



The newsletter of the Cleftlands, Vol. 2, March 2000

A Challenge Well Met!

A challenge was issued before the Oaken Arts and Sciences fair by the Baron and Baroness Middle Marches, claiming that no barony would be as well-represented at the fair as theirs. They went on further to state that the Cleftlands would not even be a contender, since we rarely sent more than one or two entries.

Stirred to defend our barony's reputation, many of us made the trip to Kenyon College in the Marche of Wind's Reach. Of the 80-odd entries at the fair, a full 25 were from Cleftlands, and many of those placed. Lady Angharad brought a selection of six sauces for the cooking competition, Aldamourise brought her gilt illumination and her armoring belt. Rober brought his many fine leather crafts, as well as the wooden carved bellows he had made for Nose Eldesar. The house's emblem was also seen on the glasswork table, embodied in the fine work of Lady Alex. Milesent and I brought three pieces of our garb; Lady Katherine ferch Rhyss entered her fine Italian Renaissance costume. Myfanwy entered the superb dagged cotehardie she had made for Maddog ap Nial, and Nial entered his fine mead. Although entered under her new group's name, our fair Sorcha did her parent group

proud with her Elizabethan bodice and illuminated dance book.

Several Cleftlanders also took part in the judging. I know Bronwyn was there - she judged me! And Myfanwy judged illumination. This humble chronicler could not pretend to notice every participant from our barony, but it was undoubtably the best showing of Cleftlanders at an A&S competition in recent memory. The coordinators of the event were well pleased with the turnout, especially with how many novice entries there were. Over half the entries at this year's fair were novices, showing a great infusion of fresh blood into the arts and sciences of our region.

The talents of the Oaken region were well represented at the fair, and the fine structure of the Kenyon college student center provided ample room for viewing and judging. There were smiles on the faces of the Cleftlands delegation as they gathered before the judging, proud and anxious to view the results. By chance, Milesent and I had our illumination supplies with us (we had intended to enter an illumination each, but had not finished them in time) and so the time before judging was spent playing with the paints. A napkin left on the table was carefully decorated by each

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Shall we Dance?

by Milesent

This month's featured dance is Rosti Bolli Jioso, an Italian dance whose name translates as "Roasted and boiled joyously", and it is! The steps are fairly simple (once you get past the weird Italian names for everything) and helped out a great deal by flirting up a storm. A very flirtatious dance indeed, Rosti Bolli is for a single couple though it is possible to have several couples dancing at once. Simply remember modern dance floors and try not to collide with each other.

The dance starts with our couple standing side by side, they turn towards each other for a slow reverence, or bow to each other, and then turn to face forward once more. A reprise is the next step, the couple takes a step to the left and then back to the right. The more proper version of the step is a little double step-cross-step, but a slower single step is easily substituted.

Well, now we're acquainted with each other, let's take a look from farther away. The man takes a single step, another and then two doubles away from his partner who stands and watches him, appraising his, eh hem, assets. A double is actually three steps, called a double

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Dance, Continued

because it takes twice as long as a single. So the man goes away with a step left, pause, step right, pause (the two singles) and then a step left, right, left, pause, right left right, pause (the two doubles) He ends by turning to face his partner again... if nothing else to make sure she's been watching him and not the other men in the room! The couple reprises again, both taking a step to their personal left and then back to the right.

Now the man comes back home, single, single, double double and turn about to take his old place at her side. Now, a lady is not to be trifled with and he did just leave her all alone here! So after another reprise (we're getting good at that by now) she walks away. A single, single, double, double and turn to face him. See, I can leave you at any time buster! But he's apologetic and does look awfully cute way over there so, after another reprise, our lady relents and returns to his side with a single, single, double, double and turn into place.

You guessed it, the next step is another reprise and now our couple travels forward together, single, single, double, double, double and then a volta tunda (fancy term for turn around in place). That was so much fun they do it again. Step left, pause, step right, pause, step left right left, pause, step right left right, pause, left right left turn in place.

Well now, that was fairly stately and proper, but we want to see if our partner's healthy. Let's do some saltarelli (my personal favorite, it's a quick three steps and a little hop or skip) left right left hop! Right left right hop! Hopping on the upbeat, whatever

that means. Sixteen of those total. I always loose count, but fortunately the music changes after sixteen so if you're listening you won't get lost. Whew! That was fun. Check to see if your partner's still there, they are? Okay, they're healthy. Catch your breath quickly because now comes the really fun part.

The lord does a movimenti, that's Italian for 'move' simply put just do some little show off move. You can Vogue, flutter your eyelashes, do a little hop, whatever you like. My favorite is a little shoulder shimmy that goes well with a 'hmfl' Noise. The woman responds with a movimenti of her own. So there. And the man, in a huff, steps a double away. Well, she certainly isn't going to let that be! The lady does a movimenti again, the lord, way up there three steps away responds with another movimenti and then the lady takes a double to get back to his side with a reproving glance for walking away from her like that. The couple bows to each other and the dance starts all over again from the top, this time with the woman moving first and the man chasing her.

The steps for quick reference:

Reprises left and right
Man 2 singles 2 doubles away, ending by facing partner

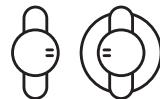
Reprises left and right
Man 2 singles 2 doubles back to partner, ending facing forward again.

Repeat with woman dancing man's part
Reprises left and right, 2 singles and 3 doubles together

Volta tunda (turn around)

Repeat
16 saltarelli (step step step Hop!)
Man movimenti, woman movimenti, man double away
Woman movimenti, man movimenti, woman double to join man.
Repeat entire dance with woman going first instead of man.

To begin Rosti Bolli:



1. Reverance



2. Repriza



3. 2 singles, 2 doubles away and turn.



4. Repriza separately



5. Return to place



6. Forward together

Dramatis Personae: *Aldermoureis Ventzke*

When I was looking for someone to consent to be interviewed for *The Forum*, it was not surprising that Alda was there. For years she's been a mainstay of our meetings, events, and demos. Most people know her as that lady in purple armor, but she was not always a fighter. When asked why she took up fighting, her response was simple: "So I'd have something to do at demos. You don't want to see me dance! Ask Aiden about teaching me *Road to the Isles*; it took hours!"

Despite her excruciating experience learning to dance and professed two left feet, Alda has actually led dancing at meeting, as well as at demos. When she started, dancing was her primary interest, and it was a year or so before she decided to fight. "I showed up one Wednesday night and said 'Hey, that fighting stuff... I want to do it!' Miles took me aside and told, 'You could get hurt.' I said 'so?' and the rest is history." Miles taking her aside was ironic, she said, for he had a knack for injuring himself frequently.

Actually, getting into armor was more natural for her than it sounds. "I've always been fascinated with building things, with seeing how they're put together."

Doing demos cured her of stage fright, and the SCA helped her self-confidence a great deal. "Doing SCA

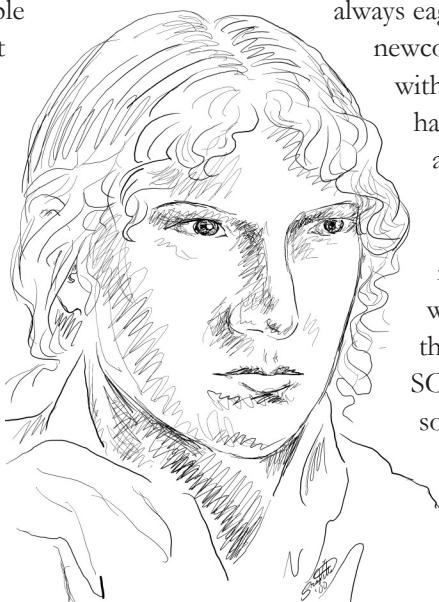
demos is a great thing if you're ever going to do consulting, learn what happens when everyone looks at you and you don't know the answer!"

This former Demo Coordinator is always eager to help newcomers, as well as filled with stories of those who have helped her. "I'm always trying new things. I'm not into the same things now in the SCA as I was when I started. That's the great thing about SCA; there's always something new to try."

Her interest in history drew her here, but since then has expanded and branched. She

took up illumination in 1994, reviving an old interest in calligraphy picked up in Explorer scouts. "I made lots of mistakes, then learned new skills and made all new mistakes." But it is for illumination she received her Willow. "The subject of Willows came up once, and I said 'I'll have earned a willow in two years, and get it in three' and Robért kept a straight face somehow knowing Laurelen was going to call me up the following Wednesday and give me the award!" She had actually been awarded the Order of the Willow at that Pennsic, but car trouble had kept her from attending.

Alda showed up to her first event in 1986, it was Cleftland's baronial championship. She was dressed in white, as Princess Leia, for a showing of the Star Wars Trilogy at CWRU's



Strosacker Auditorium. She was quickly ushered into gold key. "Gienvieve said 'here' and I think it was something that would have fit Gienvieve!" According to Alda, her interests were different then. "I made a lot more clothing when I was new, which is fortunate, since I'm still wearing them now.... I was in Eastwatch a while, serving as exchecquer (don't be too impressed, I was always late.) I was also into archery then."

Her advice to newcomers? If you see a craft you want to try, do it! "Someday you'll have silly stories of your own and if you're not careful, someone will write them down for *The Forum*!"

Arts, Continued

of the persons there, regardless of scribal ability, proving once again the artistic prowess of the Cleftlands.

A special hoobah to those who placed first or second in their categories. Most of the Cleftlands brought home a second place at least. These entries are eligible to compete on the kingdom level.

It was a fine moment for us, but there are far more talented people in the barony than were represented in Wind's Reach. For a chance to display your work to the populace outside our borders, to receive feedback from knowledgeable people in your craft, or simply to have fun talking with others who will see your work and want to know how you did it, do not be afraid to enter our regional arts and sciences fairs. Lord Karl is working on obtaining the submission criteria in book form. Remember, now is the time to start your projects for next year! I hope to see you all there!

Calendar

3-14-2000 - 3-19-2000

Gulf Wars

3-17-2000 St. Patrick's Day parade / demo 1pm.

3-19-2000 Weekly Archery meeting

3-22-2000 Regular Baronial Meeting, Shore Center, 9pm.

3-29-2000 Desert Revel and deadline for the April issue of the Forum.

4-1-2000 Grand Tournament of the Unicorn (Oxford, Ohio)

4-2-2000 Baronial Archery Championship at Lucas Archery. Garb required!

Shoot! Not those Archers Again!

Greetings unto the gentle populace of the Barony of Cleftlands! Exciting things have been happening unto the Cleftlands Archers Guild. First of all, the Guild has finally acquired several pieces of equipment to get you (yes, YOU!) started in the art of archery. Among these items are 3 bows, several arrows (some of which are in process of being made flightful), several tabs, armguards, a few gloves, and who knows what else? More will be coming in the following weeks. Now's the time to find out what archery is really about, and bring your good guffaws with you! You'll fit right in.....

Come and join us on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. at Lucas Archery in Willoughby Hills, and we'll get you started!

Also, the Guild has finally got a start on revising the charter. After several attempts, the Guild leadership decided to only torture the marshals and marshals-in-training with the task of revising this document. The first gathering was last Sunday at Arabica

in Willoughby, following practice. All comments are welcome to those who are updating the charter, and, in case you're not sure who to barrage with your helpful suggestions, they are; Lady Alyna Ducheze, Guild co-mistress, Lord Darius el-Wajid, Guild co-master, Lord Timothy, marshal in training, Lord Edward Brackenburye, another marshal in training and Baronial champion, and Lady Christiana des Belles Fleures, marshal in training. Also joining us Sunday was Lady Robin of the computer things.

Lastly, in addition to the winter challenge, a contest was held on February 13th, in honor of St. Valentine. Even our regional Archery Marshal, Lord Nigel FitzMaurice joined us from the Akron area. However, that day turned out a wee bit strange. Seems of all our cupid archers, Lord James Barkley won the challenge to become our Lord of Hearts, though, unfortunately, his consort turned out to be Lord Nigel. 'Tis a wonderful thing that we live in a tolerant Barony!

-by Christiania

