

# Fox Tales

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO ENGRAVE

JULY 1993

A.S. XXVIII

## VULPINE REACH "ROAD SHOW" STRIKES AGAIN!

### DUPONT SCHOOL STUDENTS HOLD 'REN FEST,' INVITE DEMO TEAM

Just like lightning, Vulpine Reach's demo team made a solid impact when it held a great demo at the Dupont Elementary School last month. Unlike lightning, however, the team struck twice in the same place when it participated in a student-run 'ren fest' at the same school!

On Tuesday, June 8, Mistress Lijsbeth, Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera, David Holmes, Lord James Toxophilus, and another shire gentle (forgive me, I didn't get your name) arrived at the school in the late morning, set up the pavilion and prepared for a hot but educational day.

Mistress Lijsbeth, Lady Diana, David, and the other member of the team held the students entranced with exhibits of armor, heraldry, and costuming as classes were conducted around the festival. Elsewhere, Lord James had set up the shire's target, strung a bow, and presented a demonstration of archery.

Throughout the festival (play)grounds, the students of the gifted class manned booths for a sponge-brick throw, Nerf-bow archery, and face-painting. Other students in the class provided entertainment in the form of roving performances. There was juggling, dancing, bicycle "jousting" (Knight Marshals, take note: no injuries reported), and even royal court with a king and queen.

For four hours, the school grounds of Dupont Elementary School were transformed into a taste of the Middle Ages. And due to the efforts of both the students and our shire's people, the festival was a success. Unto both the students of that fine class and the demo team, "Huzzah!!"

### A NOTE FROM THE SENESCHAL:

How would you like a shot at your own slice of immortality?

How would you like the satisfaction, every time a shire award is given, of knowing that *you* were the one who chose its name?

If you are interested, please submit a name/token-design to Lady Rachele by July 19 so we will have time to accept recommendations and create these tokens in time for Tourney of the Foxes.

We will either have one award given for different reasons (i.e., A&S, Service, or Fighting) or three separate awards. I suppose that this will depend on the number of viable entries. If you have any questions, please let me know (I'm rather new at this awards thing).

On a completely different note, rehearsals right before the meetings seem to be a dismal failure. Meeting at fighter practice now seems much more doable (like my Hollywood lingo?). The half-hour before meetings may be good for one-on-one work, or extra work on difficult blocking for a few actors, etc., but every time we wait for all the actors to show up, it's time to start the meeting.

I have cast all the parts in this year's performance except for two parts. If you have always wanted to be on stage, or even (gasp!) if you actually have any acting experience whatsoever. Or, if you'd like to act like a stuck-up kingdom peerage type (peers in our own group not included, of course...) please see me. Going to people outside the shire is an absolute last resort. The lines really aren't *that* bad, honest.

Your Humble Servant,  
Lady Rachele du Pied-Leger

## FROM THE CHRONICLER

Good day, gentles all! Well, it's nearly time for Tourney of the Foxes - our own annual "Poor-Man's Pennsic!" In the last five years, this local event has grown like crazy (since people found out just how much fun we foxes have) from 140 gentles up to nearly 200 at last year's event.

Such growth doesn't come without a price. Enthusiastic as we are, we remain a small shire with limited resources. Our most important resource, though, is you - the talented and gracious folk of this group. If you think you hear a sales pitch - you're right....

This year, we're going to a brand-new site for the event: Booker T. Washington State Park. We also have a lot of brand-new people in our group who have yet to experience the controlled chaos that we go through in hosting an event. To those of you who have never been to an SCA event, I say, "Come out, relax, watch the fighters, compete in the contests, partake and enjoy the delicious feast, and **have fun!**" Yours is not to *have* to help at the event, but to *enjoy* the event. If you are of the mind to help out, do as little as you like - you are not under obligation to help, no matter what anybody says.

To all you veteran foxes of our local shire, I say, "Pitch in and help us make this the best Tourney yet!" We need everybody to rally together and **COMMIT** to helping out in the kitchen, in the troll booth, on the tourney field, at the archery competition, anywhere and everywhere! Even if it is nothing more than carrying water to fighters and archers or peeling veggies in the kitchen (always a favorite among folks who like meeting new people!), your efforts ARE APPRECIATED! Every little bit helps, folks!

Soon, a sign-up sheet will appear at meetings for you to volunteer for various and sundry duties; find something that you can do to help and sign up. If you *do* sign up for something, though, please, please, please, **please** follow through and do what you said you'd do! If you have no intentions to do what you say you'll do, **DON'T SIGN UP!!**

I hated to sound harsh, but it needed to be said. Let's all work for a great Tourney this year!

Gramercy gentles,

## BEST BETS

7/2-5 Meridies 15-Year Celebration, Arenal (411 mi.)  
\$20 till 6/15, \$25 thereafter. 3-day event, fighting, A&S contests, RUM courses, bring your own feast, tenting.

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## CALENDAR

### JULY

- 1 \*\*\* CANADA DAY \*\*\*
- 2-5 EVENT-15-YEAR CELEBRATION (Arenal)
- 4 \*\*\* INDEPENDENCE DAY \*\*\*
- 5 No Meeting, No Kidding!
- 12 Business Meeting
- 17 EVENT-Osprey  
Archery Practice at Choo Choo Lanes
- 19 Sewing Workshop/Birthday Meeting/Deadline for August Fox Tales
- 24 EVENT-July Feast (Thorngill)  
EVENT-Midsummer Passage of Arms (Wyrmgelst)
- 26 Business Meeting (Planning for Tourney of the Foxes)

### AUGUST

- 2 Business Meeting (Planning for Tourney)/Distribution of August Fox Tales
- 9 Local Meeting
- 14 EVENT-EZARET
- 16 Local Meeting/Deadline for September Fox Tales
- 21 EVENT-Magna Faire (Iron Mountain)
- 23 Final Local Meeting before Tourney of the Foxes!!!
- 28 EVENT-Tourney of the Foxes (Vulpine Reach)

Fighter practice is held on Sunday afternoons in Warner Park at 2 p.m. (weather permitting); chapter meetings are in room 116 at Holt Hall, UTC campus on Mondays at 8 p.m.

## Regnum

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Seneschal                             | Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger<br><i>Rachel Lightfoot 965-7947</i>    |
| Knight Marshall                       | Lord Forddwydd Meredydd, Esq.<br><i>Craig Rethwilm 624-3458</i>    |
| Herald                                | THL Richard Fenwick<br><i>Ken Scott 698-5007</i>                   |
| Arts & Sciences                       | Lee Comyn<br><i>Lee Cummings 855-0303</i>                          |
| Hospitaller                           | Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera<br><i>Diane Walker 875-5417</i>           |
| Reeve                                 | Mistress Lijsbeth Tijsz van Brugge<br><i>Leslie Dulin 886-6256</i> |
| Historian                             | Lady Madelena de Luna<br><i>Joy Day 891-9410</i>                   |
| Chronicler                            | Lord James Toxophilus<br><i>Jim Long 894-6487</i>                  |
| Chancellor, Meridian College of Bards | Lady Egelina Rabbette<br><i>Rabbit Kadrach 877-6299</i>            |

## The Fox Files

Good day kind gentles! I am Lord James Toxophilus and I have been involved in the SCA for about seven years now.

My name is a combination of my mundane first name and the word Toxophilus: "one who has made a scholarly study of archery...." I chose my name due to my love of archery (big surprise for those who know me!). In fact, my SCA last name literally translated from the Greek means, "lover of the bow!"

The first event I ever went to was the Fall Coronation in 1987. I didn't stay the weekend; you couldn't even say that I day-tripped! I actually went to the event to deliver one of my bows to Lord Davoc Walkere so that he could compete in the Queen's Yeoman tournament. The winner becomes the Queen's bodyguard and is a member of the Royal entourage. When I gave Lord Davoc my bow, Lady Diana, his wife, convinced me to "garb up" and stay until I had to leave early that afternoon. One thing led to another until I ended up shooting in the tournament!

Lord Davoc was also responsible for me getting involved in SCA (gee, I can blame a lot of stuff on him!). He was the friend of a friend and was interested in archery and wanted some coaching. He told me about the possibility of teaching and shooting SCA tournaments. I was hooked!

My interests other than archery include leather working, cooking, wine making, some music (I've been learning the bodhran - again from Lord Davoc!), back scratching, and dancing. Naturally, my favorite is archery!

I'm fairly good at wine making and archery; that tournament I entered at Fall Coronation...I won! (I wasn't even at court to receive my appointment!) I also won at Tourney of the Foxes several years ago and at May Tourney last year. My wines won at competitions in Atlantia, Kingdom A&S two years ago, Kingdom A&S last year, and at Silver Hammer last year.

The most recent event I attended was Spring Coronation this year.

The funniest thing to happen to me at an event occurred at Tourney of the Foxes a few years ago. I had been

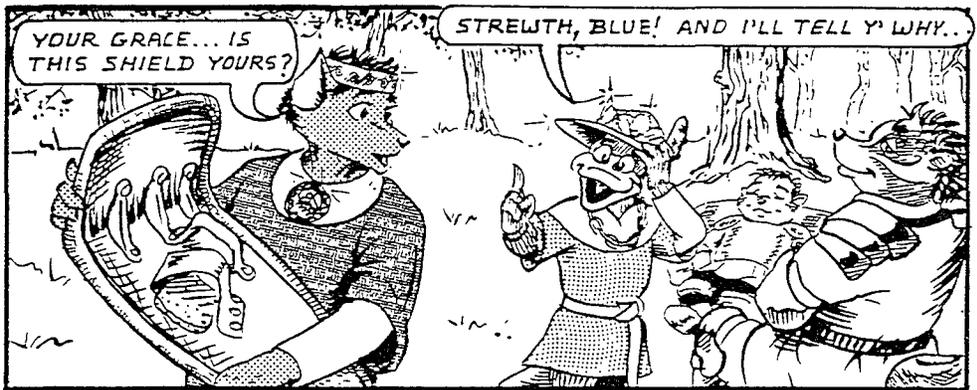
summoned by Their Highnesses Michael and Judith. My brain seized and I couldn't remember how to address them! In the end, I managed to pull my wits together enough to bow and mumble "Milord Prince, Milady Princess!" It was only as I walked away that I remembered that they are "Your Royal Highnesses!"

The funniest thing I saw at an event was the expression on the faces of some mundanes at May Tourney last

year when the Ashleys were hawking "fresh Rat-On-A-Stick" for lunch (they were really sausages with pepperoni ears and a Slim Jim tail, served in a hot-dog bun). The mundanes turned a remarkable shade of green when they heard *that* sales pitch!

The most memorable moment of my SCA experiences was when I was called forward in Court to receive the Broken Bow of Meridies award.

## Warthaben™



Travels: Meridian Fighter's Collegium/1st Bardic Symposium, hosted by Branstock

28 May, '93 - AS XXVIII

Well, good gentles, My first major event was fast approaching. My nerves were a bit on - edge; I had, of course, been to the Black Gryphon Collegium (but only as a day-tripper!). This would be an entirely different experience...after all, this was "The Meridian Fighter's Collegium and first ever Meridian Bardic Symposium"! WOW!! Never mind that this would be the first time I would be at an event the entire weekend!

The weekend promised to be a very good one, if my travel companions were any indication. I had the honor of being accompanied by two of the most wonderful ladies: Lady Egelina Rabbette and the most gracious Brijette.

We had planned on leaving for Branstock (Millbrook, Alabama) at 5pm. Being fairly new to the Society, I didn't understand the concept of "SCA time." We left at 9:30 pm, Chattanooga time....

The four hour drive was pretty much uneventful, with the exception of our leaving the rear window open for the first hour. Luckily, no stuff was lost - due in part by expert packing by the only person who was still awake!

We arrived in Branstock's environs around 1:30am (Central time) and had camp set up around three hours later. I sent the ladies off to bed and decided to make-do without sleep. That was my first mistake.

Sometime after sunrise, I was introduced to the event's marshal-in-charge. I asked him if I could be trained as a marshal. The marshal-in-charge proceeded to introduce me to His Royal Majesty, King Brian and asked *him* to train me to become a marshal! I was in shock! It was almost more than I could handle: I was to be with *His Majesty all morning!!*

King Brian spent the morning "showing me the ropes" and observing the various classes.

That afternoon, I approached Sir Mailloch and asked him if he could help me become certified to marshal, to which he graciously agreed. The rest of the afternoon was spent in my learning to marshal melee combat and in my

getting sunburned! (Advice for the newcomer: wear a hat and some sunscreen.)

That evening, the Crown held court; *that* was a marvelous event in and of itself! After court, we had a wondrous feast and dancing all night. A wondrous time was had by all. At least that's what I was told; I wasn't there. I had succumbed to sunburn and heat exhaustion as a result of my earlier foolishness!

The next day turned out better for me in several regards...

I was introduced to the Royal Harper, Mistress Floriadh nic Alasdair. She is an absolutely enchanting lady! Even though she is blind, she can make her harp sing, and see better than I ever could. It was honestly a great honor meeting this lady!

That Sunday, I spent the morning on the list-field observing and getting acquainted with a new fighter's game called "Blood of Heroes." It looked very challenging - downright exhausting, in fact!

As the day progressed, I got a sample of what I'd missed the day before. In the afternoon, I witnessed something incredible: a *Knighting!* This was a total suprise! Then, the Crown held court again, with all the attendant regalia and pomp. Then, *another* feast! Am I glad I was able to enjoy this evening!! Three cheers for the Feasterat! Everything was marvelous. We spent the remainder of the night gaming and gambling at a "Casino Night" and later, danced beneath the stars.

Sadly, Monday eventually rolled around and we packed and headed home.

All in all, this was a fantastic event. People who have been in the Society for many years told me that they had as good a time as I did. My thanks and congratulations to all the people of Branstock and all the folks that helped with this event. Thanks for making it a great time!

-Gaston

A Second View...

The Historical Accounting of the First Ever Meridian Bardic Symposium.

The Fighter's Collegium played host to the First Ever Meridian Bardic Symposium this year. Bards gathered to

honor our fighters and become part of history in the making.

As the field was bloodied with the toil of brave fighters, so did the quills of the bards furiously pen the spectacle for all Meridians to know the perils faced that day!

Actually, a few of us gathered in the coolest room on-site. While the fighters sweated in the sun, we read books about Anglo-Saxon Long Line poetic form and gossiped about the day, but who writes the histories *anyway?* We bards, of course!

The patrons of the arts were generous in their gifts; prizes for the competition were supplied by Baron Axemoor and by The Baron and Baroness Small Gray Bear.

The tales were proclaimed loudly in the great hall and the feasters were actually quiet while the bards recited their efforts! Many were the poems created that day (well, seven poems, anyway) and proudly were the fighters immortalized in word (you betcha!). Gifts were provided to all those bards who participated (small scrolls count as gifts, don't they?). The bards lingered into the night planning the next bardic gathering - at least two of us considered it...

While the victorious fighters and the dead and maimed alike reveled and gambled their souls away in sinful gaming, the *bards* shared their masterful works (we sat on the porch in rocking chairs and sang bawdy songs).

The event was successful, the Symposium was successful, and a good time was had by all. I look eagerly forward to next year!

-Lady Egelina Rabbette

Travels: The An Dun Theine / U. A. H. Demo

I first met The Honorable Lord Gordon MacBlayr and his Lady Bianca at the Black Gryphon Collegium in March. The visited with us again at our River Roast event and graciously invited us to a demo they'd planned for the following weekend. Since Lady Rabbette had spent some years in An Dun Theine on her way here from the West, she was anxious to see her old friends and invited our whole shire to go with her.

That morning, Lady Rabbette

## An Dun Theine, *continued*

made Monkey Bread and we all snacked on it until everyone had arrived. May Eve and Scott, Culluden, Brijette, Hezekiah, Rabbette, and I then headed southward.

All was well until about thirty miles from the site, when Lady Rabbette's car overheated. Some kind mundanes spent over half an hour, cooling it with a hose. I then gave her two quarts of oil and we continued on our way.

We arrived on-site and spread our blankets in the shade, then Rabbette walked us through all of the exhibits and introduced us to her friends.

My first impression was that their demo looked like a smallish official event! Everyone was in garb and/or armor, there were pavilions all about, and remarkable displays of everything from garb and armor to heraldic illuminations everywhere! The fighters were doing their thing, as well as the dancers.

While we sat down to the fabulous feast provided by May Eve's good mother, the shire began its "Fashion Show of the Ages." This displayed garb from all eras of our period and was, by far, the most impressive part of the demo. After we ate and fed a famished fighter, we joined in a May pole Dance and brought a warlord to his knees!

Later, Rabbette led the An Dun Theine Chorus in a stirring performance of "The Warrior's Cry." Soon thereafter, mundane obligations required Hezekiah and I to leave, despite the tempting offer from An Dun Theine to go to a post-event cookout.

Before we left, we amused those around us when I presented Lady Rabbette with "...a gift from the Arab lands to Godspeed her journey home...", since we were worried about her car. Well, it was more "period" than saying, "Here's a quart of oil for your car"!

Altogether, it was a lot of fun to visit another group, to see what their members do, make some new acquaintances, and enjoy the fellowship that is at the heart of what the SCA strives to achieve. My thanks to those who invited us, spent time with us, and to my travel companions; I really enjoyed myself!

-Teresa and Hezekiah of the North River

## From Laird Cailean mich Alasdair A'Sinclair and Heather of Loch Maree, Autocrats of Tourney of the Foxes - Unto the Good Populous of the Shire of Vulpine Reach

Greetings Good Gentles,

As the autocrats of Tourney of the Foxes, we are striving to produce an event we can all enjoy and be proud of. If it would please you to provide us with some information to assist in the planning of this event it would be most helpful, indeed. Please provide the following information, plus anything else which pertains to your area, in writing, as soon as possible but not later than June 28. Quality and quantity of space, time to begin the activity (*Real time, NOT SCA time*), estimated length of activity, estimated number of participants of activity, number and qualifications of people to help with the activity, whether you need a prize for the winner(s) of the activity, any materials or equipment that will be needed.

Thank you for your time effort, and interest.

In Service,

*Laird Cailean mich Alasdair A'Sinclair*  
*Heather of Loch Maree*

### TO ALL, FROM THE CHRONICLER:

My apologies for the brevity of this edition of Fox Tales. Due to the deadline crunch, I have had to rush this edition to print. I hope you enjoy it nevertheless.

-Lord James Toxophilus

**SPECIAL MESSAGE TO  
ALL, FROM GAYLWIND  
REDMANE:  
PLEASE SAVE YOUR  
POPULAR CHILVARY'S  
FOR FUTURE DEMOS -  
GIVE'EM TO ME!**

### **ITEMS FOR SALE**

200 WAXED LEATHER PLATES (1 1/2" X 4") FOR BRIGANDINE ARMORS	\$40
WAXED LEATHER KIDNEY BELT (6" WIDE)	\$25
WAXED LEATHER BASKET HILTS (PAIR)	\$30
WAXED LEATHER HALF-GAUNTLETS (PAIR)	\$20

CONTACT LORD FORDDWYDD MEREDYDD AT (615) 624-3458

## EVENT SURVIVAL: Expect the Unexpected.

So far, we know what to do to get ready for an event and roughly what to take. What happens if you are faced with something you didn't plan for?

For events where you expect to have a fire (even if it's only "tiki torches"), you need to have a fire extinguisher - they aren't expensive compared to just what may burn.

You also need a fairly good first aid kit, containing burn ointment, bandages, Band-Aids, antiseptic cream, and any emergency medication you may require. Also include medical tape, tweezers, aspirin or other pain reliever, and anti-diarrhea medicine. Even if *you* don't need it, somebody else might.

If you are allergic to bee stings, certain types of food, certain plants, or by some bad luck come down with severe sunburn or heat exhaustion, you'll really need serious medical attention.

In any medical emergency, *seconds* may literally make the difference in life and death. If you have or are faced with an emergency, get assistance from the event surgeon **immediately**. If things stabilize before he/she gets there, so much the better - but if the situation gets out of hand (and they can very quickly), you will have back-up from someone with first-aid training.

Should you be a gentle with a health condition (heart trouble, diabetes, etc.), get *and wear* a MedicAlert medallion. These show immediately what you may be suffering from, even if you are out cold. Failing that, it's a good idea if you carry a card on your belt with any allergies, medical or toxic, your blood type, and the name of somebody at the event who knows you, and the name of a relative to contact in an emergency.

If you expect the unanticipated, it is possible for you to salvage an uncomfortable weekend or even save a life at an event.

Be safe, and be ready!

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the contributors to the July issue:

*Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera*  
*Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger*  
*Baron William Blackfox*  
*Gaston*  
*Lady Egelina Rabbette*  
*Teresa of Vulpine Reach*  
*Hezekiah of the North River*  
*Laird Cailean michAlasdair A'Sinclair*  
*Heather of Loch Maree*  
*Gaylwind Redmane*  
*Lord Forddwydd Meredydd*  
*Lord Llywelyn ap Alawn*  
*Malcolm michAlasdair A'Sinclair*

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Next issue, look for special *Border Raids* coverage, since I am planning to attend the event myself. However, *I* won't be the only one from this fair shire that will be going.

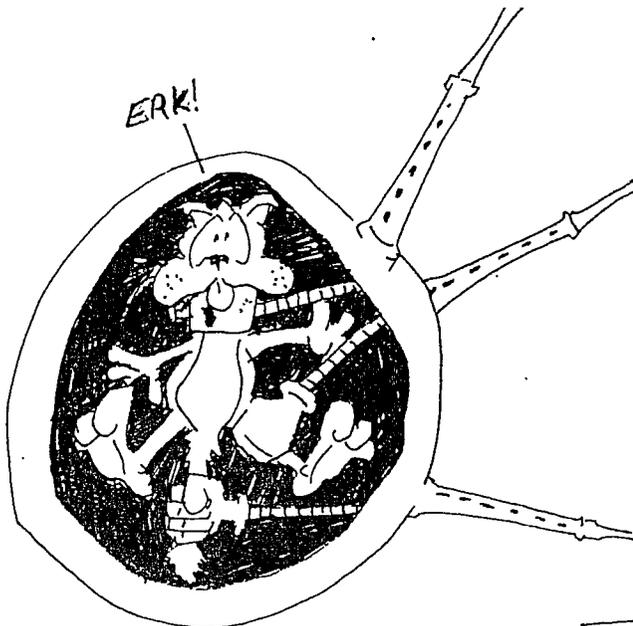
With that in mind, I would like to humbly ask any and all members who attend this grand event to please fill out an event questionnaire so that I might give this big event it's proper due. After all, chroniclers may be good, but we can't be *everywhere!* (Besides, I'm planning to enter A&S with a wine and compete in the archery contest...I'll let you know how I did - if you are interested, that is, in next issue!)

I am particularly interested in any and all from those of you who watch the fighting, go to the bardic circle, and go to court. I appreciate all of you gentles. Thanks!

# FOX TALES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHIRE OF VULPINE REACH

C/O JIM LONG  
1305 LA BREA ROAD  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37421



BAGPIPE CROSS SECTION

MM...