

the Doongstone

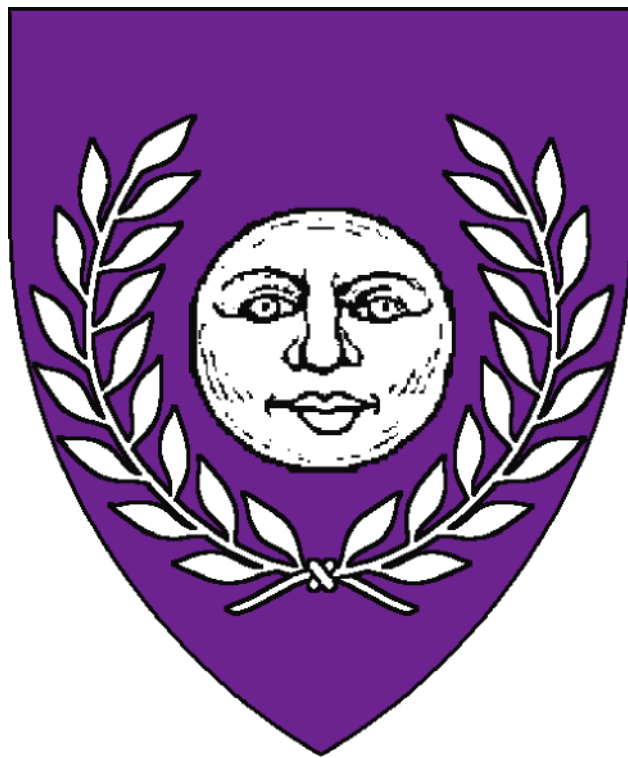
Autumn • A.S. XLIX, Issue Four



All the news of Malagentia that is suitable for repeating in mixed company

If you enjoy

the Doongstone



Help keep it going!


The office of the Chronicler is seeking a deputy. No newsletter experience necessary. Knowledge of grammar and punctuation helpful as are basic computer skills. Interested parties should contact Christiana Crane.




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Dispatch from the Chronicler

The Fall Issue marks the last newsletter of my first year as your Chronicler and by now, most of you have heard that *The Moonstone* has been chosen as "Best Overall Newsletter" for this year's William Blackfox awards. Per the description of the award, Best Overall "does not necessarily mean the best-looking newsletter, but rather the newsletter which best meets the needs of the local group or guild for which it is published. It should accurately reflect the status of the group and be a valuable tool for growth and promotion of the SCA goals and ideals."

This is an important point because while I may put the newsletter together in a pleasant enough fashion, the real value is in the information it contains. Articles about fighting. How-to's and tutorials. Essays on life in the Current Middle Ages. Photos. Art. In other words: All of you.

I've said it before and will again – *The Moonstone* would not be the entertaining and informative newsletter it is without the people who have contributed articles, photos, and artwork; who have indulged my interviews and allowed their images to be captured. This award goes to all of us and I am so proud that I was able to be a part of making this happen.

While I have enjoyed all the articles that have come across my desk, I would like to take a moment to thank the following gentles who have made my job much easier. Master Christian Woolfe, Lord Conall an Doire, and Lord Lucien de Wyntere, have consistently responded to

my calls for reports - and then thrown in extra stuff for good measure.

Lord Samuel Peter "Speedbump" deBump, and Lord Fionn Mac Con Dhuibh always have informative and highly entertaining articles for every issue.

Thank you to Lord Boden Henebry for all the cartoons yet to be published and Meister Maxton Gun not only for articles, but also for giving me access to *The Gaulstone*.

For my "diplomatic liaisons", Mistress Brita of Endewearde, Baron Juan Xavier of Stonemarche and Syr Cedric of Windryche, I am ever appreciative of the speed at which you get me the latest doings from your parts of the North.

I must also thank Lord John "Izzo" Fowler for not only being a sounding board and proofreader, but for helping me get these things onto the Malagentia website.

Finally, I must thank my long-suffering husband who puts up with my lackluster housecleaning and a third night of grilled cheese sandwiches as I dive into the newsletter and many other SCA projects. Not only that, but a great many of the photos from this past year have been taken by him and we all look magnificent for it.

Now on to make *The Moonstone* even better in this next year! Vivats to us all!



Christiana

Cover art by Doña Camille DesJardins

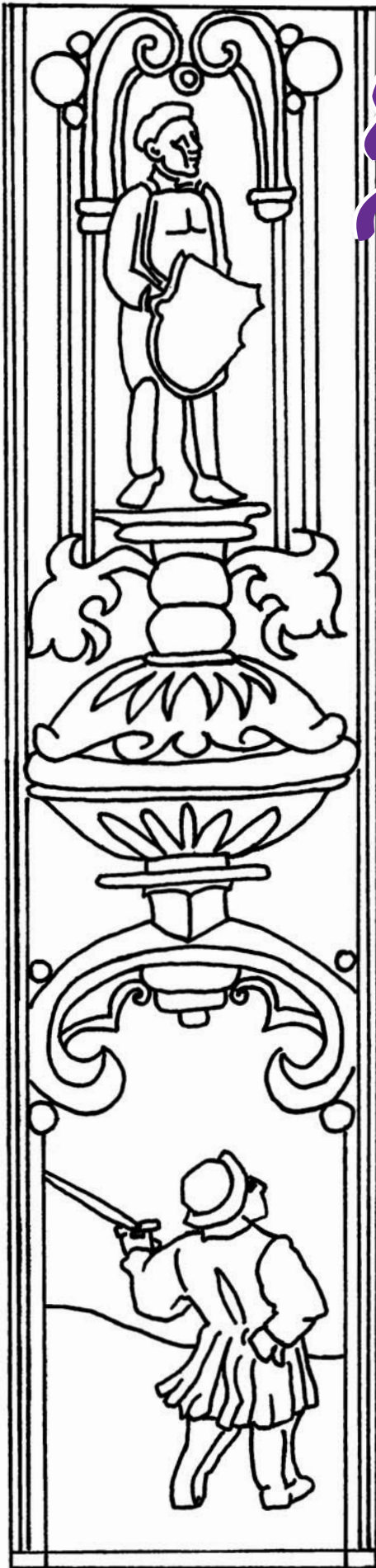
This is the AUTUMN 2014 issue of *The Moonstone*, a publication of the Province of Malagentia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *The Moonstone* is available from Lady Christiana Crane (Chris Hill), Chronicler, christianacrane@ymail.com. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2014 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

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PUBLISHING POLICY

The Moonstone is published four times a year in January, April, August, October; *The Moonstone* is currently available only as a free, online PDF publication and can be downloaded and viewed on the Malagentia website at <http://malagentia.eastkingdom.org/main/category/newsletter/>

The Moonstone is supplemented by the much shorter newsletter, *MoonLite*, which is published seven times a year as a record of the events of the Province of Malagentia. There are no July publications in Malagentia.



from the pen of the **Seneschal**

Greetings one and all,

It seems just yesterday that it was spring. That the snows had retreated and all that slumbered through the cold winter had been renewed. Lush shades of green surrounded us and we looked forward to a full season of campaigning. Now, and all in a blink of the eye, that time has passed and we are at the turn of the year. From green to gold and fiery red our lands have changed. One last burst of color before our winter begins.

Take heart though, for some relish the winter (I'm looking at you dear Chronicler) and here in Malagentia and her much loved Ridings we certainly know how to celebrate no matter what the weather outside may be. Projects stand at the ready be they with cloth, metal, pen or brush, wood, or wherever our imaginations may take us.

Not only do I find inspiration in the wonders of nature, but in those of the artisans of our communities. I have never ceased to be amazed at the creativity, the skill, and care that is poured into projects. The sheer joy a project brought to completion through countless hours and

incredible dedication to ones art. I have seen our brewers ecstatically explaining the process that lead to that bottle they held and how that joy is then passed to those who would sample their craft. Scribes producing gorgeous works of art, that they give away never asking for praise. And most of all I have never ceased to be amazed by the constant focus to raise the bar from one project to the next.

There are so many good works to be seen that it can often render one speechless and to take a step back and truly see the whirlwind of creativity in our Province does not help remedy that situation.

So as the green of summer turns to the brilliance of the fall we should take time to walk in the crisp air and view with wonders that surround us. Just keep in mind that matter the season, the best inspiration can be found in spending with friends. We should all make sure that we make time for such things. You never know what projects or adventures may come of it.



Christian



From the Herald

Greetings to the populace,

As many of you are aware, I have taken the post of Northern Region Herald for the East Kingdom. Whereas I could continue to work as your principal herald, my duties of such would make this difficult, so at the September Meeting, I have step downed as your herald.

Those that I have started to work on their names and devices submission, I will continue to work on them during this transition, and I encourage all those still thinking of registering to speak to the new herald in making that reality. As well as I am encouraging those in Ravensbridge to speak to your current herald Anthony Martin of Sheffield. Giggleswick and Hadchester, as where a heralds office is not required, I do encourage having a herald for your group, for the experience

is one that is rewarding and educational that few do ever get the chance to experience.

On our website the Order of Precedence has been updated to this past years Great Northeastern War, and Passed names with Registered devices has been updated, I am glad to announce that there has been another page that is getting updated for those with passed names without registered devices, so please check it out.

During the transition of the office, I will be working close with the new herald to make sure that all these tools are updated for the Province and look forward to serving as your Northern Regional Herald.

Yours in most wonderful service

Conall an Doire
Outgoing Herald of Malagentia

This Month in Malagentia

Province Notes

From the Seneschal: Yule bids have been accepted but the deadline has been extended due to technical issues with the bid submission process. If you think you'd like to submit a bid for Yule (or any future event), please contact Master Christian and Mistress Honig.

Officers should all have deputies. Please make sure you email your deputy's legal name, SCA name, phone number, and SCA membership number to Christian for his records. Also, officers who have new expiration dates for their memberships should get this info to Christian ASAP so that he can get it in his seneschal report.

From the Chatelaine: With the upcoming wedding, time has been short for organizing demos, but there are plans in the works for demos toward the end of November for area schools and libraries.

From the Chronicler: The next issue of the Moonstone is our end of the year reports and service issue! Articles on how to run a demo or an event, advice for how new folks can get into service, how to become a marshal, things you can do to help out the Province/Kingdom, and how to run a list, are just a few of the articles I'd like to see for this issue. Deadline is January 5.

The Chronicler is also in search of a deputy. If this is something you'd like to consider, please contact Lady Christiana.

From the Arts & Sciences Minister: We have Arts and Sciences and a new Provincial A&S Champion - Lady Rose Copper Steel. She was selected by populace vote at Harvest Moon for her Elizabethan Lemon Cakes.

Music practice is shifting to Thursdays, as announced. Looks to be the second and sometimes fourth Thursday at the moment.

Dance is still third Thursday, but we need to find a new spot. We have contacts in to a few places, but are waiting to hear back.

Bardic Brunch at the Big House is still the third Sunday of the month. Check the Malagentia Bardic Group on Facebook for more information on topics to be covered and for directions.

Scribal classes will start up later this fall or at the beginning of the year.

From the Herald: Pennsic submission load is heavy this year. All submissions made around now will likely not get looked

at until at least December. Please keep this in mind when submitting your paperwork.

Lord Conell will be stepping down as Provincial Herald to move on to new projects.

From the Web Minister: We have no website! There have been some serious EK server issues that are being worked on. In the meantime, the Yahoo Group is still an official means of communication for the Province. Facebook is an unofficial means of communication. Any event submissions should go through Christian and Honig.

From the Exchequer: GNEW attendance was 1033, Harvest Moon Shoot attendance was 111, and Tyger and Bucket Tavern attendance was 76. All three events brought in money for the Province.

Event reports are available from Tiernan for anyone who would like to see how much an event cost. This is valuable information for anyone who is thinking of submitting a bid for an event as it will give a better picture of how to budget.

From the Knight Marshall: Practice has moved inside Sullivan Gym on the USM Portland campus until the sun returns to us once again. Come practice from 6 to 9 on Tuesdays. You will need \$5 cash to enter and a photo ID.

From the Minister of Fence: We have fences and good neighbors! Rapier practice is the same time, location, and cost as the Heavy List practice.

Harvest Moon Shoot had a most enjoyable fencing tournament and the reverse snowball tourney was a huge success.

Northern Region Rapier Academy and Championship will be held in Giggleswick on November 8.

From the Archery Marshall: Deormund wishes to thank Fionn and Conell for running the archery practices in Gorham in his absence. Archery practices happen in Gorham and Waterboro as announced online and until the targets are too frozen to shoot at. If you want to shoot on a day that isn't the weekend, contact Deormund to make arrangements to use his range.

From the Mistress of the Lists: Lady Wynefryde will not normally be at practice through the fall and winter, but if you should need authorization paperwork, please let

Malagentian Mayhem

- **Lord Micah of Brighton Manor** is the new First Shield of Malagentia.
- **Lady Rose Copper Steele** is the new Provincial A&S Champion for her Elizabethan Lemon Cookies.
- **Doña Camille des Jardins** is our new Provincial Rapier Champion.
- **Velikail of Deltuva** is the new Bearer of the Heart of Malagentia.
- **Master Maxton Gunn** is the new Bearer of the Horn of Malagentia.
- Congratulations to **Lord Conell an Doire** on his recent appointment as Northern Region Herald.
- Congratulations to **Lady Odelina St. Alban and Lord Cathaoir mac donnchad** on their recent nuptials.
- **Lord Samuel Peter deBump** won "Best Non-Period Pickles" category at this year's Endewearde Hunt.

her know and she will make arrangements to attend.

From the Quartermaster: We have stuff! If you would like to know what the Province has available, please contact Speedbump.

From the Chancellor Minor: With the end of sunny warm days and the return of school, the children of Malagentia have once again gone back to hiding. There are plans for some non-martial activities for the youth in the works. If you would like to be a part of that, please contact Lady Thalia.

In Other Business

Our herald Lord Conell an Doire has accepted a position as Northern Region Herald. Nominations and elections for his replacement will happen in the next Province meeting. The deputy herald, Lady Murieen Ban, has received a nomination for the position.

A clipboard was found in storage that belongs to Q. If you should see him, please let him know he should contact Wynefryde or Speedbump.



Hail the Champions of Malagentia

Notes From Harvest Moon Shoot & Tyger and Bucket Tavern

September 13, 2014 — Lord Conall an Diore and Lord Fionn Mac Con Dhuibh, autocrats for this year's Harvest Moon Shoot, and the Province of Malagentia are pleased to present our new Provincial Champions.

Lord Micah of Brighton Manor is our Heavy List Champion and the new First Shield of Malagentia. Lady Rose Copper Steele claimed the title of Provincial Arts and Sciences Champion for her Elizabethan Lemon Cookies. Doña Camille des Jardins is our the Provincial Rapier Champion. Velikail of Deltuva is the new Bearer of the Heart of Malagentia and our Thrown Weapons Champion and Master Maxton Gunn is the new Bearer of the Horn of Malagentia and the Provincial Archery Champion.

This years tournaments featured some innovative and devious challenges. The archers had Lord Alexandre's Mobile of Moons between them and their target. Hitting the right moons earned bonus points while hitting the wrong moon could be disastrous.

Master Ed created the Wheel Of Fate, a fickle device that chose the means by which the combatants would face each other. All of the traditional fighting methods were represented, plus one additional form that can best be described as "Trial By Spinning". Fighters had to place their heads on the end of their

swords and quickly spin around. Not all comers remained on their feet after that ordeal.

The A&S competition saw some lovely spinning of a more traditional sort, and weaving. The delicate lemon cookies were the populace favorite. The rapier battles were fierce and full of dramatic deaths as only the Rapier community can produce and Lord Boden set up a precision spear-throwing challenge where the competitors attempted to pierce the center of a ring.

At the end of the shoot, the winners were announced and the Malagentian artifacts for fighting, shooting and throwing were passed on to this year's keepers. Master Max sounded the Horn of Malagentia and the assemblage headed to everyone's favorite bar, The Tyger and Bucket.

Chef Gryff and crew outdid themselves with a whole roast pig and many roast chickens. The perennial favorite, Savory Grilled Cheese, went quickly, as did the salad of fresh greens. The autumn soup and turnips au gratin were a comforting touch on a rainy evening and the apple hand pies were a perfect end to the meal. Our saucy proprietress Mistress Honig and her tavern wenches provided cheeky and welcoming service to all the patrons and Lord Jean Michael was once again delightful entertainment and Master of Mayhem all evening.



Above, Left to Right: A&S Champ Lady Rose Copper Steele. Thrown Weapons Champ Velikail of Deltuva. Archery Champ Master Maxton Gunn. Heavy List Champ Lord Micah of Brighton Manor. Rapier Champ Doña Camille des Jardins. **Bottom Left:** Some of the

lovely A&S entries. **Bottom Center:** Two on one rapier battles. **BottomCenter:** Boden shows off the Ring of Champions that competitors aimed for with spears. **Bottom Right:** The Mobile of Moons. (photos by Lady Christiana Crane)





Above, L to R, Top to Bottom: The day's catch. Master Ed demonstrates the proper method for "Trial By Spinning" (Marie D'Agincourt photo). The children of Malagentia are well armed and have deadly aim. Ninian with cold quiver and warm fingers. Nicol gives a friendly wave as Vivien de Valois gives us a dazzling smile. Griff feeds the fire and the rest of us too. Baroness Molly, looking

radiant. His Lunacy, Master Christian. Micah and Matthew battle with axes (Anastasia Guta photo). Our autocrats, Lord Fionn and Lord Conall (Anastasia Guta photo). Master Ed's Wheel of Fate (Marie D'Agincourt photo). Mistress Honig's addition to the Tyger and Bucket. Kat and Auerliana enjoy the pleasures of the bounce house. Scamus, mid-bow. Mem takes a break from shooting to knit.

Warbest Moon Shoot





Below, L to R, Top to Bottom: Beatrice gets ready to take her mark. The "Archers Pavane". Thunder shenanigans with Magnus, Erik and Lasair. Baron Jean keeps us all entertained. Admiranda and Griff take a break from the kitchens. Tyger and Bucket X tavern staff. One of the phases of the moon on the Moon Mobile. Andrew and Heather head toward the archery range. Sigrida faces off against Master Max. Fairy lights set the atmosphere for a magical night.

Æ Tyger and Bucket Æ

(photos by Mistress Anastasia Guta, Lady Marie D'Agincourt, and Lady Christiana Crane)





Top Left: The process starts with a section of walnut board. **Top Right:** The excess wood is carved away to leave a rough spoon-like shape. **Bottom Left:** Before the back or handle is started, the bowl of the spoon is carefully carved out. **Bottom Right:** Once the bowl is done, the back and the handle are carefully shaped and then a protective seal of flaxseed oil and beeswax is applied. (Photos by Master Christian Woolfe)



The Art of Spooning

A Sixteenth Century Recreation

by Master Christian Woolfe

Why a spoon? Well for starters the predominance of the fork during meal time was yet to come and the knife certainly held strong as the utensil of choice for most meals. Understandably so, as the knife could be used for so many activities in addition to foisting food into a mouth.¹ However it must also be asked, have you ever tried to eat soup with a knife? So in short, that is why a spoon.

The spoon that I have chosen to recreate is based on the wooden spoon found on the wreck of the Mary Rose that sank off the Isle of Wight in 1545.^{2,3}

Typically wooden spoons such as the one found on the Mary Rose were used by the poorer classes and were usually carved out of, but not limited to maple, walnut, or made from cow horn. The spoon from the Mary Rose measures 2¼" wide at the bowl and has a handle roughly 5½" long.³

The spoon I made varies from this as I chose to use walnut, and has a 2" wide bowl and a handle 5" long.

Construction Notes

The idea behind this spoon is that it would belong to a soldier on campaign. Presumably the soldier had either broken or lost their spoon and needing a replacement would need to rely on materials found either on the march or from resources found in local villages and towns.

I began the process by cutting rectangular block from a section of walnut board. I know that the use of a vice is a derivation from this idea of constructing a spoon using the most primitive of tools under equally difficult conditions, but seeing a safety issue here I decided to allow for this convenience.

After the blank was cut I scribed the outline of the spoons shape in the blank. Once this was done I was able to take the same saw I used previously to cut the block to slowly eliminate the wood

that would not contribute towards the end result of spoon-ness.

I then went about carving out the bowl of the spoon. To do this I used a knife that, through an unfortunate "field modification", had a flat tip. It should be noted that while carving out the bowl I left the rest of the blank the same thickness, and had not begun carving the handle or the back of the bowl. This is a direct result of having carved the handle on a previous spoon attempt and having the handle break while I was exerting pressure carving out the bowl.

The final stage was to carve out the backside of the bowl and then carve the handle down to an appropriate thickness so it would be comfortable to use (fig 4). As with all things, taking away material is easier than putting back. Where this project was concerned, with its many steps and the very real likelihood of having to start over again should I make a mistake, I made sure to stop my carving many, many times to check the thickness of the bowl and overall shape and feel of the spoon.

Finishing

In order to seal the spoon and hopefully preserve it for many years use, I rubbed it down with a mixture of pressed flaxseed oil and bees wax. Though I cannot find documentation of this process and application at this time, I am a fan of hygiene and wanted to keep the spoon from fostering any bacterial growth that would prove hazardous through use.



His Lunacy, Master Christian Woolfe is Seneshal of Malagentia and the colonel of Woolfe's Dragoons. When not lending his swords to the largest coin purse, he enjoys spending time around his forge.

1. Moore, Simon. "Table Knives and Forks." Shire Publications 1995.

2. Bradford, Ernle. "The Story of the Mary Rose." The Mary Rose Trust 1982

3. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MaryRose-wooden_spoon2.JPG

4. <http://www.robin-wood.co.uk/museums.htm>



Cutting Quill Pens

A Sixteenth Century Recreation

by Lord Alexandre Saint Pierre

As students of the middle ages and Renaissance, we are extremely fortunate to have thousands of surviving written documents and books to study. Even better, in our modern information age, museums and collections are making images of these works freely available online. In examining these images, we can see a huge variation in the style and form of the letters. One thing is fairly consistent; the letters and words themselves are artistically drawn in a way often absent from modern handwriting. This type of writing, with all its variations in form, even has its own name: *calligraphy*, a word that means “beautiful writing”.

The quill medieval scribes used to make their letters is part of the reason so much artistry exists in the shapes of the letters themselves. The quill is a pen cut from the shaft of a bird’s feather. Goose and swan feathers were most commonly used, but any feather with a shaft having a large enough diameter and thick enough walls can be used. The writing tip of a quill has a width to it, allowing it to create thin or thick lines based on the angle it is held in relation to its direction of travel.

Making a quill isn’t all that difficult, but can take some practice. You will need a very sharp knife, a pair of scissors, a paperclip bent into a small hook, and the feathers.

Step One - Feather Selection

You want a feather that has sturdy shaft with no splits, preferably the primary, secondary or tertiary feather from the wing. The shaft should have fairly thick walls and a diameter of at least 3-4mm; the larger the diameter the wider a writing

tip you will be able to make. It doesn’t matter which wing the feathers come from. Specialty merchants like John Neal Books and Paper & Ink Arts sell goose feathers for the making of quills. Turkey feathers can work, but tend to have a much thicker wall to the shaft, resulting in a stiffer quill.

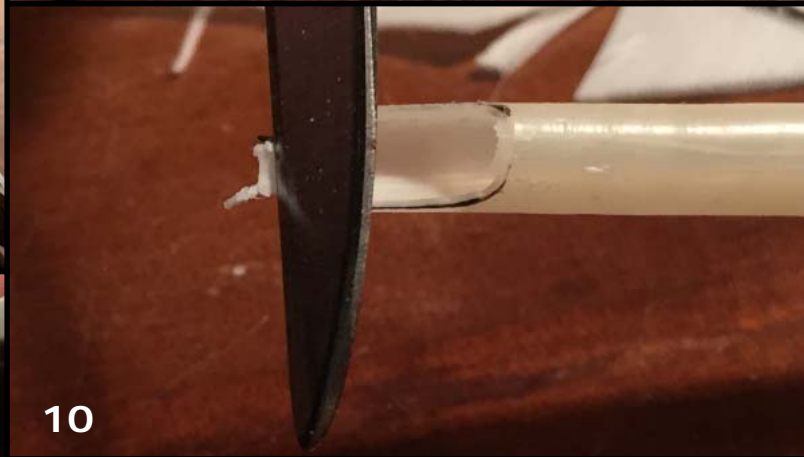
Step Two - Curing

If possible, you want a feather that has age-cured; look for a translucent to opaque shaft that has very little flex to it when squeezed between the fingers. If your feathers are still clear and flexible, you can heat-cure them instead of waiting several months to cure on their own. One method is to heat a large can of fine sand in the oven until the sand reads 200°F on a meat thermometer. Cut the tips off the feathers, pull the sand from the oven and plunge them into the sand so they are submerged up to where the vanes start to emerge. Leave the feather submerged in the sand for at least 30 minutes. Too much heat and the feather will blister or become brittle, too little and it will remain too soft and flexible.

Step Three - Trimming and Cleanup

Cut the tip of the feather off so you end up with something a manageable open length. An easy guide is the span of your pinky to thumb, stretched out. Once trimmed to length, cut the longer barbs off. You can leave the short barbs on, or trim them off, your choice. The shaft of the feather may have a waxy membrane still attached, clean this off with a thumbnail or cloth. The inside of the feather also contains loose membrane. Once the tip of the feather has been opened, make sure to pull this out with a hooked paperclip or other small tool.

(continues page 14)



1: Make sure that the shaft of the quill is opaque and has little flex when squeezed. **2:** Shorten the quill to the length of your thumb to pinky when stretched out. **3:** Remove longer barbs. **4:** Keeping shorter barbs on the quill is a matter of personal preference. **5:** Colored areas to be removed (for clarity in these pictures). **6:** The first cut. **7:** Once the shaft has been opened, use a paperclip to remove the loose membrane inside the quill. **8:** The second cut. **9:** The third and fourth cuts carve out the sides. **10:** The final cut removes the curve on the quill and creates a flat tip. **11:** The major cuts are finished and the quill is usable at this point. **12:** A small slit is cut to facilitate ink flow. **13:** The finished quill. (Photos by Lord Alexandre Saint Pierre)



Top: The top line was written before the tip of the quill was split. The bottom was written after. **Bottom Left:** A small drop of ink sits inside the quill shaft. **Bottom Right:** The quill, ready for writing. (Photos by Lord Alexandre Saint Pierre)

(continues from page 12)

Step Four - Cutting the Writing Tip

It takes four cuts to make a writing tip for your quill. Cut carefully, slowly and safely. I've used a black marker to color the area that I'm going to remove. The writing tip is centered on the top of the feather.

Cut #1 - From the Top: Make sure you are cutting into a clean, strong part of the shaft. Cut down from the top of the feather, starting at about a 45° angle. You can continue all the way through, or curve forward. The start of this cut forms the flat edge of the writing tip of the pen, so make it as clean as possible.

Cut #2 - From the Bottom: Starting about a centimeter back from your first cut, scoop off the bottom half of the shaft. This forms the area where the ink will rest.

Cuts #3 & #4 - The sides: These two cuts determine the width and flexibility of the finished nib. The shorter they are, the stiffer the nib, the longer, the more flexible. Make them even on each side. I find it is often easier to cut many small shavings off in this step rather than trying to make one large cut.

Cut #5 - Flattening: Because the shaft curves, it's necessary to trim the bottom of the writing edge so it is flat, and the whole writing edge will hit the paper at the same time, instead of the corners first. Gently scrape the bottom so the edge is nice and flat across the bottom.

At this point, you should have a usable quill! Dip it into your ink, and try writing with it. Medieval scribes generally wrote on a steeply sloped surface to help prevent the ink from just dribbling out of the quill. Here I write "Malagentia!" with some

Iron Gall ink on paper to test my quill. The results are clean, but a little pale. This is because I didn't split the end of the quill.

Cut #6 - Add the Split: Gently press the writing edge down onto your knife. The split doesn't need to be very long, in this case the writing edge is about 2mm wide, the split is only 3mm wide. The word "Forever" was written after the split was added.

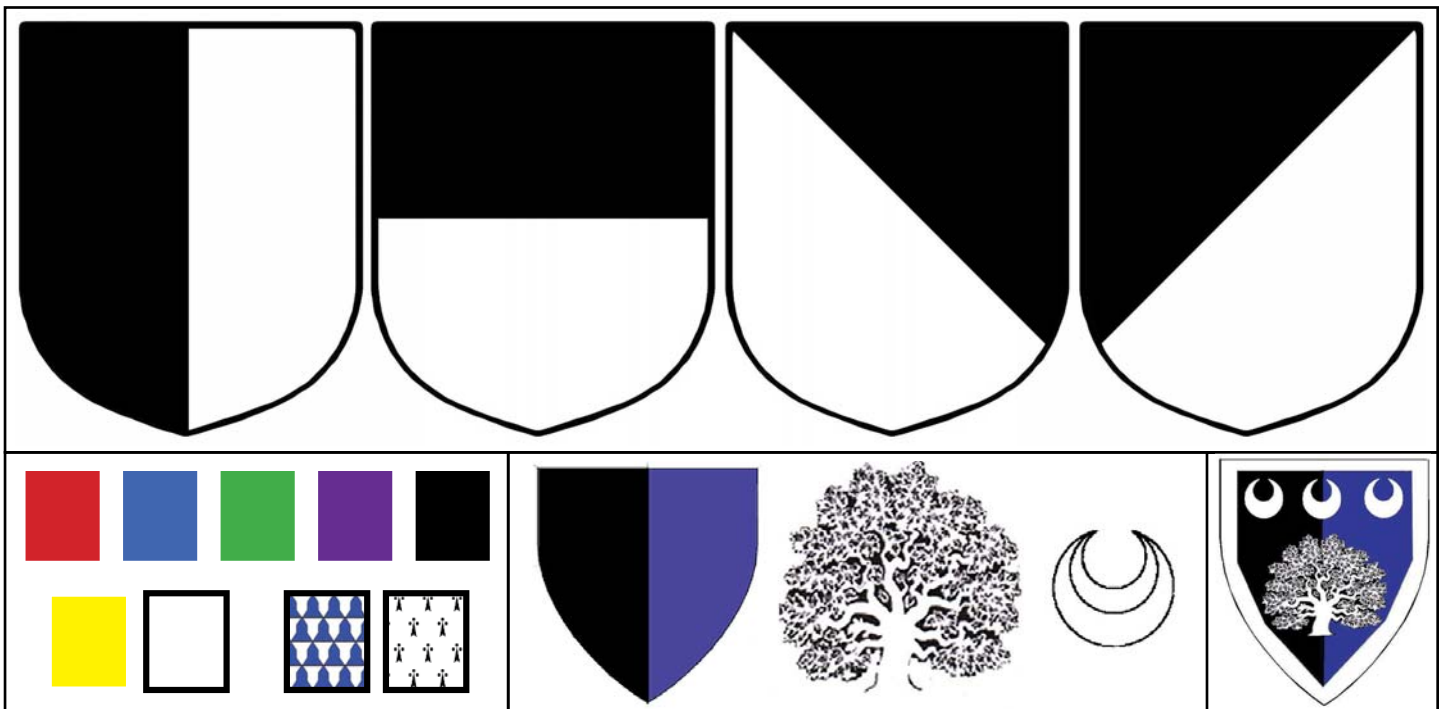
Writing with a quill is a different experience, even from metal calligraphy pens. Quills are very flexible, and thus require very little pressure to get the ink to flow. Too much pressure and they will splay open at the split, widening the line or causing ink flow problems. They handle more like a paintbrush than a modern pen.

Over time your quill may wear down as you use it; you may be able to trim or sharpen the tip back into service with your pen knife, some fine sandpaper, or a sharpening stone. It may also curl or split as it continues to dry out; you can also soak the quill in water for a while to see if that helps bring it back to the correct shape. If those techniques fail, most feathers have enough length that you can cut new tips on them a few times.

Even if you don't intend on becoming a scribe in service to the kingdom, consider learning to write using the tools and techniques that were in use hundreds of years ago. There's something magical about the sounds and sensations of writing with a quill that might transport you into your own medieval moment.



Lord Alexandre Saint Pierre is an avid student and practitioner of the scribal arts, particularly calligraphy. When not hunched over his desk creating his latest work of art, he can be found on the archery range as a crossbowman and marshal.



Top: Four of the many field divisions available for SCA devices; Per Pale, Per Fess, Per Bend, Per Bend Sinister. **Bottom Left:** Five colors, Gules, Azure, Vert, Purpure, and Sable, two metals, Or and Argent and a couple of the patterns that make up Furs are the heraldic palate we work with in the SCA. **Bottom Center:** The parts for our example device. **Bottom Right:** The finished device. (Art by Lady Christiana Crane)

Per Fess or Per Pale?

Where To Begin On Your Own Heraldic Device

by Lord Conall an Doire

Deciding what you want for your personal device can be a daunting task. How would you like it to look? What colors and metals you wish to have? How everything comes together, as well how to create a design that the College of Heraldry will pass, can be aided by your local herald. All of these decisions have pros and cons, I am going to show you how heralds piece a device together.

The first step is to decide overall how you would like the background to come together. Each step is another layer, and we always wish to make the base as important as the other parts. There are many ways we can do this. Let me show some of the more popular.

There are many more different styles starting however we are going to narrow down to these four: Per Fess, Per Pale, Per Bend, Per bend sinister. If you have questions on the other styles ask your local herald, he or she will be more than happy to assist.

Once you have field division, if you decide to do so, it's time to decide how you wish to color it. Within heraldry there are colors and metals.

Colors are the following: Gules (red), Azure (blue), Vert (green), Purpure (purple), and Sable (black). Then there are metals: Or (yellow/gold), and Argent (white/silver).

There are also furs, however to keep things simple, let's just stick with these for now. As always, ask your local herald for more information.

Now that you have decided on a field division and color/metal choices, next choose what charges you would like to add for additional layers for your device. What I would normally suggest is

to start at the Pennsic Traceable Art Project (http://www.aeheralds.net/Links/AE_Traceable_Art/IndivPDFs/ToC.html). This site is where you will find majority of the charges that many heralds use. Take your time here. Placement and style of charges can either be easy or very difficult.

As an example, let's pick Per Pale line division with Sable and Azure color background. Then let's add an Oak tree couped (meaning cut off at the roots) and three crescents.

When we start to place them all together, we make the tree the primary charge so it is the largest on the shield, then place the three crescents aligned in a row on the top (or chief).

Now you get to stand back and admire your work to decide if your device looks good to you. In our example, we will add one final touch, a white border around the shield. See? That looks great, however as heralds we are not done yet. We need to describe this device, or what we call blazon. Once again we start at the background and proceed left to right, labeling each layer. So for our example we have; Per Pale Sable and Azure, an Oak Tree Couped, in chief Three Crescents All Within a Bordure Argent.

There are some rules to keep in mind. 1.) No two color layers whether charges or bordure, can touch. 2.) No two metal layers can touch. 3.) When in doubt ask your local herald.

This can seem complicated, however heralds are here to help, and soon you can have a device to call your own.



Lord Conall an Doire is a 13th century Irish gentle, an archery marshall with current rank of Marksman, one of the founding members of the Malagentia Bardic Group, former Herald for the Province of Malagentia, and has recently been appointed Northern Regional Herald.



Brofe=Back Seax

Or Vendel Period, Why Can't I Quit You?

by Lord Fionn Mac Con Dhuibh

Even though my persona is 12th century, I started in the 8th century Vendel period. This period covered from about 550-790 AD and came between the migration period and the Viking age. Why my interest? They had really cool stuff! Just look at all the neat stuff that we found at the Valsgårde and Sutton-Hoo digs. The artwork is incredible and it really speaks to me of a bygone age.

One of the most notable items is the seax blade. In the seax, the edge is basically straight. The back makes a dramatic diagonal slope down from its widest point towards this edge to create the point.

Seax is simply an Old English word for “knife” but is used specifically for a type of sword or knife typical of the Germanic peoples of the migration period and early middle ages, especially the Saxons, who’s tribal name comes from the knife. The label “knife people” does not really give you a warm and fuzzy feeling.

You will also come across the term “Scramseax” which actually means “wounding knife” as these knives ranged from short utility blades to long blades for war, this was probably specifically a weapon of war. What I am making is not for that, unless you consider whacking back brush in the yard war, which you might.

Are there famous Seaxes? Yup, try looking up the Seax of Beagnoth. It’s 9-10th century and was found in the river Thames at Battersea. It’s really cool and English!

The type of blade that we are going to be dealing with here is what is called a “broken back seax” which has a sharp angled transition between the back section of the blade and the point. It also gets wider from the handle towards the point on the spine

where the transition to the point occurs. Many of these have been found in the UK and Ireland.

The good news is that the seax style of blade was found in Europe from the 7th to 11th centuries so it does cover a broad range.

The inspiration for this project came out of archery. How, you ask? Well often when shooting at a target you, well, miss. When this happens you have to go hunting around in the brush for your arrows or bolts. Remember the comment about war on brush? Local flora is really aggressive.

One day while attempting to find a particularly elusive arrow that had spectacularly missed the forty yard target, I thought to myself that a great addition to the archery kit would be a machete so I could more easily clear the brush. I immediately went out and got a couple of machetes from a local store (two for \$20). I was very excited that I had found this solution, however many machetes look nothing like an even remotely period blade. They tend to have plastic handles and are designed with a curved end. After some research, I found that Cold Steel had offered a seax blade machete a few years back but even after scouring the internet, I was unable to locate any.

While looking at my machete, I realized that the shape of the blade could be easily altered into a seax style blade and then all I had to do was make a different handle to get the “period” look I was going for. ¹

The first step was to remove the plastic handle. This was very easy to do because it was just a couple of bolts that held it in place. I was a little disappointed at the tang of the blade, as it is not what I would have made. Typically seax blades had a full tang. After a bit of research, I found that there was a broken back seax found at



Left: Small Damascus Seax from personal collection. **Middle Top:** The machete blade screwed into its modern handle and only had a short tang to work with. **Middle:** A side view of the new oak handle. **Middle Bottom:** A top view of the new handle. **Right Top:** The curve has been removed from the end of the machete blade using a Saws-all and foul language. **Right Bottom:** This is why you should wear eye protection for this project. Safety first. (Photos by Lord Fionn Mac Con Dhuibh)

the Coppergate dig in York.² This seax had no holes in the tang. It either broke off or was glued in place and was similar to what I had to work with. My seax was going to be quite a bit longer, but it was still nice that I had something historical to work from.

After that, I had to get rid of the black coating that was on the blade. This was done with some sand paper. One thing to remember is that machetes (especially ones you paid \$10 for) are generally pretty rough. In this case I liked it, so even removing the black coating, it left a nice rough finish to the blade that made it seem more “tool-like” to me.

After the coating was removed, I used tools that any Viking would have been thrilled to be able to use, a sharpie and a saws-all. Because of the general shape of a machete where it flairs towards the tip, I thought it would be ideal for a broken back seax. The steel of a machete is not generally top notch but it was quite a bit harder than I anticipated. One of the things that is not really mentioned between the planning phase and the execution phase of any project is the middle “cursing at your materials and/or tools” phase. This phase

lasted a bit longer than I would have liked, but eventually I got it through the steel.

It looked like poop.

For some reason it just didn’t look right so I went back to the research materials (i.e. The Internet) and was able to figure out what went wrong. According to the historical finds, the blade angle occurs somewhere between 1/3 to 3/5 of the

Seax is simply an Old English word for “knife” but is used specifically for a type of sword or knife typical of the Germanic peoples of the Migration Period and early Middle Ages.

blade length.³ After mucking about a bit to find the right angle of the tip, I got to work.

A little grinding on it to make it pretty (well straight anyway) and we were good to go. If you do plan on using a grinder on the steel, always wear eye protection! Also while grinding metal it gets hot. There are two reasons to be aware of that. The first is that if you overheat the blade,

it will ruin whatever heat treat it had and make it a less functional blade. You can fix this by periodically dipping the blade into a bucket of water. The second reason is that when it gets hot and you are holding it, you might burn yourself. Safety first.

The handle was formed in two halves. I cut a general shape using a jig saw, making sure I had enough support in the design to sort of match the support that the original handle had. I used some 3/4 inch scrap oak I had sitting around. I drilled two holes to match up with the holes in the blade the same diameter as the screws I had removed.

Using a router, I inset one side the thickness of the blade. This left the blade slightly off center in the handle, however I made this decision for two reasons. The first is that the blade material is generally pretty thin and it would be two very shallow indentations. It was much easier to do one the correct depth. The other reason was that this meant that any pressure on the blade would not be happening on a seam in the wood. I felt that this would add some strength.

(continues page 18)



*Above: The original modern machete blade next to the reformed and rehandled machete blade - but now with more seax.
(Photo by Lord Fionn Mac Con Dhuibh)*

(continues from page 17)

Now I was left with a handle that was about an inch and a half wide and over long. I tend to oversize things and then work them down to where I want them because you can always remove material and it's really hard to add it. Using a bench sander, I shaped the handle down until it fit my hand and then mucked about with it until it had the aesthetic look I wanted. Is there an easier way to do this? Absolutely! Know what you want to do first. If you know how you want it to look before you start you can adjust your materials and your cutting way ahead of time. I honestly had no idea what the end product was going to look like until it was done. I tend to work this way and some people refer to this as "artistic" whereas others refer to it as "annoying". Your best bet is to figure it out first and then shape it with files or carve it with a good sharp knife which is how it would have been done historically.

Eventually I got a shape that worked for me with the belt sander and started sanding it down for finishing. When you sand you want to go with the grain and use different grits of sandpaper working from coarse to fine. For a really nice finish, when you finish one grit, wipe all the sawdust off the material and wet it slightly. This will show you any spots you missed and also raise up a lot of the little fibers in the wood. Sand with the next grit up until all the marks from the previous grit is gone. Repeat until you are satisfied with the level of smoothness. I actually played with some different grits and specifically left some parts rougher than

other. The goal was when the stain was applied; these parts would look a little darker and look more "used".⁴

To finish the handle, I used Dutch oil that had some stain in it. This is a great finish because it doesn't glob like stains, dries in a reasonable amount of time and is a repairable finish. That means that if you mess up and find you missed some parts in your sanding, you can go back and sand it, then reapply the finish.

I used a couple of hardwood pegs that I glued into the handle after putting the blade in place. There are a lot of things I could have done to decorate the handle, but I had a button with a Celtic pattern on it that I had found at a leather shop so just glued it into place.

Anyway I hope that if you attempt this you have as much fun with it as I did. It is very important that you secure the blade into the handle as securely as possible. If you are swinging it around things can go wrong! As always safety first.

Mine works well as a brush clearing blade but I never did find that arrow.



Lord Fionn Mac Con Dhuibh is squired to Syr Marcus. He is an Archery Marshal and founding member of a local bardic group.

- 1) I am defining the word "period" as "does not detract from the overall impression"
- 2) <http://jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk/about-jorvik/the-coppergate-dig/>
- 3) http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/s/seax_of_beagnoth.aspx
- 4) Kind of makes it look a little sweat stained.



Celebrate Winter with the Province

A winter feast is coming soon!
Stay tuned for more details.

Painting a Banner

Easy Tips For Creating Personalized Decorations

By Mistress Mickel von Salm

Instead of the fluttery silk pennants floating atop pavilions, a sturdy banner to display at the entrance to an encampment or tent can be had. Can't draw free-hand? No problem! Tracing designs onto fabric is a very period practice, and there's at least one image projector within access. Can't paint fancy designs? No problem! Banners are large enough that filling in even smaller areas suddenly appears less intimidating than trying to do a similar design on, say, a small scroll. Don't have the space? No problem! A flat surface free of pets to let paint dry is the only requirement, and working outdoors in the warm weather is glorious.

For the my recent gift in the EK Artisans Exchange, I used white medium-weight denim as the base fabric. Max did likewise when he painted our two windwall panels. A blue fabric pencil provided sufficient visibility while tracing the designs.

Draping the fabric over a trestle table top and taping the

selvedge and cut edges so as to keep the work surface reasonably flat was a good solution for both projects; the key was to then wait until the paint had dried before moving the fabric around. Narrow foam brushes, along with oversized scribal brushes, were good tools for the more finicky design areas. Water-based acrylic paint, mixed 1:1 with water, produced a reasonably opaque medium that resulted in the fabric stiffening but not becoming brittle or rigid.

A little planning was required in both instances, so that I could avoid sewing through painted areas. For the windwalls, hems were rolled up and grommets were set in ahead of the painting. For the banner, I left a narrow selvedge around the perimeter to allow for stitching bias tape and top loops once the paint had dried. The finished products were then easy to handle and ready to use.



When Meisterin Mickel von Salm is not away to the Electorate of Saxony, she may be found camped afield, hunting with Meister Maxton Gunn and their closest friends.



Above Left: Lovely banners can be painted on heavy-weight fabrics. Top Right: Plastic cups are handy for holding the acrylic paint, but be sure to label carefully. Bottom Right: Mistress Mickel tapes the fabric to a trestle table to keep it flat and paints using narrow foam brushes. (Photos by Master Maxton Gunn)



FOCUS ON HOUSEHOLDS

Haus Wanderstamm

by Lady Christiana Crane

When considering which household to cover for the A&S issue of *The Moonstone*, my thoughts went immediately to Haus Wanderstamm. After all, Mistress Mickel von Salm is often credited with dragging Malagentia kicking and screaming to the arts. That said, its members are more than just makers of wonderful things. They count among their number rapier fighters, officers and organizers for the Province, Society peers and many skilled archers ranked Master Bowman or higher. Indeed, it would seem that they are both beautiful and deadly.

The household formed in 2004 with eight members and has grown steadily since then. The word “Wanderstamm” is German for “a band of traveling companions” and they style themselves as a medieval hunting camp. When I asked them to describe the house, there was a round of delighted smiles as Doña Camille des Jardin said, “A pointy and non-child-safe household.” Mistress Anna Mickel von Salm was quick to add “Our official motto is ‘*Consilium habemus*’ — We have a plan.”

I’m pretty sure that plan is good-natured mischief.

The members of Wanderstamm love a clever joke almost as much as a bad pun, and there is a healthy dose of light-hearted nonsense that surrounds them. The SCA is, for them, a time for play. “Our Household rules are somewhat fluid”, said Master Maxton Gunn, “but every version includes ‘Strife; no drama.’ We’ll help you with your tent at all hours in sheeting rain; we’ll hide you from the

Queen no questions asked; but there really must be some other time to expound upon troubles which you just do not want a Medieval hunting party to fix.”

The only other constant rule for the house, “If we didn’t all invite you, then you weren’t invited” comes out of the desire to make sure that everyone, from house member to guest, has a good time.

“We constantly invite folk to camp and feast with us, but not without unanimity.” Max explained. “That works in many ways to ensure that every member and guest will find Wanderstamm nothing less than welcoming.” And welcoming they are. Food and drink are plentiful at their table and I’ve been told by more than one source that their Turkish Coffee is the stuff of legend. Their encampment is full of diversions and the conversation is lively.

For all their merry ways, Wanderstamm takes the arts very seriously. In 2006, they decided to make their encampment more period and started by getting rid of “all things made from

that unholyest of metals known unto the Saracen as ‘*aluminum*’”. Guests are of course welcome to bring whatever chair they use, but if it is made of “modern” materials, they ask that the chair be taken with its owner when they leave. That simple start has expanded to many other items, but despite their fondness for recreation, they are not uncompromising in their pursuit of a period encampment. There are modern conveniences in their camp, but they are tastefully disguised so that someone looking around wouldn’t be jarred out of the effect by a plastic bin in the middle of the tent.

“We maintain a binder of documentation for many of the artifacts



JOINING WANDERSTAMM

Haus Wanderstamm may be the house for you if you are looking to be part of a group that strives for excellence but in a supportive and tension-free way.

This household does not actively seek recruits, preferring instead to sneak up on new members and annex them through cunning.

Getting to know the members of the house is a vital step to joining Wanderstamm; no one is made a member unless the whole house agrees upon it. Of course, getting to know the people of Wanderstamm is not hard at all. They are easy to spot, are welcoming to guests, and delightful company.

Contacts in Malagentia:

Feel free to contact any member of the house, but if you don't yet know them well, try:

Master Maxton Gunn

Mistress Anna Mickel von Salm

Doña Camille des Jardin


Opposite Page: Some of the members of Haus Wanderstamm relax on the lawn while waiting for court to commence. (photo by Master Maxton Gunn) **Top:** The Taj Pavillion is a familiar sight to many. **Middle Left:** Period games grace the tables around camp. **Middle Right:** Master Max and his swoon-worthy coat made by Mistress Mickel. **Bottom Left:** Modern conveniences, like guaranteed potable water, are disguised in medieval inspired containers. **Bottom Middle:** Spinning and embroidery are just a couple of the arts that interest the Haus. **Bottom Right:** Not only do they make their own crossbows, they are some of the top ranked archers in the East. (photos by Lady Christiana Crane)

found about our camp, in case their authenticity is ever challenged.” said Max. “It is appropriately titled ‘Beiß mich’.” If you are unfamiliar with German, check it out on Google Translate. You’ll start to get a sense of the sort of shenanigans this house employs.

Least anyone think that this house is strictly about the arts, they are also rapier fighters and Lady Aesa Ormstunga represents the house on the Heavy List

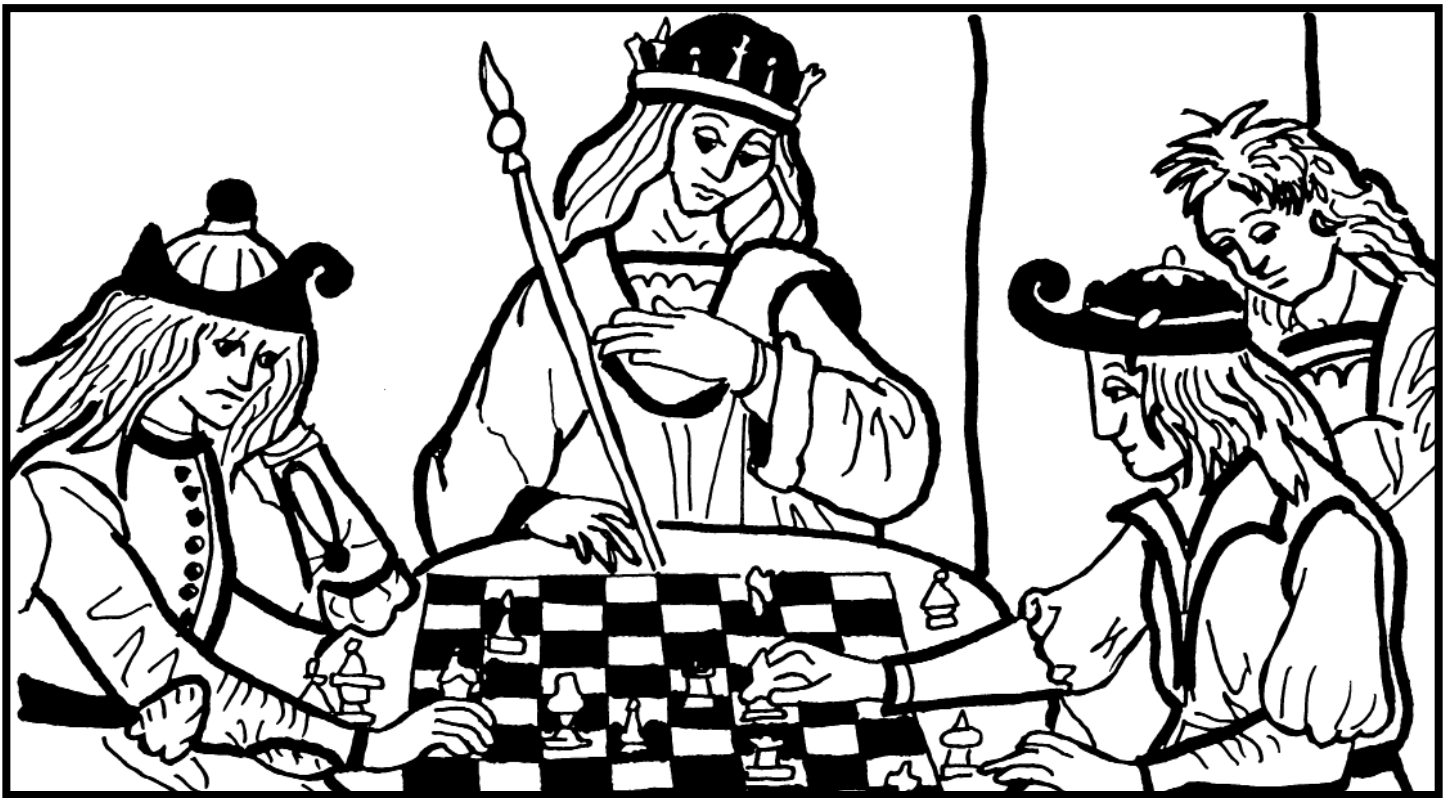
field. Have I mentioned the archery yet? Three of them - Mistress Mickel, Lady Aesa, and Lady Ninian Vesalius rank in the top 50 archers in the East. Master Max and Lord Iain of Malagentia rank in the top 5. Their aim is so true that they have even made sticker labels to cover all the holes they put into the center of archery targets.

For all of their talents, the Haus doesn’t create in a vacuum. There are house dinners, and archery practices and project

nights where Wanderstamm members can combine their skills to make the wonderful things that surround them. “Recreating medieval furniture is often the theme of household projects. We have together built fourteen chairs of various designs, six trestle tables, and uncounted chests and boxes.” said Max. They even maintain a web page of projects to document their work and help inspire others.¹ In fact, when asked if there were any arts that they did not participate in, it took almost a minute of thinking before Mistress Mickel volunteered “We don’t do lace. Yet.” 

Lady Christiana Crane is a scribe of the East and Chronicler for Malagentia.

¹ Wanderstamm projects can be viewed online at <http://www.sacoriver.net/~freegate/Other.html>



Warrior Poets

Why Fighters Should Care About The Arts & Sciences

by Syr Marcus Blackaert

I have been asked to give my view on the Arts and Sciences of the SCA from a Fighters perspective. Over the years I have had many conversations about shield work and shot selection, the typical things that fighters talk about when they get together. As a person who enjoys the arts and sciences of the Society, I never stopped to consider the basic view point of fighters toward A&S. I'm going to do my best to answer a few basic questions.

Why Should The Arts & Sciences Matter To Fighters Who Just Want To Fight?

Any fighter who has ever been at a big war and seen the heraldic display of some fighters should have a basic level interest in the arts and sciences. You can't have fancy garb or banners without A&S. You don't get to hear really cool and moving battlefield songs without A&S. Best of all you don't get to eat really good period style food without A&S.

Heraldry, as a branch of A&S, is important to a fighter because once you have your own heraldry this is how people find you on the battlefield. You put it on your shield or you have a banner so folks know where you are hanging out. If you know someone who is really good at making garb then you might even have a really awesome fighting tunic you wear.

We may not always think about it but the Arts and Sciences play a really big role in what we do and especially in how we look at events. Because we are so close to it all the time we may not give it all the respect it deserves until someone is given a really awesome looking scroll at court. So it's very important for

fighters to remember we wouldn't look good on the field or have really cool stories told about us without A&S.

Aren't The Arts Just The Thing That The People Who Don't Fight Do?

This one is easy. Nope! A really good local example is the Tourney of Love. If you want to compete to be the Champion of Love you have to do more than just fight, you have to fence and enter an A&S submission.

Now I've done this once and it was really kind of cool because I've never thought of cooking as an A&S skill but guess what happens when a fighter steps out of the realm of fighting and tries something new? I had a really good time and got lots of compliments on my entry.

Why Should New Fighters Take The Time To Check Out The A&S Displays At The Events?

I would say "See question 1" but I think as a new person in the Society – fighter or not – it's really important to check out all the different things that this hobby has to offer. You might find that you have an interest in more than just fighting and taking the time to admire an A&S display might just start you down the road to becoming something more than just a fighter.

If your goal is to become a knight and peer of the Society than taking an interest in all aspects of the game is important.



Syr Marcus Blackaert is a 15th century Flemish lord who occasionally likes to go off on crusade. When not crusading he can be found doing archery, heraldry, or even thrown weapons depending on his mood.



GIGGLESWICK PRACTICES & EVENTS

Martial Activities

The Giggleswick **Rapier and Heavy List Practice** schedule for the summer is as follows. Times for all of these practices is Fridays, 6:30-7:30 youth and 7:30 - 9:30 adult. Please check with the Giggleswick Facebook page or calendar for more details.

<http://teamup.com/ks219ee10a335c8fe6/>

Archery - The ranges of Giggleswick are open for the summer. Check the Giggleswick Facebook page for schedules and times.

Arts & Sciences

The Giggleswick **Dance Practice** is held frequently in conjunction with Rapier Practice. Taught by Lady Mikel von Salm, no experience is necessary. Check the Giggleswick Facebook page for schedules and times.

Look for more A&S activities coming as soon as Lady Astryda has returned from Pennsic.

News from the Incipient Riding of

Giggleswick

From the Seneschal

Greetings all from the lands of Giggleswick! Fall has seen some changes in our fair Riding. Our Herald, **Rafael de Ayala de Santiago**, has transitioned to become our Chatelaine. He is looking forward the challenge and excitement recruiting and welcoming new members brings. On the topic of new people we also welcomed **Cuan hua Ocain** and his family to our lands. He has stepped into the Herald role as well as the role of Webminister. He is already in the process of research arms and building the Riding's website. Another change that should be coming soon is our status! We will soon begin polling to move from incipency into a full status Riding. This an exciting step and we are thankful for

the support offered along the way so far and on the path to come.

In other news, November 8th is **Northern Region Rapier Academy and Championship**. Save the date and come spend the day in engaging classes on the noble art of defence and test you mettle against some of the best fencers the Northern Region has to offer.

I hope the season ahead brings happy tidings and we in Giggleswick send you all the warmest of wishes to carry you through winter's chill. Until next time, be well.

Lucien

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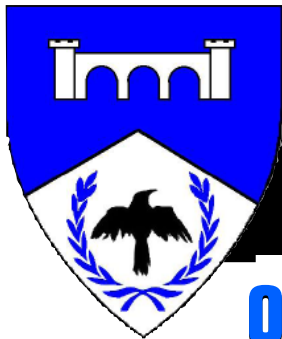
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Cuan hua Ocain

Herald, Web Minister



the Incipient Riding of

Ravensbridge

OFFICERS

Baron Kyppyn Kirkcaldy

Seneschal

Lady Rose Copper-Steel

Chatelain

Lord Antony Martin of Sheffield

Herald

Lord Edward Midnight

Exchequer

Drottin Broddr Tryggsson

Knight Marshal

Duchess Sabine de Rouen

Chronicler

Lord Christoff of Swampkeype

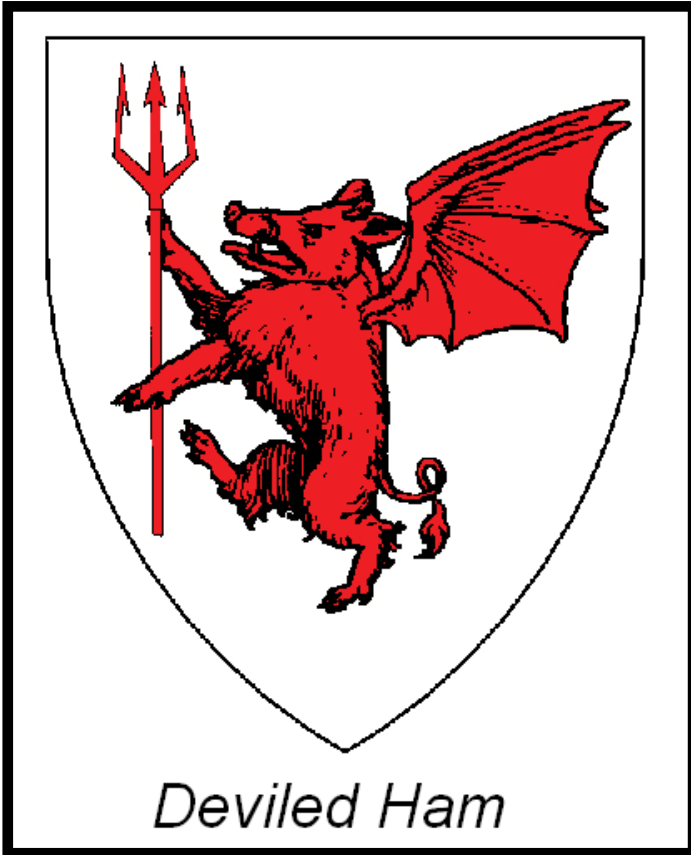
Minister of Arts & Sciences

You may be saying to yourself "Hey! Chronicler! Where the hell is the Ravensbridge page in this quarter's *Moonstone*?" Well, the good people of Ravensbridge have created their very own newsletter, *The Corvus*!

Available online for free, *The Corvus* is filled with articles, schedules and business meeting notes and is published quarterly. If you'd like to submit articles or art to *The Corvus*, contact Duchesse Sabine de Rouen. If you missed the Fall issue, you can find it in the **Files** section of the **Ravensbridge Facebook page**. Go check it out right now!

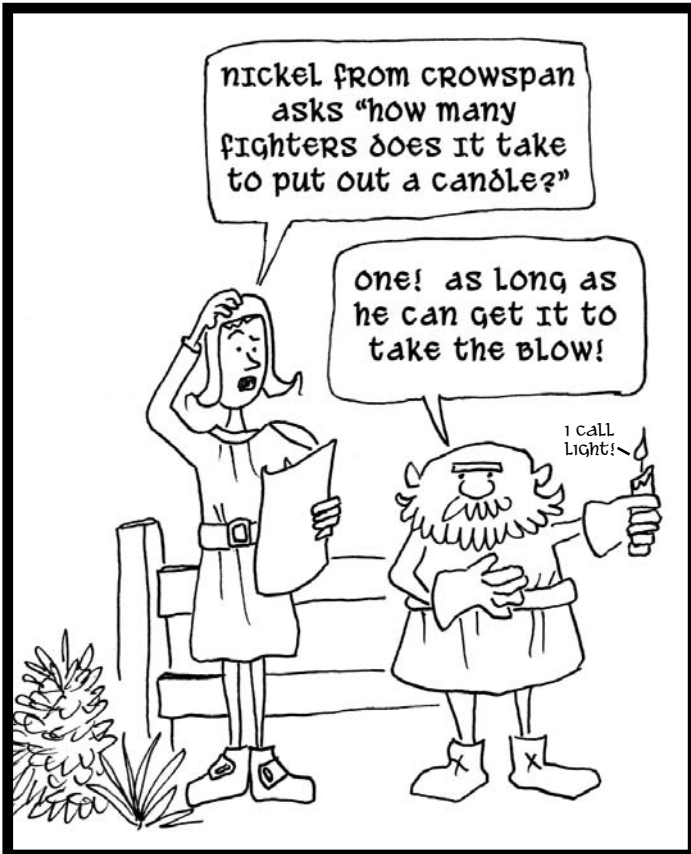
When Heralds get bored

BY BODEN HENEBRY



cart talk

by christiana crane



A Timerick

by Master Maxton Gunn

There was an explorer from France,
for whom natives would all drop their pants.
This sparked the idea
called "Mal-a-gen-ti-a"
Our Province he named in advance!

News from Beyond the Borders



From the Shire of Hadchester:

Tryggve was awarded The Order of The Golden Kinder.

A **Yule Potluck and Masked Ball** is scheduled for December 6 at the Rockland Congregational Church. There will be dancing, a Medieval Games

Tourney, a fancy garb parade and mask making, and a silent auction to which donations of gear fancy garb or your specially crafted item will be gratefully accepted. Musicians welcome!



From the Barony of Endewearde:

Endewearde had a successful hunt with just over 200 in attendance. At the event, **Godric of Hamtun** and **Frasier MacLeod** were awarded the Order of the Portcullis of Endeweard.

Seamus na Coille Aosda was awarded the Order of the Keystone of Endeweard.

Also, as a continuation of Endewearde's plot to take over the kingdom, **THL Frasier MacLeod** has been named the new Kingdom Rapier Marshal. He will step up this weekend at Crown Tourney.



From the Canton of Wyndriche:

The **Unity College Medieval Club** has returned and they've been having practices including heavy, rapier, and dance. Syr Cedric recently taught a dance class that had more men than

women! A rare occasion indeed!



From the Barony of Stonemarche:

New Baronial Champions were chosen at Harper's Retreat.

Fall crown was held in the Southwest of Stonemarche on November 1.

Birka is coming! Keep your calendar open on January 24!

Monthly Province Events

FIGHTER PRACTICE

Date: Every Tuesday.

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

Location: USM Sullivan Gym, Portland.

Cost: \$5

Fencing and fighting in conjunction with the USM Blade Society. There is a gym fee of \$5 (cash only) and you must show a photo ID. Children under 18 are not allowed in the gym. Practice is inside the gym until the long days of late spring return.

BARDIC BRUNCH

Date: Third Sunday of the month.

Time: 11 am- 2 pm

Location: The Big House on Brighton. Please check the Malagentia Bardic Group on Facebook for details.

Some food and drink will be provided, please bring something to share.

YOUTH PRACTICE

Date: As announced, usually the third Sunday of the month while the weather is still warm.

Time: 10 am- 2 pm

Location: Hill Top Farm in Standish.

Loaner gear available. Adults welcome to come play too. Contact Q or Thalia for details.

MUSIC PRACTICE

Date: Wednesdays by announcement.

Location: TBA on the Yahoo Group or website.

An evening of practicing medieval music for dance and entertainment.

DANCE PRACTICE

Date: Third Thursday of the month.

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Location: TBA. New location coming soon.

No prior experience necessary. Bring comfy footwear and water.

PROVINCE BUSINESS MEETING

Date: First Thursday of the month.

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Location: Doughboy's Deli, Westbrook.

Meeting starts at 7 but many folks gather early to visit and chat. Come join the fun!

ARCHERY PRACTICE

Date: Usually Saturdays & Sundays, weather permitting.

Time: As announced on website and Yahoo.

Location: As announced, across the Province.

FIBER MEETUPS

Date: Usually Saturdays or Sundays

Time: As announced on website and Yahoo.

Location: As announced, across the Province.

Contact Caiollwynn of Brynmyr or Ascelinne de Chambord for more information of future meetups. Spinners, weavers and fiber enthusiasts of all skill levels welcome.

SCRIBAL WORKSHOPS

Date: Dates and times vary.

Location: As announced, across the Province.

Birka is coming! Watch for Scribal Sweatshop dates and times!

Upcoming Events in the North

See the East Kingdom website for a complete list of future events.

Northern Region Rapier Academy and Championship

Incipient Riding of Giggleswick

Where: Eliot, ME **When:** November 8

Time: 9 am to 6 pm

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2737>

100 Minutes War

Shire of Rusted Woodlands

Where: Sparta, NJ **When:** November 22

Time: 9 am to 6 pm

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2719>

Tir Mara A&S & Rattan Championship & Baronial Investiture

Barony of Ruantallan

Where: Lake Echo, NS **When:** November 29

Time: 10 am to 9 pm

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2685>

Bergental/BBM Yule

Barony of Bergental

Where: Springfield, MA **When:** December 13

Time: TBA

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2712>

A Market Day at Birka

Barony of Stonemarche

Where: Manchester, NH **When:** January 23-24

Time: Site opens at 6 pm on Friday

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/EventDetails.html?eid=2726>