



The Drekar

Newsletter of the Barony of Storvik

February 2006



Barony Meeting Notes 01/08/06

Attendance: Llyr, Stefan, Sean, Elizabeth, Ariana, Ynes, Rorik, Janina, William, Serena, Clara the Wee

Seneschal: Baronial Birthday is reserved for October 13th, 14, 15th at Croom. Trying to put together a Heraldic tree—so get him your arms. Novice is spiked. Discussed future options for Kingdom Level events. Should we try to hold something at Croom? Look for a site with concrete parking. Request made that people put in a bid for autocrat. We have an opening for Clerk Signet—if anyone is interested contact Llyr. Baronial Birthday needs an autocrat—Ynes possible.

Baronage: Baron: Donny has loaner armor. 12th night rocked. Baroness: Bid for Tournament of Chivalry has been declined, but we were encouraged to put in a bid for Crown or Coronation. We're looking more in terms of 12th Night. She has a church that she wants to check the availability/size, but in general she's thinking Kingdom level event. Baronage and newcomers will be attending Lochmere event on Jan 28th. Been helping Magnus with corrections for electronic Drekkar start up.

Chatelaine: Newcomers have volunteered as Deputy for Garb Josh and Danielle (Mundane). Recruiting going well; 5 totally new at the "At Home", 4 present and well dressed at 12th Night, 2 submitted names to Herald.

A&S: We had 4 entries at 12th night. Tamara the Gypsy worn a very cool knit cap, Angel (Grielle? or Keira) submitted a quilting thing, Janina—em—
...Continued on Page 4

Local Events

February 11, 2006
Love Pure and Chaste from Afar - A
Masked Ball
Barony of Bright Hills
Hampstead, MD

February 18, 2006
Tournament of Love and Beauty
Barony of Ponte Alto
Leesburg, VA

February 25, 2006
A Day in the Middle East
Barony of Dun Carraig
White Plains, MD

March 04, 2006
Kingdom Arts and Science Festival
Canton of Sudentorre
Spotsylvania, VA

March 11, 2006
St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath
Barony of Ponte Alto
Vienna, VA

Local Exhibits

Closing February 26th
Monumental Sculpture from Renaissance Florance
National Gallery of Art
Gallery 11, Washington DC

A young man was in love with two women and could not decide which of them to marry. Finally he went to a marriage counselor. When asked to describe his two loves, he noted that one was a great poet and the other made delicious pancakes... "Oh" said the counselor, "I see what the problem is. You can't decide whether to marry for batter or verse." - Anonymous

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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

Greetings unto the populace send Baron Sean and Baroness Elizabeth,

We trust the winter and 12th night are treating you and yours well. It was great to see so many finely dressed Storviki's at 12th night. The feast and entertainment was all top notch. Of note last month was the A&S Social. Lady Janina sends Thanks to all who participated. It was a great success. We had artisans, newcomers, fire and good friends aplenty that night. A hardy well done to our Warlord Finn and his Combat Archer Captain Gregor for putting together a very successful winter heavy fighting practice. The weather was PERFECT. The training and turn was fantastic. Our own Chronicler Magnus has organized and brought to our fight practice hall the local Rapier fighters for the first time in many years. This is still monthly but it was a great start. Vivant Magnus ~!

Our Progress for February will be as follows: February 4th, University; Feb 11, Bright Hills Birthday; Feb 18, Love and Beauty in Ponte Alto. At this writing the Kingdom Website is down again. I couldn't get URL's for these event announcements. Please try the Atlantia site later for further details.

In March: *The Return of Performers Revel!* Stay tuned for details.

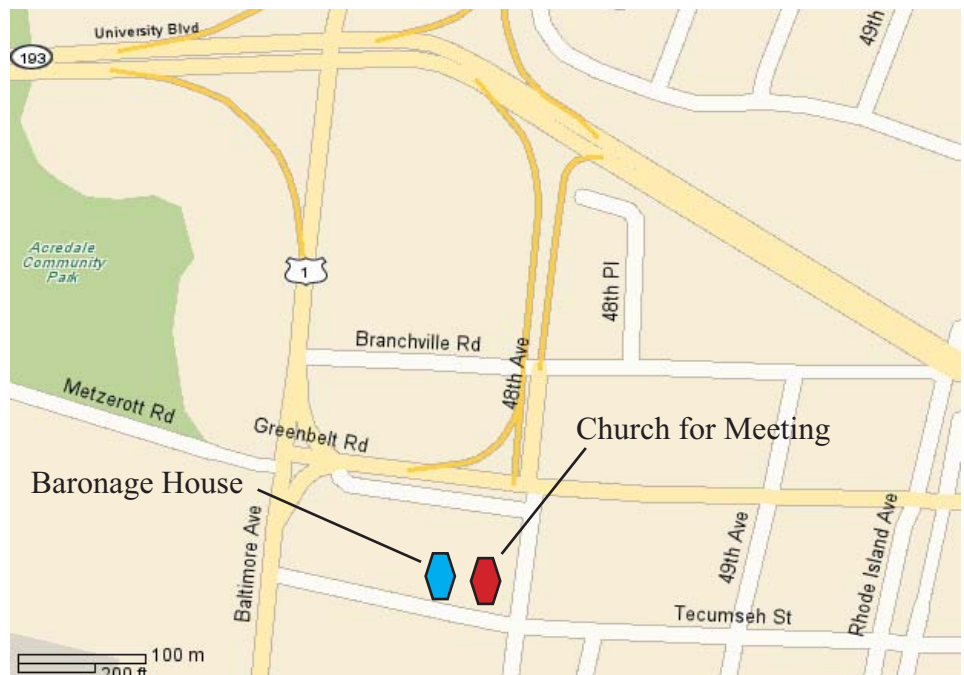
Our February Baronial @ Home will happen as scheduled Weds. February 1st. PLEASE NOTE / Allergy Alert: We are proud owners of a new dog. Belle is her name. She is adapting to her new environment very well but is still a bit skittish.

Yours in Service,
Sean and Elizabeth



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

<u>Baronial Champions</u>	
Heavy Weapons	
Lord Finn O'Donovan	
Rapier	
Lord Alastair Clark Bowman	
Archery	
Gregor Von Liepzig	
Bardic	
Master Ruadhri an Cu	
Arts	
Honorable Lord Stefan of Cambion	



Officers of the Barony of Storvik

Seneschal

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

Deputy Seneschal
Gregor Von Leipzig
dragnar1@hotmail.com

Minister of Arts & Sciences

HLdy Janina Krakowska z Cambion
Joanna M. Dionne
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Bowie, MD 20720
ggoose@radix.net

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Chatelaine/Gold Key

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Minister of Minors

Ysabel
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mom@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Web Minister

Lady Serena de la Mar
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Deputy Web Minister
HLrd Pagan Grendel
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Deputy Exchequer
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robertsteele@starpower.net

Chronicler

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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
12324 Kemmerton Ln.
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warlord@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Minister of the Lists

HLrd Stefan of Cambion
Steve Kiefert
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Baronial Trouble-Maker

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Meeting Minutes... continued from Page 1

broidery thing, Beatrix—illumination. Akiyo—helped out hugely with “stuff” and picture rescue at 12th Night. EGGS meetings—a bit quiet but positive, looking to get stuff from the Princess so we can get started on that stuff. Thinking about changing EGGS to second and fourth Thursdays.

Herald (in absentia): Karl got a Grant of Arms for service to Janos and Rachel. Beatrix finished her scroll for the Baron. Michel Von Schonsee was elevated to the order of the Pearl. Elisabeth (Baronial Bard) got *mumble mumble* [Ed: see court report elsewhere in this issue] James and Kim got a Fountain for service to TRM Janos and Rachel with their Sweet Shop and the funding the travel fund.

MOL: nothing

Webminister: Clara allowed Serena to update the site and will again soon. Discussing who she needs permission from.

Knight's Marshall: Fight practice going well. Defending the carpet (Bridge battle Melee's in hall) is working well. This week Storvik will defend the carpet, next week Blacksphear will defend carpet. Talk to Anglesey. Rapier should be third week in month, but... it fell through last time; follow up pending. Wednesday night youth going strong, the Kingdom Deputy Earl Marshal for Youth Combat was there last week. Armoring scheduled for Jan. 22, 2006. Sir Guy is moving back to area and is likely to attend.

Exchequer: William put forward a motion to let Ariana open a new account and the group approved. Money in bank \$6,001.91; Earned \$67.10 (Fight Practice=7+15.10+17+28). Started Doomsday and Quarterly reports. I'll have it with me next month. We should seriously consider changing banks (interesting conversation with them about check signing and my warrant) Gwenifer suggests changing banks. I've signed a lease saying I'll be here another year. So, I don't need to step down quite yet. I'll a budget for the next meeting. Signature cards are pending due to possible bank change and missing Driver's License copies from Llyr and Beatrix. Birthday Mess—pending conversation with James---future notice—please don't ever deposit things without my approval.

New Business: Performers Revel: an event where if you attend you must perform something. She's willing to do this BUT she's not willing to do paper work. Elizabeth has offered to do the paperwork. This will be a limited number event with required pre-registration. Typically has been in March-ish small children likely to be bored and encouraged not to attend. Eggs is this Thursday.

Note: Thanks to Lady Ariana for taking notes when the Chronicler was mysteriously absent.

12th Night Court Report

Here begins the report of the Morning Court of Janos and Rachel, King and Queen of Atlantia. Upon the seventh day of January A.S. XL, court was held in the Barony of Dun Carraig. The day being clear and pleasant all hearts were light as the populace celebrated the festival of Twelfth Night. Their Majesties were well disposed to grant the following boons, to wit: Edward De Clare, Award of Arms; Geoffrey ap Clwyd, Opal; Their Majesties gave leave for Baron Achbar ibn Ali of Sacred Stone to inform the populace of impending hostilities between the baronies of Sacred Stone and Windmasters Hill. (It is presumed that these two noble baronies will fall upon each other on the twentieth day of October. The awards continued with Ella de Lille, Golden Dolphin; Brighid of Linnhe, Golden Dolphin; Baron Sean de la Mare was presented with a long belated scroll acknowledging his right to bear arms; Delphina the Mad, Opal; Karl Haraldsson, Grant of Arms; Jonathas Reinisch, Kraken;

Court Report continued on Page 7

This is the Drekkar, a publication of the Barony of Storvik of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Drekkar is available from Ric Loll, chronicler@storvik.sca.org. This newsletter is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.

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February 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Baronial at Home 7-10 PM College Park	2	3	4 Winter University Berley Court Courtland, VA	5
6 Fighter's Practice 7-10:30 PM College Park	7	8 EGGS 7 PM Bowie	9	10 A&S Social 7 PM	11 Love, Pure ... Bright Hills Hampstead, MD	12 Barony Mtg 7-9 PM College Park
13	14	15 Bardic 7 PM	16 Sewing 7 PM	17	18 Tourney of Love... Ponte Alto Leesburg, VA	19
20	21	22 EGGS 7 PM Bowie	23	24	25 Day in Middle East Dun Carraig White Plains, MD	26
27 Armoring 2 PM	28	Youth Combat 6:30 PM Silver Spring Sewing & Weaving 7 PM Bowie			Archery Practice 9 AM Adelphi (Weather?!?)	Heavy & Light Practice 2 PM Falls Church, VA

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 momments

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 inteliggible posts.

Brewing: Quarterly meetings of the Northern Inter-Baronial Brewers Guild (NIBBG) vary in date and location. The next meeting will be Saturday, March 11th at Karl & Samara's abode. We are planning on putting up about 20 gallons of mead and some beer too. For further information 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, recog-

nitions, 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.)

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

Court Report continued from Page 4

Martelle von Charlottenberg, Pearl; Mika Longbow, Pelican; Lady Violante de Sant Sebastian was placed on vigil to contemplate joining the Order of the Laurel. All this being done Their Majesties closed Their court. Long live King Janos and Queen Rachel!

Here begins the report of the evening court of Janos and Rachel, King and Queen of Atlantia. Upon the seventh day of January A.S. XL court was held in the Barony of Dun Carraig. The business of the court follows. Those new to our company were then welcomed and give tokens by Her Majesty. The children of our Kingdom were then recognized and given toys as tokens by Their Majesties. Leave was given to announce the winners of the Tempora Atlantia competition. Awards were bestowed to Kim of Wolfshaven, Fountain; James Griffin, Fountain; Elisabeth of Roxbury Mill, Coral Branch; James de Biblesworth, Pearl; Michel von Sch'nsee, Pearl. Baron Charles O'Connor, Master of the Laurel and the Pelican, was welcomed into the royal presence to deliver a message of love and friendship from the King and Queen of Aethelmarc. Awards continued with Brandwyn Alston of the Rift, Golden Dolphin; Quhinten de Rath, Golden Dolphin; Aelfred of Cres, Sea Stag; Miguel Estevan de Cabra was made a Sergeant of St. Aidan; Violante de Sant Sebastian, Laurel. This being done Their Majesties closed Their court. Long live King Janos and Queen Rachel!

Layout Notes for this issue:

Mast Head font is Black Chancery, a font styled roughly after the late liturgical caligraphy 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. Viking on Page 15 © 1988 A.G. Smith & Dover Publications, *Story of the Vikings Coloring Book*, used under "free use" permission. Various Clipart fillers, © 1996 Corel Corporation, used under commercial license. *Cherub Illustrations* © 1993 Dover Publications, used under license of Zedcor, Inc. Layout accomplished in Adobe InDesign, calendar created using Microsoft Excel 2003 template and edited in Adobe Illustrator.

Wulf and Eadwacer

Translation by Lady Teleri Barod

Done for the Tempore Atlantia Competition at the Spring Crown Tournament, AS XL

- 1 To my people, he is like a present one gives
Him they will kill if he comes to their camp;
Unlike it is for us.
- 5 Wulf on one island I on another.
Fast is that island by fens surrounded.
Bloodthirsty men abide on that island.
Him they will kill if he comes to their camp;
Unlike it is for us.
- 10 My thoughts and hopes far-traveled to Wulf.
When it was rainy weather wailing I sat.
When the battle-bold man bore me in his arms
There was joy to a point but pain was that also.
- 15 Wulf, my Wulf! It was wishing for you
That made me sick; your seldom-comings
Made my mind troubled, not missing meals.
- Do you hear, Eadwacer? Our wretched whelp
A wolf bears to woods.
One easily tears apart what united never was
Our song together.

Notes:

Wulf and Eadwacer is one of the poems of the Anglo-Saxon Exeter Book (c. 975). It appears to be a lover's lament. This makes it somewhat unusual in the Anglo-Saxon corpus – The Wife's Lament has similar features, and it can be said that The Husband's Message is a love-poem of sorts. Some of the riddles are famously ribald. But these are far less well-known than works like Beowulf or even The Wanderer or The Seafarer, commonly held up in high school English as typical of Anglo-Saxon poetry.

I became interested in Wulf and Eadwacer precisely because it is unusual in the corpus. The general impression of Anglo-Saxon culture that permeates the Society is one of a Beowulfian warrior-society full of mead halls and theigns and glittering Sutton Hoo treasures. All that, surely, was part of Anglo-Saxon society, and an important part. But Wulf and Eadwacer gives us a view that is at once very different and entirely congruous. The speaker may be torn by a

heart-sick passion that we hardly glimpse elsewhere, but the language used to describe her reaction to her situation has all of the grim courage we would expect to find in the mead hall.

This translation was done to address a perceived gap in those already available – there were translations which preserved the Anglo-Saxon alliterative scheme, and those which preserved the emotion of the poetry, but none which did both to my satisfaction. Exhaustive further documentation is available upon request at sca_bard@yahoo.com



The Arts and Sciences Corner

Greetings to the populace of the great Barony of Storvik!

The A&S Social was a smashing success this month! I was so excited that I forgot to send around an attendance sheet and regretfully cannot report exactly how many. We had several newer members who researched potential garb and heraldry, and numerous projects were worked on.

Next month we will begin working on Novice. It is never too soon! We will be making small comment books to be given to each of the entrants under the direction of our Herald, Lady Beatrix. Of course, you can still bring projects you want help on. There will be reference books, and if there is a particular area you are interested in, let me know several days in advance and I will see if I can find reference material. There were several people interested in Irish personas, and I will see what I can find for this in particular.

The Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival is coming up on March 4th in Sudentorre. The website concerning the competitions, displays and other activities is at: <http://sudentur.atlantia.sca.org/kingdoma&s.php>

This is a great opportunity to see the wide variety of arts - you may find your passion! It is also a wonderful opportunity to display your work and get comments and advice. It appears that I might be able to attend after all, as I *think* we can do this as a day trip. I am willing to transport your displays if you are not able to attend. I will be at the fighter practice Feb. 27 and can pick them up then, or you can drop them off at my house.

This event is fun and educational. The wide range of endeavours in the SCA is represented, and you may exactly the art that gets *you* excited. Please make the effort to attend - it's fun!

A short report this month, please let me know about any interesting projects you are working on.

In Service to Storvik and Atlantia;
Janina Krakowska
Minister of Arts and Sciences for the great Barony of Storvik



Performers Sought

Seeking instrumentalists, vocalists and poets for a Storvik-based performance group. Beginner-friendly environment.

Goals: 1) Playful exploration of different performance techniques (instrumental music, instrument and voice, recitation with music, etc.)

2) Making period pieces enjoyable and accessible to an SCA audience

3) Members gaining practice and confidence in group performance/ "jamming" environment

Goal #2 does *not* mean it will be a period-only ensemble; other SCA-appropriate performance is great, too.

First meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2006

Time: 7-8pm

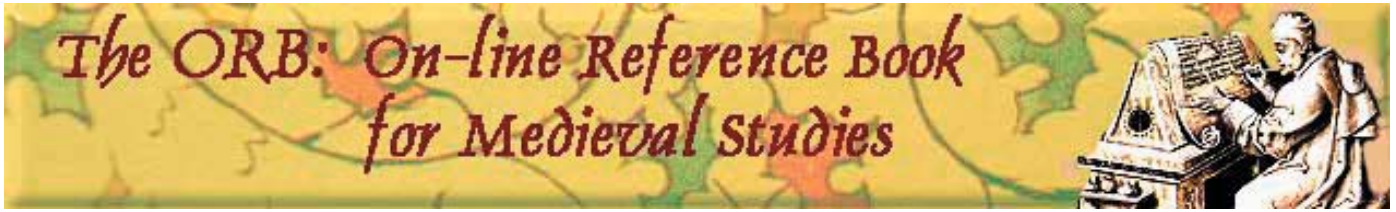
Place: Teleri and Morgan's House, Laurel, MD

Bring: Instrument(s), ideas, sheet music

Expect: Introductions; further group and personal goal-setting including repertoire selection; a simple arrangement of a simple tune to try together

Email Teleri at sca_bard@yahoo.com for street address and/or directions.

OnLine Reference: ORB The On-Line Reference Book for Medieval Studies



Address: <http://www.the-orb.net/>

Statement of Purpose: “The ORB is an academic site, written and maintained by medieval scholars for the benefit of their fellow instructors and serious students. All articles have been judged by at least two peer reviewers. Authors are held to high standards of accuracy, currency, and relevance to the field of medieval studies.” [from home page]

Major Sections: The ORB Encyclopedia, The ORB Textbook Library, What Every Medievalist Should Know, Resources for Teaching, Of General Interest, External Links, E-Texts, and The ORB Reference Shelf.

Review: I found the ORB in 2001 when it was still hosted at Rhodes University. While the host school has changed, the content seems to have moved intact and is still very useful.

The site is designed to assist academic students and instructors in Medieval History. The emphasis is on scholarly accepted and peer-reviewed articles, texts and discussions. As such, some SCA researchers are thrilled with this level of accuracy, others will yawn.

Donate to the SCA When You Shop On-Line: I-Give

I’ve used this service for about a year. In that time I’ve donated just over \$20 to the SCA, at no cost to me. Imagine if everyone who plays with the SCA did this (estimated population of 60,000) ~ it would equal over a \$1 million each year! Can you say “We own the site for Pennsic, Estrella, etc?” This description comes from the April 17, 2004 SCA Board of Director’s meeting. The words are those of the then Corporate Development Officer – Tracey Stoevers (Teresa Gabriela de Montoya):

“Our ongoing iGive.com fundraising campaign can only be successful if you participate! The SCA, Inc. encourages you to go to www.iGive.com/Anachronism for your online shopping. Every purchase made through this website generates a donation to the SCA, Inc. These contributions help fund Kingdom newsletter stipends, insurance and operations. To give you an example, I made a small purchase from Plow and Hearth for Father’s Day. It generated a \$4.31 direct donation to the SCA. I was going to make that purchase anyway. It cost me nothing to do it through iGive.com. Now, if even 20% of our membership made a purchase of this nature through www.iGive.com/Anachronism it could mean over \$22,000.00 for our beloved organization!”

Heloise and Abelard

The Classic Lovers of the Early Medieval Period

by Magnus McKinley

Many of you know the ballad *Heloise and Abelard* from Master Efenwaelt Wystle's disk *Minstrel by Trade... and a Fool in my Spare Time*. This beautiful, melancholy tale of star-crossed lovers tells some of the story of these two tragic figures. Peter Abelard (1079-1142) was a French philosopher, considered one of the greater thinkers of the 12th century. Heloise (1101-1164) was the niece and pride of one Canon Fulbert. Though 20 years her senior, Abelard developed a deep and abiding love for Heloise, which her uncle would hear nothing of. In secret they were wed, but Canon Fulbert on hearing tale of the ceremony and Heloise's apparent casting off to a nunnery, plotted dasterdly revenge.

"Violently incensed, they laid a plot against me, and one night while I all unsuspecting was asleep in a secret room in my lodgings, they broke in with the help of one of my servants whom they had bribed. There they had vengeance on me with a most cruel and most shameful punishment, such as astounded the whole world; for they cut off those parts of my body with which I had done that which was the cause of their sorrow."¹

Abelard survived his wounding, but entered (but could not join) a monastery while Heloise continued in a nunnery. Together they went some time without contact, until a letter of Abelard's arrived in Heloise's possession. She writes most passionately to her husband, expressing her undying love and devotion. Folks, it's long, but I charge those who express a devotion to another, read you now Heloise's first letter:

To her master, nay father, to her husband, nay brother;
his handmaid, nay daughter, his spouse, nay sister: to ABELARD, HELOISE.

Your letter written to a friend for his comfort, beloved, was lately brought to me by chance. Seeing at once from the title that it was yours, I began the more ardently to read it in that the writer was so dear to me, that I might at least be refreshed by his words as by a picture of him whose presence I have lost. Almost every line of that letter, I remember, was filled with gall and wormwood, to wit those that related the miserable story of our conversion, and thy unceasing crosses, my all.

Thou didst indeed fulfil in that letter what at the beginning of it thou hadst promised thy friend, namely that in comparison with thy troubles he should deem his own to be nothing or but a small matter. After setting forth thy former persecution by thy masters, then the outrage of supreme treachery upon thy body, thou has turned thy pen to the execrable jealousy and inordinate assaults of thy fellow-pupils also, namely Alberic of Rheims and Lotulph the Lombard; and what by their instigation was done to that famous work of thy theology, and what to thyself, as it were condemned to prison, thou hast not omitted.

From these thou comest to the machinations of thine Abbot and false brethren, and the grave detraction of thee by those two pseudo-apostles, stirred up against thee by the aforesaid rivals, and to the scandal raised by many of the name of Paraclete given to the oratory in departure from custom: and then, coming to those intolerable and still continuing persecutions of thy life, thou hast carried to the end the miserable story of that cruellest of extortioners and those wickedest of monks, whom thou callest thy sons. Which things I deem that no one can read or hear with dry eyes, for they renewed in fuller measure my griefs, so diligently did they express each several part, and increased them the more, in that thou relatedst that thy perils are still growing, so that we are all alike driven to despair of thy life, and every day our trembling hearts and throbbing bosoms await the latest rumour of thy death.



And so in His Name Who still protects thee in a certain measure for Himself, in the Name of Christ, as His handmaids and thine, we beseech thee to deign to inform us by frequent letters of those shipwrecks in which thou still art tossed, that thou mayest have us at least, who alone have remained to thee, as partners in thy grief or joy. For they are wont to bring some comfort to a grieving man who grieves with him, and any burden that is laid on several is borne more easily, or transferred. And if this tempest should have been stilled for a space, then all the more hasten thou to write, the more pleasant thy letter will be. But whatsoever it be of which thou mayest write to us, thou wilt confer no small remedy on us; if only in this that thou wilt shew thyself to be keeping us in mind.

For how pleasant are the letters of absent friends Seneca himself by own example teaches us, writing thus in a certain passage to his friend Lucilius: "Because thou writest me often, I thank thee. For in the one way possible thou shewest thyself to me. Never do I receive a letter from thee, but immediately we are together." If the portraits of our absent friends are pleasant to us, which renew our memory of them and relieve our regret for their absence by a false and empty consolation, how much more pleasant are letters which bring us the written characters of the absent friend. But thanks be to God, that in this way at least no jealousy prevents thee from restoring to us thy presence, no difficulty impedes thee, no neglect (I beseech thee) need delay thee.

Thou has written to thy friend the comfort of a long letter, considering his difficulties, no doubt, but treating of thine own. Which diligently recording, whereas thou didst intend them for his comfort, thou hast added greatly to our desolation, and while thou wert anxious to heal his wounds has inflicted fresh wounds of grief on us and made our former wounds to ache again. Heal, I beseech thee, the wounds that thou thyself hast given, who art so busily engaged in healing the wounds given by others. Thou has indeed humoured thy friend and comrade, and paid the debt as well of friendship as of comradeship; but by a greater debt thou hast bound thyself to us, whom it behoves thee to call not friends but dearest friends, not comrades but daughters, or by a sweeter and a holier name, if any can be conceived.

As to the greatness of the debt which binds thee to us neither argument nor evidence is lacking, that any doubt be removed; and if all men be silent the fact itself cries aloud. For of this place thou, after God, art the sole founder, the sole architect of this oratory, the sole builder of this congregation. Nothing didst thou build here on the foundations of others. All that is here is thy creation. This wilderness, ranged only by wild beasts or by robbers, had known no habitation of men, had contained no dwelling. In the very lairs of the beasts, in the very lurking places of the robbers, where the name of God is not heard, thou didst erect a divine tabernacle, and didst dedicate the Holy Ghost's own temple. Nothing didst thou borrow from the wealth of kings or princes, when thou couldst have obtained so much and from so many, that whatsoever was wrought here might be ascribed to thee alone. Clerks or scholars flocking in haste to thy teaching ministered to thee all things needful, and they who lived upon ecclesiastical benefices, who knew not how to make but only how to receive oblations, and had hands for receiving, not for giving, became lavish and importunate here in the offering of oblations.

Thine, therefore, truly thine is this new plantation in the divine plan, for the plants of which, still most tender, frequent irrigation is necessary that they may grow. Frail enough, from the weakness of the feminine nature, is this plantation; it is infirm, even were it not new. Wherefore it demands more diligent cultivation and more frequent, after the words of the Apostle: "I have planted, Apollos watched; but God gave the increase." The Apostle had planted, by the doctrines of his preaching, and had established in the Faith the Corinthians, to whom he wrote. Thereafter Apollos, the Apostle's own disciple, had watered them with sacred exhortations, and so by divine grace the increment of virtues was bestowed on them. Thou art tending the vineyard of another's vine which thou didst not plant, which is turned to thine own bitterness, with admonitions often wasted and holy sermons preached in vain. Think of what thou owest to thine own, who thus spendest thy care on another's. Thou teachest and reprovest rebels, nor gainest than ought. In vain before the swine dost thou scatter the pearls of divine eloquence. Who givest so much thought to the obstinate, consider what thou owest to the obedient. Who bestowest so much on thine enemies, meditate what thou owest to thy daughters. And to say nothing of the rest, think by what a debt thou art bound to me, that what thou owest to the community of devoted women thou mayest pay more devotedly to her who is thine alone.

How many grave treatises in the teaching, or in the exhortation, or for the comfort of holy women the holy Fathers composed, and with what diligence they composed them, thine excellence knows better than our humility. Wherefore to no little amazement thine oblivion moves the tender beginnings of our conversion, that neither by

reverence for God, nor by love of us, nor by the examples of the holy Fathers hast thou been admonished to attempt to comfort me, as I waver and am already crushed by prolonged grief, either by speech in thy presence or by a letter in thine absence. And yet thou knowest thyself to be bound to me by a debt so much greater in that thou art tied to me more closely by the pact of the nuptial sacrament; and that thou art the more beholden to me in that I ever, as is known to all, embraced thee with an unbounded love. Thou knowest, dearest, all men know what I have lost in thee, and in how wretched a case that supreme and notorious betrayal took me myself also from me with thee, and that my grief is immeasurably greater from the manner in which I lost thee than from the loss of thee.

And the greater the cause of grief, the greater the remedies of comfort to be applied. Not, however, by another, but by thee thyself, that thou who art alone in the cause of my grief may be alone in the grace of my comfort. For it is thou alone that canst make me sad, canst make me joyful or canst comfort me. And it is thou alone that owest me this great debt, and for this reason above all that I have at once performed all things that you didst order, till that when I could not offend thee in anything I had the strength to lose myself at thy behest. And what is more, and strange it is to relate, to such madness did my love turn that what alone it sought it cast from itself without hope of recovery when, straightway obeying thy command, I changed both my habit and my heart, that I might shew thee to be the one possessor both of my body and of my mind. Nothing have I ever (God wot) required of thee save myself, desiring thee purely, not what was thine. Not for the pledge of matrimony, nor for any dowry did I look, not my own passions or wishes but thine (as thou thyself knowest) was I zealous to gratify.

And if the name of wife appears more sacred and more valid, sweeter to me is ever the word friend, or, if thou be not ashamed, concubine or whore. To wit that the more I humbled myself before thee the fuller grace I might obtain from thee, and so also damage less the fame of thine excellence. And thou thyself wert not wholly unmindful of that kindness in the letter of which I have spoken, written to thy friend for his comfort. Wherein thou hast not disdained to set forth sundry reasons by which I tried to dissuade thee from our marriage, from an ill-starred bed; but wert silent as to many, in which I preferred to love to wedlock, freedom to a bond. I call God to witness, if Augustus, ruling over the whole world, were to deem me worthy of the honour of marriage, and to confirm the whole world to me, to be ruled by me forever, dearer to me and of greater dignity would it seem to be called thy strumpet than his empress.

For it is not by being richer or more powerful that a man becomes better; one is a matter of fortune, the other of virtue. Nor should she deem herself other than venal who weds a rich man rather than a poor, and desires more things in her husband than himself. Assuredly, whomsoever this concupiscence leads into marriage deserves payment rather than affection; for it is evident that she goes after his wealth and not the man, and is willing to prostitute herself, if she can, to a richer. As the argument advanced (in Aeschines) by the wise Aspasia to Xenophon and his wife plainly convinces us. When the wise woman aforesaid had propounded this argument for their reconciliation, she concluded as follows: "For when ye have understood this, that there is not a better man nor a happier woman on the face of the earth; then ye will ever and above all things seek that which ye think the best; thou to be a husband of so excellent a wife, and she to be married to so excellent a husband." A blessed sentiment, assuredly, and more than philosophic, expressing wisdom itself rather than philosophy. A holy error and a blessed fallacy among the married, that a perfect love should preserve their bond of matrimony unbroken, not so much by the continence of their bodies as by the purity of their hearts. But what error shews to the rest of women the truth has made manifest to me. Since what they thought of their husbands, that I, that the entire world not so much believed as knew of thee. So that the more genuine my love was for thee, the further it was removed from error.

For who among kings or philosophers could equal thee in fame? What kingdom or city or village did not burn to see thee? Who I ask, did not hasten to gaze upon thee when thou appearedst in public, nor on thy departure with straining neck and fixed eye follow thee? What wife, what maiden did not yearn for thee in thine absence, nor burn in thy presence? What queen or powerful lady did not envy me my joys and my bed? There were two things, I confess, in thee especially, wherewith thou couldst at once captivate the heart of any woman; namely the arts of making songs and of singing them. Which we know that other philosophers have seldom followed. Wherewith as with a game, refreshing the labour of philosophic exercise, thou has left many songs composed in amatory measure or rhythm, which for the suavity both of words and of tune being oft repeated, have kept thy name without ceasing on the lips of all; since even illiterates the sweetness of thy melodies did not allow to forget thee. It was on this account chiefly that women sighed for love of thee. And as the greater part of thy songs descanted of our love, they

spread my fame in a short time through many lands, and inflamed the jealousy of many against me. For what excellence of mind or body did not adorn thy youth? What woman who envied me then does not my calamity now compel to pity one deprived of such delights? What man or women, albeit an enemy at first, is not now softened by the compassion due to me?

And, though exceedingly guilty, I am, as thou knowest, exceeding innocent. For it is not the deed but the intention that makes the crime. It is not what is done but the spirit in which it is done that equity considers. And in what state of mind I have ever been towards thee, only thou, who hast knowledge of it, canst judge. To thy consideration I commit all, I yield in all things to thy testimony. Tell me one thing only, if thou canst, why, after our conversion, which thou alone didst decree, I am fallen into such neglect and oblivion with thee that I am neither refreshed by thy speech and presence nor comforted by a letter in thine absence. Tell me, one thing only, if thou canst, or let me tell thee what I feel, nay what all suspect. Concupiscence joined thee to me rather than affection, the ardour of desire rather than love. When therefore what thou desiredst ceased, all that thou hadst exhibited at the same time failed. This, most beloved, is not mine only but the conjecture of all, not peculiar but common, not private but public. Would that it seemed thus to me only, and thy love found others to excuse it, by whom my grief might be a little quieted. Would that I could invent reasons by which in excusing thee I might cover in some measure my own vileness.

Give thy attention, I beseech thee, to what I demand; and thou wilt see this to be a small matter and most easy for thee. While I am cheated of thy presence, at least by written words, whereof thou hast an abundance, present to me the sweetness of thine image. In vain may I expect thee to be liberal in things if I must endure thee niggardly in words. Until now I believed that I deserved more from thee when I had done all things for thee, persevering still in obedience to thee. Who indeed as a girl was allured to the asperity of monastic conversation not by religious devotion but by thy command alone. Wherein if I deserve nought from thee, thou mayest judge my labour to have been vain. No reward for this may I expect from God, for the love of Whom it is well known that I did not anything. When thou hastenedst to God, I followed thee in the habit, nay preceded thee. For as though mindful of the wife of Lot, who looked back from behind him, thou deliveredst me first to the sacred garments and monastic profession before thou gavest thyself to God. And for that in this one thing thou shouldst have had little trust in me I vehemently grieved and was ashamed. For I (God wot) would without hesitation precede or follow thee to the Vulcanian fires according to thy word. For not with me was my heart, but with thee. But now, more than ever, if it be not with thee, it is nowhere. For without thee it cannot anywhere exist. But so act that it may be well with thee, I beseech thee. And well with thee will it be if it find thee propitious, if thou give love for love, little for much, words for deeds. Would that thy love, beloved, had less trust in me, that it might be more anxious! But the more confident I have made thee in the past, the more neglectful now I find thee. Remember, I beseech thee, what I have done, and pay heed to what thou owest me. While with thee I enjoyed carnal pleasures, many were uncertain whether I did so from love or from desire. But now the end shews in what spirit I began. I have forbidden myself all pleasures that I might obey thy will. I have reserved nothing for myself, save this, to be now entirely thine. Consider therefore how great is thine injustice, if to me who deserve more thou payest less, nay nothing at all, especially when it is a small thing that is demanded of thee, and right easy for thee to perform.

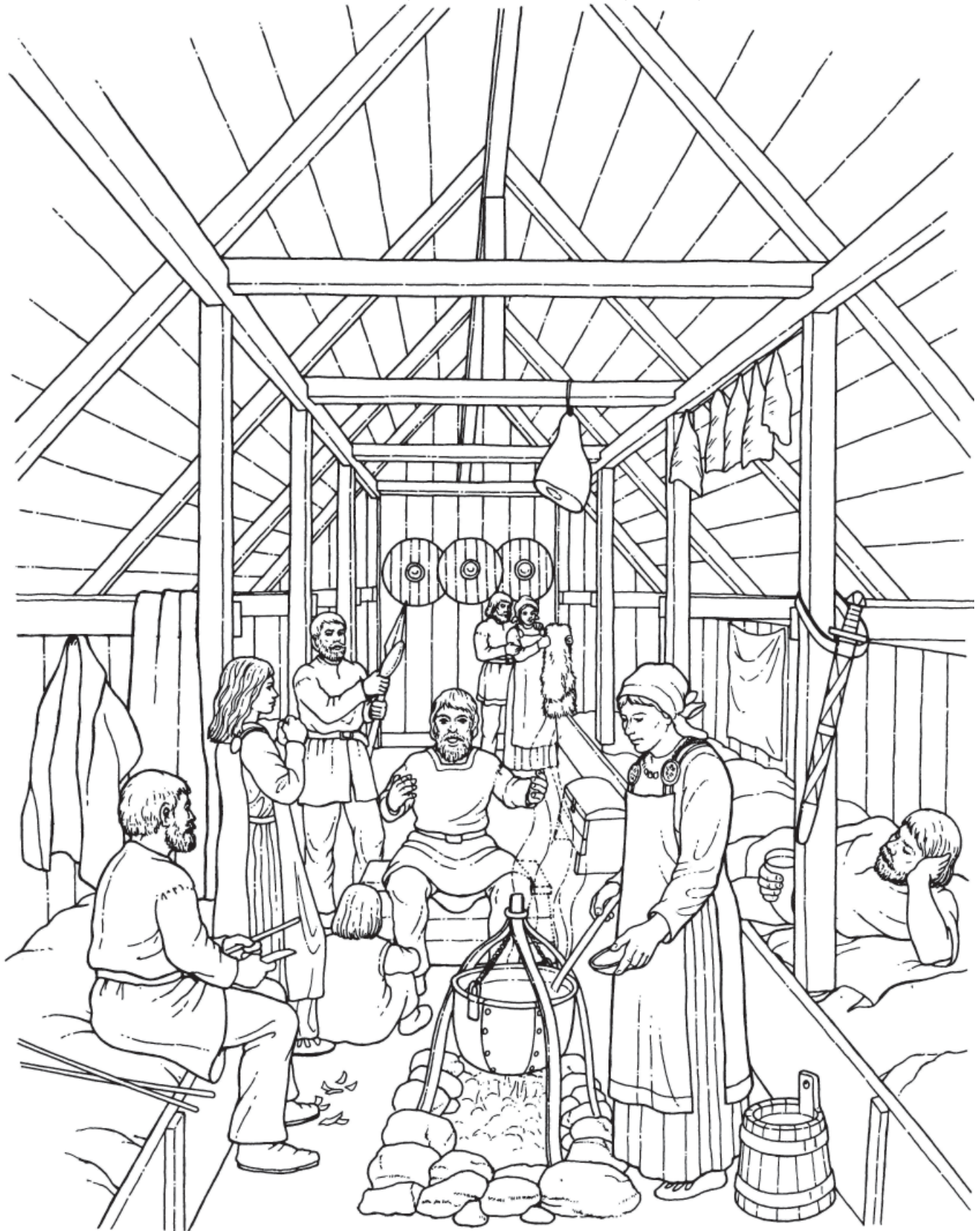
And so in His Name to whom thou has offered thyself, before God I beseech thee that in whatsoever way thou canst thou restore to me thy presence, to wit by writing me some word of comfort. To this end alone that, thus refreshed, I may give myself with more alicrity to the service of God. When in time past thou soughtest me out for temporal pleasures, thou visitedst me with endless letters, and by frequent songs didst set thy Heloise on the lips of all men. With me every public place, each house resounded. How more rightly shouldst thou excite me now towards God, whom thou excitedst then to desire. Consider, I beseech thee, what thou owest me, pay heed to what I demand; and my long letter with a brief ending I conclude. Farewell, my all.

The Letters of Abelard and Heloise, translated from the Latin by C.K. Scott Moncrieff, (New York: 1925), retrieved on January 6, 2006, from <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/heloise1.html> under educational use permit of Fordham University.

Footnotes:

1. Unknown, *Abelard and Heloise, The Love Affair*, retrieved February 7th from http://classiclit.about.com/cs/articles/a/aa_abelard.htm

Norse Longhouse Coloring Page



In this month's coloring page, Ollie is very concerned about who has been raiding his mead supply. He's just told the whole house that unless it stops he's going to invite Uncle Sven over for an extended stay. Last time two slaves and a Fyrdman died under mysterious circumstances. Olga, the house mother, is clearly not amused by this idea...



Book Review *Medieval England; A Social History 1250-1550*

I approached this book based on its electronic review on the scholarly list The Medieval Review from Western Michigan University. The reviewer felt that a number of items not covered in commerce-based social analysis of the period were of value. As usual, I approached the book with the knowledge that the volumes reviewed by TMR are usually designed for academic research.

I found the book both difficult and rewarding. The text is dense, with an oftentimes confusing and circular flow. The author takes very little effort toward making the subjects presented approachable. This is obviously a book designed to draw assigned reading from for an upper division English Medieval history course.

The previous observations notwithstanding, I gained much from reading this book. Some items were as simple as the half-page explanation of the system of currency prior to the 1971 reform of the pound ~ I never really understood the amount and reason for a “mark” as a unit of currency before. The glossary in the final pages should be mandatory reading for any student of this period.

The text is divided into four major sections: The Structures of Society, The People, The Dynamics of a Pre-Industrial Economy, and The Dynamics of Later Medieval Culture. While not a gender-studies text, the book does spend time examining the difficulties of making inferences on the roll of women in this period based on a male-centered record set. The entire volume wrestles with the difficulties presented by erratic record keeping and regional differences largely ignored by other researchers.

The chapters in The People are very interesting, especially Lords, Knights, Esquires and Gentlemen, which reveals a much more fluid society than the one commonly believed to exist in period. Movement from peasant class to the nobility was at times very quick (2 generations), especially after the effects of the Black Plague reduced the population and increase the importance of the emerging merchant middle-class.

Finally, those interested in the effects of the Reformation on the common person will be particularly interested in the final section of the book. Chapters 16 & 17 deal with devotion before and after the Reformation. The cultural, social and economic impacts are examined in a clear, unbiased fashion.

Goldberg, P.J.P., *Medieval England; A Social History 1250-1550*, Oxford University Press, © 2004, 310 pgs, \$20 from Alibris.com. Reviewer: Magnus McKinley

Best Quote

Lollardy: Term given to heretical movement originating with the teachings of John Wycliffe, an Oxford academic, at the end of the fourteenth century. In practice came to represent a heterogeneous group of persons hostile to certain facets of contemporary Catholicism, notably the mass, images, pilgrimage and ecclesiastical hierarchy.

Chronicler's Report

This was a pretty awesome month for a new Chronicler. The reaction to the new electronic Drekkar was overwhelmingly positive. I want to reiterate to everyone, this is YOUR newsletter. If you find something that's incorrect PLEASE bring it to my attention and I'll strive to make it right. Of course, no plan comes off perfectly and I lost many requested updates in a hard drive crash mid-way through the month. The following changes were made based on **your inputs**:

- Archery practice changed
- Janina placed as A&S Minister; Angel as deputy
- Notice on Archery-Storvik e-mail added
- Notice on Baronial Populace e-mail list added
- Cooks guild placed inactive
- Bardic night placed inactive
- Brewer's guild changed to quarterly
- Loaner armor location and pickup information changed

This month saw two amazing things - SUBMISSIONS!!! I want to thank Lady Teleri for her wonderful translation and article on the poem Wulf and Eadwacer. What a wonderful article for my St. Valentine's Day themed issue. You get chocolate! And, low, what else passed by electronic threshold but MY FIRST OFFICER'S REPORT. WOOT! Lady Janina provided a grand article on the Arts, foundation of our new "Arts Corner". You Ladies make me giddy with joy.

As always, I beg you to please submit any type input be it articles, artwork, event reports, notes, advice that will improve The Drekkar. Be sure whatever you send is accompanied by a signed publication permission form (<http://chronicler.atlantia.sca.org/forms/ppf.pdf>).

My plans for seasonal issues for the next year are:

- January – the New Year
- February – Lovers and Valentines Day
- March – Seasonal Issue; Spring
- April – April Fools Edition
- May - SCA Birthday
- June – Seasonal Issue; Summer
- July – Novice Tourney
- August – Pennsic War
- September – Seasonal Issue; Fall
- October – Baronial Birthday issue
- November - Harvest
- December - Seasonal Issue; Winter

If there is anything thematic you would like to present, please, feel free to send it in early!

We have checked with the POWERS THAT BE, and it is permissible to allow people to sponsor the incidental costs of the few mailed copies of The Drekkar. If you're interested the suggested donation is \$5 per month. Send a check, made payable to SCA, Inc. - Barony of Storvik, with a Memo noting "Drekkar Sponsorship" to my address. I will make note of your donation and forward the check on to our exchequer for deposit.

~ Magnus