

The Questing Quill



VOL. II ISSUE I

JANUARY, A.S. XII

THE QUESTING QUILL

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PROCESSION PROCEDURE CHANGE

The membership of the Shire has become so large that we have had to institute a new procedure in running the procession that begins each revel. Usually processions are run to honor those who have achieved precedence in the Society, but none of us in the Shire have, as yet, gained any precedence (excepting the officers, of course, and they have the precedence of their offices.) Therefore, from now on, only officers and those who are subscribing members of the Society will be presented by name at these processions, to save the time of both the immensely hassled Herald and all of the others at the revel who have to stand around while the Herald is setting the procession up. Everyone else will come up en masse and be presented as "The Populace." We had to draw the line somewhere, and felt that those who had paid their money to become subscribing members should be recognized for this contribution to the Society. If you have become a subscribing member (that is, sent off your membership) by the next revel, please contact Rhownen y Llysiuwydd (the Herald) at the revel so she can place you in the procession.



COMING EVENTS

(All "*" events will be held at the Transient Novel Park in the club house at 2815 South 2580 West.)

January

- 14 * Twelfth Night--Autocrats Robert de Spencer Family
Our post holidays wind-down. For an evening of fun and foolishness.
- 17 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
(Always at Granite Park Junior High School at 7:00 p.m., 450 East 3700 South)
- 24 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 31 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry

February

- 2 Officer's Meeting (All the deputy officers are requested to attend this particular meeting.)
- 7 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 11 * Court of Love--Autocrat Ferelith MacDonald
See article in this issue of the Quill.
Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 14 Field Maneuvers: Atenveldt versus West Kingdom
(A number of people are already planning on attending this event announced in the Outlandish Herald. If you are interested please get in touch with someone at Haste Castle 359-5917.)
- 21 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 28 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry

March

- 2 Officer's Meeting
- 7 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 11 * Shire Birthday Celebration--Autocrats Thorad & Elaine
(Our Knight Marshall has stated that if enough fighter's are fully armed and are ready we may have our first tourney. Decision will be announced in next issue of the Quill.)
- 14 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 21 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 25-26 Kingdom Arts and Sciences Faire. Contact Irminsul 255-7883, al-Barran. (Or someone at Haste Castle should soon know details.)
- 28 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry

April

- 4 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 6 Officer's Meeting
- 8-9 Rumored date of Crown Tourney (very tentative)
- 8 * Turnabout Tournament--Autocrate Rosemary the Starseeker
(This is tentative, mainly depending upon the Crown Tourney.)
- 11 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 18 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry
- 22-23 Outlandish Warlord Tourney
- 25 Fighter's Practice & Ladies for Chivalry

May

- 6 Officer's Meeting
- 7 Fantasy Revel, al-Barran. Contact Katrine 292-2136.
(Hopefully we'll soon have more info on this.)
- 26-29 Grand Outlandish Prince Tourney, al-Barran



COURT OF LOVE

TIME: 7:30 P.M. (Opening Procession will be at 7:45. Give the Herald a break and be there at 7:30.)
PLACE: Mountain View Transient Hovel Park Clubhouse (About 25th South on 2700 West in Granger.)
DATE: 11 February, A.S. XII (1978, mundanely)

A Court of Love is a celebration of Courtly Romance. This means that the theme is romance and love---particularly as expressed in red and pink. As our Valentine's Day activity the Court of Love will include activities slanted toward the romantic. These will include:

Dancing (including a new dance)
Clench-a-Wench (game)
The Duchess Circle (game)
Allennagne Hug (game)

We will also be holding throughout the evening what is known as a Court of Love. This is a special sort of trial where ladies or gentlemen may call a member of the opposite sex before the Court on almost any charge of failure in their courtesies or romantic behavior. Gentlemen be warned! Calling a lady before the Court of Love is likely to result in your being called before the next session of the Court. The apparent slights tried before the Court of Love may have taken place at any Society event. (More details will be given at the Court of Love---You are hearing about the Court early to allow you to line up your Witnesses for the Prosecution. And you must have witnesses to back your charges.)

Costumes should be colored in shades of red or pink. This doesn't mean that you are condemned to wear Flaming Red or Hectic Pink. Palest pink to a dark maroon are both acceptable. No one will be turned away if they don't conform to this color scheme, but it would really help to get in the spirit of the event. Costumes that are mostly a neutral color (grey, black, white, brown) with the only other color being red or pink would also be acceptable. What we are trying to avoid is someone wearing a bright blue and gold costume and a nose ring with a red ruby in it and claiming that they are specially costumed for the Court of Love.

Refreshments will be (again the theme of Love) potluck Aphrodesiac. What this means is that the refreshments brought should be or represent foods thought in the past to be stimulants to Romantic Feelings. (However, we strongly urge that you avoid substances mundanely considered illegal, even if they were once thought to be aphrodesiacs.) For those of you who do not wish to study the Art of Aphrodesiacs, you might bring something like heart-shaped cookies or tarts. As always we can use apple juice or cider to drink. As always, please provide your own trencher (plate), goblet, and eating utensils. (The usual procedure of bringing something for the food or contributing \$1.00 to the Shire coffers will be followed.)

If any questions remain about costuming, food or the activities, please call me (Farspeaker: 359-5917.) As always, friends are welcome at the Revel. (In fact---with this event, the more the merrier.)

Your autocrat,
Ferelith MacDonald

SPECIAL NOTICE*****

The community of Hospitalers is interested in expanding. If you meet people easily and would be interested in doing a service to the shire...please contact Sister Scholastic.

For further details 942-3391

(ed., This is the second in a series of articles to help you get to know your fellow society members and their personas.)

A FRAGMENT

FOUND AT GREYSTONE PRIORY, IN THE ROOM OCCUPIED LAST BY A CERTAIN LOUIS de ROQUEFORT, A VISITOR OF UNKNOWN ANTECEDENTS. APPARENTLY A NEXT-TO-FINAL DRAFT OF A REPORT--BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION AS TO WHOM OR WHY SUBMITTED. IT MAY HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND INADVERTENTLY DURING HIS HURRIED DEPARTURE WHEN HE LEARNED ROYAL AGENTS WERE INQUIRING FOR HIM.

MICHAEL GERARD

BACKGROUND

Born about 1457, now aged about 30. Brought up in Abbey of St. Guthlac in the north of England since about 5 years of age. Claims to have been dedicated there by his noble parents, after the custom of the times, but it seems possible he was abandoned by them. Has recollections of mother as beautiful flaxen-haired woman, and of father as large square swarthy Knight. Does not (or claims not to) recollect their names. The abbey was destroyed by a border raid about 1472, monks relocated farther south. Second Abbey of St. Guthlac destroyed by fire 8 years ago, monks are now scattered. Records probably lost at that time.

At age of 18, determined not to make his final profession. Abbot supported this decision. It was apparently sometime AFTER this decision, but BEFORE his actual departure from the Abbey, that a certain incident occurred to which he compulsively alludes under influence of large amounts of alcohol. His references are, however, too obscure to ascertain more than that it was apparently discreditable to him.

Thereafter wandered among several noble houses and monasteries (see list attached, with approximate dates), earning his keep as a sort of well-born minstrel. Presently resident at Greystone Priory, in Shire an Fasach Salann Mor. Claims intentions of imminent departure therefrom, but has reportedly been making same promises for some while past. Strong partisan of late King Richard III.

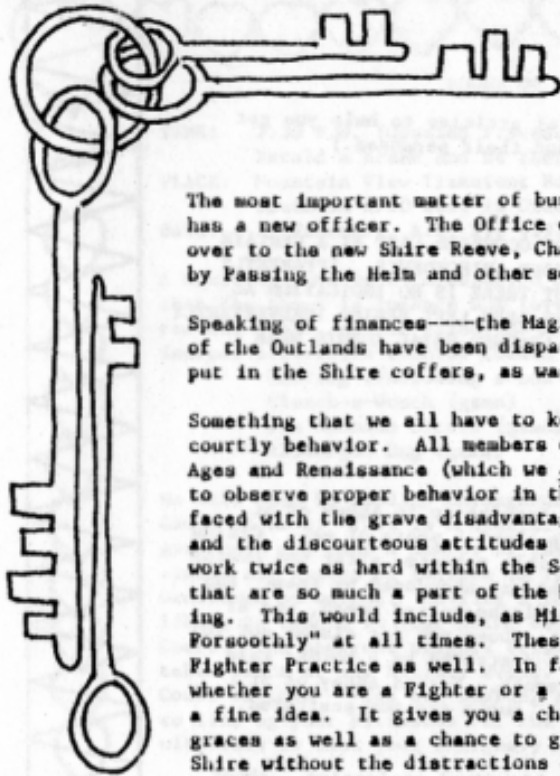
SKILLS

Learned a number of ballads from old monks and the peasantry surrounding first Abbey of St. Guthlac. Singe these frequently, and he claims, with success. (Actual reaction--and musical taste, if any--of shiremen unverified at present; level of observed skill, mediocre to high--liquor may have affected performance observed.) Self-admitted utter failure at feats of arms; inept dancer; over-loud and familiar in company; has tendency to lecture anyone on anything he finds interesting. (Taught briefly at a boy's school connected to second Abbey of St. Guthlac.) Has been appointed Second Deputy Herald of Shire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It would seem appropriate, given the above facts, and the remainder of the present situation--as made clear in previous reports--that we take immediate action to

(HERE THE ONLY RECOVERED SHEET ENDS.)



The most important matter of business this month is that the Shire has a new officer. The Office of the Exchequer has been handed over to the new Shire Reeve, Charles of Galway. All monies acquired by Passing the Helm and other sources will be handled by Charles.

Speaking of finances----the Magic Pictures for Hll Heinrich der Jager of the Outlands have been dispatched and the extra money has been put in the Shire coffers, as was planned.

Something that we all have to keep working on is to perfect our courtly behavior. All members of the Aristocracy of the Middle Ages and Renaissance (which we all are) were raised with a chance to observe proper behavior in their everyday life. Since we are faced with the grave disadvantage of coping with the mundane world and the discourteous attitudes that unfortunately mar it, we must work twice as hard within the Society to observe the courtesies that are so much a part of the Medieval world that we are recreating. This would include, as Milady Herald puts it, "talking Forsoothly" at all times. These same courtesies must be observed at Fighter Practice as well. In fact, coming to Fighter Practice, whether you are a Fighter or a Lady for Chivalry or whatever, is a fine idea. It gives you a chance to practice these courtly graces as well as a chance to get to know other members of the Shire without the distractions of a full scale revel going on around you.

I am putting together a complete card file of Society and mundane names of subjects of the Shire. To understate the case, it is more than slightly difficult when so many of you, while coming to activities faithfully, have not settled on a Society name and persona. PLEASE choose your persona and let me know as soon as possible. These same files are used to establish who gets the QUILL and who does not, so it is to your advantage to get the information to me.

It is very important also, for those of you who are really interested in the SCA and the growth of our Shire of an Mor Salann Fasach, to become subscribing members. The fee is only \$10.00 a year. This has you on the official rolls of the Society and gives you the privilege of registering your device (which prevents a duplication of devices. Think how embarrassing to show up for an event and find someone with almost the same device displayed,) and also makes sure that you receive a copy of the Atonveldt Kingdom newsletter, SOUTHWIND and the quarterly publication of the Society called TOURNAMENTS ILLUMINATED. Both publications are well done and are of great interest to anyone in the Society. All of the officers have copies of the application blanks for subscribing members. We would all be glad to help you in any way we can with getting your subscribing memberships in.

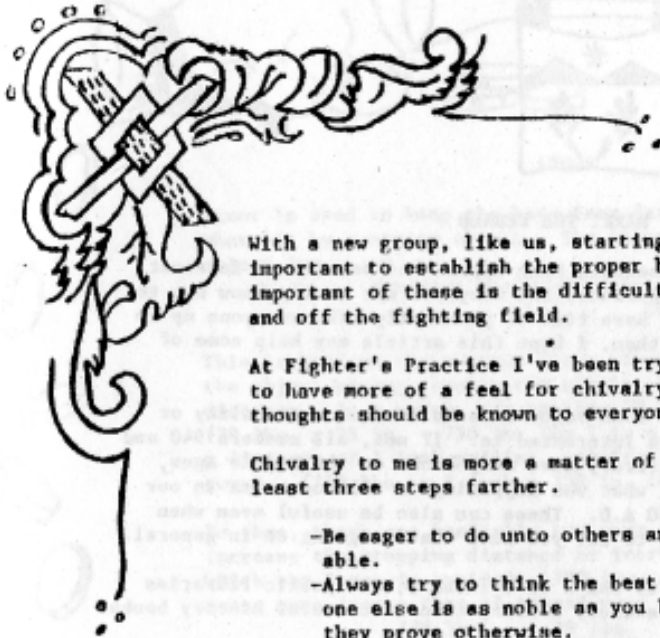
Any time I (or any of the other officers) can help you with anything or if you have any suggestions on how to make things work better in the Shire, please contact us any time. (Believe me---particularly here at Haste Castle, we never get to sleep at reasonable hours.)

I remain your servant in the Society,

Ferelith MacDonald, Seneschale

HEALER'S GUILD:

We have recieved word from Thomas the Mute, the head of the College of Healer's, asking for any members of our shire who would be interested in applying for the position of Master Healer should submit their qualifications as soon as possible to Sister Scholastica. All judgments will be made by Thomas the Mute.



With a new group, like us, starting out in the SCA it is most important to establish the proper basic attitudes. One of the most important of these is the difficult concept of chivalry, both on and off the fighting field.

At Fighter's Practice I've been trying to get each of our fighters to have more of a feel for chivalry and feel that some of these thoughts should be known to everyone.

Chivalry to me is more a matter of following the "Golden Rule" at least three steps farther.

- Be eager to do unto others any service of which you are able.
- Always try to think the best of everyone assume that everyone else is as noble as you know you should be at least until they prove otherwise.
- Treat ladies as though each was a unique piece of fine crystal which must be treated with respect, protected and admired.
- Be lavish with your praise for others whether fighter or others and say little of your own successes.
- Any job you lay your hand to should be done to the best of your ability.

I've never met anyone who did all these things well but the ones who come the closest are the greatest pleasure to know whether in the Current Middle Ages or in some future time like everyday.

Now just a few words on how this fits on the Field of Honor. When a fighter finds himself looking across the fighting field at the gentleman he is to fight next he naturally wants to win but only with honor--no unfair advantage. For this reason you don't attack before he is ready, hit when he is disarmed or down, strike at hands or lower legs which are out of bounds. You do stop fighting at the cry of "Hold," give him every chance to win that is in keeping with your honor and should he win be the first and loudest to praise him for a good fight during which you both earned much honor.

As a spectator you may congratulate the victor but will not cheer or boo or shout advice or warnings during the combat. No mention is made of any religion, magic, or any supernatural powers at work in the combat.

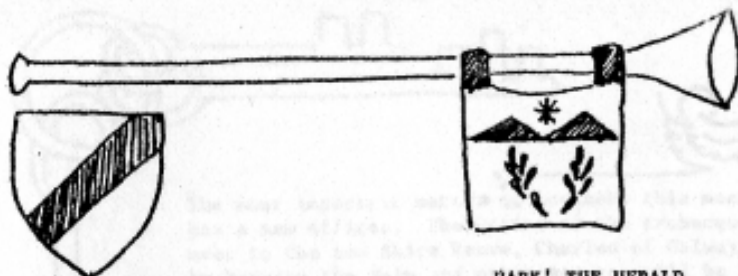
All in all chivalry is, I feel, the hardest medieval concept to teach but once you get the feel for it your persona will improve and you will never have any doubt that it is by far the most important thought behind thought in the Current Middle Ages.

In Humble Service to the Shire,
Robert de Spencer
Hold Tye

CH

At a special sale I was able to purchase 15 bridal head forms which are a great boon to any lady attempting to make a headdress. I have these headpieces for sale to those in the Shire desiring them for the price I had to pay: \$1.15 each. (You usually have to pay around \$3.50 for them in stores.) If you are interested in buying one of these, please contact me.

Farelith MacDonald
Farspeaker: 359-5917



HARK! THE HERALD

Several of the shire members have approached me with an interest in researching their persons, but they did not really know how to start. Since I don't have time to personally take everyone up to the library and help them, I hope this article may help some of you.

Most of you must have some vague idea as to what nationality or period of time you are interested in. If not, all numbers 940 and 940.1 in the U of U library have many books on the Middle Ages, including outlines of what was happening in all countries in our period, 900 A.D.--1650 A.D. These can also be useful even when you know your period, to let you know what is going on in general.

If you can't make it to the U of U library, the public libraries and the genealogical society library also have useful history books.

Once you have decided on country and period, check the subject section of the card catalog for that country for further information. At the U of U, for instance, there are 5 drawers of French history by period, 5 for Great Britain, etc. In each, the headings of the cards are in red, for example: Italy--History--476-1268, Germany--History--1517-1648, and then the information on the book (author, title, etc.). Other information -on customs, etc.- would be under "Social life and customs," for example (in red): Italy--Social life and customs. The 914 section, especially in Juvenile, has many books such as "Every Day Life in Medieval England" that can tell about life style and customs of your time period and place. And if you really want to go all the way, to see how the area you have chosen looks, you look under "Description and Travel" under the country.

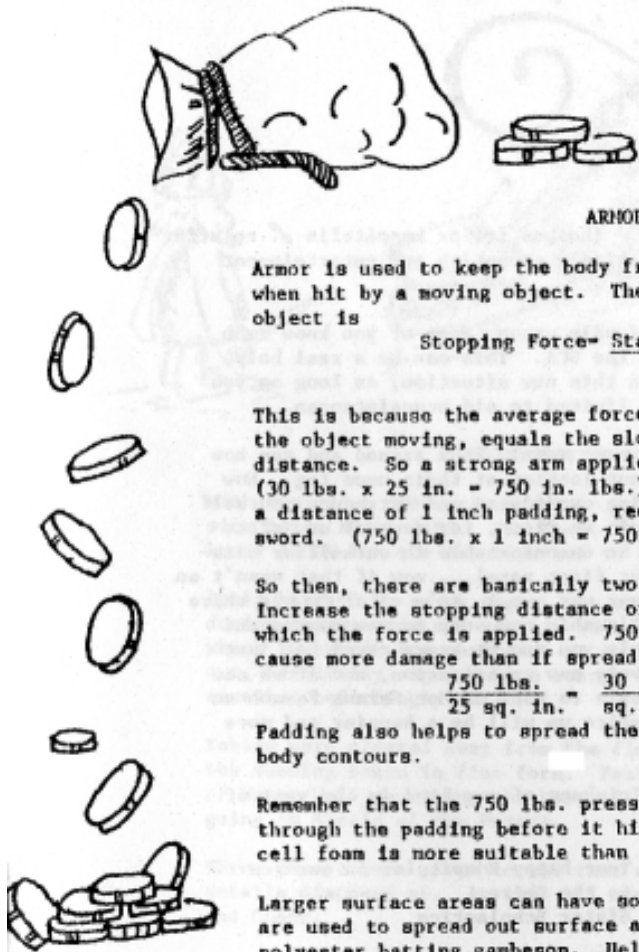
For costuming, I have found that the GT section (Library of Congress Call No.), especially GT 510, has the most useful books on authentic costuming at the U of U library. I especially like GT 732 C84, HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH MEDIEVAL COSTUME, which lists each century from 800-1500 A.D., has a section each for men's and women's costumes, and gives every detail, from underwear to outerwear, including such things as shoes and accessories. The illustrations are all taken from period paintings and sculptures to insure authenticity.

The public libraries also have good costuming books, just look under Costume in the card catalog. At the U of U library the Costume section has several categories; (in red) Costume--History or, by country, Costume---France. There are many good informative books you can use as sources to create an authentic costume or even armor.

Several of the shire officers also have books you can use for research, both costuming and historical. And in the next issues of the Quill we will each month publish a short history, with pictures and descriptions of costumes, of different time periods. Those of you who have already done research may wish to help with these histories, to take a little of the load off the officers' (specifically the Herald's!) shoulders, and I would appreciate you contacting me if you could do this.

I would also like suggestions as to what kind of articles on heraldry you would like to see. Talk to me at Fighter's Practice--I'm usually there and have more time than at revels.

Happy Researching!
Your servant,
Rhonwen y Llysieuidd



ARMOR

Armor is used to keep the body from deforming, which is often damaged when hit by a moving object. The amount of force needed to stop this object is

$$\text{Stopping Force} = \frac{\text{Starting Force} \times \text{Starting Distance}}{\text{Stopping Distance}}$$

This is because the average force times the distance used to get the object moving, equals the slowing force times the stopping distance. So a strong arm applies 30 lbs. force through 25 inches (30 lbs. x 25 in. = 750 in. lbs.) to a sword, and is slowed through a distance of 1 inch padding, requires 750 lbs. force to stop the sword. (750 lbs. x 1 inch = 750 in. lbs.)

So then, there are basically two ways to reduce deformation (pain). Increase the stopping distance or increase the surface area over which the force is applied. 750 lbs. applied with a sword tip will cause more damage than if spread over the whole head.

$$\frac{750 \text{ lbs.}}{25 \text{ sq. in.}} = \frac{30 \text{ lbs.}}{\text{sq. in.}}$$

Padding also helps to spread the force more evenly along awkward body contours.

Remember that the 750 lbs. pressure should be slowing the sword through the padding before it hits the body. This is why closed cell foam is more suitable than soft foam rubber.

Larger surface areas can have softer padding. Materials like plate are used to spread out surface are affected, and are used over a polyester batting gambeson. Helmets and joints should be padded with closed cell foam type padding.

With a good feeling for the effect of armor, it can help keep you feeling better.

For more discussion contact,
Charles of Galway

CVG

The Quill's Point

I would like to wish a gracious New Year to you all. You have probably noticed a new addition to the Quill in the way of articles on personas. I feel that so far this is going quite well. However, I do want one every month, and I am not adverse to having them ahead of time. So if you are on the ball and can get me the story of your persona (the more imaginatively written the better), it would be a great help.

I would next like to mention how much I appreciate the artwork given to me by Cathy Brown. She has produced on her own most of the corner borders for the officer's articles in this month's Quill. Needless to say I think she did a great job, and without me having to bug her to do it. (If you think I'm hinting, I am. I always need more artwork.) Thanks again, Cathy--we love your work.

Last, but not least, if anyone has any announcements they would like in the Quill, please write them up and submit them to me before the first Thursday of the month.

--Your servant,
Jerilyn of Vert Silva



HOSPITALER NOTES:

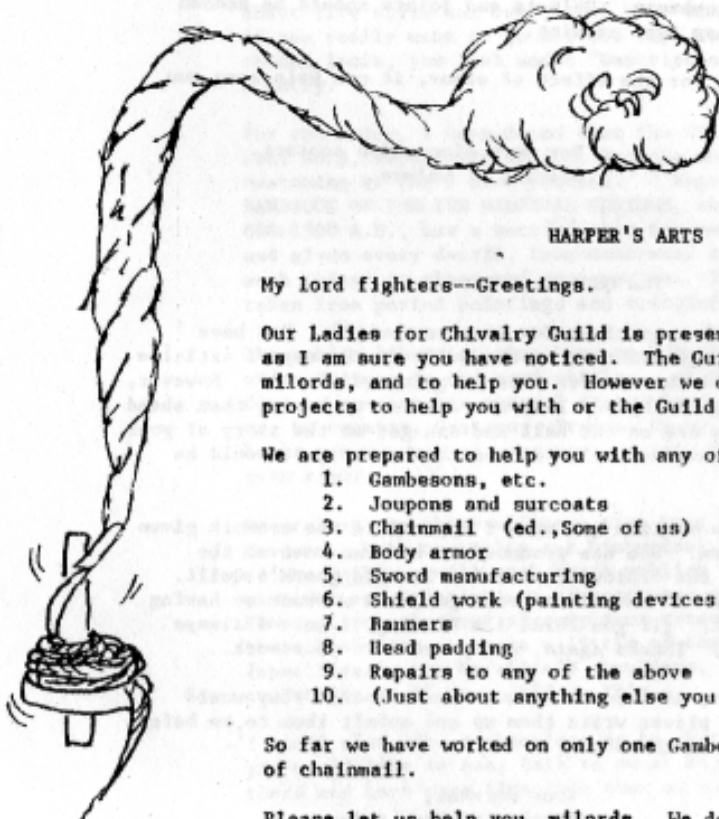
Hospitality - hōs'pY-tāl'Y-tY - (hospes fr. or hospitalis relating to a guest) The generous and kindly reception and entertainment of visitors and guests.

On the whole we are a very friendly group, many of you know each other from activities outside the SCA. This can be a real help to your feeling comfortable in this new situation; as long as you don't allow yourself to become limited to old acquaintances.

As an experiment, at the next revel, look around and see how many people you can name without looking at their name tag. Now pick two or three likely looking candidates and introduce yourself to them. This will be difficult at first, for some of us, after all it's only human nature to be uncomfortable in unfamiliar situations. (Remember back to your first revel...now if that wasn't an unfamiliar situation there never was one.) It's vital to our shire that we extend the hand of fellowship not only to new comers and inquirers, but also those people you see at every revel but just haven't met. We are a relatively new organization, and if we can set as one of our long term goals to make an Mor Salann Fasach an open, friendly and accepting shire we will be a happier and more successful organization.

Set down by my hand this the Epiphany of our Lord in the year of the Society XII.

Your happy Hospitaler in service
to the Shire,
Sister Scholastica



HARPER'S ARTS

My lord fighters--Greetings.

Our Ladies for Chivalry Guild is present at the Fighter Practices as I am sure you have noticed. The Guild is there to serve you, milords, and to help you. However we do have need of materials and projects to help you with or the Guild will dissolve.

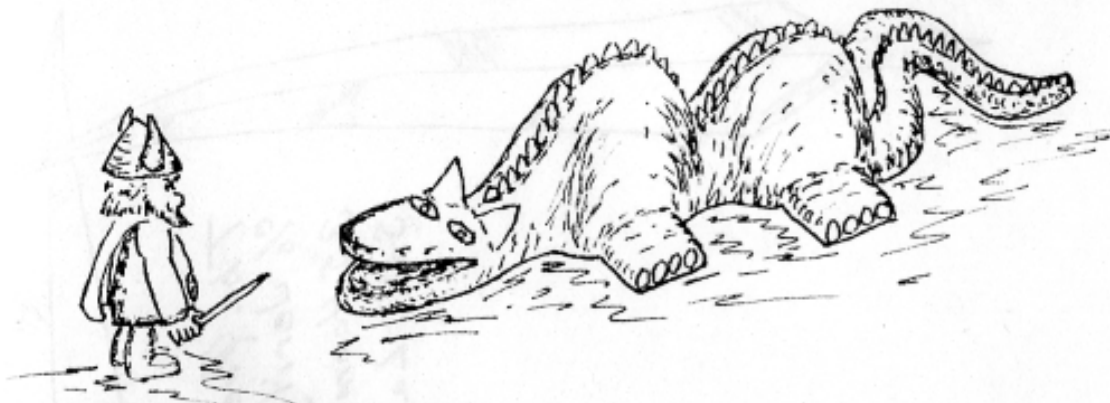
We are prepared to help you with any of the following:

1. Gambesons, etc.
2. Joupons and surcoats
3. Chainmail (ed., Some of us)
4. Body armor
5. Sword manufacturing
6. Shield work (painting devices, etc.)
7. Banners
8. Head padding
9. Repairs to any of the above
10. (Just about anything else you can think of)

So far we have worked on only one Gambeson and done a small amount of chainmail.

Please let us help you, milords. We do want to be there to support you in any way possible.

Elaine of the Lion's Tale



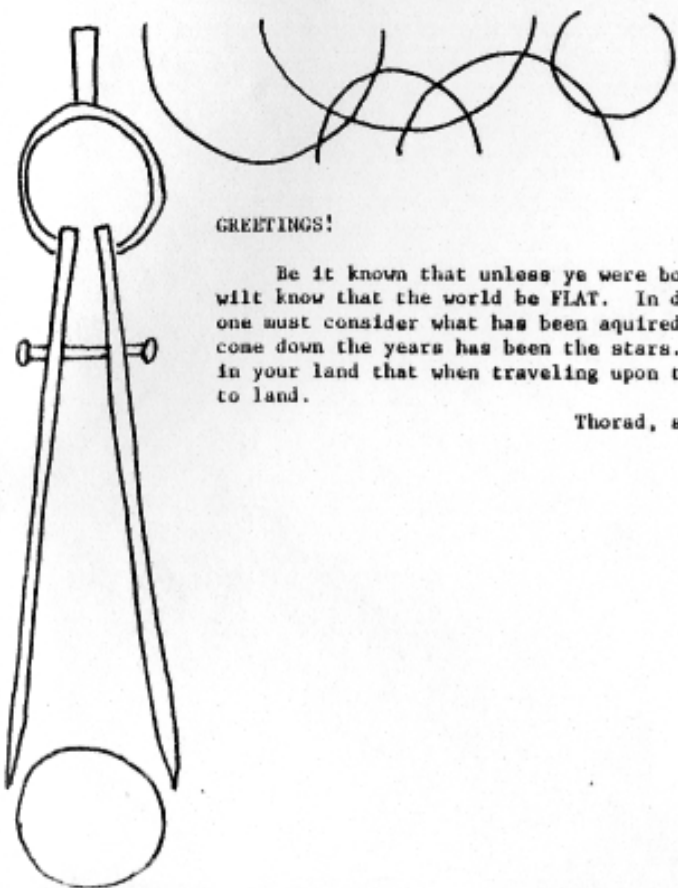
CHRISTMASTIDE FEAST

With the great tides of expectant hordes finally assembled, procession began about 7:00. The Beast Feast was started by a toast in honor of HM Ton the Traveler and HH Prince Gunwaldt der Ostermachen.

Aptly handled by ready pages, the meal settled slowly between dishes, during joyous song and verse. Desert came with groans of dismay over where to put it (or whether.) A marvelous Dragon Cake was brought out, herolcally engaged by a sturdy Viking. (The cake rumored to be somewhat befittingly crusty.)

Tables were cleared away from the floor, and though heavily laden, the dancing began in fine form. Festivities ended with Geneveive of Water Wood receiving the List of Grace, and the List of Chivalry going to Alaric of the Forest.

Three cheers were given to all that we could think of, and mundane details disposed of. At last all went home full of Christmas Feast and Cheer.



GREETINGS!

Be it known that unless ye were born before A.D. 1492, thou wilt know that the world be FLAT. In doing what is done in science, one must consider what has been aquired in science. One that has come down the years has been the stars. Learn what is sun normally in your land that when traveling upon the waters, ye may know where to land.

Thorad, son of Bjorg