

The Basilica

BYZANTIUM NOVUM

BRINGING BYZANTIUM TO EVERYDAY LIFE BY AMMA DOUKAINA

One of the most fun and exciting parts of being a history buff in a re-enactment group is being able to completely shut out the modern world with all its noise and fury and experience a bit of what real life was like for someone in the distant past.

Actually creating a life for a day or two that is free of all the things we consider modern conveniences can be quite head-clearing! It is true, however, that this is one of the harder things to do. Most people cannot just pick up and go to the middle of nowhere and become Byzantine for any real length of time, but

there are things you can do to bring a bit of the history of Byzantium to your everyday life. It doesn't need to be expensive or difficult, but you should commit to having fun and learning some interesting things about the medieval world. Some ideas:

- If you feed them, they will come! Have a Byzantine dinner party! Get ideas [here](#) and [here](#).
- Read a [book](#) or watch a [documentary](#) on Byzantine history.
- Contact your local [SCA group](#) and join up with

other Byzantines. Get them to join our household, [Augustaion!](#)

- Check out local universities for lectures that are open to the public. Some also offer free classes for those who just want to sit in and don't need the credit.
- Go find a remote location, pitch a tent and look up at the stars. Just imagine what it would have been like in Byzantine times! Revel like a child in your smallness. Cook over an open fire, and keep the modern food at home. No S'mores!

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SUBMISSIONS TO THE BASILICA

Are you a writer, photographer, artisan or have an interest in writing a piece for our newsletter? We'd love to have your input, and articles, book reviews, recipes, photos, poems, stories, drawings, and more would be wonderful additions to The Basilica!

You must be willing to sign a release for anything used in this, or any other, publication by Byzantium Novum. Release forms can be received by contacting [Amma Doukaina](#), editor.

Let us know what you'd like to see in The Basilica! Your time and input are valuable! Your knowledge should be shared! The options here are wide open, and we are eager to take items by our citizens to share! Please include a photo with your submission if possible!

AMMA DOUKAINA SENATOR & GRAND LIBRARIAN

In the real world, Amma is a full-time mom, freelance writer, blogger and editor, as well as being the wife of Count Ulfr the Varangian. Her educational background focused on medieval foods and cooking, the home lives of women in the Middle Ages and the ways food and religion blended in early Western Europe. She has a broad knowledge of food

from various periods and cultures as well as an unquenchable thirst for learning and experiencing the medieval world in every way possible.

Amma serves on the Senate and is also Grand Librarian for Byzantium Novum. She keeps a blog on the topic of medieval food and cooking called Amma's Kitchen, available [here](#). Amma's

Kitchen will be expanding in 2012 with handmade feastware, cookware and jewelry designed by Amma! Currently, Amma has plans to be at the 2012 Pennsic War (SCA) with pieces available to show, and also plans to do cooking demonstrations at various SCA events in an attempt to increase the numbers in Augustaion, our blended SCA/BN household!



"Food must be prepared with love so that it may nourish the body and the soul."
~Amma

BADUILA CLERK OF THE SENATE

Senator Baduila Chalkeus is the son of a Byzantine soldier and an Ostrogoth woman. He rose to the Senate by way of the Imperial military, having served as Megas Hetaireiarchēs in the *Sodalitas Militarium*. He is also the Clerk of the Senate, Grand Chancellor of the Empire, Governor of Megalopotamia, and Count of Virginia.



In real life, Baduila is known as Jeff Smith and is a retired Army officer who works as a Senior Analyst for the Marine Corps. He is also a count (*ispán*), having been ennobled by the Greek Church of Hungary, which also made him a major general.

"One of my great challenges as Clerk of the Senate and as a Governor is finding people who want to step forward and do more for Byzantium Novum. It doesn't matter how much or how little you do -- there is so much to be done it will take all of us." ~Baduila

POLLING OF THE SENATE
OCTOBER 2010 - MAY 2011

In October, 2010 the Senate:

Approved the proposal to establish the position of Clerk of the Senate, with Baduila Chalkeus as first clerk.
Approved the proposal to establish the local branches of Byzantium Novum as a Diocese, Province, Colony, etc.
Approved the proposal to establish a Foreign Ministry, with its own Yahoo Group and with Baduila Chalkeus as first Foreign Minister.
Ratified the *Declaratium Byzantium Novum*.

In November, 2010 the Senate:

Establish positions for regional and local officers as described in the Administrative Handbook.
Established the position of President of the Senate with Senator Marcus Cassius Julianus to serve as first president.
Established a policy of appointing officers at the diocesan, provincial, and other levels of government.

In December, 2010 the Senate:

Appointed the following administrators to the offices listed: Krysanthe Meridia Aeterna as Countess Third Class of Arizona; Baduila Chalkeus as Count Third Class of Virginia; Marcus Cassius Julianus as Count Third Class of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont; Ulfr the Varangian as Count Third Class of Colorado; and Krysanthe Meridia Aeterna Mayor of Phoenix, Arizona.
Approved the proposal for a flag of Byzantium Novum.

In January, 2011 the Senate:

Welcomed Amma Doukaina as our newest Senator.

In February, 2011 the Senate:

Appointed the following administrators to the offices listed: Gaius Africanus Germanicus as Count Third Class for Utah; Michael the Wise as Count Third Class for Egypt; Hrafn the Varangian as Count Third Class for North Carolina; Eugenios Dimitriou Zachou as Count Third Class for Slovakia; Demetrios Palaiologos Dermokaites as Count Third Class for Tennessee; Theodosius Constantinus as Count Third Class for Oregon; Konstantin Fokas as Count Third Class for Sweden; Alexious Komninos as Count Third Class for Australia; Tiberius Tullius Lucianus as Count Third Class for Scotland; and Theodoros Christou as Count Third Class for New Brunswick, Canada.

In March, 2011 the Senate:

Approved the request of the Colony of Megalopotamia (VA, NC, and SC) to form as a local chapter.
Approved the Administrative Handbook.
Appointed the following administrators to the offices listed: Michael Psellus as Count Third Class of Greece, Marcos Galanis as Count Third Class of Alaska, and Romanos as Count Third Class of Germany; and Priscus Psellos as Count Third Class of Kansas.
Additionally, the Senate made an administrative adjustment changing all "exarches" and "eparches" to "counts third class". (This was purely administrative and was not polled.) Changes to the polling results were made to reflect this adjustment. There are some who have changed their names since polling, and the new names are reflected in this report.

In April, 2011 the Senate:

Appointed the following administrator to the office listed: Pavlos Constantinos to be Count Third Class of the Netherlands

In May, 2011, the Senate:

Appointed the following administrator to the office listed: Thecla Porphyrogenita as Countess Third Class of California.
Appointed the following administrator to the office listed: Alexius Kaspax as Count Third Class of Texas

In June 2011, the Senate:

*Some names have been changed since the voting occurred. All names above reflect any changes made since the vote, and are currently in use as far as we know. Please report name changes to [Amma Doukaina](#).

MYRIAD

A POEM BY

K R Y S A N T H E M E R I D I A A L T E S S A A E T E R N I A

I can no longer sing, my spirit is floating between the ethers, my touch with reality is lost edged with heartbreak and sorrow. Lamenting what was lost, what was never had, never had to hoped to gain, this silent cry of emptiness solid like a wailing wall.

I watch my empire fall around me, crumbling, this succumbing to the waves of the open sea, my kingdom gone, I find myself bereft of a nation, betrayed those near and far from me. Tears gather in collected pools along my skin, my senses aware of the loss, such unimaginable loss...

Treading forward I must, revenge a bitter solace, where have gone the rays of hope? I can no longer sing, for my vessels are truly empty of feeling.



REPORTS FROM COUNTIES OF VIRGINIA & COLORADO

With five citizens, the County of Virginia is booming but still building. We have been successful in joining with the Carolinas to form a colony, and three of our members are leaders there, serving as governor, chamberlain and tribune of the colony.

Moreover, the Senate has recently allowed us to form a village in Fredericksburg, where face-to-face meetings have taken place.

The colony also has a [Yahoo Group](#) to help recruit as well as advertising on [Craigslist.com](#). We are eager to recruit more people and are excited that we're continuing to grow!

Baduila Chalkeus,
Count of Virginia



The official flag of Byzantium Novum

Are you interested in becoming Count of Colorado? Please email [Baduila](#) with your request. Since Ulfr is leaving as of August 1, 2011, to go to Tennessee, we'll have an opening!

Greetings from Colorado! Things have been a bit slow-going here, but we're working hard behind-the-scenes! It wasn't really expected, but Amma and I are moving to Tennessee soon to be closer to many other BN citizens, and to hopefully join up with the busy folks out east! We will be forming a fighting force as well (more on page 7), and I am excited to fulfill a long-time dream of being an armourer and making re-creation and re-enactment armour as an apprentice under Jackie at [Shamrock Armoury](#).

Since we are moving out of state, we'd love to see someone take over for us. If you live in Colorado, and would like to be considered as Count or Countess, please email the [Clerk of the Senate](#) to have it proposed for a vote.

THE LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF BYZANTIUM NOVUM

By Senator Baduila Chalkeus, Grand Chancellor

Byzantium Novum is a participatory Empire. There is very little top-driven about it. The idea is that local people will form chapters and regional groups which will, one day, cover the globe. But what is our local government? How does it work? How do we get started? Let's start with some definitions.

Local chapters are of two types – provinces or colonies, depending on whether your group is part of a regional group, called a diocese, or not. Dioceses are our regional groups. Colonies are outside of the dioceses and consist of five or more citizens. Each colony has a unique name. They are led by a governor, which is called a magistrate. The governor is assisted by the mandatory officers of treasurer and chancellor. If desired, additional officers can be added: chamberlain, chaplain, and tribune. See the Administrative guide for duties of these officers. Colonies are also required to put out some kind of newsletter at least quarterly.

Provinces are inside dioceses and also consist of at least five citizens. They also have a unique name. They also have a leader, but this governor is called a president. The governor is assisted by the mandatory officer of chamberlain. The other officers are all optional: chancellor, treasurer, chaplain, and tribune. There are fewer officers and no newsletter requirement because the diocese helps with the workload.

Dioceses are intended to be large and powerful regional organizations. Dioceses have a sixteen-citizen minimum population and a unique name. They are led by a governor called a vicar who represents the Senate and the empire in their area. He may appoint a chief of staff and an adjutant. His staff consists of a principal chancellor, principal treasurer, principal chamberlain, principal tribune, and principal chaplain, all of which are mandatory officers. At this level there is a monthly newsletter requirement.

If you would like to form any of these organizations, contact the Grand Chancellor of the Empire. He or she will send you the simple one-page form upon which you will list your proposed name, the area you wish to incorporate, your slate of officers, and the names of the citizens in your area. The governor signs it and sends it back so the Senate can ratify it in the monthly polling. The intent is to keep the whole process fast and simple.

The members of the Senate look forward to dozens of colonies, provinces and dioceses covering the world, and we want to do everything in our power to help form a local groups. One officer the Senate appoints is a count, who has access to all the membership records so you can find out who is in your area. He or she will be glad to help, as will the Grand Chancellor.

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORT BY BADUILA CHALKEUS FOREIGN MINISTER



The Foreign Ministry continues to form as a new organization. We now have two other members in the leadership: Senator Marcus Minucius Audens as Minister of Barbarians (portfolio covering the Ottomans and Arabs) and Senator Matyas Puskas Belisarius as Assistant Foreign Minister (the Balkans and Hungary).

There are still several vacant positions: Deputy Foreign Ministry (establishing relations with other nations), and Assistant Foreign Ministers for (1) Germany and Italy and (2) Successor States (Trebizond, Epirus, Athens, Achaea, Nicaea, and the Latin Empire).

If you are interested in filling one of these jobs or serving as Chief of Staff, please [contact me](#).

MEDITATIONS ON "MEDITATIONS" BY MARCUS MUNICIUS AUDENS

"Live through life in the best way you can". The power to do so is in a man's (or woman's) own soul, if he is indifferent to things indifferent. And he will be indifferent if he looks at these things both as a whole and analyzed into their parts, and remembers that none of them imposes a judgment of itself or forces itself on us. The things themselves are inert: it is we who procreate judgments about them and, as it were, imprint them on our minds -- but there is no need for imprinting at all, and any accidental print can immediately be erased. Remember too that

our attention to these things can only last a little while, and then life will be at an end. And what, anyway, is the difficulty in them? If they are in accord with nature, welcome them and you will find them easy. If they are contrary to nature, look for what accords with your own nature and go straight for that, even if it brings you no glory. Anyone can be forgiven for seeking his own proper good."
~from *Marcus Aurelius, Meditations, Book 11, Item 16*

Senator Marcus Audeus' Review: Whenever I am given the opportunity to read this book, it seems that I always come across something that is soothing to my soul (whatever that is) and I feel easier in my mind somehow. The trick many times is to analyze 'indifferents' in the correct way, in order to calm oneself, such as a leaking roof, flooded basement, loss of a loved one, or other things we would call "serious" aspect of life.

However, we do have a very strong weapon to fight these 'indifferents' in the shape and size of our own mind and its immeasurable ability to solve those things in which life includes us as we proceed. I have at least learned that much from the "Meditations" and the lesson for me has been quite valuable.

Respectfully,
Senator Marcus Audeus

WANT TO HELP? RECRUIT!

Recruiting for Byzantium Novum is easy! There are many ways you can help us add new citizens who are interested in reviving the majesty of Byzantium. We have grown steadily, but we want the numbers to increase even more! You can help.

*Talk to the people you know. Have you told your family and friends about BN? Byzantium Novum has several couples involved, and it can be great fun to share experiences with those who have the most in common with you! Get your children involved too! Older children can participate in the SCA with boffers, and it's pretty cool to tell classmates that you spent part of your summer vacation camping at a medieval war site!

*Have a Byzantine dinner party! Invite interested people, and tell them about how you weave together your Byzantine and 21st century lives. Serve Byzantine [foods](#), and play Byzantine [music](#) or [watch a documentary](#) on Byzantium.

*Post on social media websites! Tell your friends on [Facebook](#)! Post on [Craigslist](#)! Be creative! If something works particularly well, or if you have suggestions for recruiting, [let us know](#)!

*Drop off flyers in the local university's history department, offer to talk to classes studying classical history about what BN is all about. Contact the office for clubs and fraternities and ask to pass on a flyer to appropriate groups on campus. Often, the SCA has a household in larger universities and may have a variety of history clubs as well. Fraternities might be interested in finding out about the military side, and are likely to want to suit up in armour and fight!

*Go to local SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) events. Talk to fighters who might be interested in a Varangian or late Roman/Greek persona, and send them to [Uifr](#)! He will help them join up with others in the SCA/BN blended household, [Augustaion](#). Talk to artisans about Byzantine works they may have done. Talk to cooks about the food. Talk to the seamstresses about the garb! **Talk to everyone about everything!**

THE IMPERIAL VARANGIAN GUARD OF BYZANTIUM NOVUM

One of the most important goals for Byzantium Novum is to increase our numbers. Currently we have citizens all over the world, but so few who are so far apart that it is often difficult to actually get together and meet in real life. In an attempt to get like-minded folks to come join BN, we've formed Augustaion, a household for those in our populace who are also active in the SCA, or the Society for Creative Anachronism. This union will provide us with a worldwide organization full of people who, like us, enjoy the re-creation of history, and also has the incredibly high numbers that will give us a boost in citizens!

The SCA offers the opportunity to also give us a chance to meet face-to-face at a variety of SCA-sponsored events. A favorite of Count Ulfr, and others in our populace, is heavy armour combat.

Because of his interest in forming a true re-enactment group of Varangian Guardsmen, Count Ulfr is preparing to move his family across the country in order to access the group of men in the SCA who are interested in the formation of the Guard, and they are already waiting for Ulfr to show up and get started! This group will be a true Imperial Varangian Guard first meant to serve Byzantium Novum but joining with the SCA to recruit men and use the larger events to test their training in true medieval combat, and in a war-like setting.

Right now, we have groups forming in Tennessee, Florida and the Detroit, Michigan, area. There is already a great deal of interest in joining us!

These fighters will be only one group under the household of Augustaion. We are hoping to see artisans and others from the SCA join us, and we hope to join with them in their various groups as well. We hope to see a number of Byzantium Novum's citizens as well as members of the SCA get together to create real-life items to use in re-enactment. We all need appropriate garb, so seamstresses are priceless! Musicians, scribes, weavers, woodworkers, metalworkers, and others will all be invaluable as Byzantium Novum comes to the real world, or what is called the 'mundane world' in the SCA.

Right now, the first big milestone will be to attend Pennsic and Gulf Wars in 2012, both large war events for the SCA. Prior to those wars, there will be a great deal of fighter practice, as well as a lot of armour building! The hope is to have a set of several Varangian kits available so that anyone who is interested can give it a try without investing right away.

Once established, the Imperial Varangian Guard will serve Byzantium Novum in any way needed. From assisting with security to escorting a Senator, or maybe even someday an Empress or Emperor, the Guard will be the men that we, as a nation, will turn to in times of need. The hope is that the men who choose to participate will not only take their place in the household seriously, but that they'll be dedicated to Byzantium Novum with or without a personal connection to the SCA.

Ultimately, Count Ulfr would like to mold the group in a way that is fun, but also appreciated for its brotherhood. The term Varangian comes from the Old Norse word var, which was the term for an oath which created an extremely tight bond and made the men brothers-in-arms. These var were taken so seriously that the men would rather take their own life than back out on their oath to a brother.

"The goal is to make this run like a very real household," says Ulfr. "I want to build the battlefield of dreams. I want a group of men and women who truly love the art involved in re-creating history."

"I want these people to feel like they are truly part of a family, and that we're all there for one another. Augustaion should be a name that everyone will associate with loyalty, honor and a damn good time. I want people to know the name Augustaion when we go to wars. I am dedicating my life to this, to building the armour we'll need, and to getting out there and recruiting. More than anything, I'm looking forward to the good food, good friends, and good fighting that will all be, inevitably, the rewarding payoff of my work and the culmination of a nearly 15-year old dream."

For more information on Augustaion or the forming of the Imperial Varangian Guard of Byzantium Novum, please contact [Count Ulfr the Varangian](#).



BYZANTIUM NOVUM

MISSION STATEMENT

Byzantium Novum is a micro-nation dedicated to the rebirth of Byzantine culture and civilization which was formed to become a small, legitimate successor state to the Byzantine Empire. We exist as a micro-national sovereignty project, working to bring Byzantine civilization to life in the modern world as much as is possible. Our goal is to establish a physical, symbolic and administrative world capitol of 100 acres or more, where the Byzantine State may have a real-world existence and coordinate Byzantine interests around the world.

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Newsletters will be available the first of the month, January, April, July and October. Submissions must be turned in to the editor by the 15th of the previous month. Submissions will be published on a space-available basis and at the discretion of the editor. Items and articles relative to the operation of the Byzantium Novum or the Byzantine Empire in general will always have precedence.
The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.
All artwork in this issue is from the editor's private collection or in the public domain, except where noted.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF BYZANTIUM NOVUM

[Marcus Cassius Julianus](#) – President
[Baduila Chalkeus](#) – Clerk of the Senate
[Priscus Psellos](#)
[Marcus Municius Audens](#)
[Matyas Exarch](#)
[Amma Doukaina](#)
T. Annaeus Regulus

IMPERIAL OFFICERS OF BYZANTIUM NOVUM

[Baduila Chalkeus](#), Foreign Minister
[Baduila Chalkeus](#), Grand Chancellor
[Matyas Exarch](#), Grand Chaplain
Office of the Grand Chamberlain - Vacant

IMPERIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF BYZANTIUM NOVUM

Byzantium Novum Militarium -
[Marcus Municius Audens](#), Commander
Biplotetheca Byzantia -
[Amma Doukaina](#), Grand Librarian

HAVE A QUESTION?
ASK THE EXPERTS!

If you need help with Byzantine topics, please feel free to contact our resident experts!

[Paul](#)- Byzantine Culture, Arts, Music, Theology

[Teleri](#)- Garb

[Baduila](#)- Governmental Structure

[Alexius Kaspax](#)- Byzantine and European Military History

[Thecla Porphyrogenita](#)- Church History and Theology

[Marcus Audens](#)- Naval Shipping and Organization, Military Fortification, Geography and Cartography

[Amma Doukaina](#)- Food and Cooking Methods, Women's Household Roles, Spice Trade, Culinary History, Western European Paganism and Folklore

[Ulfr the Varangian](#)- SCA Armour and Weaponry, Recreation and Re-enactment Armour. Want to fight in the SCA household for BN ([Augustaion](#))? Ulfr's your man!

[Marcus Cassius Julianus](#)-

Everyone in Byzantium Novum has their own special knowledge of or interest in Byzantine history! If you're willing to share your expertise, please [email](#) us, and we'll add you to the list of experts!

If you have a video of yourself lecturing on a Byzantine topic that we could share via our YouTube.com page, [let us know!](#) We'd love to start sharing video of the ways we all incorporate Byzantium into our daily lives.

Would you like to submit an article for upcoming newsletters? Please send your submission along with proper release forms to the [Grand Librarian](#).