



The Drekar

Newsletter of the Barony of Storvik



June A.S. XLI (2007)

Unto the leaders and the populace of the Barony of Storvik does Lady Patricia of Trakai send these humble greetings! Following are the minutes of the Business Meeting of May 13, 2007, the first in Anno Societatis XLII.

Present: Janina Krakowska, Rorik Fredericsson, Gaspar Marti, Llyr, Stefan of Cambion, Griele vanden Burghr, William the Younger, Patricia of Trakai, Johanna von Sudeborn.

The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with the following officers' reports.
Knight Marshal: We will have fighter practice on Memorial Day. There is no excuse for Sapphire Joust, as that site closes hours before fighter practice begins. The recent War Practice went very well despite one injury. No other youth marshal, but Finn has one more MIT event and then he will be a youth marshal. Time to renegotiate new agreement with St. Andrews Episcopal Church. They do not want pets inside the building. Other than that, there are no changes. We got the rent reduced last year and it is sustainable at this rate. Musicians and dancers are kicking in too to cover the cost of Monday night practice. I want to involve Jocelyn (Joslyn?) because he will become Knight Marshal. *A&S:* Changes to A&S night posted to Storvik list. Next Friday (May 18): bottlecap pincushions and signs. Griele has A&S stuff through end of the year if people are willing. Stefan has organized music and dancing on Monday night. Badouin will teach a chair workshop in late June with Dun Carraig. This will be a chance to make a 14th-century Italian bench chair in time for Pennsic.

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Storvik Events

2 June

Summer University
UMD Campus, College Park

University Feast

St. Andrews Hall, College Park

13-15 July

Novice Tourney
Marietta Mansion
Glendale, MD

18 August

Post Pennsic Revel
St. Andrews Hall, College Park

28-30 September

Storvik Baronial Birthday
Croom Regional Park
Upper Marlboro, MD

Hallgerd and Bergthora:

Women, Law, and Justice
in Viking Age Scandinavia
Lady Beatrix Von Leipzig

It is a common assertion that women during the Viking age in Scandinavia wielded a great deal of power. Examples often cited are women's control of the keys, their key roles in pagan religious rituals, and the ability of a woman to divorce her husband. This culture is often claimed as a bastion of modern attitudes about women in a time when women were systematically oppressed, but in the legal realm,

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A Message from the Baron and Baroness

Unto the populous of the Barony of Storvik, GREETINGS!!!

We have had an eventful month this May going to the St. Anne's Guild Costumers Symposium in Black Diamond, the Spring Crown Tourney in Isenfir and the Barony of Bright Hills 21st Birthday. My Lady and I wish to thank those who helped putting up the Baronial Dayshade at Crown Tourney and making the event a pleasure for us. Thank you, thank you and again thank you!

Our schedule for the next few months is a bit more intense.

- 5/25-28 Sapphire Joust VII in Caer Mear [Amelia, VA]
- 6/2 Summer University & University Feast in our fair Barony [College Park, MD]
- 6/15-17 Family social commitment - as much as we would like to celebrate with our Cousins their Baronial Birthday in Stierbach, we will not be able to attend.
- 6/22-24 Challenge of the Heart in Dun Carraig [Huntingtown, MD]
- 6/29-7/1 The Crescent Guard's Atlantian Games in Bright Hills [Glen Arm, MD]
- 7/6-8 House Cleaning Weekend and final prep for Novice
- 7/13-15 Novice Tourney in our fair Barony [Glendale, MD]
- 7/21-22 Pennsic Preparation
- 7/27-8/12 Pennsic War XXXVI in Aethelmarc
- 8/18 Post Pennsic Revel in our fair Barony [College Park, MD]

In addition to those you can usually find us at Fighter Practice on Mondays and we invite everyone to our At-Home on the first Wednesday of any month... except August. Those Wednesdays that are of fair weather we will fire up our grill on our deck and any who wish to bring dead things to make burnt offerings to the gods will be welcome. At-Home is scheduled for 7:00-10:00, but if you want to eat you can come as early as 5:30. We would like everyone to note that the July At-Home is July 4. We will lower the drawbridge at 1:00 and grill and frolic until about 5 when we will move the party to Allen Pond Park here in Bowie for Bowie's firework display.

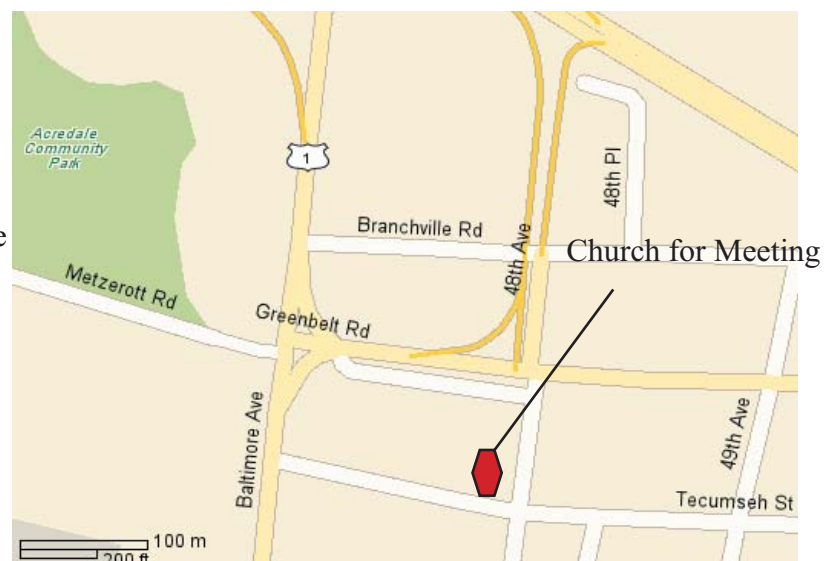
Rorik Fredericsson

Baron Storvik

"It's amazing how much 'mature wisdom' resembles being tired."

B aronial Champions
Heavy Weapons
Griffin
Rapier
Lord Alastair Clark Bowman
Archery
Brendan the Shameless
Bardic
Morgan O'Lathlan
Arts & Sciences
Ansel Rowland Matthews
Equestrian
Yan
Youth Combat
Rachel Williamsdaughter

Map to the Monthly Meeting Site...



Territorial Baronage of Storvik
Baron Rorik Fredericsson & Baroness Janina Krakowska
Wayne & Joanna Dionne
5416 Lakeford Lane, Bowie, MD 20720
(301) 262-5253 until 9 p.m. ~ (301) 262-6537 until 11 p.m.
baron@storvik.atlantia.sca.org ~ baroness@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Officers of the Barony of Storvik

Seneschal

Lord Llyr Wyndhaven
Llyr@hotmail.com
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Deputy Seneschal
Lady Orla Carey
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9006 Clinton Lane
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Minister of Arts & Sciences

Lady Griele Vanden Berghr
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Baroness Catherine Grace Fitzlewis

Chatelaine/Castellan/Gold Key **VACANT**

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Exchequer

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Deputy Exchequer
VACANT

Minister of Minors

Lady Ysabel of Storvik
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mom@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

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

Deputy Knight Marshal
HLrd Karl Haraldsson
Ron Doyle
dragonship_red@yahoo.com
(301) 702-2948

Archery Marshall

Lord Thomas Fitzcharles of Cheltenham
Thomas E. Sundin
10910 Old Indianhead Rd
Cheltenham, MD 20623
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archery@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

Baronial Warlord

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

Minister of the Lists

HLrd Stefan of Cambion (Steve Kiefert)
9704 Beechwood Drive
Lanham, MD 20706-2304
(301)731-0673

Deputy Minister of the Lists
Dame Brenna of Storvik
Jeraldine Rorstrom-Lee
600 Cedar St. NW
Washington, DC 20012
(202) 291-3562
BrennaSCA@erols.com

Activities of the Barony

Archery Practice: Saturday: 9:30am (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 Lady Griele at moas@storvik.atlantia.sca.org 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, 5416 Lakewood Lane, Bowie, MD 20720. Phone (301) 262-5253 until 9 p.m. ~ (301) 262-6537 until 11 p.m. or e-mail at Baron@Storvik.Atlantia.sca.org or Baroness@Storvik.Atlantia.sca.org 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 base-

ment (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 car-pooling, 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. For further information on the Guild contact Kim at kim_wolfshavensca@yahoo.com or call (301) 490-9362 or Magnus at ric.loll@earthlink.net or call 301-576-6069.

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 Baroness Janina and Baron Rorik's (ggoose@radix.net) abode, Lakewood 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 the Knight's Marshall.

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 Dame Brenna (202) 291-3562 to RSVP or for directions.

Youth Combat: Currently in abeyance. Please contact William for directions and additional information or e-mail at knightmarshal@storvik.atlantia.sca.org

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the Scandinavian people were no more modern in their views of women than other European countries. The laws of Viking age Scandinavian people were not written down at the time, but the evidence we do have comes from the Sagas, and the earliest written laws from the Gulathing and the Frostathing. While women performed important duties in the home, such as managing staff, healing, and keeping the keys to the storeroom, in the legal sphere, women were second class citizens who could seldom wield legal power except through the men who represented them.

The system of law practiced by the Vikings was rarely enforced anywhere but at the Thing. The Thing is a gathering of freemen occurring usually one to three times per year where all legal transactions took place. Criminal charges were put forth, marriages and divorces were arranged, and any other legal disputes were settled. There was no legal way to handle justice between Things and justice was a matter of personal arrangements between men. William Ian Miller in his book, *Bloodtaking and Peacemaking* wrote, "There was no bureaucracy, no state apparatus that pretended to enforce the laws, nothing beyond the Things themselves" (Miller 21). Attendance at the Thing was crucial to settling any sort of legal issue that could not be settled man to man, but women were not allowed to participate directly in the Thing. Miller writes that "women were under strong social and legal constraint, in matters of right and honor, to act through men" (Miller 329). The way women were able to be active in legal matters was by appointing her husband, son, or one of the other men in her household to represent her (Miller 27). This is a good system when the man is honest and willing, but it must have been

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From the Chronicler;

Okay, May was a bust. Too busy to speak of it... I need to find the courage in my heart to ask my able Deputy for help. My thanks to Lady Patricia for kicking my butt properly to ensure this issue get published. I owe her more beer than I can count.

All the best, to you and yours ~ Magnus

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. Clipart on Pgs 8, 9 & 11 from Viking Designs CD-ROM & Book; Coloring Page on pg 13 from *The Story of The Vikings*; used under Dover Publications "free use" permission. Layout accomplished in Adobe InDesign, calendar created using Microsoft Excel 2003 template and edited in Adobe Illustrator.

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.atlantia.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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June 2007

Calendar of Storvik June 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			Full Blue Moon ☾	1 Last Quarter ☾	2 Summer Univ Storvik College Park, MD	3
4	5	6 Baronial at Home 7-10 PM Bowie	7 New Moon ●	8 A&S Social 7 PM	9 Highland River Melées Highland Foorde Hagerstown, MD	10 Barony Mtg 7-9 PM College Park
11	12	13	14 EGGS 7 PM Bowie	15	16 Baronial BDay Siterbach Locust Grove, VA	17
18	19	20	21	22 First Quarter ●	23 Challenge o/t Heart Dun Carraig Huntingtown, MD	24 Armoring 2 PM
25	26	27	28 EGGS 7 PM Bowie	29	30 Full Dyad Moon ☽ Crescent Guard's Atlantian Games Bright Hills Glen Arm, MD	Heavy & Light Practice 2 PM Falls Church, VA
Fighter's Practice 7-10:30 PM College Park						
Sewing & Weaving 7 PM Bowie						

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difficult for women to bring charges against someone if the men were unwilling for any reason. In Njal's Saga Hallgerd has a problem with this system, because Gunnar pays atonement for a slave she had killed. She expresses her displeasure, and Gunnar replies that, "she would decide her own actions - 'but I shall decide how the cases are settled.'" (Njal's Saga 60). Hallgerd was not able to get her way because as a woman she was not able to act within the legal system.

The laws of the Vikings were not written in books, but rather recited by the Lawspeaker. This does not mean that the laws were changeable and fluid. The Lawspeaker was a man elected for a term of three years. He would be consulted in all matters of law and was expected to know every law in detail. The Lawspeaker would recite all the laws once every third Thing, and the most important parts in their entirety, at every Thing. The Lawspeaker was assisted by five others who could help him remember all the parts, but even so, there were many laws for him to memorize (Miller 18). The Lawspeaker recited the laws at the Thing, but if women were not allowed to participate, it is possible that they did not get to hear the laws in full. For example, Bergthora, Njal's wife, is not present at the Thing several times during her rivalry with Hallgerd, Gunnar's wife, who is also not present at the Thing. She has to send messengers to her husband to report crimes committed against her household (Njal's Saga 60). These women use the opportunity when their men are away to enact justice outside of the legal system by sending servants to kill men from each other's household while their husbands are reluctant to

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MoL: Stefan will look into the possibility of having a MoL class held at fighter practice. Llyr thinks that there would be interest and attendance. **Exchequer:** First-quarter report is here (written report). Llyr asked for and received approval to pay \$900 to the College Park Church of God for activities for the coming year. We just signed another lease. **Seneschal:** Otto (the Kingdom Chronicler) has re-spiked Novice but did not yet put up the flyer with the new autocrat. **Baronage:** We went to Crown and supported our fighters. We were up at Bright Hills yesterday (May 12, Return of the Merchants of Venice) and talked to Her Highness. Storvik blew away the competition for Best Heraldic Display. It was a lightly attended event despite the presence of the cavalry. The B&B plan to hold a short Baronial court at the post-University revel on June 2.

Old Business: **Janina:** The baronial cloaks can be used, though she still needs to add some details. They will become a donation to the Barony after the current Baronage are done with them.

New Business: ☞ Llyr said he will triple-check our Croom reservation for Baronial Birthday in late September, given Abel's recent inquiry on the listserve. ☞ Regarding Sapphire, the banners that Storvik made last year appear to have been added to the event banner period. ☞ Ysabella bought three 16x16 tent things for only \$100. We want to have two of them ready for Novice, possibly for University. (There was a minor discussion of logistics for University, such as tables and folding chairs.) ☞ St. Andrews will need the new SCA insurance certificate for the new lease. (We will write a check for \$190 for the rest of the post-University revel site rent -- this was already approved at a previous meeting.) ☞ Llyr said that he will probably need Orla (deputy seneschal) or someone to lead the June business meeting, as he will be heading out to Lilies War in Calontir. ☞ Stefan is putting out a call for banners to decorate the hall for the post-University revel. Also, it would be good to have baronial tablecloths. Johanna and Llyr said that there are some layers of table decorations that are not sewn together, and they would work. Llyr presently has them in his custody. Rorik said he has white linen tablecloths that could be used for High Table. ☞ As of the time of the business meeting, Stefan had nine paid reservations for the post-University revel.

This is a true and complete account of the business meeting of the Barony of Storvik, but if anyone has any corrections, please send them to me or the Chronicler.

Respectfully submitted,
Lady Patricia of Trakai
Deputy Chronicler and Deputy Herald

Summer University

June 02, 2007
Barony of Storvik

The Barony of Storvik will host the summer session of the University of Atlantia in College Park, Maryland, at the University of Maryland campus. It will be in the Armory building. Class listings will be in the Acorn with full descriptions available online at the University website <http://university.atlantia.sca.org/>

The site opens at 9 with the first class at 10. Classes run until 5:30. There will be a Curia.

Cost: No site fee but the University welcomes donations.

Site: University of Maryland in the Armory building.

Feast: Due to UM rules, we cannot sell lunch, you can bring your own or go to the many local food places. There will be an evening feast and dancing 2 blocks away to further enjoy the day of educational enlightenment. See the separate announcement below for details.

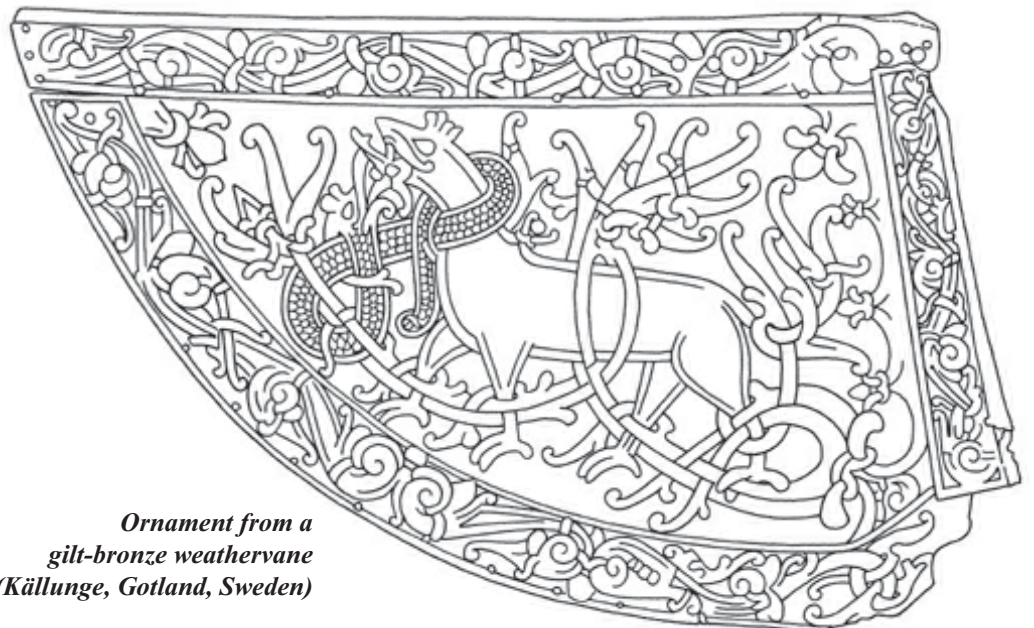
Other Information: accepting class proposals until May 1st. If you are interested in teaching a class or organizing a track of classes, please notify the Chancellor at university@atlantia.sca.org or mail the class/track details to the Chancellor.

Autocrat: Stefan of Cambion, .9704 Beachwood Ave, Lanham, MD 20706, 301-731-0673 NLT 11:30, lanhamlaw@att.net

Website: <http://university.atlantia.sca.org/>

Directions:

Get on the Washington beltway (I-495) and go to Exit 25 at the top for Route 1. Go south about 3 miles and you will see the campus on your right. There are 3 entrances, each with a traffic light. Turn in the middle one and the armory will be 100 feet ahead. Bear right to park and go downstairs.



*Ornament from a
gilt-bronze weathervane
(Källunge, Gotland, Sweden)*

University Feast

June 02, 2007

Barony of Storvik

There will be feast and dancing after the summer session of the University of Atlantia at the University of Maryland campus in College Park, Maryland, to further enjoy the day of educational enlightenment. It will be at St. Andrew's Church, 4512 College Avenue, just 2 blocks from the campus.

Cost:

Adult, Member:	\$ 6.00 Day-Trip	\$15.00 Feast
Adult, Non-Member:	\$ 9.00 Day-Trip	\$15.00 Feast
Youth (6-17):	\$ 3.00 Day-Trip	\$ 7.50 Feast
Child (0-5):	\$ 0.00 Day-Trip	\$ 0.00 Feast

Cost Notes: Reservations may be sent to the autocrat, payable to the Barony of Storvik, SCA, Inc. Feast limit is 80, only a quarter of the expected university attendance.

Site: St. Andrew's Church, 4512 College Avenue, College Park, MD.

Other Information: The menu for feast will be posted later on Storvik site. Cooking will be supervised by Master Igor with several courses and cooks. The feast will be served at 6:30 as the last class ends at 5:30. Hall opens at 5. Site is wine only. There will be dancing after feast.

Autocrat: Stefan of Cambion (Stephen Kiefert), 9704 Beachwood Ave, Lanham, MD 20706, 301-731-0673 NLT 1130, lanhamlaw@att.net.

Co-autocrat: Beatrix von Leipzig (Crystal Wygal) beatrixherald@yahoo.com.

Directions:

Get on the Washington beltway (I-495) and go to Exit 25 at the top for Route 1. Go south about 3 miles and you will see the campus on your right. There are 3 entrances, each with a traffic light. Turn left at the third one onto College Avenue, by the Maryland Book Exchange. The church will be one block ahead on the left. Turn left at the second street for the church parking lot and entrance to the hall up the metal stairs.

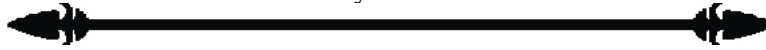


Ornament from a gilt-bronze weathervane (Källunge, Gotland, Sweden)

Storvik Novice Tourney

July 13-15, 2007

Barony of Storvik



This year's Storvik Novice Tourney will take place in the context of a social structure adapted from the forms of the European Middle Ages. These activities "recreate aspects of the life and culture of the landed nobility in Europe prior to 1600 CE." (SCA By-laws) That's right, the theme is 600 to 1600 CE! Since Novice Tourney is about the novices in the Society, we request that all non-novices show up as their persona of choice to give a wide display of what we do.

Martial Activities: Authorizations: Being only two weeks before Pennsic War 36, this is a great time to get authorized. Novices looking to participate in the Tourney, and those seasoned veterans trying out a new weapon style should arrive early, as we expect there are many who will need to be authorized. (Marshalls who are available to help out with authorizations, please e-mail the Autocrat). Heavy Combat: On Saturday there will be a Novice Tournament exclusively for fighters who have been authorized for and practicing heavy combat for less than 365 days. There will also be additional tournaments and some melees. Fighting will finish with War Practice on Sunday. Our site has lots of open field and wooded areas for several different scenarios, some of which will include combat archery. (Contact: Lord Raven, e-mail: lexensis@hotmail.com) Rapier Combat: There will be a Novice Tournament and activities involving both novice and non-novice fighters. (Contact: Lady Constanza de Talavera, e-mail: ldycnstza@yahoo.com) Youth Combat: TBD. Archery: TBD.

Arts & Sciences Competition: There will be a Novice Competition for artisans who have been practicing their craft for one year or less. You could be new to the Society or new to the discipline. True novices only please. There will also be an open A&S Competition TBD. (Contact: Lady Griele, e-mail: ladygriele@yahoo.com)

A&S 'Novice to Now' Display: We encourage any gentle who has become proficient in the arts to bring their first attempt (or a nearly first attempt) and a recent project to display for the encouragement and benefit of all. There will be a prize for the "most improved." (Contact: Baroness Catherine Grace Fitzlewis, e-mail below)

Cost:

Adult, Member:	\$11.00 Day-Trip	\$ 6.00 Feast
Adult, Non-Member:	\$14.00 Day-Trip	\$ 6.00 Feast
Child (6-17):	\$ 0.00 Day-Trip	\$ 6.00 Feast
Child (0-5):	\$ 0.00 Day-Trip	\$ 6.00 Feast

Cost Notes: Event fee includes camping on Friday and Saturday night at this beautiful yet rustic site.

Site: Marietta Mansion is a rustic site located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, 20769-9120. The site will open at 4 p.m. Friday, July 13 and close 3 p.m. Sunday, July 15. There are portatoilets and rustic camp (simple tap water) showers.

Site Restrictions: No Pets, no original containers.

Feast: Feast will be prepared by Head Cook Casandra with Mentor Cooks HL Tirzah MacCudden and HL Orla Cary. Menu: TBD. Please e-mail feasts@otcreations.com with any questions or dietary concerns.

Merchants: We have plenty of shady space close to the tourney fields for merchant booths. Please let us know ahead of time if you will be coming, so we may plan accordingly. There will be no merchant fees, but all merchants will be expected to pay the regular site fee. Please contact Lady Serena de la Mar, e-mail:

serena@pongos.com for more information.

Autocrats: Baron Ansel Rowland Matthews and Baroness Catherine Grace Fitzlewis (Paul and Catherine Griffith), 1498E Edwards Place SW, Bolling AFB, DC 20032. (202) 561-4888 (no calls after 9pm), e-mail: griffith_paul@hotmail.com

Reservations: Ysabella Louviere (301) 422-8234.

Directions:

From the South: Make your best way to the Washington Beltway (I-495/195) and US-50. Take US-50 toward Annapolis. Take the first exit from US-50 onto MD-704 toward Glenn Dale and Bowie. This is a RIGHT turn at the end of the off ramp. Follow MD-704 for about 1.5 miles when it becomes MD-450. Continue on MD-450. Turn LEFT onto MD-193 ENTERPRISE RD. Continue to follow MD-193 W. In less than .5 mi. turn LEFT onto BELL STATION RD. If you pass a fire station you've gone too far. End at 5626 Bell Station Rd, Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120 US.

From the north: Make your best way to MD 295 (Washington Baltimore Parkway). Merge onto MD-295 S. Take the exit toward MD-193/GREENBELT/GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER. Take the ramp toward MD-193/COLLEGE PARK/UNIV OF MD/GLENN DALE/NASA. Turn LEFT onto MD-193 E/GREENBELT RD. Continue to follow MD-193 E for just over 5 miles. If you come to MD-450 you've gone too far. Turn SHARP RIGHT onto BELL STATION RD. End at 5626 Bell Station Rd, Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9120 US.



*Eleventh-Century Viking Ship
weathervane (Heggen, Norway)*



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act as violently as the women wish. Miller cites another instance where “one exceptional woman” (Miller 351) is allowed to participate in the settlement of a dispute, but it is clear that this is a rare exception.

Despite their inability to settle disputes directly at the Thing, women could have significant place within her family, there are many women who are the head of a household. Miller also tells us that Women could inherit Chieftainship, although they were not able to discharge the duties. When they inherited the power, women were forced to give it over to a member of the local Thing (Miller 24). This gives women a great deal of power to choose who will be the leader, but she herself is not able to lead. This may relate to the Thingman/Chieftain bond, which was an agreement between a chief and a member of the Thing to work together and be allies. The Thingman gave his loyalty to the Chief in return for favors. This was a fluid system in which Thingmen could change Chiefs if they were unhappy. A woman could not participate in this type of relationship because it is based on mutual support during legal disputes at the Thing, where women were not allowed to participate.

Despite their lack of power at the Thing, in matters regarding property, Miller asserts, “the Icelandic laws accorded women, both single and married, substantially more rights in property than other Scandinavian or continental codes” (Miller 27). Discussion of women, inheritance and marriage is too extensive to be covered in this essay, but there is an important law regarding women’s legal power to make purchases. In Norway’s Gulathing Law, for example, women were limited in their purchase power based on the amount of the purchase, and her social status, but her husband could annul that purchase within one month (Gulathing 76). The Gulathing and Frostathing Laws were written after Norway was converted to Christianity, so that may have changed some of the laws. It is clear that this excerpt shows how tenuous women’s control over the monetary expenditures of the household was. Overall, making assumptions about all of Scandinavia may not be accurate because the laws were different in different countries.

Unlike purchasing, where women were very much involved, women usually did not directly participate in warfare, but they are mentioned often in the laws in relation to violence. For example, the punishment for murder by a woman was the same as for a man. Further, when a woman was murdered, the wergeld paid was equal to that paid for a man (Gulathing 132). Even though women were usually not allowed to participate in legal disputes, they were empowered to participate when violence erupted among themselves. The law reads, “If [two] women come to blows no man can claim any atonement, only the women themselves [can claim it] (Gulapingslog 141). This indicates a certain amount of independence on the part of the women, because it is not clear whether it was required that a man go to the Thing to represent her.

It becomes clearer when reading the other laws that the person entitled to atonement is the person considered to have been harmed. That being the case, Rape was not considered a crime against a woman, but rather the man who was her guardian.

“In the case of a daughter or a sister. A man can claim the same atonement as [would be his due] in his own case: a single atonement if a man lies with her. And [he has] the same [right] in the case of any women from whom he is to inherit or of any woman whom he has in his household, if she has no heirs in the country here. (Gulathing 143)

When a woman was raped, it was a slight on the man who was entitled to inherit from her, or who was to give her a dowry. The atonement was not paid to the woman.

Monetary atonement (or payment in kind) was the primary method of punishment for crimes which did not require exile. In the case of rape, and some types of theft payment would settle the dispute. The distinction in the punishments for stealing was based on class,

“If a well-born women steals, she shall be driven out of the land...If a man’s freedwoman steals, or a native bondwoman, one of her ears shall be but off. If she steals a second time, the other ear shall be cut off; and if she steals a third time, her nose shall be cut off; After that she shall be called “stumpy and stubby” and let her go on thieving if she likes.” (Gulathing 167-168)

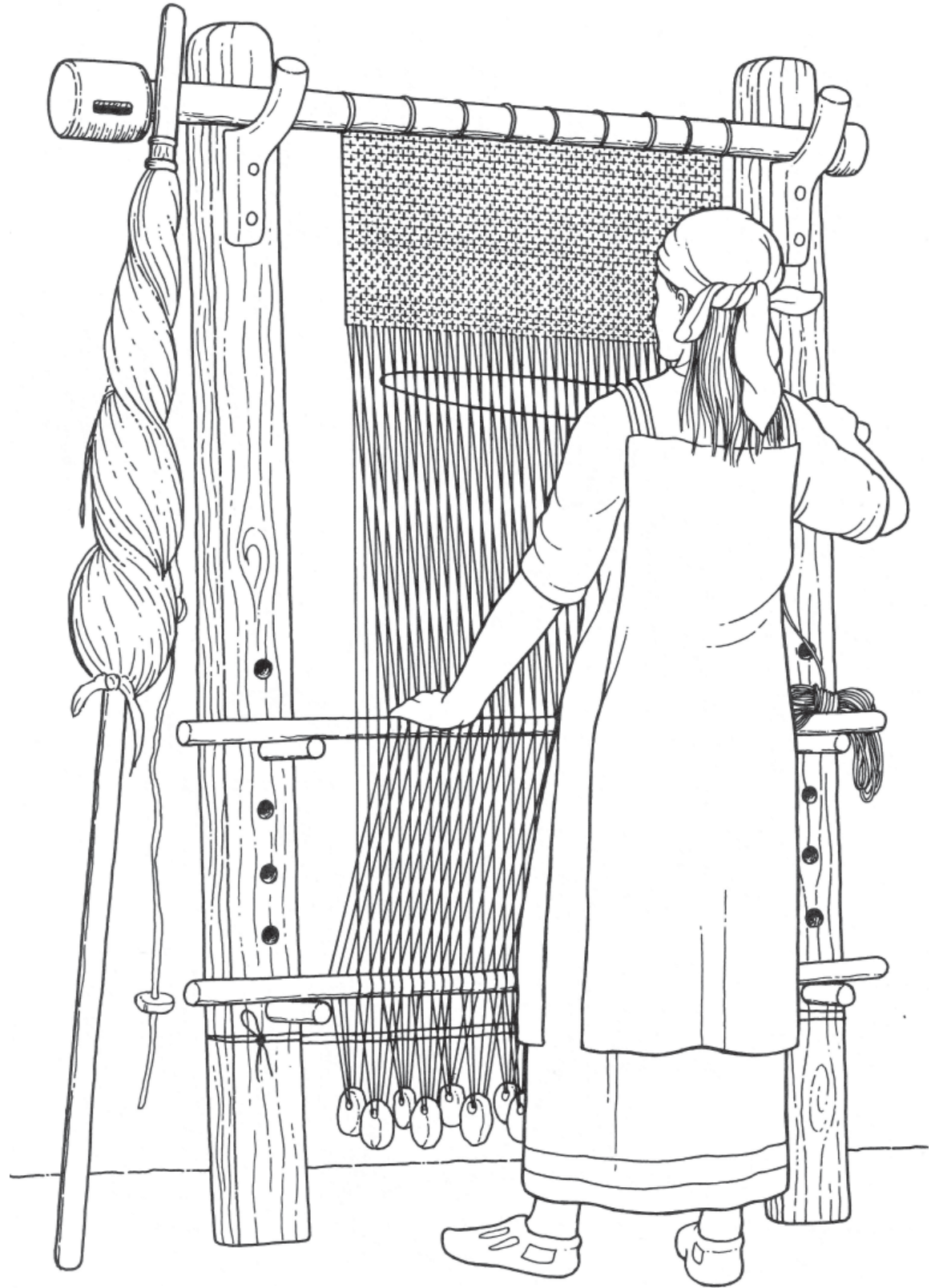
This distinction may be because a well born woman would not need to steal to survive. Miller argues that theft was judged harshly because of secrecy. For example, it was not as bad to kill someone if you announced it ahead of time; secrecy was the worst part of the crime (Miller 89). We see other examples of theft in the Njal’s Saga; again we turn to Hallgerd for an example of a woman committing a crime. She is accused of stealing a cheese, then giving it away as a gift. When Gunnar finds out about it, it is his responsibility to make amends (Njal’s Saga pp 83-84). In this case, Hallgerd’s inability to participate relieved her of some guilt in legal matters (though surely Gunnar was not

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happy with her when he got home). Even though the crime was Hallgerd's, Gunnar is required to atone for it.

Women's separation from the legal system was a detriment on one hand, but a blessing on the other. Women were not always able to settle disputes to their liking due to the requirement of male representation; however they were also exempt from guilt in many circumstances. The legal place of women in Scandinavian countries was complex and changeable depending on her class, the support of her male relatives, and the country in which she lived, but it can be concluded that the system was not especially modern, nor were the women afforded a great deal of rights in the legal sphere.



This figure depicts a Viking woman weaving on a standing loom. Woolen cloth was the most important textile manufactured for trade and use by Viking culture. The warp threads of this loom are being kept straight by stone or clay weights. The woman pictured is beating the thread into place with a wooden "weaving sword".