are divided into two half-lines separated by a slight pause (often shown either as an exaggerated space or two lines).

For more information, download the Anglo Saxon Poetry Guide located here:

<http://www.gemyndeseld.net/stories-by-the-hearth.html>

Written as a praise poem for the barons and baronesses of Bryn Madoc, it was first read during the investiture feast for Gwydion and Zofia. It was next presented during the investiture ceremony of Óengus mac GillaDubain and Muirenn ingen Donngaile, and in the course of time will be added to and delivered at each subsequent investiture.

First Stanza:

Lymphad banner – the heraldry of the Barony of Bryn Madoc
"on the hill of Prince Madoc" – Bryn Madoc

Second Stanza:

Ædward of Glastonburh, the first baron of Bryn Madoc, is both a Knight and a Pelican, thus, "twice-ordered."
Margala of Dovedale is well-known for her embroidery. Her device features a sunflower, and her hair is long, black and ageless.

Third Stanza:

Sir Galan-Schol of Eirmeathe is an Irish persona, and features an oak on his shield. He prefers wars to tourneys.
Mistress Lucia Domenica Farnese, with a persona of Italian extraction, bears a device featuring a star. She owns several horses, and has many skills to bring to bear in the SCA, including gardening, basket-weaving, and teaching.

Fourth Stanza:

Master Hywel ap Ieun, whose heraldry features a cross, often carries a spear into battle. An accomplished voice herald, he has bestowed gifts upon members of the Madoc warband.
Mistress Irina Francesca degli Schiavoni, another Italian, has much experience in organizing and feasting, and both makes and makes use of cordials. The "east road" line is a Tolkien reference.

Fifth Stanza:

Baron Gwydion Braich Hir DuRhos is an accomplished artist and student of the forge. He gifted Dyfn with a new name, and gave his warband arm-rings he himself crafted.
Baroness Zofia Wis'niewska is a potter and accomplished in the textile arts. Experienced as both autocrat and feaster, she is also known as being diminutive in stature.

Sixth Stanza:

Baron Óengus mac GillaDubain is a herald. The reference to Huginn's advocate is two-fold: he likes ravens, and he is something of a philosopher (Huginn being "Thought"). He is a connoisseur of brews.
Baroness Muirenn ingen Donngaile is a good hall-steward; she is sometimes known as the "battle baroness" for her interest in things martial. She can be acerbic. Mundanely, she is an elementary school teacher, and accomplished in textile arts.

Seventh Stanza:

Baron Orlando was king on three occasions. There are tales of his helpfulness and kindness irrespective of his titles. His persona is an Italian who knows well the value of coin.
Baroness Leonora is in the Order of the Athanor. She was the seventh Star of Bryn Madoc and coincidentally the seventh inductee into the Order of the Dreamstone. She is well-known for her skills with illumination and calligraphy.