

The Skraeling Althing Chronicle

Warm Greetings unto our crafty populace from your Baron Giovanni and Baroness Lucia,

One of our biggest points of pride as we travel through both our kingdom and others is the quality and quantity of Arts & Sciences created by our artisans, scientists and crafts people. Our tailors, brewers, jewellers and other craftspeople are among the best the Knowne World. As we are always inspired to be in the presence of those who create the manifestations of our Society, we were very happy to attend the latest Kingdom Arts & Sciences tournament to present our works and share our knowledge with others.

Not only did many of the individual entries came from Skrael, but we had 4 members of the Barony enter the A&S pentathlon.

However, we are not a Barony to rest on our Laurels (no pun intended) but continue to work hard to create more and more artifacts.

Caldrithig has seen wonderful levels of attendance at it's many A&S gatherings with at least one having more than 50 attendees from all corners of the Barony. We have seen the return of a dance practice as well as more performances by their Choir and Instrumental group. There is also word that they may complete recordings. In Greyfells, they are starting a monthly hands-on classes with a Banner Making class scheduled for January. Tor Brant is working on a dance practice of their own. Harrowgate Heath is organizing A&S workshops to follow each of their monthly

Canton meetings.

Finally, our Skraeling Scribes are ensuring that there is no shortage of literate nobles in our fair Barony with meetings in all of our Cantons.

Should you feel the urge to make and create, we wish it to be know that in February one of the biggest A&S Events in the Kingdom will be taking place in Caldrihig. Our annual teaching event, Practicum, is a day of classes where the skilled teachers from our Barony and beyond share their knowledge. Many of them started on their path at this very event.

We encourage you to take advantage of the many resources in the Barony to try something new, and maybe write about it for the Chronicle



Haley's Comet by Grainne Fionn



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Upcoming Gatherings in the Barony

Practices and Meetings

Please contact the local group to confirm details about specific scheduled gatherings.

Caldrithig

Armoured Combat Practice - Wednesdays at 7 pm
 Rapier Practice - Thursdays at 8 pm
 Choir Practice - Sundays at 1:30 pm
 Canton Meetings - Second and fourth Sunday's of the month at 4 pm
 Instrumental Practices - Sundays at 12:00 pm

Greyfells

Canton Meetings (which often include A&S and other activities) are held from 2:00 to 6:00 pm every Sunday.
 Rapier Practice - Tuesdays at 7 pm

Harrowgate Heath

Canton Meetings - First Sunday of the month
 A&S Days - Scribal nights - 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of every month
 Armouring & General A&S - 7:30 to 9:30 pm every Monday
 Armoured Combat Practice - Thursdays at 7 pm
 Archery - Schedule varies month to month
 Dance Practice - Schedule varies month to month

Tor Brant

Gatherings vary from month to month. Please contact the group to confirm the next scheduled activity.



Local Seneschals

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Weaving with Linen

The Honourable Lady Catherine Townson

I recently finished a large weaving project. I wove 9 yards of plainweave (tabby) using a #10 tow linen single yarn. The fabric was 25" wide and set at 25 warp ends per inch. I used a modern countermarche loom, but this does not differ too much from the early horizontal looms of Europe. The fabric will be sewn into a Norse underdress.

This project is the first time I had done any weaving with linen, and I thought I would share a few tips from what I learned. For those of you that warned me it would be different from weaving with wool or cotton, boy were you right!

- Linen hates friction. The thread itself is very strong, but even a little friction can cause it to snap.
- Make sure no threads overlap when winding the warp. Even this little thing can cause friction in the warp.

- Sizing really helps. I used flax seeds simmered in water, and the resulting liquid felt a lot like runny hair gel. Compared to my un-sized sample piece, I didn't have nearly the fraying issues I expected. In fact, my only broken warp threads were caused by 'act of cat'.

- Linen is inelastic. Once stretched it will not go back to its original shape. This made keeping tension difficult, especially due to my unusual, but not unexpected, stretching issues. I found that leaving the lease sticks¹ in the back helped even out the tension.

If I had to do another long linen yardage, I would add a second set of lease sticks and use all four instead of just two. I also ended up dangling weights on individual threads that stretched in order to keep tension.

- Moisture matters. Linen yarn loves humidity.



Part way through the weaving, I started using a spray bottle to mist the warp, keeping it damp as I wove. It behaved much better while damp.

- Sample! I can't stress this one enough. Finished and unfinished linen look completely different. You won't know what the final project will look like until it is wet finished. My linen fresh off the loom looked and felt like a stiff, very coarse, sheer, netting.

After running it through the washing machine once or twice, it softened into a much nicer fabric (and was not nearly so sheer). My first sample was set at 30 warp threads per inch, and turned out to be a much heavier fabric than I wanted (it felt a lot like canvas). Resampling at 25 ends per inch gave me much nicer material for clothing.

Without this sampling process, I might have woven a lot of material that was not what I wanted.

Hopefully, these tips will help other people interested in weaving linen. And remember, no matter how hard you plan, something unexpected will occur.

Footnote 1: Lease sticks are rods inserted during the warping process to maintain the cross

and help preserve the order of the threads. The threads run over and under them, so they can provide additional tensioning.

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1610 Rose Cakes

As prepared by Lady Eluned verch Angor

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon mace
1/4 cup rose syrup (or 1 teaspoon rose water mixed with 3 tablespoons honey & 1 tablespoon water)
2 tablespoons cream
2 large egg yolks
2 cups pastry flour
2 tablespoons crushed candied rose petals (optional)

1. Using an electric mixer on med. speed, cream butter, sugar, mace and 2 tbsp of rose syrup. And the cream until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolks one at a time, mixing well. Add flour 1 cup at a time, mixing until just blended.

2. Oven to 350F. Use a cookie press or drop spoonfuls of dough onto a well buttered non-stick cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes. Brush the hot cookies with remaining rose syrup and sprinkle with rose petals.

What I did differently

Firstly, I used the honey and rosewater mix. I didn't butter the pans, but lined my good cookie sheets with parchment paper. I also have no candied rose petals.

I rolled them into balls and flattened them.

Dropping off the spoon just made a lump :P They don't rise much at all (I was wondering how they would turn out with no rising agent in the recipe.

Overall I think they turned out well. They don't taste like soap. I find most things with rose water taste like they should really be in the soap dish at my grandmother's.

I also doubled the recipe and made two batches. In total, 140 cookies.

The original recipe can be found in: Shakespeare's Kitchen: Renaissance Recipes for the Contemporary Cook by Francine Segan Random House 2003 ISBN 0-375-50917-8





Farewell from the Baronial Seneschal

From The Honourable Lady Constance of Caldrithig

Greetings Skrealings

As many of you may know, my two year term as Baronial Seneschal was up at Feast of the Hare.

It has been my pleasure to watch the Barony grow stronger and closer over the last two years. I am truly proud of our people and of all their accomplishments.

I am now passing the keys over to a very capable man, Lord Nathaniel. He is contentious and loyal, and I'm positive he'll do a fine job of guiding the Barony through the next two years, and the upcoming Baronial Selection.

As I bid you farewell, I ask that you give Lord Nathaniel the same support and confidence that I have I have benefitted from.

In Service to the Hare

THL Constance



Illustrations by: Lady Alais Innocenti de Poitiers

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Kingdom Arts & Sciences

This November the Artisans of Ealdormere gathered to show and share their skills and talents. Many people of Skrael travelled to be there for the day and others sent their works in the hands of others. One of the anticipated traditions of Ealdormere's Kingdom A&S is the Pentathlon. Artisans work through the year towards presenting a body of work consisting of 5 items that represent a range of the categories of our A&S. There were 7 adult entries this year and 2 child entries. Of these, 3 of that adults hailed from our Barony and 1 child entry was also from Skraeling Althing.

There was no doubt of the skills and talents of these Four.

The entrants and their works were:

Alienor la Fileuse

Research paper about extant wool and what substitutes we can use.

Knitted stockings

Coppergate shoes

Soapstone spindles

Tablet-woven band involving -spinning, dyeing, and weaving

Dubhease ingen Laoidheach

Bardic recitation

Harp performance

Black work embroidery

Cheese making Naalbound hat

Giovanni de Enzinas

Carved Wooden Spoon.

A Blank Leather Bound Book.

A Cast Pewter Ring.

An Iron S- Hook

Simple Inkle Woven Trim

Grainne Fionn

Bardic recitation - How Robin Hood became an outlaw

Recorder performance - Greensleaves

Embroidery - Bayeux tapestry stitch

Drawing

Cooking - apple tart

Their Royal Majesties, Roak and Elizabeth were pleased to offer the role of our Kingdom's A&S Champion to Lady Bethoc ingen MaelFechin. Her work at the creation of a 14th Century Physic was extensive and the items she created from that garden impressed many.

However, there were also artisans from the various categories recognized. The most notable from Skraeling Althing was 10 year old Fionn and the Apple Tart she prepared. Not only was the tart very much enjoyed by the judges but they were impressed with her documentation as well. They recognized her work as the best in her category. Wassail Grainne!