



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 4: Issue 25, March, 2002

Oaken Regional A&S

The Oaken Regional Arts and Sciences faire was held in The Barony of Fenix last weekend. Although only two Cleftlanders entered the competition: Alexandra Le Noir with her stained glass window and Milesent Vibert with her drawings- the barony was well represented. Lady Serena made the trek to teach her silk worm class and to attend upon Her Highness Alys. Also attending her Highness was Angharad. Alys, for her part, had a wonderful time judging cooking entries and left small roses as tokens of appreciation next to entries in all categories. Les Souers Vibert and our new Arts and Sciences Minister, Edward Brackenburye, came down specifically to learn to judge on the regional level. Theodric and Calum increased our presence to 5 out of the twenty-odd judges. So, although we represented only 2 out of 49 entries, we were a sizeable chunk of the judging staff.

The fair was relaxed, the weather cooperative, and the site lovely. Lord Brackenburye was especially pleased to judge Bardic Recitation in the York Chapel (Named no doubt for his favored monarchs.). The judges were provided with a delicious luncheon and a surfeit of chocolate, and our new judges were lavished with individual instruction.

It was an honor to see the breath-taking works of the Oaken artisans. From the tantalizing scents of the cooking entries to the painstaking beauty of a set of linen napkins, from a replica of a medieval spanish illuminstion that had to be labeled

to be told apart from its original to a magnificent jug in the shape of a unicorn- there was something to captivate ones attention for the entire day.

The arts are alive and well in our region, hoobah!

Now, how about more entries from Cleftlands next year?



NOTE:

We are now past the deadline for returning your Baronial Poll Ballot. Results will be published here in the Forum as soon as we recieve them, and announced at meeting. Keep watching this space for details.

The History of Glass

by Alexandra Le Noir

The history of glass is as rich as the colors in the panes of a cathedral window. As early as 75,000 BC man was using a naturally occurring form of glass called obsidian for arrowheads and spear tips. A product of volcanic activity, obsidian is light, hard, and brittle, and when chipped correctly is said to be sharper than a surgeons scalpel blade. Other forms of naturally occurring glass, Tektites and Libyan Desert Glass, are believed to have been made when meteorites struck the earth or moon's surfaces.

Even lightening can make glassy formations if it strikes sand with the right mix of chemicals. There are many theories as to when man-made glass started. Pliny the Elder, a Roman historian, quoting Greek sources from 5000 BC tells the story of Phoenician sailors who used blocks of natron to prop up their cooking pots on a sandy beach. Natron, a naturally occurring form of soda found in Egypt and used in mummification, mixed with the melting sand. This stream of molten liquid later cooled and

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Shall We Dance?

A Word from the Dance Guild Mistress

Some of you might not be familiar with your dance guild and how we work. As the adle pated guildmistress still hasn't gotten a copy of the guild charter to the Baronial officers to be ratified, I thought I'd offer some explanations in this Forum. (What? The guild's only three years old, it's still not late on SCA time!)

Why do we have a dance guild at all? Because people like to dance, and the activity of dancing unfortunately requires a tiny bit of organization. The guild exists to make sure that music and callers find their way to local events, meetings and demonstrations. That's it, really. We exist to serve the barony and its' populace, that's you.


The dance guild has three officer positions. The guild mistress who's fault everything is, that's me, Milesent. The guild librarian who does the thankless task of keeping track of boom box, CDs, tapes and the all important book of dance steps, that's Kathryn ferch Rhys. And there is a Premiere Dancer whom we pick each year at Standard Bearers. It's a ceremonial position whose main responsibilities include looking good. Our current Premiere dancer is Hawise de Cumberworth.

Some misconceptions that I'd like to clear up:

1. The dance guild exists for the dance guild. Nope. We exist to serve you, the Barony. Only secondarily, in artist speak, do we serve our muse. Learning and researching dances to share.
2. "The dance guild wouldn't let me dance such-and-such because it's not period." This has never been a practice of our guild. If the populace of the barony wants to do the Hokey Pokey, by all the gods that may be, we will do the Hokey Pokey! What we won't do is know every dance in existence. If we do not have music or a caller for a particular dance, period or not, we cannot do it. And I as guild mistress am certainly not going to force someone to call a dance against their will, that's just not nice. If there is a dance you want to do, let me know, and even better let me know if you have music and can call the dance. That said, as a medieval recreation group, we would prefer to keep the dances as medieval as possible, especially at demonstrations. Please, do not offer to teach the Electric Slide at the May fifth demo?

The dance guild meets monthly at the Euclid Public library for about fifteen minutes of 'what should we dance at next meeting' and 'who's leading dance at this event and/or demo?' and two hours of dancing. If you have questions or concerns about your dance guild, please don't hesitate to come to one of our meetings, approach us at meeting or contact me. I can be reached via email at gracie@po.cwru.edu

Our Officers



Seneschal: Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork (A.J. Gooch)
279 East 248 St.
Euclid, OH 44123

Pursuivant: Lord Pietro Nicolò di San Tebaldo (Samuel Pearce)
2577 Exeter Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Exchequer: Duchess Emelyn Carithail (Gayle Nichols)
17211 Lakewood Heights Blvd.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Knight Marshal: Lt. Conrad Schwartzwolf (Marty Bradac)
3835 W. 40th Street
Cleveland, OH 44109

Marshal of Fence: Lady Brangwyn Snowden (Terrie Way)
3480 West 118th St.
Cleveland, OH 44111

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Lord Edward Brackenbury (Mark Doblekar)
18871 Abby Ave
Euclid, OH 44119

Chroniclers: Ladies Lyonnette et Milesent Vibert (Marie & Grace Vibbert)
2489 Queenston Rd.
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Glass, Continued

hardened into glass. In 3500 BC, in western Asia, artisans decorated pottery with the basic raw materials of glass obtaining colorful hard glazes. When they realized if that if their glazes were made thick enough they could stand on their own.

A Mesopotamian cuneiform tablet dating about 2700 BC has been found that when translated gives “secret” instructions for building and using a glass furnace. Excavations at Tel el Amarnan in Egypt have revealed evidence of glass industry dating to the time of Pharaoh Thotmes in 1370 BC. These many examples of glass “discovery” lead many to believe that the making of glass was a closely kept secret that died with those who discovered it.

The earliest objects made with man-made glass were non-transparent beads, some

dating back to 3500 BC. Around the ninth century techniques evolved, and two methods of making vessels came to the forefront. Casting and Core Forming enabled glassmakers the opportunity to make

containers from glass. Cutting, engraving, and dipping made the pieces more aesthetically beautiful.

The greatest breakthrough in glass making came in the form of a hollow metal pipe. Sometime between 27 BC and AD 14 Syrian craftsman discovered glassblowing. A second breakthrough in glass making came with the rise of the Roman Empire. In the last century BC Roman glassblowers took their craft one step further by blowing into moulds. Since this made blowing an object easier and less time consuming it increased the output, and standardized shapes of the containers made.

The Romans also did much to spread glassmaking technology. With their conquests, trade relations, economic administration, and system of roads they created flourishing conditions for glass making

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Don't Forget Coronation!

... like you could?

The Coronation of our own Valharic and Alys is approaching faster than you think, and as always, volunteers are needed nearly everywhere. Here is a partial list of staff to approach to volunteer your time. Remember, the eyes of the kingdom will be on Cleftlands on April 13th, and it's up to each of us as individuals to see that we shine!

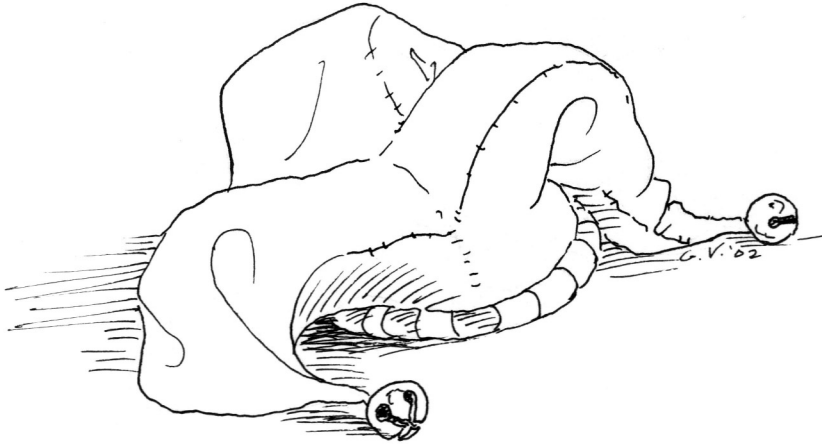
Katerine du Val is organizing setup and take down. **Ceinwen** is organizing the kitchens and servers- note: more servers are needed, and they will get feast at half price. Chopping and food prep are also always needed early in the day. If you can't find her, **Rutgur** is acting as her deputy. **Clariel** is troll and despite her goddess-like powers probably doesn't want to sit there all alone all day. **Darius** and **Snowden** are autocrating, if you don't know where you can help out- they do!

“I jest to Oberon, and make him smile, When I a fat and bean-fed horse beguile, Neighing in likeness of a filly foal: And sometime lurk I in a gossip’s bowl, In very likeness of a roasted crab; And, when she drinks, against her lips I bob, And on her withere’d dew-lap pour the ale. The wisest aunt, telling the saddest tale, Sometime for three-foot stool mistaketh me; Then slip I from her bum, down topples she...”

-Puck, in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* describes some things our first April Fools might have found funny.

On a Frivolous Note

It would not be the first of April, or at least March Desert Revel, without the appearance of yet another edition of *The Forage*, our yearly non-newsletter. (I really must find the persons responsible for it and smite them. Me? Don’t be ridiculous.)



By pure coincidence, it seems our tradition of celebrating All Fools Day early is not unprecedented- the new year in France, previous to the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar, began on March 25th, lasting for eight days of gift exchanges, parties and other revelry, culminating on April 1st. When the Gregorian Calendar was adopted by King Charles IX (dates vary on sources, but the most likely date is 1582- forgive history books when recording times that recorded time changed!) Those who clung to the old celebration were labelled fools or “poisson d’avril.” (“April Fish”- I couldn’t find the entomology of the term. One source claimed that French school children would affix a fish to their unsuspecting friend’s backs as a sort of precursor ‘kick me’ sign. This is unverified, but most articles on April Fools day seem to have a fixation with the posterior which we know medieval humorists shared.)

Although originating in France - but then, what didn’t?- The holiday spread throughout Europe with the calendar, opening up a new opportunity to invite your friends to parties that weren’t taking place or send them on ‘fools errands’. The holiday is still celebrated throughout the western world, and seems to have caught on quickly wherever it went- but can you blame people for embracing a new chance to play practical jokes?

Yes, 1582 as a starting date places this holiday firmly in the realm of “Late Period Silliness”, but it’s observation echoes many other medieval fools’ celebrations, such as the Feast of Fools, which was popular in Europe, particularly France, from about the 12th Century to the 15th and took place on January 1st or 6th. (Interesting parallel that, which makes me wonder if foolery was a part of the new year celebration before the confusion of date changes.)

And remember, having a sense of humor is period. (NOT having a sense of humor is also, alas, period- so be careful when playing your pranks! Especially if they’ve got pole axes!)

Irreverently,

Lyonnete

Glass, Cont.

and trading. Romans also were the first to use glass as an element of architecture.

With the discovery of clear glass in Alexandria around 100 AD, cast glass windows found their way into most of the important buildings in Rome, Herculaneum, and Pompeii. With the geographical divisions of the empire, glassmaking gradually splintered into two distinct locations. In the East, Alexandria was the most important area making luxury glass items for export. In the West the city of Köln in the Rhineland developed as the hub of the industry using mainly eastern techniques.

With the fall of the Roman Empire, the progress of glassmaking slowed. Even the Germanic glassmakers abandoned the more ornate work, losing or not developing the decorating skills they had learned.

Archaeological digs on the island of Torcello near Venice brought to light fragments from the seventh and eighth centuries. These fragments show the transition of glass from the ancient to the early Middle Ages. With the difficulty in getting materials to make glass, European glass began to differ from Mediterranean or Italian glass. The eleventh century saw German glass craftsmen developing a new technique for making sheet glass.

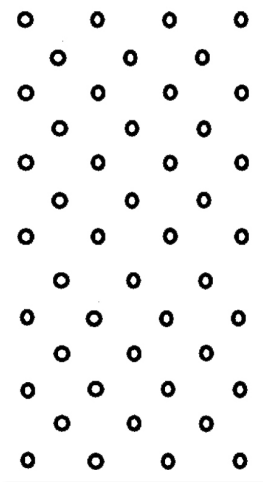
Along with the creation of lead channels to hold the glass pieces glass windows were more readily available. It was the Church that created the development of stained glass as an art. The appeal was as much spiritual as it was aesthetic. In the book of Genesis references to light and its connection to creation are found in several places. In the New Testament Christ is called the true light, and the light of the world. Glass not only served a functional purpose; it let light into a place of worship.

Stained glass windows reached their peak at the end of the Middle Ages, where increasing numbers of windows were found in public buildings, inns, and the homes of the wealthy. The most popular were of historical scenes and family coats of arms.

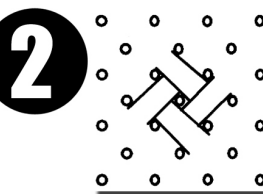
The sidebar mini-primer is provided courtesy of the Scribe's Guild and is the work of myfanwy ferch Rhonwen

A KNOTWORK MINI-PRIMER

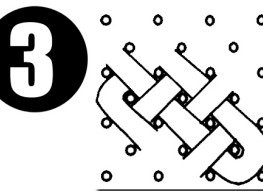
1 Create a dot, grid pattern



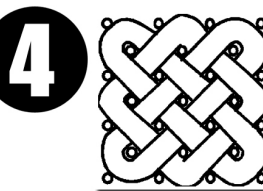
(Sample)
You may use this layout pattern or create a larger grid and make photocopies to practice on.



Begin as shown but not on the edge of the layout pattern. Create an over & under weave.



As you reach edges, make curves back into layout as shown.



A completed knot. Use larger grids or chain many together.



You've made your first knot! Don't stop now. Check out styles and patterns in books, & keep practicing.

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Calendar

As Usual:

Regular Meetings on Wednesday Nights at the Shore Center

Archery Guild is looking for a new meeting place, as Lucas Archery is closing its doors forever. See Darius or Christina if you know of a range that allows crossbows and year-round shooting.

Armorer's Guild Thursday nights at Ealdred's house.

Dance Guild is meeting at the Euclid Public Library on Thursday, April 4th.

CWRUMS Meeting Tuesday nights at 7pm at Carlton Commons.

Local Happenings:

3-27-02 Bead Making class at desert revel, taught by Lady Seadna.

4-13-02 Coronation of Valharic and Alys - here in Cleftlands!

4-27-02 Cooking recipies and /or a Sausage making class. Ealdred and Angharad

Selected Events:

March

3-9 Beware the Ides of March {Iron Oak (Northwoods)} [Morrice, MI]

Ceilidh XV {College of St. Joan} [Dayton, OH]

3-11 through 17 Gulf Wars {Meridies} [Lumberton, MS]

3-16 Terpsichore at the Tower {Cynnabar} [Ypsilanti, MI]

3-23 Clancy Day {Starleaf Gate} [Windsor, ONT]

Oaken Regional A&S {Fenix} [Cincinnati, OH]

3-30 Road to the Isle [not 4/28] {Mistig Waetru} [Baraga, MI]

April

4-6 - Grand Tournament of the Unicorn {Marche of the Unicorn} [Oxford, OH]

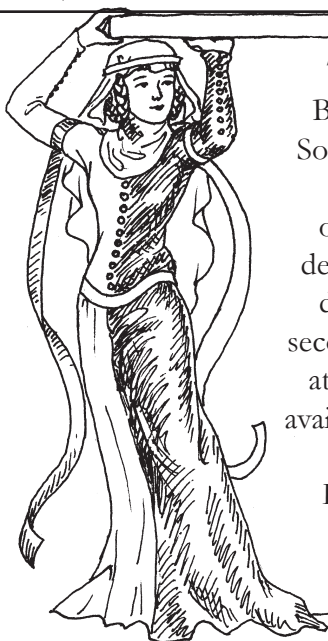
4-13 - Coronation {Cleftlands} [Cleveland, OH]

4-20 - Melees at the Mound {Dernhealde} [Athens, OH]

4-24 through 28 Blackstone Raids {Aethealmarc} [Charleston, WV]

Emerald Beast Prowls Again {Emerald Moors (Red Spears)} [Tiffin, OH]

Would you like your guild or household meeting or event posted here? Just get it to the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month!



The Forum is a publication of the Barony of the Cleftlands of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.. It is not a publication of the SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policy. Publication deadlines for *The Forum* are the second Wednesday of every month, at Baronial meeting. *The Forum* is available monthly at the last meeting of the month, and online at: [HTTP://cleftlands.cwru.edu/archive/forumissues.asp](http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/archive/forumissues.asp)

