

The Bard's Banner

Spring
AS XLVII



... and with the return of the Sun comes a quickening o' the Green...

The Bard's Banner; Issue 11

Spring AS XLVI (2012)

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<http://tirbannog.tirrigh.org>

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The *Bard's Banner* is published (hopefully) 4 times per year, on a seasonal schedule. It is a publication of the Shire of Tir Bannog, in the Principality of Tir Righ, Kingdom of An Tir, of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the SCA, nor does it delineate SCA policy.

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This publication shall recognize those that submit articles, photos, etc. You won't be paid for your submission, but you will have the thanks of myself and our readers.

If you find you need to contact me over something herein, please send an email to: kj4mill@telus.net

Lastly, this publication is meant for the enjoyment of all; share it amongst yourselves and your friends. At the end of the day, if I've made someone smile, I've done my job.

-Piers Lakewood (Kevin Miller)

WELCOME!



(Ready to fight despite the chill still in the air...)

It begins slowly in the North. At first, you hardly feel it; a breeze that slides over your skin, not quite as cold as they have felt all winter. An early morning, where you think, "Gee, it seems lighter than usual already today." Then you notice the larger changes. The snowpack that is your yard seems smaller than yesterday. You're able to unbutton your parka and *you don't even freeze!* That's when it finally hits you: Spring is here!

As I write this, the last vestiges of winter are draining away. All but the most stubborn of snow piles are history, the grass is showing signs of green, and you can dig into the ground without breaking your wrists! Precipitation now comes in the form of rain, and another day or two of sunshine will surely bring the budding leaves to our trees. And like the rest of the land, those of us who live here are reawakening, the blood quickening in our veins, and our thoughts turning once again to competition and War...

Welcome to the eleventh issue of The Bard's Banner! Once again the cold of winter and hazards of travel kept us from participating in some of the events scattered around our Principality, but it does not mean we were completely idle. The long nights are a perfect time to finish off that A&S project you've been looking at for sometime, so in this issue we look at some of the projects our friends and family have been hard at work on, and Lady Alys gives us a simple project you can do yourself!



(One of many of Lady Alys' projects...)

In addition, Wlfryd brings us part 3 of the Fields of Gold Educational Centre history, and Tawl gives us his thoughts on another book or 3 in his Book Nook.

Hopefully this issue will stir the blood, rekindle the desires and enliven your spring, bringing you out of hibernation and back onto the fields of battle.

Enjoy!

THE HISTORY OF FOGEC PT.3

by HL Wlfryd of Leedes



(The Saxon Hut)

Although the Saxon platform, located in Wlf's Court, was built for the second Fields of Gold the hut wasn't completed until 2006.

Accommodations for Tawl and Betha, wealthy tin merchants from Cornwall, the Saxon Hut was built by Tawl and Wlfryd using period techniques and construction methods. Hops and ivy grow around the Saxon Hut. Tawl hopes to thatch the roof at some time in the future.



(Wlfryd's Wine Shoppe)

The wine shop, located at the top of Wlf's Court, went from concept to finished in five days. We excavated three locations on one weekend in August 2006. The first hole was for the Wine Shop, the second for the Scottish Stone Croft and the last was for the Bjorki House or Norse Sod House.

Wlfryd did all of the work on his wine shop sinking a sump beneath the floor, framing the floor, four walls, the roof and the interior counter. The Walls were sheeted and painted and the sink installed to drain into the sump. The water barrel out back was framed, and the plumbing installed. The first wine produced in the shop was in 2009 for Bill and Lisa's wedding. Since then the vineyard has produced some grapes and the wine shop bottles about 10 gallons of wine each year. The wine shop has also included root beer making as a Children's activity.

The vineyard had 2 current bushes added to the eight grape vines in 2010. Over previous years there have been oaks, maples, hazelnuts, firs, and cedar bushes added to the indigenous fauna. In 2011 we planted over 220 Spruce, Pine and Fir seedlings, purchased and donated by Ogre.



(Scottish Stone Croft)

We excavated three locations on one weekend in August 2006. The first hole was for the wine shop, the second for the Scottish Stone Croft and the last was for the Bjorki House or Norse Sod House. The Scottish Stone Croft is located on High Street.

This property was originally owned by Callum McCallum, but was foreclosed on by the Board of Governors in 2010 when Callum entered active service with the Canadian Armed Forces. His brother Maxmillian took over the property at the bequest of Tawl. Since that time the floor has been leveled and a cold storage pit has been sunk.

The summer of 2012 will see Rhiannon and Sara begin renovating and redesigning the Scottish Stone Croft into a site building to be used for cold storage.

AN A&S INTERLUDE...

One of the greatest strengths of the SCA as a club/hobby/lifestyle is that it has something to appeal to almost anyone. For some it's the call of combat, whether it be the brute force of the Heavy fighter, the speed and finesse of the rapier, or the thrill of taking down your foe from afar via combat archery. Many people enjoy the chance to dress in finery

from bygone times; others enjoy the atmosphere of a well laid out feast. And for those who gain great pleasure from making with their own hands, the Arts & Sciences beckon.

The Arts & Sciences encompasses a huge variety of projects. From dissertations on the meaning of Life to essays on Philosophy, from the making of beads to the building of a period suit of armour, almost anyone can find something to make and display. For those who may have looked before, but haven't quite jumped in yet, here's a few projects some of our friends and neighbours have done.

From Lady Medb:



(Medb's amazing wire work)

"This first one is a brass shrew made for Her Ladyship Rhiannon of Shrewsbury; it's made from 20 & 28 gauge non-tarnish brass wire, with an amethyst bead for the eye. It probably took about 8 hours or so."

"The second piece is commission work for the most lovely Viscountess Natal'ia Volkovicha. They are Temple Rings made from Silver 20 & 24 gauge wire, with silver beads (all provided by Natal'ia). They are based on examples from 12th & 13th century Kievan Rus finds!"



(The Temple Rings, by Lady Medb)

From Lady Hjordis:

"Viking Wire Weaving consists of chains that are made from long pieces of wire (8'-12') that are worked by hand into interconnecting loops. The raw chain is woven around a form (Allen wrenches or dowels) and is then pulled through holes in a wooden drawplate to tighten the weave and make the chain.



(Sample One of Hjordis' work...)

The ends of each chain are finished by hand-coiling a heavier gauge wire and I usually add purchased ends. There is single knit, double and triple knit weaves. Generally I do single knit weaves and put two together as you can see two different colors in the picture and I use anywhere from 22 to 26 gauge wire. When I first started I used 26 as it is easier to bend; however, after some practice I like to have a little stiffer project and have been using 24 and 22 gauge wire."



(...and a stunning Sample Two!)

From Lady Alys:

A project for children (both young and young at heart!)

"A woman from the Elizabethan upper class or nobility would often carry a carry a pomander hanging from her girdle (belt). "Pomanders were pierced metal balls with scent inside, or a dried orange or lemon studded with cloves and placed in an embroidered or jeweled velvet covering. They were used to keep away "bad airs" which they thought carried diseased. In a time when people seldom bathed and streets were an open sewer, they might not have

been far wrong." From "Elizabethan Costuming for the years 1550 -1580 by Janet Winter & Carolyn Savoy.

Making a pomander is an easy and authentic arts and science project! All you need is:

a fresh orange or lemon
whole cloves (one small spice jar of cloves per orange or lemon)

A wood skewer (an adult may want to help with the skewer)

A small cloth bag with a drawstring

Pierce the skin of the orange or lemon with the pointed end of the skewer, then push the pointed end of the clove into the orange or lemon. Stud the orange or lemon all over with cloves; the more cloves in your orange or lemon, the better it will smell (and dry).

Put the studded orange or lemon aside in a dry, well ventilated place. The orange or lemon will start to look dark brown and hard in about one to two weeks. Once it is dried completely, it is ready to put into a bag.



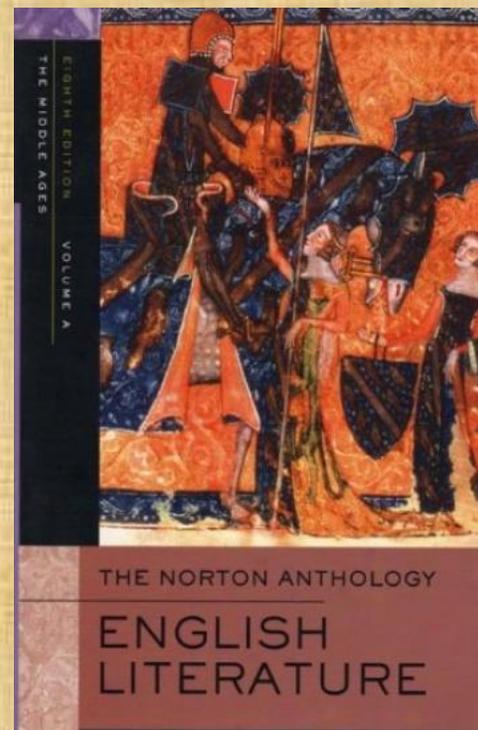
(A Lemon Pomander hanging up to dry)

The cloth bag can be made of any fabric. For best effect, make a velvet or embroidered (real or fake) bag. The sewing challenged should not despair! Often gauze bags can be found at dollar stores or anywhere selling wedding favor supplies. Stores selling dice based games (i.e., Dungeons and Dragons) will often carry velvet dice bags suitable for your pomander!"

THE BOOK NOOK

By Tewel Gover

*The Norton Anthology: English Literature
Volume A*



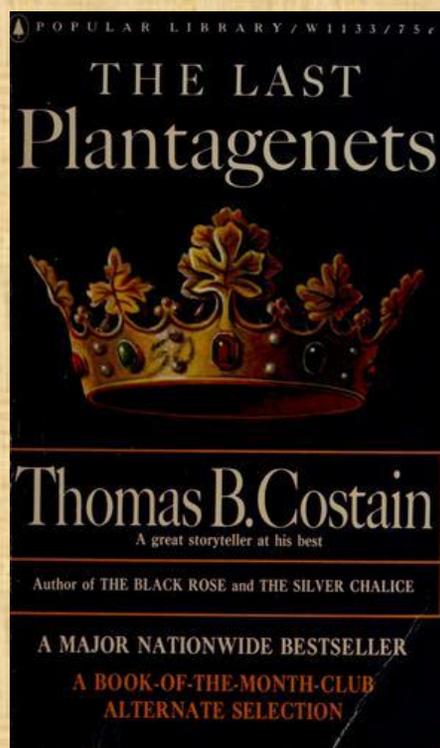
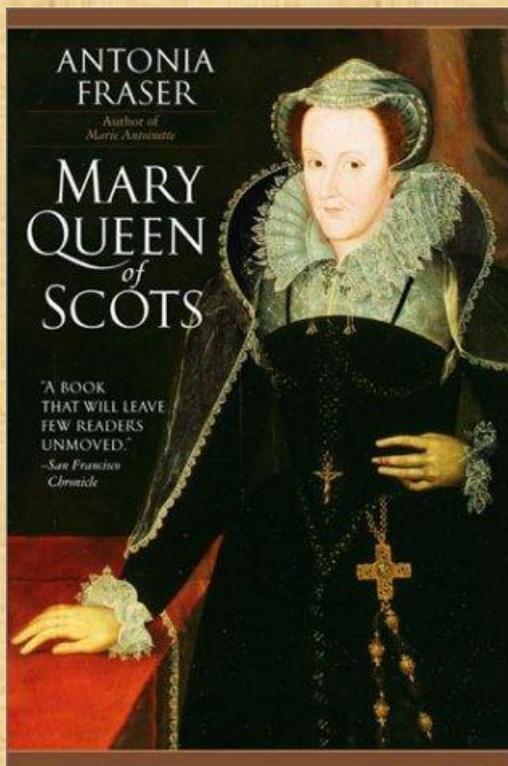
This is a scholarly book dealing with major authors from the middle ages through the 18th century. It not only has some of the most important authors of the times, but also goes into the changes in the language and society of the British Isles. If you are just interested in a sampling of poetry and prose you will

be missing out a lot of what this book has to offer. There are almost four pages of instruction and commentary on Beowulf before we get to the saga itself. Geoffrey of Monmouth, Chaucer, Malory, Wyatt, Elizabeth I, Spenser, Marlow, Shakespeare, and Donne are just some of the authors represented in this book. I have so far only sampled this book as I fear that if I allowed myself to seriously get into it, days would pass before food, water or sleep would drag me from it's grasp.

tried to rule. The plots and counterplots that surrounded her are hard to keep track of at times but this book does an excellent job. Far from the cruel, violent ruler she is often represented as, this book shows the noble caring woman and queen that was beset by the worst political maneuvering of the day. All in all an excellent example of the truth being much more interesting than fiction.

The Last Plantagenets by Thomas B. Costain

Mary Queen of Scots, by Antonia Fraser



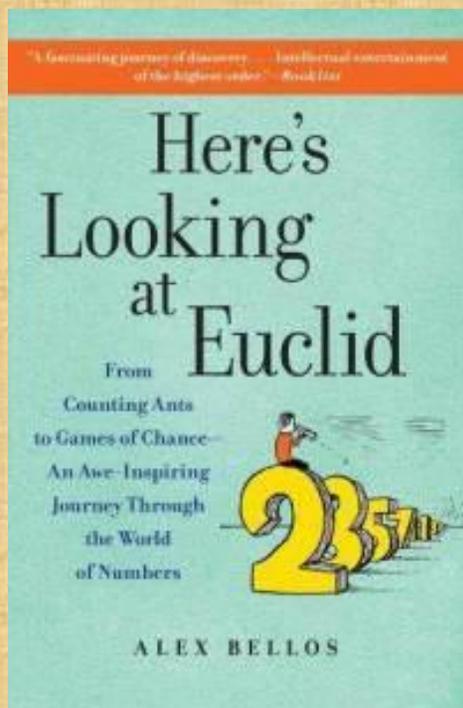
Anyone familiar with the works of Antonia Fraser know that she weaves the facts into an extremely interesting story. This book is no different. The story of Mary is a sad one, used as a bargaining chip and sent to France as a young girl, she grew up far from her home and people. This was to affect her connections with the Scots when she did return and

The fourth book in what was originally intended to be a history of England, this book covers the last half of the 1300's through to the end of the 1400's. This is centered on Richard, the second son of Edward the Black Prince, but also tries to uncover the gaps and mysteries of this poorly represented period of History. Like many of the books that center on the major historical figures, this is more story than recitation of dates and places. It carries you along through the days and nights of the times and allows you to feel that you have a connection to the battles, politics, plots and day to day life. One of the

most fascinating portions of this book is the attempt to find and show the truth of 'The Two Princes'. I now have the first and last of the books in this series and am always on the look-out for the others.

FROM LADY ALYS' LIBRARY

Here's Looking at Euclid by Alex Bellos



"From counting ants to games of chance – an awe inspiring journey through the world of numbers." This is a book that would not normally jump to the top of a search list of medieval themes, and yet, it has been a surprisingly relevant read to anyone interested in the time period of 600 to 1600 AD.

The book is divided into 12 chapters, each a stand-alone topic with a different perspective of numbers. Chapters include where numbers come from, different numbering systems, mental math, angles and

origami and much, much more! Information provided mixes modern events with medieval and ancient facts to present a fascinating look at how the history of numbers continues to influence our lives every day, whether we realize it or not. Numbers in many different cultures and times are examined, and linked together. This allows for intriguing groupings of concepts. For example, Chapter 3 uses modern numerology, ancient Greek mathematicians, Muslim art, and origami to explore the concept of angles.

My personal favorite is the following line: "In Lincolnshire, England, during medieval times, a *pimp* plus a *dik* got you a *bumfit*." No, the author is not being obscene; rather, describing a counting system used by shepherds who could only count to 20.

Throughout the book, I have been pleasantly surprised at how much I was learning, and how it has sparked my interest in learning more about medieval math. The book is available both in paper and e-reader (Kobo) formats. The only caution I would suggest is that this book is best taken in small bites. Some of the concepts are challenging to understand and take some time to understand. Definitely a recommended read!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Champions (Cold Keep)

May 12, 2012, Prince George, BC

The snows are a distant memory and as the seasons renew, the Shire of Cold Keep invites you to their annual May Champions! Come compete for the honour of becoming the newest Champion of Archery, Rapier, Heavy or Arts & Sciences.

The site will be open from 8am until 11:30pm. This is a discretely dry site.

Further detail and championship requirements can be found on the Cold Keep website: <http://www.avacal-sca.org/coldkeep/>

Site fee is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12, children under 5 free:
(The \$5 non-member surcharge applies)

Make cheques payable to "Shire of Cold Keep".

Feast fee is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12, children under 5 free. The feast is by PREPAID reservation only. For feast reservations, please contact HE Natal'ia at [Natalia\(dot\)Volkovicha\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:Natalia(dot)Volkovicha(at)gmail(dot)com).

Champions Schedule (subject to change at the discretion of TRM and HRM):

8am - Site opens
8:30 - Archery inspections begin - range open (pending availability of a marshal)
9:00 - Archery tournament begins
9:30 - Arts & Sciences tournament opens
11:00 - Archery tournament ends
 - Rapier inspections begin
11:30 - Rapier tournament begins

12:30 - Rapier tournament ends
 - Heavy inspections begin
1:00 - Heavy tournament begins
3:00 - Heavy tournament ends
5:30 - Feast begins
7:00 - Court

Autocrats:

HL Elena Bobrovnikova and HL D'mitri Kozhevnikov
[smckaymackay\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:smckaymackay(at)gmail(dot)com) or by phone at 250-563-4811 (no phone calls after 9pm).

Site Info:

Name: Miworth Community Hall
13510 Flint Road
Prince George, BC V2M 7C1

Directions to Site:

The event is at the Miworth Community Hall at 13510 Flint Road, Prince George, BC, V2M 7B9. Make your best way on Highway 97 (the Bypass) to 5th Avenue. Turn west onto 5th Avenue and follow it to Foothills Boulevard. Turn north onto Foothills, and continue to Otway Road (just before the bridge). Turn east onto Otway Road and continue 11 kms to Flint Road. Note the road crosses the railway tracks three times before you reach the site. SCA signs will be posted.

Tir Righ Avacal War

June 22—June 24, 2012, Clearbrook, BC

Please join Their Majesties and Their Highnesses as the forces of Avacal & Tir Righ meet upon the war field!

Site Opens at 4pm Friday and closes at 5pm Sunday.

Activities will include:

War: Heavy, Combat Archery, Rapier, Target Archery & Thrown Weapons, A&S Classes & Challenges, Youth Activities.

Site:

Trophy Mountain Buffalo Ranch
4373 Clearwater Valley Road,
Clearwater, British Columbia
VOE 1N0

Directions to site -

GPS: N 51° 48.945'
W 120° 1.895'

Make your best way to Clearwater BC. When you reach Clearwater, turn at the Clearwater Tourist Information Centre onto Clearwater Valley Road. Follow this road for 20 kilometers and you will find us on the left hand side of the road. The ranch is half way between the town of Clearwater and the Wells Gray Park entrance.

Site fee:

Adults \$20

Youth (13-18 yrs.) \$10

Children 12 & under free

Family cap of \$55 (modern family, 2 adults + kids)

A NMS of \$5/person will apply for adults who are unable to produce written proof of valid SCA membership.

Please make cheques payable to "SCA-Avacal"

Fields of Gold (Tir Bannog)

July 6-8th, 2012, Quick, BC

Event Schedule:

Friday:

Site Opens at 4:00

Meet and greet, Inn providing Dinner

8:00 - Exchange of keys, Event Steward

Announcements

Saturday:

7:30 Inn will provide Muffins and Coffee for breakfast

Contact Rhiannon of Shrewsbury

(rhianna_the_shrew@yahoo.ca) for more information.

9:00 Lists Open (Heavy and Rapier), Armour inspection

9:30 Heavy Tourney

11:00 Armour inspection - Rapier

11:30 Rapier tourney

1:00 Helm Auction (Please see details below)

2:00 Midsummer Rose and Gallant Thorn competition (Please see details below).

2:30 Scheduled Nap time for children (and adults if you like) Shhh.

3:00 Children's Activities (See details below).

6:00 Potluck Dinner (See details below).

7:00 Site wide tidy.

7:30 Dessert

8:00 Story-time for children, and Site tour (Adults only)

9:00 Bardic hosted by Finn

Sunday:

9:00 Tir Bannog Breakfast

10:00 Archery Tourney

12:00 Site officially closes

1:00 Royal Round

Helm Auction: This year we are returning to the traditional format of our good lords creating the helm lunches. Last year we had an awesome turnout of ladies bringing baskets, Lords I challenge you to bring more than the ladies of last year.

MidSummer Rose and Gallant Thorn: Competition parameters have yet to be announced.

Children's Activities: The children's activities will begin at the Bardic Pit with the telling of Stone soup, and children will make a stone soup for their potluck contribution. Parents, please have a vegetable or root vegetable (for each child) cut up for the event. Centers to follow should include: embroidery, stick weaving, trim making, hobby horses, making butter and a scavenger hunt (three different levels based on ages). Children's Activities are subject to a cost. Further details to follow. If your child is interested in making a Hobby Horse, please let Lady Gwyn (lisa.c.price@gmail.com) know soon, so we can make sure the hobby horse is available.

Potluck Dinner: This year the event steward team has decided to spread out the dishes of the potluck. Please see the list below so you know what type of dish you should try to bring. (Please remember the children are making stone soup, but adults we still need your help too).

Tir Bannog (Smithers) – Meat Dishes

Boar Mountain (Burns Lake) – Veggies / Cheese

Cold Keep (Prince George) – Fruit / Dessert

Cae Mor (Kitimat / Terrace) – Fruit / Dessert

Shires Beyond (Anywhere else)– Buns / Breads

We have organized this based on most easy to travel with, and accessibility. Thank you for your cooperation.



A WHAT?!? (BY LADY ALYS)

A zibellino, flea-fur or fur tippet is a women's fashion accessory popular in the later 15th and 16th centuries. A zibellino, from the Italian word for "sable", is the pelt of a sable or marten worn draped at the neck or hanging at the waist, or carried in the hand. The plural is *zibellini*. Some zibellini were fitted with faces and paws of goldsmith's work with jeweled eyes and pearl earrings, while unadorned furs were also fashionable.^{[1][2][3]} From <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zibellino>