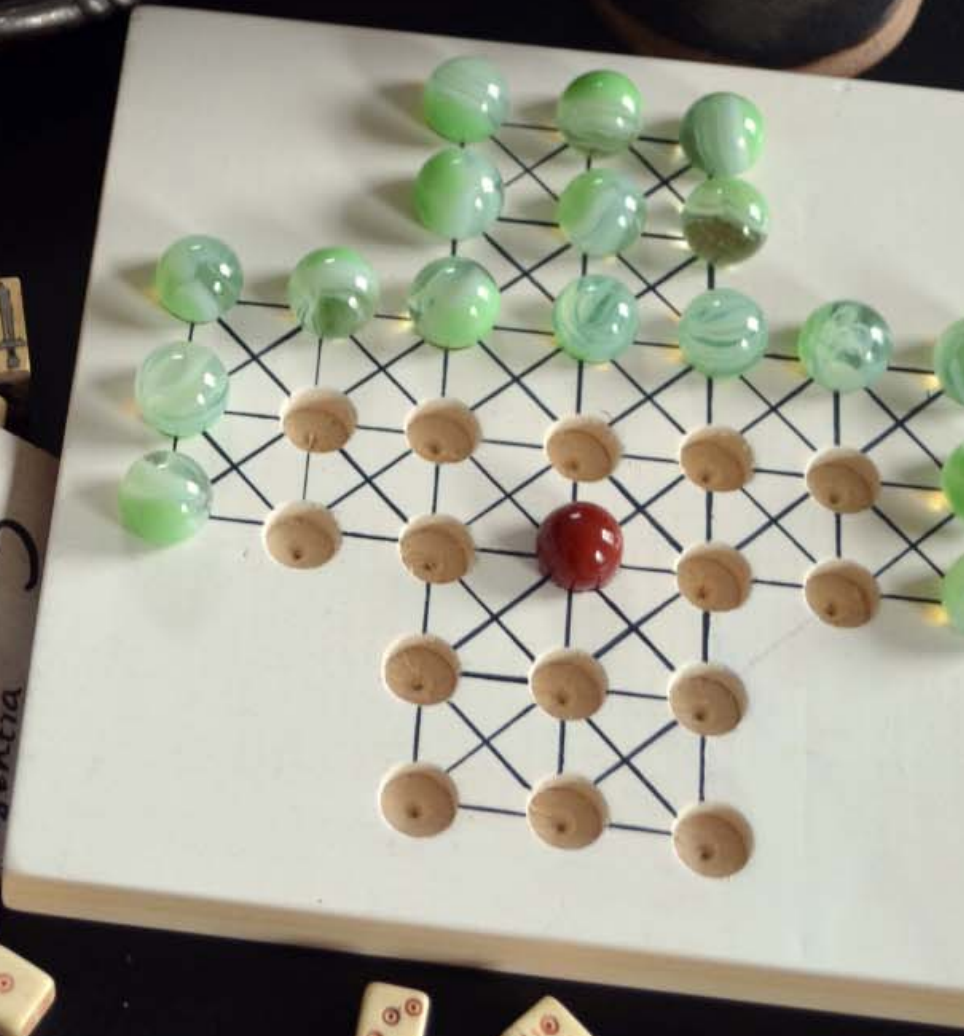


the *Doongstone*

SPRING • A.S. XLIX, Issue 2







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Dispatch from the Chronicler

It's well known history that the Society for Creative Anachronism started as a one-shot medieval theme-party. Since everyone had such a good time, the founders decided to do it again. And again. And again.

Now, here we are, on the cusp of the 50th year of the Society. There are about 60,000 of us that participate and the ways in which we "play" are as varied as the cultures and centuries we represent. Some folks immerse themselves in one time period and work toward

recreating the life of a single individual as they might have been. Others find "the thing" that they are passionate about and work towards excellence. There are people who enjoy donating time to making things happen and there are still others for whom the SCA is something more casual. That's probably why so many of us do it – there is something for everyone.

No matter what reason brings you to the SCA, picking up a "hobby within the hobby" can make your experience that much more enjoyable. The dedicated medievalist may have already explored and mastered a few skills that their persona would have known, but additional skills create a richer and deeper exploration of a time period.

Those falling into the "Specialist" category sometimes find that their

inspiration wanes. When this happens, instead of taking a break from the Society, having an additional interest can give the refreshing intermission needed to get back into the swing of their primary

focus. Even casual players can benefit from picking up a simple pastime. After all, court can be long and you never know when you may need to sit through it. Some embroidery or fingerloop braids, or even a quiet game of draughts at the back can help that time pass pleasantly if court is not something you

otherwise enjoy.

This issue is about a small fraction of the things you can do to enhance your SCA experience. None of them are super technical or expensive and if you haven't already found an activity for your down-time, I hope that something within these pages will inspire you to try something new.

The War Issue will be out in August and I hope that you'll consider contributing articles about martial activities, martial adjacent activities or even your reflections on this year's event season.

In service,



Christiana

*On The Cover: Games are period!
Photo by Lady Christiana Crane.*

This is the SPRING 2015 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 © 2015 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

Unto the Province and Ridings
of Malagentia,

I send you greetings and well wishes in addition to considerable thanks to all who have made this winter a far more energetic and amazing time than I can recall in many years. I am writing to all of you to bring you and update concerning a recent discussions that have been had by our officers and members of the Province.

I've mentioned previously that we would be creating a survey for the populace. One of the goals of the survey will be to help us obtain understanding of how you see things currently as well as where you feel we need to go from here. Your feedback will be critical in shaping the days to come. Our officers and I are assembling this list of questions and you should expect to receive the survey and or link to the survey in short order. This survey will be available to all residing within Malagentia (this includes the Ridings). Paid members and non-paid members will have every opportunity to respond.

Another topic of discussion we need to have, ties directly into the question the survey will seek to answer, "Where do we go from here?" Over the many months of my term as Seneschal I have had several conversations about the future. One question that I frequently receive is "Why is Malagentia a province and not a barony?" This discussion is something we owe ourselves no matter our feeling on the subject.

We are a group with a strong foundation and I for one believe that that strength can allow us to have this discussion without injury. Members have said they would like this discussion to take place and as the Seneschal I will make sure that we have every opportunity to do so in an open and respectful manner.

As people are very passionate about this subject I would remind you all that

this is only a discussion. There is no vote here, but there is an opportunity to understand our past and explore ideas. No longer is it sufficient for us to reply to the question about why we are a province with the answer, "because we have been."

As Aristotle said, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Let us show that enlightened quality and have this discussion. While doing so we shall keep with the founding principles of our Society, that we treat each other with respect and care. It is unfortunate that I have to state that there will be zero tolerance for anything other than the very best of behaviors.

Our next steps:

As mentioned you will be provided with the survey- all input with be anonymous.

We will be setting up several "town hall" discussions in various locations throughout the

Province in addition to our yahoo group forum and in-person conversations. I will be the moderator of these discussions and will do so in an impartial manner. To start these will not be held at the monthly Province meetings.

We will examine all the feedback and then provide the membership with the results.

My next post will be to provide the populace with information concerning the differences between a Province and a Barony.

I look forward to speaking with you all concerning this.

In Service,



Christian

Colonel Christian Woolfe
OP, OGR, OSC, RDT
Seneschal
Province of Malagentia



This Month in Malagentia

Province Notes

From the Seneschal: Officers, please send me your membership numbers and expiration dates. Also, if you don't yet have a deputy, please get one. If you are not planning on running for another term, please start including your deputy in the workings of your office.

There are some insurance changes that autocrats and future autocrats need to be aware of. If your site needs proof of insurance with the site named, it is now a 30 day process and about a \$100 fee. This policy is SCA wide. (Note: there was a call for bullshit about this policy).

From the Chatelaine: There are two demos on the books and both need volunteers to make sure they go off. The first is at the Falmouth Middle School on Friday April 17 from 9 to 12. While this is when most folks are working, this demo is desperate for any volunteers. The school gives us a \$200 donation every time we do this event, so it is worth our time.

Our PortCon demo is on Sunday, June 28. The time will be announced when the Con schedule is posted. There is a demo scheduled as well as a panel discussion and volunteers are needed for each.

There are a couple of other demos in the works and will be announced when we know more.

From the Web Minister: The Provincial Guidelines are now on the website. Residents of the Province are invited to review these guidelines and suggest changes and updates. Also, there have been some significant changes in policy regarding the official means of communication on the internet. Please see the Web Minister's message for more details.

From the Minister of Arts and Sciences: Music practice still occurs monthly. Keep an eye out for announced dates and times. The New Moon Ball is coming soon, so come get some practice in and play with us! 3 members of the xxx played at Endeweard's King Richard's Ball.

Dance is the second Thursday of the month from 7 to 9 at the big church on the hill in Gorham.

The Bardic Circle is the third Sunday of the month at the Big House on Brighton.

Parking is available at the Rosemont Coffehouse across the street. The April meeting will talk about Yule and plan for this years Bardic Grove activities. On the docket so far are an open bardic on Friday night, a concert for the King and Queen, more puppet madness and perhaps a Roman-style play.

The third Monday of the month is usually an Arts and Arrows at Alexandre and Adrienne's. Please keep an eye out in the usual places for announcements.

There are also several A&S nights happening across the Province and the Ridings on a regular basis. Thank you to all the people who are hosting them and for cross posting them on all the usual places.

There is an A&S event in the works for November, but is in need of an official autocrat. Interested parties should talk to Doña Camille or submit a bid through the Malagentia website.

From the Herald: Adrienne, and xx have had names passed and their devices are on their way back for reworking. Speedbump finally has a registered name and device! Congratulations to all. If you would like your own name and device, please see Lady Muirenn who would be glad to help you.

From the Exchequer: We have money! The Giggleswick event hosted 43 people and earned \$148 in profit. The quarterly report is in progress and will be available soon.

From the Knight Marshal: Fighting is going on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 at the Sullivan Gym on the USM campus. While we are still inside, there is a \$5 gym fee and ID is required. As soon as it's warm enough and light enough (around Memorial Day), practice will return to the outside.

From the Rapier Minister: Rapier combat can be has on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 at the Sullivan Gum on the USM campus. There is a \$5 gym fee and you'll need to bring ID. Practice will move outside when heavy list practice does.

On Sunday, April 19, there is a regional rapier practice in Carolingia including indoor melee space. Come down and play!

Malagentian Mayhem

- **Duchess Sabine de Rouen** has been asked to join the SCA Board of Directors.
- **Baron Jean de la Montagne** took **Marielle d'Aria** as his Cadet at the Fort in Endeweard.
- At the same event, **Don Lucien de Wyntere** took **Lord Rafael de Ayala de Santiago** as his Cadet.
- **Adrienne d'Evreus, Sarra an Doire, and Magnús Surtsson's** names have been registered and approved by the College of Heralds.
- **Simon Peter Squirrel's** name and device, Or, three cats sejant guardant sable and on a chief azure an arrow Or, have been accepted and registered by the College of Heralds.
- **Samuel Peter Bump's** name and device, Quarterly purple and sable, a sinister hand in benediction sustaining a sheaf of arrows fesswise reversed argent, have been accepted and registered by the College of Heralds.

From the Captain of Archers: We're still waiting for the snow to melt. This years range will be set up to accommodate combat archery practice as well. Deormund is still in southern lands and will be back when the cold stops. There is also talks on the corporate level about creating a peerage for the non-heavy list, non-rapier combat arts. If this interests you (or you think it is a bad idea) please consider writing to let corporate know.

From the Mistress of the Lists: The Ridings do not yet have an MOL. Lady
(Continued on page 5)

Province Notes

(Continued from page 4)

Wynefryd will be working with them to make sure their paperwork is taken care of. Marshals please note that there are new forms for authorizations. If you need the new forms, please contact Wynefryd who can send them to you. MOL now has a deputy, Elle, whom we thank for her service.

From the Quartermaster: Malagentia pots and pans went to Gulf wars where they were used to help feed the East Kingdom populace. The tent boxes are scheduled for reinforcement.

From the Chancellor Minor: The Ridings do not currently have youth officers or a chancellor, but Lady Thalia is working with them to get people checked and official. There is a kids gathering being worked on for (likely) April 26 and will probably be something based around cooking. Interested parties should be on the lookout for announcements in the usual places.

In Other Business

Contracts for GNE have been signed but volunteers are needed to help keep the event running and to allow everyone to have a chance at some fun. If you have time you can donate, please contact the Autocrat, Lady Tiernan or the Deputy Autocrat, Lady Wynefryd to see how you can help.

Last year's **gift exchange** with our opponent was a success and we'd like to repeat that this year. Lady Tiernan or Master Christian are the people to talk to if you have donations.

There was an **officer meeting** at the end of March and it was voted on that the castle should be retired and repurposed. Because there is a plan for a section of the castle to be used at GNEW this year, a small section will be maintained until after that event is finished and then the wood will go toward reinforcing the tent crates, building archery and thrown weapons targets and parts for a potential siege castle. The unclaimed walls will be auctioned off as a fundraiser for the Province at the end of GNEW.

There was a call for a vote for this plan. 23 were in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstaining.

The **Trailer Proposal** is moving forward with an exploratory committee appointed. Speedbump will be gathering details and developing a cost benefit analysis for the Province to buy a trailer verses renting storage space. He will also look into the cost differences between a stationary trailer and a trailer with wheels. Please contact him if you are interested in helping with this project.

The **Provincial Honors proposal** is also moving forward. A new exploratory committee of Lord Michael and Speedbump will be leading the discussion on what the Provincial Honors should be and how they should be given. A deadline of the May Province meeting was proposed so that the Honors can be voted on at the June meeting with a goal of first honors can be given at GNEW.

The **Malagentian Operational Guidelines** have been posted on the website (www.malagentia.org) and are available for review. His Lunacy would like everyone to look them over and make suggestions as needed for changes/additions/subtractions that need to be made. Any ideas will be considered as long as they do not directly contradict SCA laws.

There has been a suggestion to create a new deputy position under the Web Minister. This **Media Relations Attaché** would be responsible for making sure that announcements and events are made across all the current social media hotspots so that we get the broadest spectrum of advertising available and can accommodate the social media preferences of as much of the Province as possible.

A dialog is being opened regarding the status of the Province. Questions about why we are a Province and not a Barony have been raised by enough people that Master Christian feels there is merit in having a conversation about the pros and cons of switching to Baronial status. After Pennsic, there will be a series of town hall style discussions held at many points around the Province where people can ask questions and have civil conversations about this topic. Minutes from these meetings will be posted on the website so that those unable to attend can have a chance to see what was discussed.

For his own part, Master Christian will remain an impartial mediator to insure that all sides have a chance to be heard. He will not be volunteering his own opinion in this and requests that you not ask him for it. He also wants to acknowledge that Malagentians can be a passionate group regarding this topic and requests that all conversation remain civil and courteous. He asks that everyone keep this quote from Aristotle in mind: "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

There will be a blind survey released in the near future for all members of the Province. It will have questions about baronial interest and many other facets of the Province so that we have a better idea of the interests and opinions of the people who live here.



From The Web Minister

Dear People of Malagentia,

Our Yahoo Group is no longer considered valid for official announcements of meetings, events, practices, etc.

Last month, changes and official interpretations and clarifications were made to some East Kingdom policies. If you are interested, you can view the announcement here: <http://webminister.eastkingdom.org/index-4/policies-updates-03082015/>



In short, it seems our only option for making official announcements and distributing official documents and information is through malagentia.eastkingdom.org, or some other area of the East Kingdom server (e.g. the kingdom-wide event listing page). An EK-controlled mailing list is possibly an alternative but I need to get clarification on that.

If there is a practice or other happening that is not listed on an EK-controlled site, it is not covered by SCA insurance.

The information must be initially posted on the web site. A link to the information on the website may then be distributed by other means. There are some rules about what can be included in the distribution. See the announcement linked above. I am not yet sure how to interpret or enforce those rules, nor am I sure what happens if someone breaks those rules, but will seek clarification from kingdom.

If you would like to post an announcement but do not have an account on our website (malagentia.eastkingdom.org), or need any other sort of help, please contact me and I will happily assist. There is a policy in the works about who can represent the province on the website (i.e. who is authorized to make posts that announce initial stuff.).

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The Codpiece

Do You Dare?

By Lord Llywellyn “Johannes” Cwith

Let's be honest for a moment – it's a bit daunting isn't it? People might point a bit. They might even stare. Do you like a late period persona, however, you find hose, lace, and other associated fripperies a bit unsettling to your sense of masculinity? Well, you my friend need a codpiece. Nothing quite says “manly man” like a fabric phallus. And now ladies; have you ever had need to feign your sex for work or military service? Perhaps you just favour the name “Bob”. Well, nothing helps with passing yourself off as a young man named Bob quite so effectively as a large codpiece.

Percy: “...and codpiece, My Lord?”

Edmund: “Well, let's go for the Black Russian, shall we? It always terrifies the clergy!”

- Black Adder, Episode 3 “The Archbishop”

So, all jokes aside – what exactly is a codpiece, and how does one make a codpiece? However, first, and very quickly, the history of the word “cod”. It is of unknown origin, but it has been suggested that the word is the same as Old English *cod(d)* = “bag”. As such the term has come to be used to refer to the scrotum, groin, and genitalia in general. To wit: “he struck him in the cods.”

Humorous commentary aside, the codpiece is an important item of 15th and 16th century European clothing, and a reasonable attempt at recreating pre 17th century attire behooves its inclusion in our wardrobe. But, what exactly is this occasionally giggle worthy item of clothing? Simply put the codpiece is a roughly triangular flap (occasionally a pouch) that attaches to the front of the crotch of men's hose. This flap is held in place by string, ribbon ties, buttons, or hooks (attached at the center crotch seam

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Codpiece

(Continued from page 6)

or thereabouts and then at the top two triangle ends).

Initially men's hose were two separate legs worn over braes, this left a gap over a man's crotch; not a major issue with hemlines as long as they were. However, as time wore on and as hemlines shortened this became an issue that would need addressing. Firstly, we note that men's hose become longer and join at the centre back. For obvious reasons the hose remain open at the centre front. Unsurprisingly, this state of could not remain and so the codpiece comes into general fashion as a simple triangular piece of fabric intended to cover the gap. Over time the codpiece becomes shaped and padded, and as a result tended to emphasize rather than to conceal. The evolution of the codpiece reached its full peak of size and decoration in the 1540s before falling out of use by the 1590s.

Now, what follows is a terribly simple guide to creating your own codpiece. While historical accuracy is nice, you are really only bound by good taste and gravity. Happy sewing.

I would note that the pattern I used is based fairly loosely on one associated with Cosimo de' Medici. This is not an especially extravagant codpiece and is more modest than those shown in some paintings. The pattern is roughly "L" shaped and approximately 6" x 5 1/2" in size.

I sewed the two pieces together around the curved part and up the center front. After clipping the curves, I turned it right side out. This made an amusing little sock puppet (insert all manner of jokes here).

Next, pin all the "right" sides together, making sure to leave an opening for stuffing.

Leaving the top unfinished I sewed the pinned edges together. Once this was done, I flipped it around and sort of gently flattened the pouch into shape, then I stitched the outline I wanted.

After this, it was a simple matter of stuffing it lightly, and stitching the opening closed.

Taadaa! So there we go, a finished codpiece¹ – and a pretty modest one as well, I should add.



1.) Yes, I know I left off the attachment method.....it'll probably be ribbon at all three corners, just as soon as I decide what garment this is going on.

Lord Llywellyn Cwith (more commonly known as Johannes) joined the SCA in 1993. In that time he is best known for being a fencer, a cobbler and a rakishly honourable libertine.



Previous Page: Portrait of Antonio Navagero by Giovanni Battista Moroni (1565).

Top, Left to Right: The pattern for this simple codpiece is roughly "L" shaped. Cut two "L"s remembering to flip the pattern if your fabric has a right side. Cut a back for the codpiece, clipping the corners of the bottom.

Second Row, L to R: Sew around the curve and up the front. Open the front so that it lies mostly flat and pin the sides to the sides of the back.

Third Row, L to R: After stitching the sides, turn the codpiece right side out and flatten out slightly. Stitch around the outside edges of the codpiece, stuff, and then sew the opening.

Bottom: The finished codpiece can be further decorated or left plain. (Photos by Lord Llywellyn Cwith)



Left: Fingerloop braids start with loops of thread or embroidery floss knotted together and then secured around a chair or table leg, **Middle:** Loops go through and around one another according to the pattern being worked. **Right:** Examples of the three braids patterns found below. (Photos by Lady Ellice de Valles)

Fingerloop Braiding

An Introduction

by Lady Ellice de Valles

When I want to amuse myself, both at home and at events, I tend towards the typical medieval woman's pastimes. I make new laces for clothing, make buttons or spin thread. It seems to me that there is ever a need for these three things. Also, nothing makes people happier than receiving a dozen laces to mark shoes, mugs and suitcases that are custom of their heraldry. Below are three very simple braids that are great to have in your memory when sitting through court. The first is the simplest, they get harder from there.

To fingerloop braid, make "bowes" which are simply long pieces of thread or embroidery floss folded in half and tied together (imagine a hand-sewing thread, without the needle). Tie them all together on one end and attach them to a nearby chair leg or shoe with the help of another bit of thread. Then, follow the instructions below. The trick is after completing each pattern repetition; you must pull all strands hard apart by separating your hands as far as they will go. It is very much like playing cat's cradle by yourself.

Braid 1: A Tight Lace

Take two bowes of a color in one hand and two bowes of another color in the other and set these upon B and C left and right. Then shall B right and C left change places through, and C right and B left the same. Repeat.

Braid 2: The "Basic Braid" The Broad Braid of 5 Bows

Set 2 bowes on B and C right, and 3 bowes on A, B, C left. Then shall A right take through the bowe B of the same hand the bowe C of the left hand reversed. Then low thy left bowes. Then shall A left take throughout B of the same hand the bowe C of the

right hand reversed. Then low thy right bowes, and begin again. (Harleian 2)

Braid 3: Lace Bastion

To make a string that every edge shall keep his color, take 5 bowes linked with red and white, and place 3 bowes on the one hand red up and 2 bowes on the other hand white up and work as follows A right take through B C of the same hand the bow C on the left hand reversed then low thy bows left and A left shall take through B C on the same hand the bow C on the right hand reversed then low thy right bows and begin again. (Tollemache 6)

Resources I Love

<http://www.silkewerk.com/braids/index.html> - shows images of all the braids from three manuscripts along with the patterns to work the braid. I like that they demonstrate the differences between similar braids.

<http://loopbraider.com/> - This great site is where I am trying to learn letter-braiding from. Also, how to work 2-person braids alone.

<http://fingerloop.org/> - Probably the first site you will find if you research fingerloop braiding online. It is a great resource for a lot of period information.

Lady Ellice de Valles began in the SCA by traveling the world. Having returned to her native lands, she focuses on 14th century life in all of its facets - when she is not "hitting people with sticks". She can often be found on the dance floor or lurking around the musicians. Current projects include fretwork veils, candied orange peels, learning French, medieval manners and painting medieval "selfies".



Too Much Milk

Making Farmers Cheese and Ricotta

by Lady Adrienne d'Evreus

The production of edible cheese is ancient. The definite origins are unknown though there are many theories. It is a versatile and tasty by-product of 'too much milk'.

Many factors govern the final product, including the kind of milk used, what you use to set the curd (rennet or acid), cultures, other flavoring additions, and further processing including bacteria and mold in local conditions.

Quick Farmer's Cheese

1 quart of whole goat milk
2 Tbsp lemon juice
cheese cloth
salt and herbs

Heat your milk slowly in a non-reactive pot, stirring with a wooden spoon to 175 F (about 80 C). It will look 'foamy' around the edges.

Stir in the lemon juice and let the curds 'set' 10-15 minutes.

Pour into a colander lined with cheese cloth and let drain an hour to an hour and a half.

If you're in a hurry you can pick up the bundle and squeeze out the whey.

Add salt and herbs. Form into a button.

Serve it forth or chill to use in the next week.

Substitutions:

Farm fresh milk is best. You may use cow, sheep, goat, buffalo, reindeer, camel, yak, etc.

Store bought pasteurized milk is acceptable as long as it's not 'ultra pasteurized'.

To set the curds you may also use other citrus juices or acids like vinegar or rennet.

If you soak it in cold water for a few hours then press it under a slab you have made Paneer. Paneer (also Panir or Paner) is an acid set, non-melting farmer's cheese.

What To Do With The Whey

The whey is the liquid strained away from the button. Other than converting it to bacon by feeding it to the pigs, what do you do with it? Make ricotta!

Original recipe from Platina: De Recocta.¹

We heat the whey which was left from the cheese in a cauldron over a slow fire until all the fat rises to the top; this is what the country-folk call recocta, because it is made from leftover milk which is heated up. It is very white and mild. It is less healthful than new or medium-aged cheese, but it is considered better than that which is aged or too salty. Whether one is pleased to call it cocta or recocta, cooks use it in many pottages, especially in those made of herbs.

Redaction: Save the whey, slowly heat to over 185F to precipitate the milk solids. You will see it happen. Strain, salt and use in other recipes or eat plain.

Some recipes use more acid in the form of vinegar or citrus to make ricotta and other products.

¹ Andrews, E. B. trans. Platina. *De Honesta Voluptatae*. L. de Aquila. Venice, 1475. St. Louis: Mallinckrodt, 1967.

Lady Adrienne d'Evreus joined the SCA in A.S. XXXI. She is Northern Regional Archery Commander and also pursues cheese, arrow and scroll making. Recently she has been inspired to try making and using period correct scribal materials.



Simple Pewter Casting

Using locally-sourced materials

By Lord John "Izzo" Fowler

Pewter casting is fun and useful. You can make site tokens, belt studs, decorative rivets, medallions, brooches & pins, buttons, rings, pommels and spoons. Some of our local friends have cast pewter onto the tangs of small knife blades to make the handles of bodice daggers. Pewter is a soft metal so avoid using it in high stress applications.

Prior to the availability of modern materials, and nowadays in the SCA, pewter was often cast into reusable carved soapstone molds or less-reusable cuttlefish bone. These molds are made with a subtractive process. The uncarved mold halves are first flattened to mate perfectly, then parts are carved away to make a cavity into which the pewter flows and cools.

Today there is a variety of purpose-made two-part compounds that make things easier. A model of the item to be cast is made and the liquid mold compound is poured over it. The mold compound cures to a firm but flexible state and the model is taken out. A funnel is carved to allow the casting material to be poured into the cavity. Smooth-on is a respected company producing these compounds, and if you look up their web site you'll find plenty of information.

The method in this article is similar to the second (modern) method but using cheaper materials obtainable with a quick run to a big-box store or two. Our molds will be reusable but not flexible.

Tools & Materials

(suggested specifics in parentheses)

- Polyester auto body filler, with hardener (Bondo, one quart)
- Polymer clay (Fimo or Sculpey, hardens in oven)
- Modeling clay (non-hardening)
- Clay modeling tools (pins, nails, pens, Xacto knife, spoon handle, dowel, etc.)
- Utility knife
- Aluminum foil
- Disposable non-styrene mixing container (cottage cheese or yogurt containers)
- Disposable mixing sticks (popsicle sticks or tongue depressors)
- Metal melting vessel/ladle (Stainless steel measuring cup)
- Heat proof handle for melter (Vice Grips)
- Heat source (propane torch or hot plate)
- Lead-free plumbing solder (half a pound will get you started)
- A large spring clamp (needs to open at least two inches)

Hazzards

- Molten pewter is around 600°F. Protect yourself with closed shoes, long sleeves & pants, goggles, gloves. Protect heat sensitive surfaces. Have a fire extinguisher and bucket of water nearby.

- Uncured Bondo gives off a large amount of styrene when the
(Continued on page 11)



Top Row, L to R: Build a dam around the model, leaving an inch on each side. Make a small opening for the metal to be poured through and at least two small divots so that the two sides of the mold can line up properly. Place the model back in the mold to cast the second part. **Bottom Row:** Before pouring the second part

of the mold, consider if you want a back to the piece. Three options to consider are a button shank, which is drilled after the piece cools; a rivet shank, which can be made by drilling the second side of the mold after it has hardened; and a pin or brooch which has two small parallel tabs which can be drilled.

Casting

(Continued from page 10)

can be open, and especially when curing. Use outdoors or in a well ventilated space. Leave molds outside until fully cured.

- Allowing molten pewter to contact water will result in a steam-propelled blast of hot metal. This can happen if pewter drips into your quenching bath or if you get water in your mold and then pour into it.

Plan The Model

There is practically no flexibility in the cured Bondo, so we have to make sure that the shape is not one that will get stuck in the mold. We won't be able to flex the mold to release the piece as would be possible with a rubber mold. Your shape should be flat-backed (rivet or button shanks can be added later) and the relief design on the front should be free of undercuts that would trap it in the mold.

If budget is a concern, keep the size reasonably small, but don't thin the shape

too much or the pewter will have a harder time completely flowing through the shape while molten. Pewter is about six times as dense as polymer clay so if you have a good scale you could weigh out a piece that's one sixth the weight of the pewter you can afford for each piece.

Make The Model

Put a small piece of aluminum foil on a flat, hard surface and make your model on the foil. Make sure to use the oven-hardening polymer clay and not modeling clay, which will turn to a puddle in your oven. Transfer the model to the oven and bake according to directions on the clay packaging. Let the model cool and inspect it. If any cleanup or fine tuning is required at this point it can be done with a fine knife, file or sandpaper.

Make The Front Half Of The Mold

Do this outside or in a well ventilated place, e.g. garage with the overhead door open.

Place the model face up on a sheet of

foil or wax paper on a level surface.

Build a squarish dam wall of modeling clay around the model, leaving at least an inch of clearance between the model and wall. The wall should be about an inch higher than the model so you can pour in enough bondo to cover the model by an inch.

Give the model, foil, and interior of the walls a light spray of cooking oil or light machine oil. This will keep the Bondo from sticking to the model, clay or foil. Avoid heavy coatings or puddles on the model that will soften details.

Mix up about a cup of Bondo with its hardener, as directed on the package. Try to stir as little air into the mixture as possible. Keep in mind that you only have a few minutes to mix the Bondo before it starts to set up.

Pour the Bondo into the dam, covering the model. No Bondo should go under the model, and the model should stay centered, so be careful not to be too aggressive when spreading it around. Try

(Continued on page 12)



Top to Bottom: Form a dam around the first half of the mold and lightly oil it to keep the second half from sticking when it is poured on. The two halves of the mold, when clamped together, have a wide opening at the top but a small hole at the base so that there is little cleanup to your finished piece. The finished mold halves have very fine channels scratched in to give air a place to escape.

Casting

(Continued from page 11)

not to trap any air bubbles on the model.

The Bondo will start to harden in a few minutes. At first the Bondo will be slightly soft. At this point it can be easily scratched with a fingernail and carved with a knife. It will also get quite warm. Try to take the modeling clay dam off before it gets too hot or the clay will melt and be messy. We have a few things to do while it is at this softish stage.

First, remove the model. If you let the Bondo fully harden before removing the model, it might get stuck. We need to put the model back in later, so if necessary make some alignment marks before removing. You may need to pry the model out with a tip of a knife or pin. Look for any air bubbles that might cause cosmetic or trapping problems. These can sometimes be carefully filled with Bondo, but if there are a lot it is best to just remake this half.

Next, carve out a funnel into which you'll eventually pour the pewter. The funnel should end just in contact with the cavity of the model. Make the small end of the funnel very fine - it can be enlarged later if necessary.

Then use the point of your knife to make a quarter inch wide, quarter inch deep conical divot in at least two of the corners. These will allow the other half of the mold to automatically align with this half.

Make The Back Half Of The Mold

Put the polymer clay model back in the cavity. Place the front mold on a table face up, so the back of the model is showing on the top.

At this point we need to think about any attachments to the back of the model.

- If you want a button shank, form a tab of modeling clay that looks like a button shank without a hole (you'll have to drill the hole in each cast piece after it cools) and attach it to the back of the model. Make sure the shank is straight and tapered in such a way as to not cause the model to get stuck.

- If you are making a rivet, the shank can be made later by drilling the second mold half, but it is helpful to attach a small dome of modeling clay to your model where you want the shank to start. Without this dome it can be hard to know exactly where to drill the hole.

- For a pin/brooch, one method is to make two parallel tabs about three eighths of an inch tall. On each cast piece you can drill a hole in each tab and run a safety pin through both holes.

Build a dam around and attached to the mold half. It should extend about an inch high all around. We are going to pour the back half of the mold in there, right on top of the first half.

Apply oil to the dam walls, mold face, and model. The oil will allow the halves to separate after the second half hardens. Avoid filling in the alignment divots with too much oil - just a coating.

Mix up another cup of Bondo and hardener and fill the dam, covering the first half of the mold with about an inch of Bondo. Careful not to bend any shanks you may have attached.

When the Bondo starts to harden, remove the dam and separate the halves. Remove the model. Look for air bubbles and fill with Bondo if necessary, keeping in mind that bubbles on this side will not show on the face of the piece, but could still cause trapping issues.

If you made a modeling clay shank, try to get as much clay out of the cavity as possible. Air trapped in the shank cavity can cause an incomplete fill, so, using a sewing pin, while the mold is still not fully hardened, make a fine hole from the bottom of the shank cavity through the mold. A very fine hole will allow air to escape but won't let the pewter out.

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Left: After the casting has cooled, it's time to clean up the edges. Any extra flash can be trimmed or filed off and the excess metal can go back in the pot for future castings. **Right:** This bellflower has a loop to allow it to be used as a site token or sewn on as a hood or pouch flap weight. (Photos by Christiana Crane)

Casting

(Continued from page 12)

You can also scratch fine channels from the cavity out to the edges of the mold. This will allow air to escape and prevent voids in your castings caused by trapped air.

Cut another funnel half in this side of the mold to roughly line up with the other side. Be careful to keep the funnel bottom small. An eighth of an inch should be a big enough opening, and it can always be enlarged later. A small opening means little or no filing to do after casting. On the big end, make it as large as practical to make it easier to fill the mold.

Let the molds fully cure outdoors but where they won't get wet.

If you are making many pieces you might consider making another mold or two from the same model to speed up production.

Cast Your Pieces

Make sure the model is out of the mold and as much clay is removed from the inside & outside of the mold as possible.

Make sure your fire extinguisher is handy, goggles on, gloves on, and other safety gear in place. Make sure you have a heatproof receptacle for cast pieces and a heatproof place to set down your melting ladle. If you have a bucket of water nearby (for quenching hot pieces) make sure it is not in a place where molten pewter could be spilled in it (big pop and flying molten metal will result).

Do a dry run of the whole procedure before heating anything up, just to spot any problems before things get dangerous.

Assemble the mold halves and secure them with the spring clamp. The handles of the clamp can act like a tripod to hold the mold upright on a surface. Make sure this is on a heatproof surface in case of overflow, leakage or spillage.

Melt your pewter. This can be done in small batches - you don't need to melt a half pound at once, just enough so that you're sure you have plenty for one casting. When I started, I used a stainless steel measuring cup with Vice Grips as a handle, added about two feet of coiled-up solder to the cup, then pointed my propane torch into the cup. A cheap saucepan on a hotplate would also work. The temperature of the pewter should be around 15-30% above the melting point, so continue to apply heat a little longer than it takes to melt the metal.

Carefully pour the pewter into the mold funnel. Fill it at least halfway up the funnel. Don't worry about wasting pewter on the funnel - we are going to cut that off and throw it back in the

melting pot later.

Give it about two minutes to cool (more for items larger than a button), then check that the metal in the funnel is solid by carefully tilting the mold just a bit or poking it with a wire.

Hold the mold together with your hand and remove the spring clamp. Pull the mold apart, taking care to keep your hands clear of any potential falling hot metal, which could be solid or liquid. Nudge the casting out with a pin or pliers if necessary and let it fall either into a quenching bath or a heatproof surface.

If the pewter didn't make it into the cavity, try it again but heat the pewter a little longer. If it still doesn't go in, carefully enlarge the bottom of the funnel slightly.

If the casting is stuck, you may be able to heat the mold until it is slightly soft and then pull the casting out. This may be slightly or entirely destructive to the mold.

Quality is usually best after the mold warms up a bit, so don't write off a "blurry" casting right away. Try a few more castings in close succession to see if the quality improves.

Unwanted castings or trimmings can go back in the melting pot.

The molds are fairly durable. You should be able to get a hundred or more castings out of a mold without much trouble.

What Next?

A Lee Production Pot is a melter/dispenser that makes things a lot easier. No juggling of ladles and torches and whatnot. Locally they are available at Cabela's in the ammunition reloading department for about \$60.

Experiment with 3D printed models or replicate existing items.

Try one of the flexible mold compounds from smooth-on.com.

Research the soapstone mold process. There are some guides from SCA folk on the web. Soapstone is supposedly available at Artist & Craftman's Supply in Portland.

Plaster of Paris could be used as a substitute for the Bondo, or slabs could be made for a soapstone-like process, but be sure plaster is thoroughly DRY (not just cured) before use to avoid a dangerous steam explosion from trapped moisture. Suggested drying time is a week or more depending on thickness.

Pewter is cheaper and has more formulation options when ordered from a specialty shop like rotometals.com.

Let me know how it goes!



Lord John "Izzo" Fowler is a dabbler who runs an auto body shop in 14th century Yorkshire.



Combat Archery in the East Kingdom

by Lord Samuel Peter DeBump

In the last year there has been some renewed interest in Combat Archery (CA) from the populous. There is also a request from Dike Edward to try and see what can be done to revitalize CA in the East Kingdom. Unfortunately there are very few active combat archers left in the East Kingdom, so as the Northern Region Combat Archery Lieutenant, I will just make a quick note to let you know what is currently going on.

Lord Tobin has stepped down from EK CA Marshal position. The Southern Region CA Lieutenant, Jibril ibn Ammar al-Fayyad, has stepped up as his replacement. I have voiced a number of my concerns to Jibril for why I think that we have seen a number of people stop doing CA in the last few years. My question for you is what can we do to make more people want to do CA?

Currently, we are working on updating the information for what we feel that a Combat Archer should know before being authorized. If you have an opinion on this matter, please contact me and I will share your thoughts with Jibril. Hopefully we can get this project finished by the time the snow melts and we can start fighting outside again.

Also, thanks to the donations and help of Q, Richard Crowe, Dana the Unredy,

Christina Violette and Fionn Mac Con Dhuibh, Malagentia now has a small amount of loaner CA arrows and crossbow bolts. I will be working on increasing that supply as GNE approaches.

We plan to add a combat archery target to the archery and thrown weapons range in Gorham once the snow melts. If you want to try this, please contact me so that I can make sure that the loaner equipment is there. We have both right handed arrows and ambidextrous bolts. Unfortunately, we do not have any left handed arrows at this time.

I also hope to have some classes and authorizations at practices that have the space and can legally have bows in (Q's, Endeweard practice in Bangor, Thunder practice in LA, something in Panther Vale). I can do classes at the USM practice, but there is not enough room for CA authorizations. And to note, you don't need to own anything to authorize in CA. You can borrow all of it, including the armor.

If you have other questions, please contact me, Lord Samuel Peter DeBump (B.K.A. Speedbump) combat-archery.north@eastkingdom.org (or any of my other e-mail addresses).



Lord Samuel Peter DeBump is Northern Region Combat Archery Lieutenant.



WAR IS COMING!

Great Northeastern War 29 will be on us soon and we need your help to make it a success. Volunteers are needed to load vans, set up and break down, run Gate, teach classes and so much more! If you would like to help, please contact the Autocrat Tiernan Shepard at autocrat.gnewar@gmail.com



Any Fool Can be Uncomfortable

SCADian Camping Hints

Collected by Maxton Gunn

Freeze plastic bottles of drinking water to use in your cooler to avoid the mess that melting ice cubes make of food.

Lay a waterproof tarp on top of the floor of your nylon tent to keep you and your belongings dry. A ground cloth underneath the tent floor does not do this.

Heat a fieldstone beside the evening fire, then wrap it in cloth and use inside your sleeping bag to keep your feet warm.

Wash your hands with baking soda to remove tree resin.

Use a bellows or mattress inflator to help get a fire going.

Display a set of bagpipes in front of your tent to keep others from camping too close.

Sleep perpendicular to a slope, with a pillow or roll of clothing under your shoulder on the downhill side.

Provide emergency information to someone else in your camp.

Wear shoes.

Familiarize yourself with the encampment before dark, while sober.

Pretend you are allergic to poison ivy.

Insulate yourself from an inflatable mattress with a blanket or sleeping pad.

The best way to avoid injury is to maintain a first aid kit.

Ready your drinking water at the start of each day (normally about 2 liters), and then make sure to drink it.

Do not assume that the tent poles and pegs got packed.

Assemble a new tent at least once before you go camping with it.

Use a cotton bedsheet or bag liner with any sleeping bag.

Keep your drinking water cool by draping a damp cloth around the bottle.

Bring photos of your kids to show everyone who they are searching for.

Shade your nylon tent from the morning sun for an extra hour of sleep.

Wear earplugs for an extra two hours of sleep.

Reward bards who visit your camp. Beer is a reward.

Late arrivals at camp should be greeted. Beer is a greeting.

No matter who is offering, never drink the blue stuff.



Rendering Lard

by Lady Adrienne d'Evreus

Iacquired pig fat from Ken's Custom Meat, a local butcher. Without having the argument about what kinds of fat are good for you or not, I will say that Alexadre and I are trying what our grandmothers used and centuries of families before them. Lard made from free range pigs whose ancestries can be traced to medieval Spain. Animal fat was readily available in period in Northern Europe and was used for many purposes including cooking, lighting and lubricating machinery.

To render the lard from the pieces of pig I chopped it into

the smallest possible pieces by grinding it using a Kitchen Aid meat grinder attachment.

Then I heated it in a crock pot on low to slowly to melt the fat. The resulting liquid fat was poured into a sterilized glass jar through cheesecloth to remove leftover pig bits called cracklings.

My ultimate objective: Make candles to make lampblack, a period pigment. ²



Bauman, Diana. <http://www.myhumble-kitchen.com/2011/02/how-render-lard-the-right-way-snow-white/#sthash.nmDj3eGj.dpbs>

2.) d'Ouessant, Aurelia. <http://thehoodedhare.com/lighting-in-the-middle-ages.pdf>


Wine Stain Removal

by Lady Ellice de Valles

If you are like me, you spend the first three or four days after going to war doing laundry and repairing garb. Here is a great tip I learned after Gulf Wars: If you have spilled red wine on your bright yellow linen garb and just noticed it (meaning, you have let it sit for several days but have not laundered it yet), try dish soap and hydrogen peroxide - I used Dawn. Mix equal parts together, pour it on the stain, leave it in the sink and go start the bread maker. When you come back.... stain gone!

I suppose if you don't make bread, find something else to do - you can leave it for several



hours in the sink without any problems. How like new is it? As you can see in the photo, shiny clean! What you can't see is the before photo, where there was a long dark stain down both the yellow sleeve and the yellow front of the coathardie. Any other great garb repair tips? 

Delectamenta

The Company of Nine

by Syr Arturus of Aranmore, known commonly as Arlof;
Lady Ellice de Valles, Lord Hartman Foscari da Ferrara;
Ulrich Kreiter and Stoldo of Bhakail (© 2013)

This song was written on the Friday of Gulf War XXII, when most of us were leaving the following day. We wrote it after running home (literally) bruised and battered from the Ravine Battle where we could proudly proclaim we had been at every battle that week, and state without a doubt that we did exactly what we were supposed to do, even if it left us decimated to a man.

Remember the company of nine.
This song may their memory enshrine
In far away lands, on Glean Abhann sands
Their courage and valor did shine.

Six fighters, two knights and their sire
Came down from the Eastern Empire
Their numbers were small, but they gave it their all
Let their tale every subject inspire.

CHORUS:

By day their few numbers were seen
By night they danced with their Queen
Though bruises they bore, by their merry rapport
You'd think that a hunting they'd been.

The warm southern sun at the dawn
As Atlantia and their allies looked on
East stood fast, while across the pass
Ansteorra's retreat horns did sound.

When bold Calontir took the field
Our company of nine did not yield
They fought with the king and their sword blows did ring
And they left not but bones on the field.

CHORUS

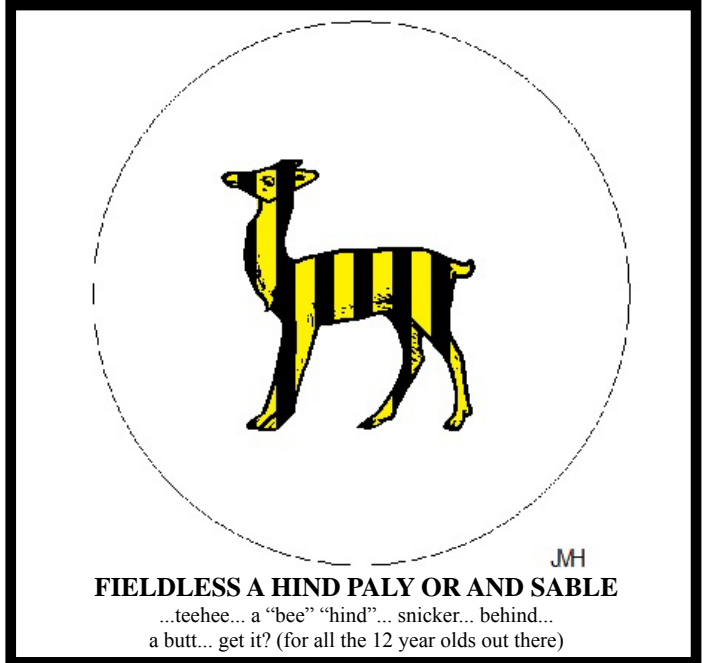
No banner would fall on their watch
No bridge would be safe from their charge
Their numbers were few, but let us review
The deeds that now loom so large.

CHORUS

Count Arturus of Aranmore, (known as Arlof the Architect) was one of Malagentia's earliest troublemakers. Among his many exploits, he declared the first Great North-Eastern War and founded the Known World Architectural Guild. As head of House Aranmore he continues to pursue excellence in woodworking, performance and combat - but is primarily interested in good laughs. <https://aranmore.wordpress.com/>

When Heralds get bored

BY BODEN HENEBRY



cart talk

BY CHRISTIANA CRANE



Translations thanks to the lovely Behi Kirsa Oyutai!

Province Activities

PROVINCE

BUSINESS MEETING

First Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm at Doughboy's Deli, Westbrook.

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

ARCHERY PRACTICE

Usually Saturdays & Sundays, weather permitting, as announced on website and Yahoo. Locations vary across the Province.

MUSIC PRACTICE

Wednesdays as announced on the Malagentia Yahoo Group. An evening of practicing medieval music. Please contact Mistress Mickel for times and locations.

FIGHTER PRACTICE

Every Tuesday from 6-9 pm at USM Portland, either on the grassy area across the street from the Law building, or inside Sullivan Gym as announced. Gym Fee: \$5

Fencing and fighting in conjunction with the USM Blade Society. As the weather turns warmer and the days get longer, practice eventually migrates outside where it is free of charge and children are welcome. For rainy days and until it's light enough into the evening, practice is held back inside Sullivan Gym. 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.

DANCE PRACTICE

Second Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm at the First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham.

No prior experience necessary. Bring comfy footwear and water.

SCRIBAL WORKSHOPS

Dates, times and locations vary.

Currently being organized by Lord Alexandre St. Pierre. Contact him for details on the next meetup.

YOUTH PRACTICE

As announced, usually the third Sunday of the month 10 am-2 pm at Hill Top Farm in Standish.

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

BARDIC BRUNCH

Third Sunday of the month from 11 am- 2 pm at 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. Contact Lord Frederick Van Der Veer for more info.

FIBER MEETUPS

Once a month on Saturday or Sunday, as announced on Yahoo and Facebook.

Contact Ascelinne de Chambord for more information. Spinners, weavers and fiber enthusiasts of all skill levels welcome. Occasional outings planned.

Upcoming Events



RAVENSBRIDGE

Huginn & Muninn Event

May 16, 2015
Monmouth
Fish & Game site
347 US Route 202
Monmouth, ME
9am-10pm

The Riding of Ravensbridge honors Odin and his faithful Ravens – Huginn & Muninn with our first SCA event – with a Viking theme!



PANTHER VALE

Pantheria XX

May 22-25, 2015
Camp Farnsworth
Thetford Center, VT
4pm Fri-12pm Mon

Snowball fights in May, feasts that last for days, axes that stick from the handle and coffee is so strong songs have been written about it. Come to the most interesting event, where anything can – and does – happen.



ENDEWEARDE

Endewearde Baronial Fencing Championship

June 13, 2015
Lake George Regional Park
10 Main St
Canaan, ME
Site opens at 8am

This is the first baronial fencing championship for the Barony of Endewearde, held in the Incipient Canton of Wyndriche.



STONEMARCHE

Palio di Stonemarche

June 19-21, 2015
Hopkinton State Fair Grounds
392 Kearsarge Ave.
Contoocook, NH
3pm Fri-3pm Sun

Join us for a Palio in the style of the Italians, to promote friendly competition, present colorful pageantry and display our civic pride.



MALAGENTIA

GNEW XXIX

July 9-12, 2015
Hebron Pines
400 Buckfield Rd.
Hebron, ME
12pm Thurs - 3pm Sun

Renew old friendships and enjoy the field of battle once more. Spend the day sharing your skills in combat as well as the arts and spend your nights among friends.