



The Drekar

Newsletter of the Barony of Storvik



August Edition 2006

Business Meeting - 7/9/2006

In attendance (we didn't pass a list, so this is by memory. Sorry if I forgot someone): Gaspar Marti, Beatrix Von Leipzig, Gregor Von Leipzig, Lina of Storvik, Arianna of Storvik, Johanna, Baron Sean, Baroness Bess, Ynes Garcia, Llyr Windhaven, William the Younger, Janina Krakowska, Patricia, others.

Officer Reports:

Deputy Seneschal: Gregor Von Leipzig officially resigns post

Marshall: Saved \$600 on the resigning of the contract with the church for fighter practice. Gave up last 1/2 of time which we have never used. There -will- be fighter practice the day after Pennsic. There -will not- be fighter practice during the two weeks of Pennsic.

Arts & Sciences: 15 entries at Novice; some displays; 2 entries in the junior division. The comment books we made worked out well for Novice. MOTION: Allow Janina to spend whatever she feels necessary on leather at Pennsic. CARRIED. Probably will have A&S night this month. If so, it'll be sewing for Pennsic preparation

Chatelain: We need to inventory garb. Probably some Sunday before baronial birthday. MOTION: \$30 for Takoma Park Demo registration. CARRIED. Big discussion

about how to deal with Known World Handbooks

loaned to newcomers. Will need to find a deputy chatelaine to be librarian. Look into how much it'd cost to get a Barony of Storvik stamp for marking our library/loaner garb.

Herald: No monthly business. Haven't gotten letter of acceptances/returns from SCA yet. Also not sure if some stuff from Kingdom actually got sent on. Ask Beatrix if you tried to submit something in the last six months.

Baronial

- Novice was a FABULOUS EVENT! Yay Storvik! (NOTE: We decided that with 400+ attendees, it was a kingdom level event and, as such, we should declare our independence and become the principality of Storvik!) Don't currently have a Storvik court planned at Pennsic. If the royals ask, then we will have one (they didn't make it to Novice). Will probably have the rescheduled B&B@Home/Newcomer's night the Wednesday before Pennsic.

Events:

Post-Pennsic Revel: Have trolls. Minister of Minors talking about having some children's activities. There will be baronial court at PPR. Looking for someone to oversee food (not cooking; people will be bringing it)

Next month: Informal phone meeting. Officers should expect a call from Llyr.

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Kingdom & Local Events

August 4-20
Pennisic War XXXV
Coopers Lake Campground

August 26
Storvik Post Pennsic Revel
Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, 3215 Powder Mill Rd., Adelphi, MD 20783

See inside for the event flyer...

Territorial Baronage of Storvik

Baron Sean de la Mare & Baroness Elizabeth Harlyn

John & Christy Dollymore, 4710 Tecumseh Street, College Park, MD 20740

(301) 982-2060 (no calls after 9pm)

baron@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

baroness@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Hello Storvik!

Many thanks to all who participated in our Glorious Novice and Unbelt tourney! A record crowd this year! Vivant to all who were involved!

As Pennsic quickly approaches, many of us are knee deep in sewing, building, figuring out packing! We will do the best we can to visit all our Storvikki at War. Please let us know if you request our presence for special events. Storvik is decorating the Atlantian Populace pavilion on the battlefield at Pennsic again this year. We will let you know as soon as we do when that will be. Last year it was toward the end of the first week. At this point there is not a Baronial Court scheduled during War. Again, if this changes we will let you all know. Opening ceremonies on Sunday of War Week... we would love to have as many of you as possible there. We have a lot of very cool banners to show off and need folks to carry them. We will muster at Atlantian Royal to process with the rest of the Kingdom. We will let you all know what time once we get there.

Upon return from War, Saturday August 26, Storvik will again host Post Pennsic Revel.

Site: Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, 3215 Powder Mill Rd., Adelphi, MD 20783. The site will open at 4:00 p.m. and close at 11:00 p.m.

We will have a court at that event! For those not going to Pennsic please contact the Autocrat Patricia of Trakai at patoodle@aol.com and help her out!

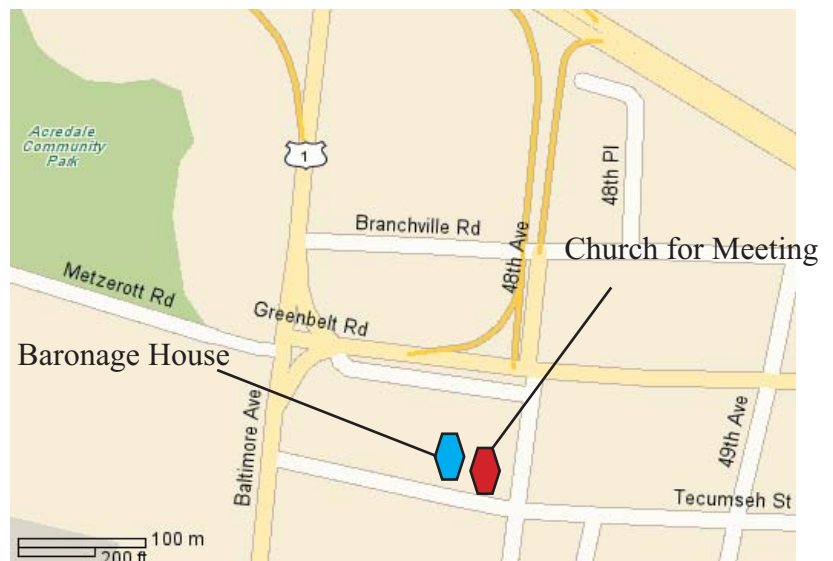
Many thanks again for all the hard work that you ALL did to make out Novice/Unbelt Tourney's such a huge success.

We are proud to represent you all.

Baron Sean and Baroness Elizabeth
Storvik, Kingdom of Atlantia

B aronial Champions
Heavy Weapons Joselin d'Outremer
Rapier Lord Alastair Clark Bowman
Archery Gregor Von Liepzig
Bardic Elishabeth of Roxbury Mill
Arts & Sciences Baroness Catherine Matthews
Equestrian Ethelfleda Davidsdottir

Map to the Baronage's Home and the Monthly Meeting Site...



Officers of the Barony of Storvik

Seneschal

Update pending
Acting Seneschal
Lord Llyr Wyndhaven
Llyr@hotmail.com
(301) 422-8234

Deputy Seneschal
Gregor Von Lepzig
dragnar1@hotmail.com

Minister of Arts & Sciences

HLdy Janina Krakowska z Cambion
Joanna M. Dionne
5416 Lakeford Lane
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ggoose@radix.net

Chatelaine/Gold Key

Gaspar Marti
Joshua Polin-Goldenne
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Greenbelt, MD 20770
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chatelaine@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Chronicler

Lord Magnus McKinley (Ric Loll)
8816 Patricia Ct., College Park, MD
20740, (202) 465-2940
chronicler@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Chronicler
Lord Arbogast of Dienenhofen
Bruce C. Miller

Herald

Storvik Cornet
Lady Beatrix Von Leipzig
herald@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Herald
Lady Patricia of Trakai
Patty Daukantas
(301) 486-1949
patoodle@aol.com

Exchequer

Lady Ariana
Sarah Buchanan
8764 Old Colony Way
Alexandria, VA 22309
(202) 744-8467
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Deputy Exchequer
Sir Gauss Magnusson (Bob Steele)
robertsteele@starpower.net

Minister of Minors

Ysabel (Katherine Matthews)
(301) 435-0849
mom@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Baronial Trouble-Maker

HLrd Pagan Grendel
Craig Humfelt
2841 Subtle Lane
Fairfax, VA 22031
bluestone7@aol.com

Knight Marshal

Youth Combat Marshal

Lord William the Younger
William Stanton
2933 Craiglawn Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
knightmarshal@storvik.atlantia.sca.org
youthmarshal@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Archery Marshall

Update pending

Baronial Warlord

Lord Finn O'Donovan
warlord@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Minister of the Lists

HLrd Stefan of Cambion (Steve Kiefert)
9704 Beechwood Drive
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(301)731-0673

Deputy Minister of the Lists
Dame Brenna of Storvik
BrennaSCA@erols.com

Web Minister

Lady Serena de la Mar
Chrissy Rey-Drapeau
webminister@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Web Minister
HLrd Pagan Grendel (Craig Humfelt)
bluestone7@aol.com

Activities of the Barony

Archery Practice: Saturday: 9:30pm (weather and events permitting) at Adelphi Park. Adelphi Park is in Adelphi, Maryland (near College Park). The Archery Range is off HWY 193 (University Blvd) between Riggs Road and Adelphi Road.

Sunday: 10 am to noon (weather permitting) at Rock Creek Park near Lake Needwood. Directions—Take Rt. 355 (Rockville Pike) to Redland Rd. (If you went south on 355, take a Left onto Redland, if you went north on 355 to get there, take a right onto Redland Rd). From Redland Rd. going North (which runs past Shady Grove Metro) take a right onto Needwood Rd. (traffic light) to the entrance to Lake Needwood on the right (just after going over a bridge, look for the brown park sign). From the road the archery range is down to the left and parking is on the right.

Storvik Archery E-mail List: This list is for archers and crossbowmen within and near the Barony of Storvik that wish to learn about as well as participate in medieval archery. We welcome all those who are interested in the ancient art of archery and old enough to hold a bow. Join the list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/storvikarchery>

Armoring Session: Fourth Sunday: 2pm at Finn's (finn67@yahoo.com) or William's (wstanton@bellatlantic.net) abode. Monitor the Storvik e-mail list or write for details.

Arts & Sciences Social: Second Friday: 7:00pm—For location, directions, and subject matter contact Janina at ggoose@radix.net or check the Storvik list for this information.

Bardic Night is on hiatus Contact Teleri Barod at (301)-982-3363 for information on other local practices.

Baronial At Home/Newcomers' Social: First Wednesday: 7:00-10:00pm—At Their Excellencies' house, 4710 Tecumseh St., College Park, MD 20740. Phone (301) 982-2060 (No calls after 9:00 PM) or e-mail at dollymore@comcast.net for more info.

Business Meeting For The Glorious Barony Of Storvik: Second Sunday: 7:00pm—College Park Church of God, 8800 48th Ave, College Park, MD 20740, in the basement (See map, page 3.) This meeting is held to discuss

progress of projects, event & activity planning, and to present officer reports. The meetings are open to anyone and members of the populace are strongly encouraged to attend. Meetings are occasionally followed by social or A&S moments

Baronial Populace E-mail List: There exists an e-mail list to discuss upcoming events, coordinate carpooling, announce last minute changes and provide a general chatter function. To join go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/storvik>. New member's posts are moderated to reduce spam. You'll get full rights after a few intelligible posts.

Brewing: Quarterly meetings of the Northern Inter-Baronial Brewers Guild (NIBBG) vary in date and location. The next meeting will be Saturday, June 24th at Magnus's abode (See Officer's List). We are planning on putting up about 20 gallons of mead and some beer too. For further information on the Guild contact Kim at kim_wolfshavensca@yahoo.com or call (301) 490-9362 or Lord Michel von Schonsee at doppelganger@runbox.com or call 410-636-5522.

Cook's Guild meets on the whim of the members... Monitor the Storvik e-mail list for details.

Embroidery & Gaming: Second and Fourth Thursdays: 7:00pm to 10:00pm at Janina's and Rorik's (ggoose@radix.net) abode, Lakeford Lane, Bowie, MD. Please contact Janina by e-mail or (301) 262-5253 for more information. The embroidery portion of the evening concerns a service project. The Atlantian Embroidery Guild has a Treasure Box project to make favours and tokens for the Queen or Crown Princess to present to the populace as prizes, recognitions, or largesse.

Fighter Practice: Sunday: 2:00pm—Heavy Weapons/Rapier practice at Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church, VA. E-mail L. Erich von Kleinfeld (Dexter Guptill) at dguptill@aol.com

Monday: 7:00pm—St. Andrews Episcopal Church in College Park, MD. Directions: Take your best route to the Washington Beltway (I-495). Take exit 25 (Rt. 1) South, and follow Rt. 1 South. After about 2 miles, take a left onto College Ave (The MD book

exchange is on left). The church is two blocks down on the left. Metro Directions: Take the metro (green line) to the College Park Metro Station. When leaving the station, take a right on Columbia Avenue. Columbia dead ends on College Avenue. Turn left on College and walk about 3 blocks, the church will be on your right. The fighter practice is in the hall up the metal steps. For the sake of the floor, no marking shoes/boots and no kneeling in heavy armor. Contact William the Younger (knightmarshal@storvik.atlantia.sca.org) for more info. The Barony has a good amount of loaner armor for heavy fighters Please make arrangements to pick up any armor that you might need, preferably before Monday night, from Othenan (MKA) Donny Charles, 4405 Medallion Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904, (301) 717-4271 (cell), sirbo1@comcast.net, (please contact me at least by 6:45pm on Monday if you plan to attend and need armor. Available Friday's to work on your gear.)

Music Group: Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: 7-8pm in Laurel, MD. Email Teleri (sca_bard@yahoo.com) for address or directions. Music files and mailing list at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/storvik_music/. We are a mixed bag of vocalists and instrumentalists at all levels of experience, playing period, popular, and dance music.

Sewing and/or Weaving: Wednesday: 7:00pm—at the home of Megan O'Donnely in Bowie. Call (301) 464-8375 for directions.

Third Thursday: 7:00pm—Call Baroness Brenna (202) 291-3562 to RSVP or for directions.

Youth Combat: Wednesday: 6:30pm to 8:30pm—at the home of William the Younger. Please contact William for directions and additional information or e-mail at knightmarshal@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Grand Council Positions Open

The Grand Council's numbers are not complete! The SCA Grand Council is an advisory committee to the Board of Directors. What makes a good candidate? A desire to help chart the direction the future of the society takes. An ability to think outside the box, and a willingness to speak up and make your voice heard.

The Grand Council meets online, so regular email access is a must. Experience in the SCA and in positions as an officer is a nice bonus.

We will be working strictly from fresh applications, so if you applied in the past and were not accepted, please try again! Go to <http://grandcouncil.sca.org/gcjoin.php> for more information. Applications will remain open until all seats are filled.

Brendan ap Llewelyn
Grand Council Nomination Committee Chairman

Layout Notes for this issue:

Mast Head font is Black Chancery, a font styled roughly after the late liturgical calligraphy scripts of the 16th century CE. Body text is in Adobe Garamond Pro, based on the works of Claude Garamond, of Paris, France 1480-1561. Crusader Knight, pg 8 © 1985 by A.G. Smith, *Knights and Armor Coloring Book* - used under Dover Publications "free use" permission. Layout accomplished in Adobe InDesign, calendar created using Microsoft Excel 2003 template and edited in Adobe Illustrator.

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August 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday						
	1	2 Baronial at Home 7-10 PM College Park	3	4	5	6 Heavy & Light Practice 2 PM Falls Church, VA						
7	<p>Pennsic XXXX</p> <p><i>All regular activities likely cancelled</i></p> <p><i>Have a fun and safe War!</i></p>											
14												
21 Fighter's Practice 7-10:30 PM College Park							22	23 Youth Combat 6:30 PM Silver Spring	24 EGGS 7 PM Bowie	25	26 Post Pennsic Revel Storvik	27 Armoring 2 PM
28							29	30 Sewing & Weaving 7 PM Bowie	31			

Storvik Post Pennsic Revel

August 26, 2006, 4-11PM

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Rd.

Adelphi, MD 20783

As we return to our homes after a long summer campaign, the sounds of war fade and the sounds of merriment grow. Laughter replaces the battle cry as the populace of Atlantia gathers to celebrate the glories of Pennsic in an atmosphere of frivolity and fun.

The glorious Barony of Storvik invites you to an evening of enjoyment at its traditional Post Pennsic Dessert Revel. This year's theme is "Fun and Games," so come out and play some games! You may already know that cribbage and chess are period, but have you ever played Nine Men's Morris (featured in the most recent Tournaments Illuminated), Fox and Geese, or Hazard? Bring your cards, dice, board games, and toys. Weather permitting, you can try outdoor ball-and-stick games in the small, woodsy glen (no martial activities). Veteran game players are encouraged to teach the rules and strategies to new contestants of all ages.

Bards are welcome to compete in the traditional "Best Pennsic Story" bardic circle, and all may vie in the "Best Pennsic Bruise" (documentation required) and "SCA Trivia" contests.

What would a party be without food? Bring a period dessert (with basic documentation and ingredients list) for the "Best Period Dessert" competition, or just feel free to tempt those taste buds with a non-period sweet dish (chocolate and/or fruit encouraged). A light day board also will be provided, but the emphasis will be on desserts, not a full meal. Period desserts will be served to the populace after entries are judged.

A&S Activities

Besides the bardic circle (to which singers and other musicians are also invited), we will have an open display table of items made at Pennsic. If you learned a new skill or deepened your knowledge in a skill, show it off! Works in progress are also welcome. Dancing is permitted if there is enough interest.

Site: Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, 3215 Powder Mill Rd., Adelphi, MD 20783. The site will open at 4:00 p.m. and close at 11:00 p.m.

The Drekkar, Barony of Storvik, Volume 22, Issue 4

Site Restrictions: No smoking in the building or on the wooden deck. No pets please.

Directions:

From I-95: Take Exit 29B West on Powder Mill Road (MD 212), toward "Calverton." Proceed on Powder Mill for one-and-a-half miles through four traffic lights (the last of which is at Cherry Hill). As you begin to go downhill, watch for the white church sign on the left, immediately after which is the driveway. NOTE: If you go to New Hampshire Avenue, you have driven too far.

From the Capital Beltway (I-495): Take Exit 28A North on New Hampshire Avenue. Stay in the right lane, and just past the shopping center turn right onto Powder Mill Road (at the light). Go one mile, bearing left at the next traffic light and proceed down and then up hill. Look for the white church sign on the right and turn into the parking lot immediately in front of the sign. NOTE: If you hit the big intersection of Powder Mill Road and Cherry Hill Road, you've gone too far.

From Washington, DC: Take Riggs Road north until it turns into Powder Mill Road. Go one mile more and look for the white church sign on the right. Turn into the parking lot immediately in front of the sign. NOTE: If you hit the big intersection of Powder Mill Road and Cherry Hill Road, you've gone too far.

Public transportation: Take the Metro to either Fort Totten (located on both the Red and Green Lines) or Prince George's Plaza (located on the Green Line). Transfer to the R2 Metrobus heading towards Calverton. When the bus passes the U.S. Army Lab (located at the intersection of Floral Drive and Powder Mill Road), start looking for the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church sign on the right hand side of the road. There is a bus stop located near PBUUC.

Cost: \$8 for member adults, \$11 for non-member adults, \$4 for children 6-17, ages 5 and under are guests of the Barony.

Reservations: Send to the Autocrat.

Autocrat: Patricia of Trakai (Patricia L. Daukantas).
7740 Lakecrest Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Phone:
(301) 486 1949. Email: Patoodle@aol.com

The Arrow and it's Components

The most necessary piece of equipment along with the bow is, the arrow. At a casual glance longbow arrows are similar to modern arrows, but every archer on the range notices that there is something different about “period English” arrows. This document attempts to define these differences for your information and so you know a longbow arrow when you see it. This article does not address the issues of correct spine, balance or their fletching, but the end of the article does give ideas to help archers make their arrows look more “medieval”.

The Shaft

If you've ever shot archery in the SCA you are probably aware that archers may only use wooden shafts and real feather fletches. Plastic vanes as well as carbon and aluminum shafts are not allowed. Most modern wooden arrows are a far cry from their medieval counterparts. English archers used materials suitable and available to them to manufacture arrows. Woods that resisted warping, weight change due to humidity would have been most sought after. Roger Ascham (cir 1545) lists 15 woods, including birch, hardbeam, aspen and oak. Ascham recommends ash as being the best arrow for it is the best weight for the most impact. All of the nearly 2500 arrows recovered from the 1544 wreckage of King Henry VIII's “Mary Rose” are believed to be made of poplar, beech, ash or hazel.



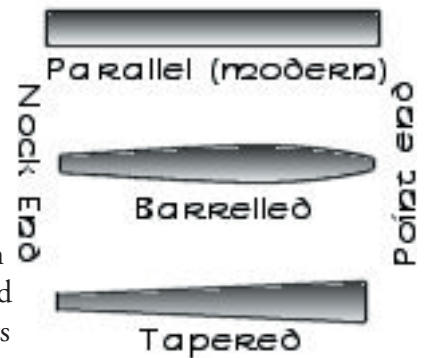
A very subtle difference between medieval arrows and modern arrows is their shape. Most modern arrows are machined where the wood is pulled through a milling process creating a “dowel” or “parallel shaft” that is the same diameter along the entire length of the shaft. Most of the arrows on the Mary Rose have a tapered shaft.

Modern engineers were surprised to see that chested shafts had an aerodynamic advantage over modern parallel shafts. Furthermore, the more common tapered shafts (where the shaft is thickest where the point mounts on, and then tapers back toward the nock end) were found to have much better penetrating ability due to the narrowing shaft having less resistance when following the hole made by the larger point. The length of extant arrows is between 28” to 32” in length from nock to socket and most of the Mary Rose's tapered arrows are approximately 1/2” diameter at the shoulder (point

and 3/8” at the nock! Stories of the English “Cloth yard Shaft”, while spawning images of 36” long shafts, are most likely an overdramatization or more likely refer to the period Flemish yard of cloth, which was a common trade length during the hundred years war, measuring approximately 28.5” in length. (the modern ‘yard = 36” was not standardized until the 1700’s). Further more, modern experiments and computer calculations lead researchers to believe that a 36” arrow would have required a draw longer than all but the tallest men would be able to achieve.

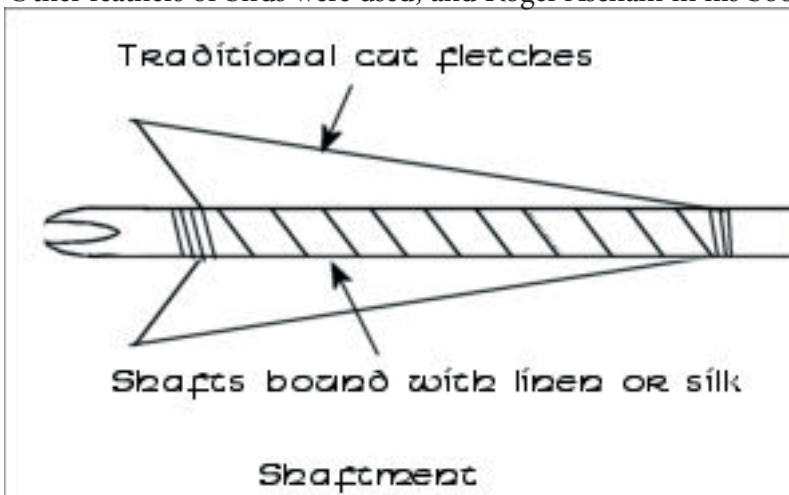
The Nock

It probably does not need to be stated that medieval fletchers did not have access to plastic “nerk nocks” or “snap nocks” or other uniformly mass produced nock ends. Once again we defer to the Mary Rose finds in which every case, the arrow had a sliver of horn cut into the shaft perpendicular to the nocking groove cut into the end. This piece of horn lessens the possibility of the string forcing the wooden arrow to split along the grain. English war bows were probably in excess of 90 lbs. draw weight, and most likely in the 120-140 draw weight range! Much higher than the average target or even bow weights of modern hunters. The editor has never had an instance of a string forcing an arrow to split, even when using self nocked arrows on a 60 lb. English Yew Bow.



The Shaftment

The shaftment of an arrow is the fletching, glue and binding. A necessary part of any projectile is an aerodynamic stabilizer which uniformly exerts drag on the trailing end. In period, this was the purpose of the “grey goose shaft”. Other feathers of birds were used, and Roger Ascham in his book “toxophilus” discourages the use of other feathers.



Ascham as well as Chaucer (Canterbury Tales) notate that some very pomp archers even used gaudy peacock plumage to fletch thier shafts. *A Yeoman had he at his side, no more servants, for he chose to ride; And he was clothed in a coat and hood of green, a sheaf of peacock arows bright and keen under his belt he bore very carefully! Well could he keep his gear yeomanly. His arrows had no drooped feathers low, and in his hand he bore a mighty bow...* (The Knight's Yeoman - A modern translation of Canterbury Tales - Geoffrey Chaucer)

Although no decent shaftment exists from period examples since micro-organisms would have quickly eaten any protein on the artifacts, the evidence of a bonding agent or glue which is discernable on the shafts, indicates that the fletches averaged about 6.5” in length and had a helical set to them, but could be as long as 12”! Roger Ascham describes the proper “spin” of an arrow so that it will fly, thus we have supporting evidence of helical fletching as is done on many modern arrows. Period arrows also show signs of binding, which is where the fletches are not only tacked to the shaft with glue, but also tied to the shaft with thread of either silk or linen. This binding is notable in detailed period paintings and atleast one flemish tapestry. It's believed that the animal hyde glues of the period were probably used, and were water soluble and in humid or when wet, fletches may have pulled free or fallen off. This is probably why the fletches were tied in place.

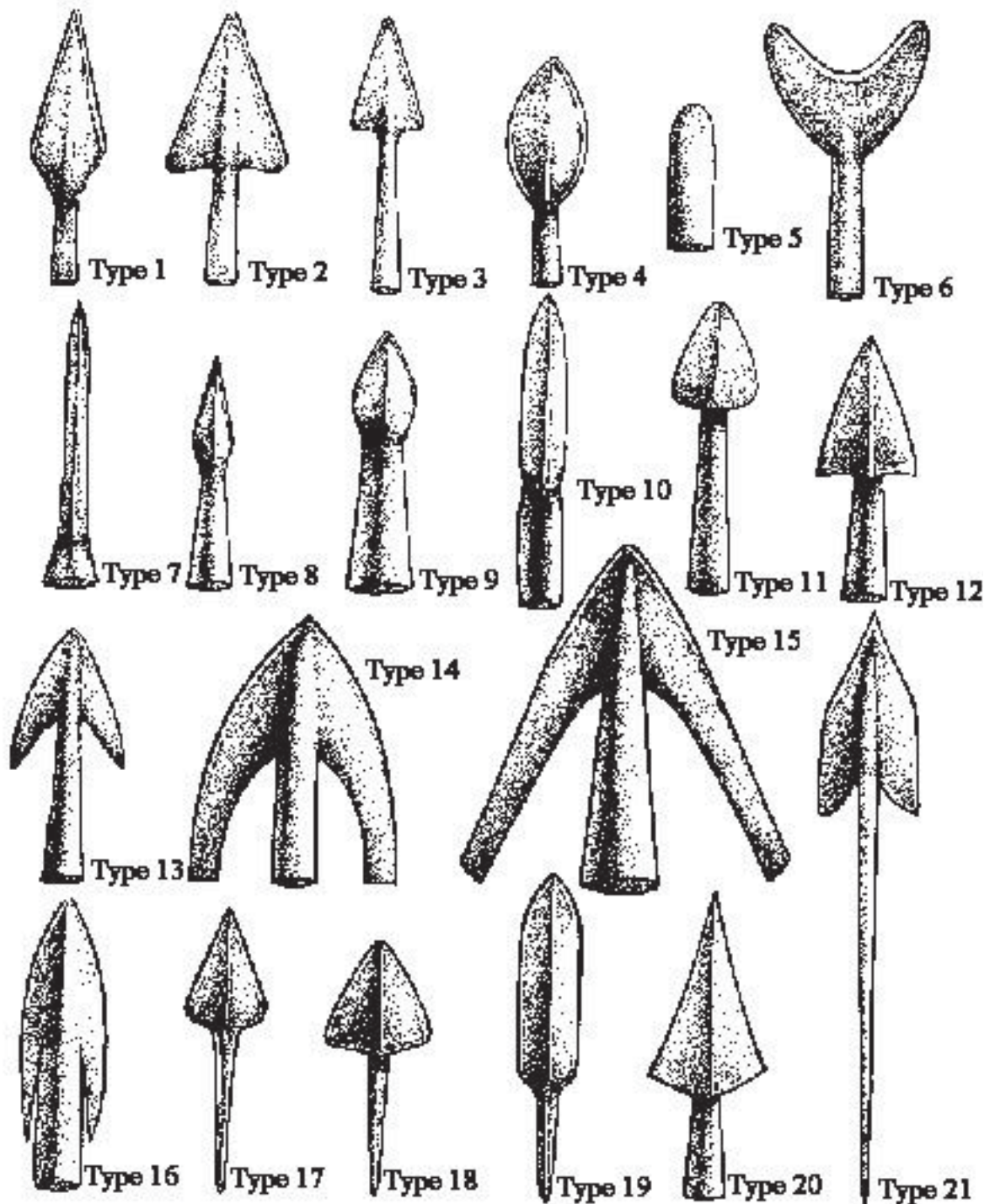
Roger Ascham in his book *Toxophilus* (cir 1545) notates that several fletching cuts can be used on arrows including; straight, saddleback, and boarbacked.

All of the extant finds on the Mary Rose indicate a 3 feather fletching with a cock feather perpendicular to the bow. Ascham recommends that the cock feather be black or grey so as to give the archer warning as to proper arrow alignment on the bow. But black white and grey are not the only colors used in fletching.

Arrow points

Simple target points were referred to as “piles”, but far more numerous extant examples are the bladed and bodkin points. Almost universally, English arrow heads from the middle ages possess a socket which the tapered end of the wooden arrow shaft would slide into. For hunting, arrow points were pinned in place with a hole drilled through the arrow head and shaft, and a bit of wire. But the majority of battlefield recovered points lack this machined hole, and were probably held in place with a bit of pitch or melted wax. An arrow point glued on to a shaft like this would serve the dual purpose of fast production and making their subsequent extraction from wounds difficult, as the shaft would simply pull free leaving the point buried.

Literary resources and modern reproductions reference the diverse style of medieval English arrow points by a number used by the Museum of London.

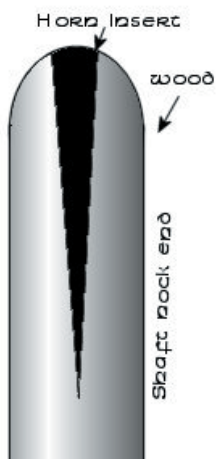


The type 16, which is a barbed arrow head with the barbs pinched near the socket of the point is believed to be the most common arrow head of the period. The size and shape of barbed arrow heads is extensive from 200 grain small game points to the enormous sweeping barbed “swallowtail” with upto 7” of blade surface. The swallowtail would have done severe damage to unarmored flesh and is believed to have been a very effective horse galling tip to break cavalry charges. Due to the surgical knowledge of the period, any of the barbed headed arrows would have proven as deadly to extract as they were to leave in the wounded.

Less common than the bladed heads, yet more infamous is the “bodkin” (another word for Needle). The bodkin also appears in enormous varieties from ones that look like screw driver ends, and pyramid points, to 7” long points that are more reminiscent of a tapering roofing nail than something that would tip an arrow shaft. The bodkin is believed to have penetrated most chain mail hauberks and padded gambesons with impunity. And was the bane of all but the most heavily armored defenders. Even solid metal plates would not guarantee protection, as the repetitious assault of bodkin points could eventually find a gap at a joint or non-overlapping plate, or visor slit.

Making Your Arrows Look More Medieval

You can do a few things to make your shafts look more specific to 12th-15th century. Some companies manufacture tapered or barreled shafts or will mill the shaft for an additional nominal fee. This appears to be a more common alternative from shaft manufacturers now that there are proven aerodynamic and speed benefits over parallel shafts. But parallel shafts are known in period, and in fact are not even uncommon.



Self nocking an arrow (cutting a slit in the end of the shaft rather than using a glue-on plastic nock) can go a long way to making an arrow appear period or at least more so. Horn inserts seem like an extravagance, but on heavier bows, they can prevent the bow string from trying to split the arrow upon release, even on lighter bows it may extend the life of your arrow nock. Remember, the English archer used a livery bow that was estimated to pull between 90 and 140 lbs! Much higher than many modern hunters would ever consider using. On target bows under 50lbs. the addition of horn nocks is mainly ornamental. To add the effect of a horn nock you can use dark wood stain and a fine tipped paint brush to paint a mock insert on the end of a self-nocked arrow prior to sealing/finishing.

Evidence points to period fletchings being much longer than what we use on target arrows. Hunting arrows using broad heads tend to use longer fletches than target arrows. It's suggested that if you use fletches longer than 5” that you cut the height of the feather shorter to reduce drag.

Binding your fletches with thread is also a period look and can be done with any of your modern feather fletched arrows. Simply select a durable thread such as silk or linen, and bind it to the shaft just in front of your fletching and wind the thread a half dozen times to prevent it from sliding or coming loose. Wind the thread through the barbs of the feathers approximately 5 turns per inch until you get to the end of the fletches, and repeat the tying off by using a scrap piece of string, pulling the loose end back through the bindings. Use a colored thread that accessorizes or contrasts with your fletches for a bold and noticeable look.

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