

FOX TALES

The Newsletter of Vulpine Reach

NOV 1997 "ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO ENGRAVE" A.S. XXXII

Sir Robert Wins Crown List

On October 11, the Barony of South Downs, in association with the Meridian Southern Consortium, held the annual Fall Crown Tournament at Camp Rutledge, Hard Labor Creek State Park.

At the request of the Crown, the first and odd-numbered rounds of the tournament were fought with a nine-foot spear, the even-numbered rounds were fought with the fighter's choice of weapons - with all shields used in the list having a center-grip.

Over twenty-five gentles appeared before His Majesty when the sword oath was given and the fighting began. (As an aside, Baroness Daphne of Colchester was presented a Pelicanate just before the sword oath. His Majesty asked the usual questions of her regarding the list participants - then commanded her to start her vigil.)

The final rounds came down to a contest between Duke Gareth and Sir Robert Glendon of Auk. When the dust had settled, the victor was Sir Robert, with his lady wife, Baroness Aelfifu Haralddottir as his Consort.

"Bardic Thang" Held

Four days before All Hallow's Eve, Lady Catherine Barrett of Canterbury held a special gathering at her home for our shire's ghoulies and ghosties - but with an exception: said ghoulies and ghosties in attendance had to be *bardic* ghoulies and ghosties.

That's right, it was a Hallowe'en party with a bardic theme. The performances ranged from THL Alexander's poetry reading to a ghost story of the Tower of London and a song of a Scottish spirit after the battle of Culloden Moor. It was such a lively party that even the guest appearance

of "Death" couldn't dampen the spirits!

While most showed up in the requisite costume, some - like your esteemed author - rushed there straight from work in mundane modems. After the required chastisement, we all got down to the business of having fun! Among the others, there was a rather dapper "Robo-Fop", "Death", "Time Anomaly" (a quite clever costume by Mistress Lijsbeth!), Lady Catherine as a witch, and Laird Davoc and Lady Diana appearing as themselves.

The revel lasted well into the night and between the good food and good company, a grand time was had by all.

Shire Gains "OVO's"

Most gentles realize that Silver Hammer (this year renamed "Drizzle Hammer") was held on the weekend of November 1 - or the weekend following Halloween. However, for four of our shire members, the weekend takes on special significance as one of "treats" rather than "tricks."

During an extremely long (approximately three hours, by several accounts) pair of Courts, TH Lady Rachelle du Pied-Leger and Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera were recognized by the Companions of the Velvet Owl and made members of that august order.

Additionally, Lord Ursus Grim (who did the banner headline at the top of this page) and his Lady Francesca d'Angelo were apprenticed "to some really cool people" (according to Lady Diana). Lord Ursus became an apprentice to Mistress Nicaret Grandelle de Foix and Lady Francesca received her green belt from Mistress Rosamund of Mercia.

CALENDAR

Weekend events are marked in bold, local activities are in normal typeface, and holidays are marked with asterisks.

November

- 8 **Fighter's Collegium - Bryn Madoc**
- 10 **Class: Glass bead-making demo.**
- 11 **** Veteran's Day ****
- 15 **Flying Dragon - S. Downs**
Gatalop - Osprey
Defender - Trollfen
- 17 **Class: Natural Dying & Pigments/**
Fox Tales Deadline
- 22 **Masque of Red Death - Blackwood**
Magna Faire - Iron Mountain
Rose & Sword - Polus Partus
- 24 **Birthday Meeting/Dance Class**
- 27 ***** Thanksgiving Day *****
- 29 **Meridian Market - Crimson River**

December

- 1 **Business Mtg./ Fox Tales dist.**
- 6 **Glenn Abhann A&S - Axemoor**
Toys for Tots - Firedrake
- 8 **Class: Russian Garb**
- 13 **Siege of Dragoun's Keep -**
Dragoun's Weal
Toys for Tots - Ewige Vogel
- 15 **Class: Poetry/ Fox Tales Deadline**

Meetings and Practices:

Local chapter meetings are at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hixson Pike and Hwy 153 on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Fighter practice is held at the Tennessee River Park behind Chattanooga State Technical Community College near the railroad bridge on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Contact Lord James at 949 - 4394 for information on Archery Practices.

BEST BETS:

11-14 **Flying Dragon**, Indian Springs State Park, Jackson, GA (167 mi.). Prices: Weekend w/feast \$23, daytrip w/feast \$13, members deduct \$3, off-board deduct \$5, \$2 parking pass to be paid to the park rangers. Two tournaments, root beer contest, Friday night tavern w/ games. 150 beds in cabins, no tenting. Feast is limited to first 175. Site is discreetly wet; all containers must be removed from the site! Site opens at 5 p.m.

Friday and closes at 11 a.m. Sunday. No pets.

REGNUM

- Seneschal** - Laird Davoc Walkere
Randy Walker (423) 875 - 5417
iddavoc@aol.com
minstrel@utc.campus.mci.net
- Knight Marshal** - THL Richard Fenwick
Ken Scott (423) 698 - 5007
- Herald** - THL Alexander Ravenscroft
Brian Moore (423) 870 - 5132
- A & S Minister** - Lady Kate the Green
Betsy O'Shee (423) 629 - 1238
- Hospitaller** - Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera
Diane Walker (423) 875 - 5417
dianafiona@aol.com
- Minister of Children, Historian** -
Mellisande of Rennes
Brenda Britton (423) 870 - 0511
- Chronicler** - Lord James Toxophilus
Jim Long (home) (423) 949 - 4394
(Work FAX) (423) 785 - 1319
jamestox@juno.com
- Media Steward** - Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz
van Brugge
Leslie Dulin (423) 886 - 6256
- Reeve** - Vonda Sisson (423) 698 - 7145
- Royal University Provost** - THLady
Rachelle du Pied-Leger
Rachel Lightfoot (706) 965 - 7947
- Constable** - Lord Ari Williamson
Will Snodgrass (423) 870 - 1426
wsnodgra@moccasun.utc.edu
- Meridian Sign Herald** - Lady Caoilfiorn
Coamhánach
Joanna Mayfield (423) 775 - 9959
joanna@voyageronline.net

This is Fox Tales, published by and for the members of the Shire of Vulpine Reach of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is available from the publisher at HCR 65, Box 35, Dunlap, TN 37327. It is not a publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. Fox Tales is published monthly and is distributed at the first chapter meeting of the month. Submission deadlines are listed in the monthly calendar.

WARTHAVEN comic strip is copyright 1997 by the Mark Wallace Estate. Unauthorized duplication/reproduction prohibited.

Warthaven™

Classic

TAIN T FAIR

FRED



by H.L. Wm BLACKFOX, CSM, CIM

HYAR WE BE! FLEW PURT' NEAR A HUNNERT MILES A'CAUSE WE HEAR THET THAR'S FOLKS OUT HYAR A'HACKIN' THEMSELFS TO DEATH. SO'S WE'RE HERE LOOKIN' TO THE SIGN OF TH' CENTURY...



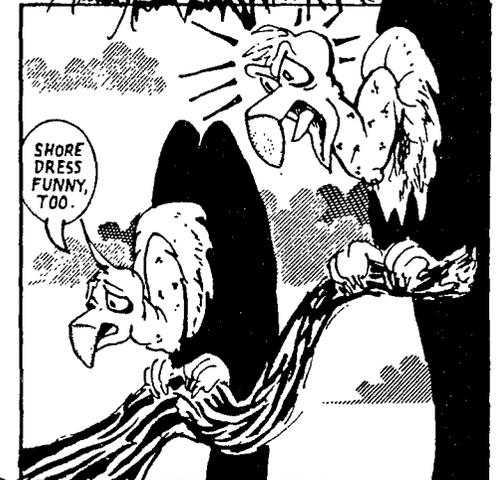
WHUT AIN'T FAIR, ELVIS?

WELP... JEST LOOKIE AT OUR SITCHEEASHUN, WHY DONCHA?



NEIGHBORHOOD GOING TO THE DOGS!

...AND THEM DANGED GALOOTS WON'T STAY DAID!



SHORE DRESS FUNNY, TOO.

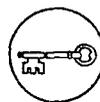
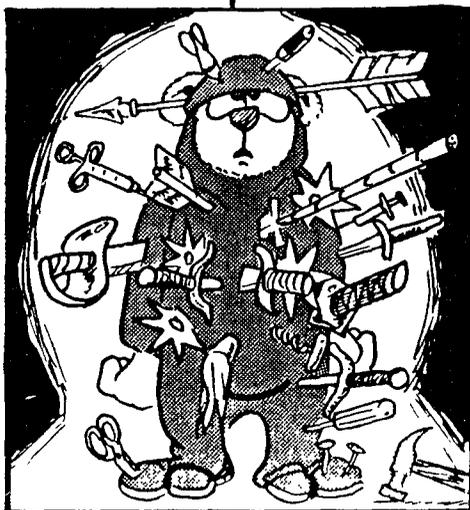
OCCUPATIONAL 村之本力

BY LORD W/M
BLACKFOX,
CSM, C1M.
STORY BY
SHIMIZU ARIKO

HOWDY, FOLKS!
I'M A NIN-



SOMETIMES IT
DOESN'T PAY TO
ADVERTISE.



From the Seneschal

Unto the good gentles of the Shire of Vulpine Reach does the Laird Davoc Walkere send monthly

greetings.

Well, my lords and ladies, we've had a much calmer month. Heaven knows we needed it. The calendar turns another page, and we see the holiday season quickly approaching. We may want to begin to look toward our Twelfth Night celebration, scheduled for the second weekend in January. It's not too early to make some definite plans. Speaking of making plans, I am hearing some good things coming from the plans for Collegium Sionnach. Keep up the good work, Donovan.

Officers, don't forget that I need a copy of your Doomsday report when it comes due. Also, I would like to discuss having another officer's meeting. It's been two years since our last real planning session, I think we're about due.

That's enough for now. I remain yours in service to Meridies, Their Majesties, and the people of this Shire.

Davoc

Research:

SIMPLE FABRIC IDENTIFICATION

A common experience among those who would like to make Authentic garb is the confusion over which are suitable materials to buy. You may have seen bargain bins labeled "100% unknown fibre" and wondered how you could tell if the piece of fabric you could afford was a good kind to buy. You may wonder how you can tell the difference between Natural Fibres (which are authentic and also have unsurpassed properties for dealing with heat, cold, and rain) and Man-made Fibres (which usually turn out to be too hot or cool for what you need). Altogether, there seem to be too many options and too little information. Asking the merchant is often useless because he doesn't know any more than you can learn from the label yourself. Well, there are some simple tests you can perform with little bits of the fabric before you buy it, so you know if you are making a suitable choice. These tests are not infallible, but they will

help you tell some basic differences.

1. Go to a large store and look for the basic fibre types: Wool, Silk, Cotton, Linen (from flax, not polyester) and Cashmere. Study the appearance and feel of these fabrics carefully (but know also that modern processing can disguise synthetic fibres as natural, so appearance and feel are not infallible, either). Make up reference sets of Fabric Swatches.

2. Flame Test: Pull a short thread from a frayed edge of the fabric, light it with a match or lighter, and observe the products of combustion.

a. If the thread burns steadily like a candlewick, and leaves a soft ash, it is linen or cotton (plant fibre); or possibly Hemp or Jute.

b. If the thread gives off a reek of burning hair, and leaves a soft ash, it is silk or wool (protein fibre). Cashmere, Angora, and Mohair are others.

c. If the thread melts away from the flame and leaves a hard dark bead of residue, it is a synthetic fibre. The most common of these are polyester, viscose rayon, and acetate.

If more than one of these effects is observed, you have a mixture (blend) of fibres. It may be necessary to repeat the test to make sure your observations are accurate. It becomes more reliable if you select fibres of known composition at home (say from your reference set) and test them, observing the results.

3. Plant Fibres: Cotton and Linen are mainly differentiated by the fact that linen is smoother and takes a crease much better than cotton of the same weight. This difference is best learned by practice; the fibres feel different, but the difference cannot be described. It is learned by handling known fabric, gripping and gently creasing them to learn their different responses.

4. Animal (protein) Fibres: Silk and Wool are easily distinguished because silk fibres are always smooth and continuous whereas wool fibre is short, rough, and kinky. Wool is also more resilient; it can be stretched and will spring back when released. Angora can be identified by the smooth, straight, fur-like hairs poking out of the surface. Angora comes from rabbits and resembles cat hairs closely. (Mohair is fibre

from Angora goats). Cashmere, which comes from goats, has wool-like hairs, but the ends of these hairs stick out all over the wrong side of the fabric; whereas wool has no projecting hairs. Mixtures of Animal fibres cannot always be correctly identified because some fibres may hide the presence of others. The price of yard goods will be some indication of the likely contents.

5. Synthetic Fibres: Acetate and Viscose Rayon may be told apart by the fact that Acetate is soluble in acetone (nail polish remover) and Rayon is not. Rayon is generally much smoother than polyester, and is spun into finer threads. Thus rayon Satin is silkier and drapes better than polyester Satin, which is crisper and stiffer. Cotton-polyester blends are shown by the flame test, since cotton-rayon is a rare blend. Rayon is a good substitute for silk in appearance, and polyester adds desirable properties to cotton-like fabrics.

6. Washability/Colorfastness Test: It may be desirable to find out whether the fabric is washable and if the dye is fast. In addition, you will want to know whether the dye will run from your fabric onto everything else in the wash. This test should be done before you cut your fabric; while it is rare nowadays, you may find that your fabric shrinks somewhat in washing (especially cotton and cotton-poly blends). Make a normal strength solution of soap in warm or cool water in a small dish. Have ready a scrap of well-washed white cotton, larger than the test piece. Rub the test piece gently in the soapy water and lay it on the white scrap to dry. Watch for a stain on the white cotton. Press the dry scrap with a warm steam iron and compare it with the rest of the fabric to see if it looks different after being washed. You will also learn how crease-resistant your fabric is, and this how much care the finished garment will require. If the dye is not fast, you may wash the fabric by itself several times until you think all the excess is gone. Pre-shrink the fabric by washing it in hot water and drying it on high heat before cutting it (especially for anything with any cotton in it).

7. Insulation Test: If you are buying fabric to make garments for specific seasons or climates, you will need to know how suitable your prospective choice is. To

determine how the heat of the body will be retained by the fabric, simply wrap the end of the bolt or piece around your forearm and keep it there for a minute or so, taking into account the room temperature as well as how the fabric feels. The faster your arm heats up, the cooler the weather should be for using the garment, as a rule. Some exceptions: The ability of dark fabrics to absorb the Sun's heat is well known, so summer garb should be in light colors. Satin will tend to unique behavior; it will feel cool in a cool room, and warm in a warm room. However, loose satin garments will always feel cool.

Comments: Although some of these tests may and should be performed before you buy the fabric, you must remember that it isn't your property until you've paid for it. Do not damage the fabric more than you can help, and be discreet in your thread-pulling. Don't crease more than the last inch of fabric, don't eat or drink, or touch sweaty or dirty hands to any fabric. Remember that fabrics are a severe fire hazard. It is better to carry a lighter, ask for cut swatches and take them outside the store to burn. If the storekeeper asks why you are burning threads or creasing fabric, or holding it over your arm for long periods of time, explain your purpose. Most merchants are actually entertained by the idea that practical medieval societies exist. They may even offer you bargains, knowing that you will be buying in such large quantities.

- Lady Madeleine De La Nieve,
Abridged by Gwenievere Smythe

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the contributors to the November issue of *Fox Tales*:

Lord Ursus Grim
Lady Kate the Green
The Mark Wallace Estate
Laird Davoc Walkere
Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera
Lady Caoilfionn Caomhanach
Lady Madeleine De La Nieve
Gwenievere Smythe

And Lord Tam Southart (who claims to be still alive and kicking, but is really, really busy right about now...)

Vulpine Reach Talent Directory

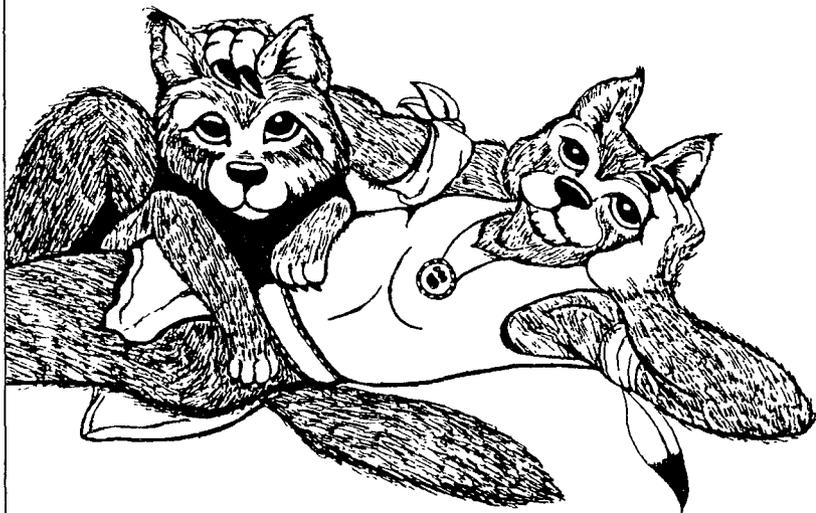
The Vulpine Reach Talent Directory is designed to help old fogey and newcomer alike in finding assistance. Keep in mind that we are all volunteers: just be patient and keep trying if you don't get hold of us on the first try.

If you have a talent or skill in a particular field and would like to help others but you aren't on the directory, contact me! It's a simple matter to add your name. If I've listed your skills incorrectly or you are unable for some reason to provide assistance in whatever capacity, contact me! It's also a simple matter to change your entry or drop your name from the directory. We're looking for a few good men (and women) - with know-how and a willingness to help out other shire members.

Lady Rhiannon of Ravenswood (Mary Barkubein, 698 - 2691) **Crochet**
Mellisande of Rennes (Brenda Britton, 870 - 0511) **Embroidery**
Camolus of Britian (Vernon Cockereil, 375 - 6760) **Engraving, Wood carving**
Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge (Leslie Dulin, 886 - 6256) **Visual Arts, Research, Documentation, Cooking, Early period Stuff**
Lord Ursus Grim (Charles Dodson, 265 - 3948) **Illumination and all things scribed**
Lady Francesca d'Angelo (Teresa Ivey-Dodson, 265 - 3948) **Embroidery, Spinning, Camping, Illumination, "Anything Italian"**
Lady Egelina Rabbette (Rabbit Kadrich, 866 - 8266) **Sewing, Costuming, Research, Lace-making, Camping**
Lady Rachelle du Pied-Leger (Rachel Lightfoot, 706 - 965 - 7947) **Music, Period Theatre, Heraldry, Dancing, Sewing**
Lord James Toxophilus (Jim Long, 949 - 4394) **Archery, Wine making, Performing Arts, Writing, Music (penny whistle and bodhran), Camping**
THL Alexander Ravenscroft (Brian Moore, 870 - 5132) **"Anything Heraldic"**
Lady Kate the Green (Betsy O'Shee, 629 - 1238) **Glass bead-making, Period Jewelry, Basic garbing, Enthusiasm, SCAdian Survival Tactics, Leatherwork without Pain, Documentation**
Lord Wilhelm Fixler (Steve Parker, 478 - 3129) **Fighting, SCA weapons making**
Lord Llywelyn ap Alawn (Lindy Pate, 825 - 6258) **Fighting, Brewing, Fencing, Brewing, Wood working, Brewing, Armoring, Brewing (but not all at the same time)**
THL Richard Fenwick (Ken Scott, 698 - 5007) **Fighting, SCA weapons making, Armoring, Heraldry**
THL Julia of the Flowers (Julie Scott, 698 - 5007) **Art, Cooking**
Lady Elisande de Citeaux (Diane Taylor, 877 - 3825) **Bobbin lace making, Spinning, Weaving, Embroidery, Calligraphy, Illumination**
Laird Davoc Walkere (Randy Walker, 875 - 5417) **Music, Bardic Arts, Performing Arts, Archery, Jewelry making**
Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera (Diane Walker, 875 - 5417) **Cooking, Sewing, Costuming, Jewelry making, Pottery, Ceramics, Herbs, Gardening**
Brigid of Gaels (Tina Williams, 375 - 6760) **Engraving, Wood Carving, Wood Working, Herbalism**

Fox Tales

*The Newsletter of the Shire of Vulpine Reach
c/o Jim Long HCR 65 Box 35, Dunlap TN 37327*



J. Ward, 1997