



When most I wink then do mine eyes best see,
For all the day they view things unrespected,
But when I sleep, in dreams they look on thee,
And darkly bright, are bright in dark directed.
Then thou whose shadow shadows doth make bright
How would thy shadow's form form happy show,
To the clear day with thy much clearer light,
When to unseeing eyes thy shade shines so!
How would (I say) mine eyes be blessed made,
By looking on thee in the living day,
When in dead night thy fair imperfect shade,
Through heavy sleep on sightless eyes doth stay!
All days are nights to see till I see thee,
And nights bright days when dreams do show thee me.

THE HAWK'S FLIGHT

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010

Sonnet 43 by William Shakespeare



THE HAWK'S FLIGHT

The official Newsletter of the
Shire of Blackhawk,
Middle Kingdom

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EDITION!

It never ceases to amaze me

how folks can come forth to support each other when the need arises. The more involved I become in the shire, the more I realize what a great group of people we have and how there are always those willing to help out someone who's willing to ask. I'm honored to be among those who've received help in building this newsletter into something more than a thrown together, last minute affair.

Most of articles in this edition, I'm happy to say, were offered up freely (and all would have been in on time if that weather hadn't thwarted us during the last few weeks), and not a single one had to be chased down, or begged for. I can't express in words how appreciative I am to my contributors. Thank you so much.

As you can see, I've included a review of a book that I've had the pleasure of reading in the past year. I'd really like more of these

reviews from other folks. So if you're reading a book, or have read a book in the past, that you think could help out another of your shire members, even if only providing a few hours of enjoyment in the reading, please send your review along.

I'm sad to admit that I wasn't able to procure a persona story for this edition. Asking around, I've found that many of us aren't quite so sure what our "story" is. I'll keep digging, and asking, and hopefully I'll find someone a

bit more decided on the subject, who wouldn't mind sharing a few brief details with the rest of us.

I hope that the new year will bring many new adventures, that we can share together as we grow as a Shire and learn more about the history we adore.

Thank you for your cooperation!

YIS,

ASA

OFFICERS OF THE SHIRE OF BLACKHAWK

Sceneschal & Chatelaine: *Lady Antine Andersdottir*
(Antina Richards-Pennock)

Light Weapons Marshal: *Lord Michael Ashley* (Michael Pennock)

Exchequer: *Lady Henrikje Novella Duin* (Janna Bailey)

Herald & Regional Youth Marshal: *Lord Sebastian Elgar* (Peter Czyzewski)

MOAS: *Lady Meadhbh Winters* (Heather Czyzewski)

Webminister: *Lord Thorfinn* (Mark Mitchell)

Heavy Weapons Marshal: *Lord Erik de Nevell* (Erik Moan)

Chirurgion: *Baron AElfred of Chester* (Allen Reed)

Chronicler: *Lady Ása Farbjörnsdottir* (Tricia Reed)



Lady Antine Andersdottir's costuming display at the November Craftman's Faire.



Upcoming Midrealm Events

January

- 23 - *A Tudor Christmas* {Barony of Midde Marches} [Columbus, OH]
- *Al Hafla - A Winter Oasis* {Incipient Shire of Ballachlagan}
[Wheeling, WV, Out of Kingdom]
- *Festival of Maidens XXXVII: The Merry Maidens of Penzance* {Wurm Wald} [Urbana, IL]
- *Winter Revel* {Shire of Rivenvale} [Youngstown, OH]
- 30 - *A Festival of Fools* {Barony of Cleftlands} [Parma, OH]
- *Better War Through Archery* {Barony of Sternfeld} [Indianapolis, IN]
- *Pentamere Academy of Defense Round 4* {Canton of Ealdnordwuda} [Lansing, MI]



February

- 6 - *Candlemas 23* {Shire of Dragonsmark} [Lexington, KY]
- 13 - *Val Day* {Three Hills} [Kalamazoo, MI]
- 20 - *Masque of Courtly Love XIV* {Alderford} [North Canton, OH]
- *Midlands Regional A* {Baile na Scolairi} [Bloomington, IL]

March

- 5-6 - *Golden Steamtress* {roaring waste} [Dearborn, MI]
- 6 - *Ceilidh XXII* {Barony of
Flaming Gryphon}
[Dayton, OH]
- *Eastwatch Dance and
Gaming Revel*
{Eastwatch} [Fairport
Harbor, OH]
- *Inkin' in Lincoln II*
{Shire of Rokkehealden}
[Gilberts, IL]



Members of the Shire gather at the All Souls event in November. .



Event Report: Raglan Castle, Shire of Mynydd Gwyn, Insulae Draconis, Drachenwald. September 1-2, 2007.

~ Submitted by Lord Michael Ashley



Lady Antine Andersdottir and I recently had the opportunity to travel to the Kingdom of Drachenwald, and took advantage of the timing of our trip to attend the Shire of Mynydd Gwyn's event at Raglan Castle. Dating from 1485 (and built on the site of an older fortification), Raglan Castle is located in southern Wales just outside the village of Raglan. Today the castle lies partly in ruins, as it was undermined and partially dismantled by Oliver Cromwell following the English Civil War to prevent its use as a rallying point for Royalist forces. While we stayed in Bristol and traveled to the site each day, this was a camping event, and as soon as we entered the grounds we were met by the sight of pavilions pitched outside the castle's main gate.

While the camp was waking itself we took a few minutes and toured the castle grounds. The castle is roughly rectangular in shape, with the main gate in the southeast leading into an open cobbled courtyard which also contains the remains of walls from several interior rooms now long gone. The kitchen and buttery lie to the north and northwest of the main courtyard, respectively. To the southwest are the remains of the great hall and the chapel. Further to the southwest beyond the chapel lies the grass covered Fountain Court. Southeast of the Fountain Court is the Great Keep, reached via a bridge that spans the gap twenty feet above a water filled moat. Exiting the Fountain Court to the southwest you find yourself on the Bowling Green, a Renaissance era addition that continues around the moat and Great Keep until it once again reaches the main gate. The view from the Bowling Green is spectacular, as in one direction you look out over Raglan and the mountains beyond, and in the opposite direction you are treated to a view of Raglan Castle itself.



Though not originally scheduled, His Majesty Alaric had requested a Pas de Arms, and the heavy fighters were soon donning their armor and heading to the Fountain Court, where the event was to be held. Those of us of the light weapons persuasion had the rest of the castle to ourselves for the morning, and Lord Meredith, the rapier MIC, had prepared a series of melees for us to pass the time. As we readied ourselves and conducted inspections much of the talk centered around Cut and Thrust, an activity that had been officially introduced in Drachenwald just two days before. We split ourselves into two teams of four fencers each – defenders and attackers (though our numbers varied throughout the day to as many as five fencers per side). All of the melees we fought were resurrection battles, with defenders limited to three lives while attackers had unlimited lives. In

each battle the attackers had a maximum of three minutes to reach their goals. These melees were fought within the castle itself – for the first battle we were in the main gate and the attacker's goal was to push far enough inside to pass beyond the first portcullis. The second melee was to pass from the portcullis out into the main courtyard. Once inside the courtyard, we took advantage of the remains of the interior rooms and fought the third melee as a wall battle across the remnants of an interior wall. Battle number four seemed to be everybody's favorite – a bridge battle fought on the bridge between the Fountain Court and the Great Keep as the attackers strove to cross the moat with their feet dry. The final battle was held on the lowest level of the Great Keep, as the defenders sought to prevent the attackers from reaching the "strongroom". As it was my distinct honor to reach the strongroom as an attacker I can say with some accuracy that there must have been some mistake – this "strongroom" was, in fact, the keep's garderobe... But the best part about fighting all of these melees was that once we finished them we switched sides so that the defenders were now the attackers and vice versa, and fought all five melees once again.





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By now the Pas de Arms was complete and the heavy weapons melees began, covering much of the same ground that the fencers had fought over that morning. It was a lot of fun to watch the heavies fighting through the castle and over the bridge, and occasionally challenging to keep the public out of the rooms where fighting was taking place. They did seem to find their way into the most interesting places.

An archery competition was also held on the north side of the castle, with one of the targets being engaged from the windows of the Fountain Court.

The light weapons fighting for the day finished up after the heavy melees, with Lord Meredith Playing for the Prize on the Bowling Green for the rank of Free Scholar in the local fencing guild. We were all happy to keep him occupied for the requisite time, and the final melee pitted Mynyndd Gwyn (Lord Meredith's home shire) against the rest of us from Drachenwald and the Middle Kingdom. It was a great day's fencing in a spectacular setting, and was capped off with the courts of His Majesty Alaric (Drachewald) and Their Excellencies Pol and Katrina (Insulae Draconis) held in the Fountain Court of the castle.

On Sunday there was much activity as the gentles of this land broke camp, bade their farewells and spent time within the castle, but the light weapons community had one final activity to conduct. The rapier tournament was held on the Bowling Green on Sunday morning, which was just as spectacular a venue on Sunday as it had been on Saturday. It was once again a great day of fencing, and I got the opportunity to fence and speak with around a third of all of the authorized fencers in Insulae Draconis. I must also state the Lord Meredith makes a delicious steak and Guinness pie.



I was pleasantly surprised to find quite a few Americans at the event, alongside the English, French, Welsh, Irish, Scots, Germans, Australians, Icelanders (okay, she was originally from Liverpool, but she lives in Iceland now...), etc., etc. We were welcomed by everybody we spoke to, and would happily return for another event should the timing work out. And to anybody who has previously been active in Calontir – Odo says “hi”.

YIS,
Lord Michael Ashley



THE HAWK'S FLIGHT

PATTERN PATTERN

~ Submitted by Lady Antine Andersdottir

SIMPLICITY RENAISSANCE COSTUME COLLECTION # 4059

4059

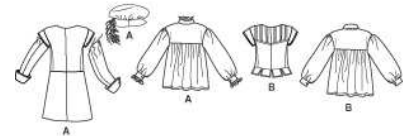


There are 2 views of this pattern View A (long coat) and View B (Doublet). In total there are 7 different garments available on this pattern (2 shirts, 2 pants, and 2 coats, and a round cap).



View A-The Long skirts are way too long for SCA Period, but if you only use the first 6 to 8 inches, the length works much better. The pants and shirt are also passable for use in period. However I'm not sold on the hat....

View B- Having used the view B doublet pattern several times I find I like this pattern. If sleeves are desired, just use the sleeves from view A. The trim can be optional and if one is willing to split the pattern pieces (and add seam allowance), you can add quilted or different color shoulders. Again the pants and shirt are passable for period, the Foil is not SCA legal!



All Sizes for this pattern are in one envelope with chest sizes ranging from 30 to 48 inches, waist sizes ranging from 26 to 42 inches and hip sizes 31 to 49 inches.

This pattern is still in print and is available from Jo-Ann's, Hancock Fabrics and possibly Hobby Lobby, or on-line @ www.simplicity.com.

~Lady Antine Andersdottir



Reminder!

A&S Night is the second Tuesday of every Month. The next two will be on the 9th of February, 2010, and the 9th of March, 2010! For directions, please email moas@shireofblackhawk.org.



Reminder!

Armory Night is the every Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m. at Baron Sir Gunther von Brandenburg's house. For directions, please email ritter996@yahoo.com.



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Lord Sebastian Elgar shows off his very fine hat at the All Souls even in November.

ALL SOULS RAPIER TOURNEY

Submitted by Lord Sebastian Elgar

There were 3 rapier/cut and thrust tournaments at All Souls this year. The first tourney was a challenge tourney with fencers being given 3 coins plus some bonus coins for newer fencers (and older fencers there were bonus coins for having had a heart attack) there were 5 shire members participating in the tourney most of whom ended up with 3 coins after winning and losing an equal amount, I did not hear who the final winner was. The second tourney was for the Midlands regional traveling belt which had 7 participants, I was the only shire member in the tourney and I ended up in second place behind Faalen, one of the Thieves of Hearts. And finally there was a cut and thrust tournament in which Patrick and Michael participated, the winner was Sir LOGOS since he was the only participant who did not already own a copy of the book that was the tourney prize, the fighters had forgotten to count wins/losses so they just put the matter to a vote among themselves.

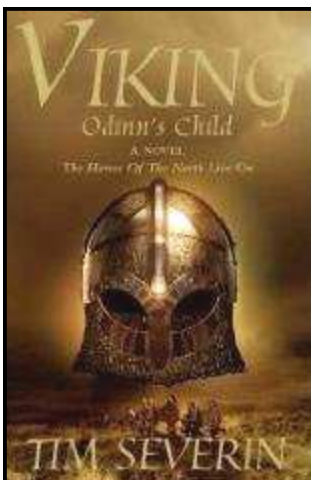
BOARS HEAD XXX

Submitted by Lord Thorfinn

Samona, Lord William, Lady Asa and I went to Boar's Head event in the kingdom of Northshield in the Barony of Caer Anterth Mawr. Royalty from both Northshield and the Midrealm were there. There was a largerturn out for both heavy and light weapons fighting. It was a fun day for all. William went up against the Midrealm king in combat. One particular combatant was given the best challenge Siegfried, the King of Northshield, could offer and held the field against over 30 knights. His last opponent was the king himself. He then was put on vigil on the field.



Rane Maska works on a leather project at the November Craftsman's Faire.



VIKING: ODINN'S CHILD, A REVIEW

Submitted by Lady Ása Farbjörnsdóttir

As the first book in the series, Tim Severin's *Viking: Odinn's Child* is a symphony of historical detail, and bright, vivid images steeped in antiquity. Following the life of Thorgils, the illegitimate son of Leif Eriksson and a mysterious Irish seer, Severin takes us on a journey through eleventh-century Scandinavia, filling each page with rich battle descriptions, and enchanting details about common, day-to-day life of the age, dotting the verbal landscape with mystery and even a little bit of magic. From the treacherous meeting of his father, to an adventure to the new world, we travel along with Thorgils as he learns about his parents, his countrymen, his religion, and the ever-changing world he strives to be apart of. I found this fiction book easy to read, hard to put down, and absolutely inspiring to my studies about early period Norse culture. I would definitely recommend it to anyone with a historic inclination, even those who aren't particularly interested in that culture or time period.



Pfeffernuesse

“Pepper Nuts” are a traditional German holiday cookie – dense and rich, filled with baking spices, and yes, black pepper. Delicious, easy, and fun to frost.

Submitted by Lady Henrikje Novella Duin

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ½ cup honey | 3 cups all-purpose flour | | |
| ½ cup regular | ¾ tsp salt | ½ tsp ground black pepper | ¼ tsp ground cardamom seed |
| or un sulphured molasses | ¾ tsp baking soda | ½ tsp ground nutmeg | ¼ tsp ground anise seed |
| 3 tbsp shortening | ¾ tsp baking powder | ½ tsp ground allspice | 1 large egg |

Preaheat oven to 350°. Heat honey and molasses over low heat in a sham, heavy-bottomed saucepan for about 10 minutes. Add shortening, stir to melt the shortening, remove from heat and let cool. While cooling, sift together into a large bowl the flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder, pepper, nutmeg, allspice, cardamom and anise seed. When the honey mix is luke warm, whisk the egg into the mixture, then pour into the flour bowl, mixing well with a wooden spoon until well blended. At this point the dough can be refrigerated to firm it up for easier rolling, but it isn't really necessary. Roll the dough into small balls, and bake on ungreased nonstick cookie sheets for 13-15 minutes. They don't rise or flatten, and they are dark brown to begin with, so it can be a bit difficult to tell if they are done – they do get a big darker and hold their shape if tapped. Remove from the pan and cool, then frost. Yield: 5—6 dozen small balls.

Frosting

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 large egg white | 1 dash pure vanilla extract |
| 2 tsp light corn syrup | 1 ½ cups powdered sugar |

Whisk egg white, corn syrup and vanilla extract together until creamy. Sift in the powdered sugar and mix until smooth. Place a handful of cookies in a small bowl, drizzle with a few tablespoons of frosting, toss with frosting until coated. Carefully pick up the cookies and place on a rack, as some of the icing will drip off. Repeat until all the cookies are done. Let the cookies dry totally before moving them or you will leave fingerprints.

Here is a fun bath salt recipe that doesn't require you to order expensive custom salts, most items can be found locally or even in your cabinets.

from the cabinet bath salts

~ Submitted by Lady Antine Andersdottir

Necessary Ingredients

- 1 cup Epsom salts
- 1/4 sea salt
- Air tight container
- Wax Paper
- Cookie Sheet

Optional Ingredients

- 2 or 3 tablespoons of Oatmeal (ground fine)
- 2 or 3 tablespoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon to a 1 teaspoon of essential oil (stay away from cooking herbs)

Combine necessary ingredients in a metal bowl, stir slowly to combine. Add optional ingredients and stir to combine. If essential oils were added turn out onto a wax paper covered cookie sheet to "dry". Place salts into an airtight container until needed.

