

Moose Call January 29, ASXVIII Vol. 1 No. 5

This is the MOOSE CALL, published by and for the members of the Shire of Arn Hold. It is not an official publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, inc., and does not delineate official Society Policy.

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Calendar

- January 29th 8:30 pm Officer's Meeting at Perkins on Boise Ave.
- February 10th 8:00 pm "Quest for a Rose" Revel at 2113 Euclid, Boise. There will be a poetry contest with the winning entry being published in the Moose Call. A Favor contest will also be held. The prize is to be announced. You are asked to bring a beverage for you and yours. The Autocrat is Els (Susan Huitt) 344-6068.
- February 12th 8:30 pm. Shire coffee at Perkins on Boise Ave.
- March 4th 8:30 pm Officer's Meeting. This will be at a new location probably on the Boise State campus, because we're outgrowing Perkin's
- March 17th 8:00 pm Welcoming Spring Revel at 1619 Liberty, Boise. The Autocrats are Kistina (Betty Brutsman) 336-7034 and Catronia (Kathy Hadden) 375-5333.
- March 23-25 North Quest, sponsored by Dark Horse Games, at the Basque Center, has asked us to make an appearance. Fighting will be scheduled. Further plans at Shire meetings.

April Wedding

Shariff Khan and his bride-to-be Ashma (Fred and Sherri) are tentatively planning a wedding/revel for the month of April. Details are still to be discussed.

Chronicler Notes

The Moose Call will no longer be a free publication of the Shire of Arn Hold. Bad news, my good people, the duplicating magic now costs me. I have figured out a reasonable pricing structure. This should enable everyone to adjust the price according to the type of subscription they want.

SINGLE COPY / NO MAILING 30¢

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12 ISSUE COST / NO MAILING \$4.00 THIS INCLUDES THE SHIRE DIRECTORY

12 ISSUE COST / MAILING \$6.00 THIS INCLUDES THE SHIRE DIRECTORY.

Science Miscellanea

From the lair of Robert Struanson, Master of Sciences

Greetings;

This month, (or next), I will be attempting to start a new column for the Moose Call. It will tentatively be called SCIENCE MISCELLANEA.

But in order to do this properly, I need to know what the majority of the populace would like to read (and hopefully learn) about.

The following is a partial list of "The Sciences":

Armouring	metal working	musical instraments
cooking	leather working	research
herbalism	glass working	history
brewing	assasins	philosophy
alchemy	war engines	mathematics
occult	engineering	tools
magic	toys	husbandry
astrology	games	etc, etc

What I need from you is to pick 3 or 4 topics that you would like to learn about and I will do my best to write an article on those subjects for you. And if there is enough interest we can form guilds and have classes.

Please let me know your choices by the next Shire coffee meeting. If you can't make the meeting contact someone who can.

Yours in Service,
Robert Struanson



Blackwork Embroidery

by Elianor of Hinlandia

Any lady of the Middle Ages was skilled in the arts of music, languages, perhaps art and administration, and embroidery. Embroidery probably began as a functional art. That is, something was needed to hold the seams of a garment together and if it could be done decoratively, all the better. When embroidery actually came to be used as a decorative device is hard to determine. Archeologists have discovered embroideries in the tombs of the Pharaohs as well as among ruins of ancient Viking and Barbarian settlements. Embroidery was used for many centuries, embroidery was used to decorate garments, personal items, household furnishings and ecclesiastical trappings.

One form of decorative embroidery used in many ways during the last part of the Middle Ages was Blackwork - black thread embroidered on white or light colored base. Its invention is often attributed to the unfortunate Catherine of Aragon, Henry VIII's first wife, but it was most likely in existence prior to her arrival in England for her first marriage. Chaucer, writing between 1390 - 1400, describes in "The Myller's Tale" the young wife's white smock as "embroidered in front and behind with coal-black silk and embroidered also on the inside and outside of the collar." There is - or was until the 2nd World War - evidence that blackwork was in vogue as early as 1170 - 1180. An altar piece from that era, that exhibited characteristics of blackwork, was destroyed during the bombing of Berlin.

The Moors are attributed with Blackwork's origin. When the Moors invaded Spain in 711 A.D., the "fluted, scrolled, and carefully controlled geometric patterns" they favored became integrated into Spanish art. Indeed, Blackwork embroidery was referred to as "Spanish work" outside of Spain.

Other sources believe that Blackwork developed in the middle Europe during the 12th Century because the monochrome scheme allowed reproduction of the black pen and ink straight line drawings of that time.

In any case, Blackwork was well established as a form of embroidery in England by 1600 and was used for clothing ornamentation as well as for cushions pillow covers, wall coverings and other household items.

The materials used to create blackwork during this period included a background fabric of bleached white linen, lawn (a very fine transparent linen used for ruffles, cuff, collars, etc), combric (a plain-weave unbleached or dull finished linen), lockram or harden (coarser linen used for less expensive items). Imported fabrics were also available from merchants.

The Embroidery itself was usually worked with black silk thread imported from the Eastern Mediterranean via the Netherlands. Much black silk was made with unstable dyes, hence much blackwork became brownwork with the passage of time. The black thread was relieved or embellished with metal threads - usually in the form of silvergilt, or vermeil. Spangles, introduced from Italy, also decorated blackwork items. The spangles were made of silvergilt cut into roundels with central hole for retaining stitchery.

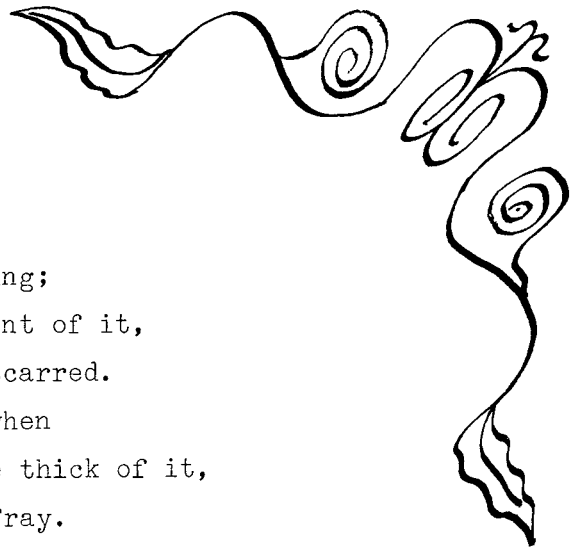
The most popular motifs were birds, flowers - especially the rose -, fruits especially pomegranates, animals, and various kinds of scroll work. The design was carefully laid out and repetitive. Often each emblem was separated from the next by some form of scroll or lattice pattern. Other panels were not so geometric and depicted a scene or story and resembled a drawing. Another popular pattern in the 17th century was the strap work design, an intercoiled scroll often shaped like ribbon with decorative edges.

Blackwork in England came to a rather abrupt halt with the advent of the 18th century and colored thread.

Excellent examples of blackwork can be seen in the paintings of Hans Holbein, court painter for Henry VIII of England, and in other late 16th century and early 17th century portraits.

In the next Issue of the Moose Call, suggestions for designs, stitches and materials to do your own blackwork, will be found. If you want to learn more about blackwork, read the book of the same name (as I did, and from which the information for this article was taken) by Mary Gostelow. Published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. and available at BSU library.

Riddle



Wounded I am, and weary with fighting;
Gashed by the iron, gored by the point of it,
Sick of battle-work, battered and scarred.
Many a fearful fight have I seen, when
Hope there was none, or help in the thick of it,
Ere I was down and fordone in the fray.
Offspring of hammers, hardest of battle-blades,
Smithied in forges, fell on me savagely,
Doomed to bear the brunt and the shock of it,
Fierce encounter of clashing foes.
Leech cannot heal my hurts with his simples,
Salves for my sores have I sought in vain.
Blade-cuts dolorous, deep in the side of me,
Daily and nightly redouble my wounds.

Twelfth Night

'Twas a grand old gathering of the un-mundane. A mist in the night, a smoke filled room of those who feel the magic call of the honor and prestige of their past included the anglo-saxon, the scandinavian viking, and other such vandals and courtiers. Ladies of the Court being very rabbit to the eye.

With such good company, and mug of mead, a hearty three cheers of Arn Hold the festivities began. Candle-litten tables of old, all in pleasant mood looking forward to what adventures the new year will bring. Hoot, man, what more could a barbarian ask for, except more rabbit.

The first course came soup of the meal which in my pallet the bread and cheese should have accompanied, more suitable to the delicate table manners of the barbaric code, but there is still high expectations of the coming great plate of rabbit.

With spoon-fork-knife in hand all trampling, hand-stabbing, hair-pulling out of the way, the first course was consumed without much loss of blood. HA!, HA!, HA! That was fun, can't wait till the next course is over to see which rabbit was taken the most often, ya gotta stay away from used goods. More barbarian ethics.

Happenings of the second course were as uneventful as the appetizer, which were little more than rabbit morsels of the civilized mundane world. Us barbarians must keep our higher standards in order to preserve the unequalled high demands of a unique life that is thrust upon all barbaric kind. That's tough rabbit.

As the last course is devoured, more mead is consumed than planned for. The magic-users could no longer hold the wearier spirit back. What happened next was worthy of Odin's attention. But to go into detail is unethical, seeing that this manuscript may well fall into the hands of the mundane world. Let us suffice it to say that two drunk dragons could not have had a better time at an all night christians roasting on an open fire roast. All happenings at the twelfth night feast would please even the dullest minded rabbit barbarian.

Poo the Bold Barbarian at large
(freely translated from the barbaric)

Persona Introduction

My name is Wolfgang Hääkensted. I was born the third son of a Rus landholder and trader. Our trade is between the far east and Europe along the Volga river and over land to Sweden.

At the age of fouteen, I traveled to Sweden with my oldest brother, Sven to sell a cargo of silk we had obtained. We also visited my great-uncle, Eric. Uncle Eric was getting ready to raid the coast of Eire and I decided to go with him while Sven returned home to Rusland.

It was on this raid that I found my future wife. She was in a town which we raided, and I took her as part of my booty.

After returning to Sweden, I decided that the life of a mercenary would suit me well. I have lived that life ever since. After four years I freed and married my slave girl, Ariel. We now reside in the shire of Arn Hold where the Clan Robertson now employs my services.



Never Play
Leapfrog
with a Unicorn

Scadians' Carol

It was a cold and wintry night as we headed to the local Perkin's Tavern. We were all going to meet there to go Christmas Caroling. When most of our group had arrived, we braved the cold once more to start our caroling at Treasure Valley Manor, a home for the elderly, and then to the Veteran's Home.

We started singing through the halls, maybe a little off-key at times, or maybe a little faint or uncertain on some of the unfamiliar lines, but nobody who was listening seemed to mind. The people greeted us with smiles, clapped their hands, sung along, and I saw tears of joy in the eyes of some. We were spreading Christmas cheer to those who may have thought they were forgotten, or that nobody cared, and made them feel a little bit happier in the holiday season.

Share the Goodies...

As candlelight played across the table, a castle flickered with many colored jewels. This small edible was just too pretty to eat. (Very few of the remaining sweets suffered the same fate!) The table was filled to overflowing with varied treats. The Goodies demonstrated the culinary abilities of our members.

The smalls in our Shire enjoyed trimming the Christmas tree. We all enjoyed the joy smalls displayed in their exploits.

We organized a Caroling session. A-1 displayed our musical abilities (or lack thereof). Most members managed to remember the first verse of all Carols that we sang.

With the goodies, the Tree, and the Caroling, we brought in the Yuletide season with SCAdian flair.

About Twelfth Night

As autocrat for the Twelfth night feast, I would like to thank some people for their help and patience in making the feast turn out so well. Domer, for offering the use of his hall, Errica, for bankrolling the food, Errynne and Rose for helping me serve, and Bear and Domer and Robert and Els for supplying tables and chairs. Without their help there would not have been a feast. Thank you.

For the record, we counted 44 people, and somehow made \$21.18 for the Shire. Thanks to all for a wonderful time.

Crown Lands Proposal

Good people of the northern part of the Principality of the Outlands pray attend this proposal that the future of our area might be of your fashioning and directed toward the best for all.

At the Artimisian Games, held this year in the mountains above Dragonsrest (Vernal, Utah) a fireside council was held - attended by their Majesties Christopher and Constance, the barons, baronesses and Vicker of the three baronies and cantons of the north. At this council, it was decided that if the Kingdom proposal was rejected, as it seemed by then both timely and by changed conditions good, the following would be put forward to all concerned.

Our vast Principality of the Outlands, spreading from border to border, has entered into a time of transition. Differences in philosophy have arisen between groups in the south of the Principality and those of us in the north. We are proposing that a new boundary be drawn in the vicinity of the mundane Four Corners area and that all the area northward of Arizona and New Mexico be declared Crown Lands subject directly to King of Atenveldt. Currently, the Principality of the Outlands is so large that it can take twenty hour or more to journey to or from a Principality event. For those unable to be absent from their mundane employment, this can be a severe hardship and may even necessitate going to work the day after an event without having gotten any sleep the night before. Reducing the area would correspondingly reduce the travel time to and from events and permit more people to attend them. A smaller area would improve communications and make administration easier. It would reduce political and personal conflicts and make it easier for nearby groups to support one another. Wars and other events would be closer for all the people within the area and therefore all groups would have a better chance of being represented at an event. There has developed a basic philosophic difference between the way we dream the dream and that dream in the south. In order to smooth out the contacts between these two points of view, chivalry may be better served if holding the Coronet ceases to be such an all-important highly emotional goal. Our musicians and artisans, too, would benefit from an atmosphere in which their areas of expertise receive more recognition.

We, therefore, ask your support for the division of the area in the north as independent Crown Lands responsible directly to the King of Atenveldt.

Your comrade in service

Sir Robert de Spencer of Loch Salann

Society for Creative Anachronism

Membership Application

PLEASE NOTE:

All monies (except subscription fees shown in parentheses, below) are a tax deductible contribution to the SCA, Inc. Thank you! Canadian members *must* add the First Class Option to their subscriptions to any publication (including their own Kingdom newsletter), as Canada does not honor our Third Class mailing permit. Please send U.S. dollars only — it costs us \$\$\$ to process Canadian funds.

All officers of the SCA, Inc., are required to be members in good standing. All publications, etc., *must* be ordered for the full term of membership.

PATRON MEMBERSHIP: \$150/year. Member receives, if requested, a subscription to all Kingdom newsletters (\$6/year each), *Tournaments Illuminated* (\$4/year), the Minutes of the Board of Directors (\$6/year), *The Compleat Anachronist* (\$6/year), a membership card, and the extreme gratitude of the Society. Patron and Contributing Members are recognized and thanked in an annual listing published in TI. Anonymity, if desired, is honored. Receipt available on request.

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