

FOX TALES



The Newsletter of Vulpine Reach

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

INDOOR *Fighting Field!!*

Cry Havoc and let slip the Dogs of War - Even if it's Raining!

For the first time in the nearly twenty-year history of the Shire of Vulpine Reach, our fighters now have an indoor site to practice and hone their martial arts, thanks to Shire Deputy Ari Williamson, his parents, and our hosts: the Second Presbyterian Church.

Beginning on Sunday, December 7, our fighters will gather in the basement gymnasium of Second Presbyterian at our usual time. The church is located in downtown Chattanooga at the corner of Seventh and Pine Streets. Lord Ari insists there is plenty of parking, both on the street and in the lot directly across Pine from the church. The path from the front of the church building is somewhat convoluted, but we'll try to keep a guide available.

To get there, take your best route to Martin Luther King Boulevard, find Pine street near the gold Blue Cross building and turn north (toward the river). Go a block and a half, and you're there. As usual, fighters and non-

combatants alike are always welcome. - *THL Richard Fenwick*

In Memorium

We mourn the passing of one of our less active members, Lady Rhiannon of Ravenswood (mka Mary Barkubein). She was killed in an automobile accident on Saturday, November 22.

Lady Rhiannon had at one time been our historian, but had not been able to be very active in the last couple of years due to a second shift work schedule with the US Postal Service.

When she was able to attend events you could generally find her in the kitchen working hard. She had been known to work so hard in the kitchen that she didn't feel up to staying for the reveling after the feast, but would simply go home, exhausted. We were always glad to see her cheerful face, and we will miss her.

Mary is survived by her husband and her two children (by a previous marriage).

CALENDAR

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

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 ~~Dragoun's~~ *Dragoun's* *Weal*
Toys for Tots - Ewige Vogel
- 15 Class: Poetry/ Fox Tales Deadline
- 21 ** Winter Solstice **
- 22 Winter Solstice (observed) -
NO Meeting, Happy Holidays
- 24 ** Hanukkah **
- 25 ** Christmas Day **
- 29 Deceased Canine Gathering -
Come if you want!

January, 1998

- 1 ** New Year's Day (mundane) **
- 3 12th Night - Glaedenfeld
- 5 Biz. Meeting/ hopefully E.T. dist.
- 10 - Vulpine Reach 12th Night -
12th Night - Salt Keep
12th Night - Lagerdamm
- 12 Class: "I didn't know that was period."
Fox Tales deadline
- 17 Midwinter A & S - S. Downs

BEST BET:

This Month, your Best Bet Event is celebrating the Holiday Season with your family, friends, and loved ones - where ever they may be. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours from the "editorial staff" of Fox Tales!

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 basement

gymnasium of the 2nd Presbyterian Church on Pine Street at 2:30 p.m. Contact Lord James at 949 - 4394 for information on Archery Practices.

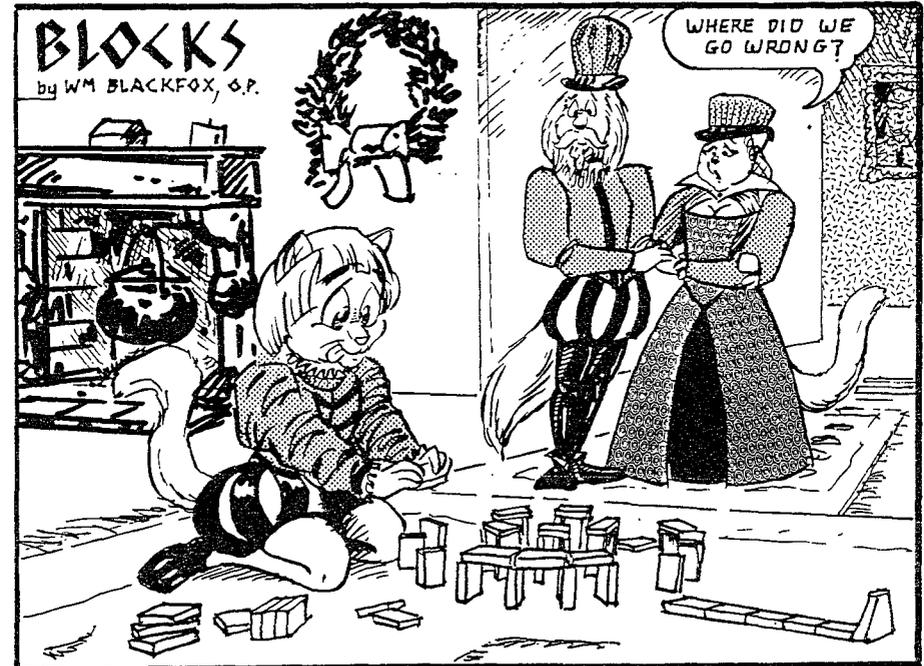
REGNUM

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Randy Walker (423) 875 - 5417
lddavoc@aol.com
minstrel@utc.campus.mci.net
- Knight Marshal - THL Richard Fenwick
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- Herald - THL Alexander Ravenscroft
Brian Moore (423) 875 - 5132
- A & S Minister - Lady Kate the Green
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- Hospitalier - Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera
Diane Walker (423) 875 - 5417
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Brenda Britton (423) 870 - 0511
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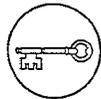
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Warthaven™



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From the Seneschal

U nto the shirefolk of Vulpine Reach come seasonal greetings from the Laird Davoc Walkere.

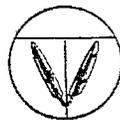
Your shire officers met this last month and had a lively discussion about a lot of different subjects. I believe somebody else is going to report on this, so I will leave most of it to them. There were a few things that I should now address. You may have noticed that since that meeting, you have seen the officers in garb (or garb lite, ask me for an explanation if you need one) at the meetings/classes. I encourage you to all consider this. Garb is always appropriate attire for meetings, it is only required at events, but new people may be encouraged by seeing us old-timers dressed properly. It's not always feasible, we all understand that, but when it's possible it looks nice.

Next on my list has to do with e-mail and the internet. Please be careful what you say when you are posting on the Tavern Yard or the Rialto. If you are asked for some information that may be sensitive, please discuss it with someone else before answering. A shire officer might be a good choice for this. This is especially important if the question has to do with shire policy in some way. These lists and newsgroups can be a good place to publicize an upcoming event, but be cautious about phrasing.

We mourn the passing of one of our less active members, Lady Rhiannon of Ravenswood (mka Mary Barkubein). She was killed in a traffic accident the weekend before Thanksgiving. Lady Rhiannon had at one time been our historian, but had not been able to be very active in the last couple of years due to a second shift work schedule. Our thoughts and prayers will be with her family in the weeks and months to come.

Finally, Lady Diana and I would like to wish each of you a safe and joyful holiday season.

Davoc



From the Chronicler

U nto you good gentles of our Faire Shire come holiday greetings and well wishes for a peaceful

and joyous New Year, from your friend and ink-stained pseudojournalist, James Toxophilus.

I know what you're thinking: "It's about time he said something in a column - he's been really, really quiet the last few months!" Well, you're right. I have been pretty quiet lately. To be honest, I'd gotten somewhat burned out on my office as chronicler. Maybe "burned out" isn't the right term...when I do figure out the right word, I'll use it; in the meantime, "burned out" will do.

Five years ago, I decided to become a productive member of our shire by taking on the office of chronicler as a diversion - something to take my mind off a broken relationship, actually. Since that time, I have taken great pride in our shire and it's bragging rights and have reflected that spirit in *Fox Tales*. I am genuinely proud to be associated with you other 'foxes' and stand tall when I see all that we as a group can and do accomplish. In the time I have been with Vulpine Reach, a 'fox' started the Meridian College of Bards, our shire held the very first "all-fencing" event in the kingdom, the "Not-Ready-For-Peerage Players" have become infamous throughout the realm, and at Tourney of the Foxes for the last five years straight an IKAC score has been submitted to competition - and that's just the tip of the iceberg. You and I as 'foxes' have a lot to be proud of.

One of my most proud moments came shortly after I took office: I got Known-World-recognized cartoonist William Blackfox to allow *Fox Tales* to run his strip. Suddenly, the newsletter had something that no other shire level newsletter in Meridies had - WARTHAVEN.

With Master William gone, I feel a sense of loss more than of a friend - as they say in variety shows, WARTHAVEN is a "tough act to follow." *Fox Tales* has been called by various people in the kingdom "the best shire newsletter in Meridies." When Master William passed on, I guess in addition to the personal loss came the added weight of having to live up to a reputation that came easier with WARTHAVEN's help. I guess what I am trying to say (and I don't seem to be able to say it well) is that I hope that I can remain worthy of your

confidence in me and my ability to keep *Fox Tales* the high-quality publication that it has been for the last five years. Unfortunately, due to mundane interference over the last three months or so (mainly due to employment pressures), I have been sluffing off and missing deadlines and generally been a goofball.

(You know what's coming now...) As of January 1, I vow to not only "do better," but to do my best to maintain the quality, features, and utility of your newsletter. To that end, I will be heavily relying on you for articles and art. My publishing philosophy has always been, "*Fox Tales* is the newsletter by and for the gentles of Vulpine Reach." *Fox Tales* is a direct representation of the people in our shire. *Fox Tales* is the face we show other shires, kingdom officers, and the Crown. I call on you, the gentles of Vulpine Reach to show the rest of the Known World what we're made of!

In your service,

Jan. Tox.

P.S. - Break out the Maalox (see below).

Travels:

On the Road with Lord Ari

Okay, Tox - here's my event reports... oh, and here's \$5.00.

(?) *Uh, Ari?*

Yeah, Tox?

Ummm, two things...

Two?

Two things.

Okay.....

First thing: you told me - no, you promised me, that the next time you submitted an event report to me that you'd E-mail it to me. You know? E-mail? That wonderful little tool that saves me so much work and time - precious time - in publishing Fox Tales...ESPECIALLY when said report is submitted AFTER THE DEADLINE.

Oh. Well, yeah, I remember...

AND...

But, Tox - this isn't an event report...

You just said it was...

No, Tox. I said "reports" - with an "s". It's not an event report, it's two event reports!

WHAT!?!??

Besides. Tox, I just can't compose anything when I sit behind that keyboard. It's so, well, *cold and inhuman*. It squelches my creative spirit. It inhibits my artistic impressions and expressions. It confines my ...

In short, the computer lab staff kicked you out again, didn't they? Am I right? So, what'd you do this time?

Uh....

Never mind - I'm not sure I really want to know. But, Ari, I'm expecting you to make nice with them before the next issue. Do I make myself clear??

You do, Boss.

Very good.

Umm, Tox?

Yes, Ari?

You said 'two things.' I'm still waiting for the second finger...

Don't tempt me, Ari. I want to know what the five bucks is for. You trying to bribe me into putting you on the front page or something?

No, Tox. That's for you to buy all the Swiss Cake Rolls you'll need for putting together the December edition!

FIVE DOLLARS OF SCR'S?? ARE YOU TOTALLY OUT OF YOUR GOURD, ARI?? Do you have any idea of what that many SCR's would do to my digestion??

...Not to mention your energy level at about four a.m. No, Tox, you need to get used to this kinda work load. I mean, if you think the work load on *Fox Tales* is bad now, just wait 'til Alex and I make you the Kingdom Chronicler.

WHAT??

Oh, alright. If you don't want to be the Kingdom Chronicler, then we'll make you the Kingdom Seneschal.

ARI!!!

You know, you could be right...it might actually be *easier* than Kingdom Chronicler. You *really* won't be doing anything.. I mean, you'll just be a figurehead, after all, while *others* form Kingdom policy and are in charge of enforcing, er, *mandating* that policy...as well as *dealing with* disgruntled former Kingdom Officers. Who knows, perhaps

one day...

ARI!!!!

Here it is, folks: it's two, two, two event reports in one! Yes, it's a combined report on both Silver Hammer and Meridian Fighter's Collegium! ("Silvergium??" "Fighter's Hammer??")

ARI!!!!

Oh, yes, anyway, here're my reports:

Silver Hammer

Well. Ummmmmm.

Well??

Okay. I'll be honest. I - uh - well, missed the tournament part of Silver Hammer...

ARI!!!!

Look! It's NOT MY FAULT!! It was a combination of travelling companions changing their plans. Alex being...angry...by the morning - hey, that's what he said! - Tina living out in the middle of Sale Nowhere and a long and winding road...

Ari, keep the Beatles out of this.

As I was saying, a long and winding two-lane road that I still don't understand got us to where we were going, and a lot of rain. It rained a lot. Oh, yeah - a bunch of farm animals and Pearl played a part in this weird story, too.

OKAAAAAY.

But that would take too long to explain... Anyway, we (Alex, Tina, and I) arrived at the site, where it was raining, late, but at least we were there. We were immediately greeted by Beth and Mike Ake and THL Rachelle - they were relieved that we were okay and that we were there for commedia rehearsal - we trolled in and went straight to practice. The NRFPP were to perform "A Midsummer's Pennsic Comedy" for the populace at the request of His Majesty.

By the way. Did I mention that it rained?

I talked to THL's Richard & Llywelyn, Lord Malcolm and Lady Kate about the fighting and they all told me how they did and that it was a good tourney - so you'll have to get the specifics on the fighting from them - but it sounded like fun

(even in the rain).

Anyway, COURT! Let me tell you about....Court. Well, I really can't tell you all about Court, because FT isn't large enough. But it did rain. Court went on for...(ever?). Almost. Court went on for *three hours!* Court was so long that the Crown had to make a *very* pointed warning to the populace about returning to Court after a break. But, some nice things did happen at Court: THL Rachelle and Lady Diana both received OVO's (and there was much rejoicing...), Lady Francesca and Lord Ursus were both apprenticed to Laurels (and there was *much* rejoicing...), and several other awards went out to some of our vulpines (and there was much *rejoicing...*), but I can't remember what was given nor who got it - it all became quite a blur after the old blood sugar level fell.

Oh, yes! Baroness Godeline received an augmentation of arms (and there was *much* rejoicing!!), and it rained. Then, Lord Malcolm got the Sovereign's Pleasure (cool!!), even though he had let it rain.

I must point out that His Majesty had to reprimand certain members of the Royal Entourage for *sitting down during Court!* He did it humorously, but definitely made the point clear. By the way, it was raining.

Feast was served to some hungry, WET, Meridians - a nice feast with five removes - and there was "trick-or-treating" by the Meridian children.

Finally, we performed the commedia - *after MIDNIGHT!! (Geezz!!)* We were all tired, but we carried on valiantly like the troupers we are and did a pretty good job! Everyone needs to give Mike Ake a big "thank you" for stepping in at the last moment and taking over the role of Pedralino. Also give Mike a big congratulations for playing the part so well, in spite of the rain...

We finally left the event late, late, late and I crawled under my blankets as the sun started peeping over the horizon. At least the rain had stopped...

The following weekend, I went to Fighter's Collegium - where it wasn't raining. I left early and by myself, this time. I actually made it on time, inspite of a bad map, verbal directions given me in questionable English, and signs that made

me think that the Georgia D.O.T. hires drunken chimpanzees to put them out (OOPS!!! Did I really say that out loud??)

Anyway, I made it to the site and trolled in, armored up, met my friends, and we strolled to the battlefield. I would guess that there were at least 250 fighters there and I had a very full day. You know: charging UP and DOWN the battlefield, assaulting...

And battering, I suppose.

Tox, this is my story...let ME tell it, okay? As I was saying, assaulting the castle, dodging arrows, working in small assault...

And battery.

Assault GROUPS, charging the shield wall, and having HUGE guys in armor fall on top of you.

Sounds like, ahem. REAL FUN, there, Ari...

Tox, words can't describe just how I felt! Well, actually words CAN describe it, but we can't use those kind of words here... plus, it wasn't raining.

I spent most of the day using a two-handed sword for my main weapon. I actually got to be in charge of a small group at one point (if you can call ANY group with Sir Griffin in it "small") and a large group that I was in won all but one of the engagements we fought. Hey, I even survived a few of the melees, believe it or not! Of course, this kinda action wasn't without a few scrapes and knocks. One such impact was with a fighter who, even without his armor was on the far side of 250 pounds, who slammed into me at full speed!

YEEEEoooooouch!!

You said it, Tox. I *did* get in a "kill" shot on him, but he just had a LOT of momentum and hit me like a falling tree.

Let's see... force = m x A...and if the deceleration takes place in a period of around 1.5 seconds..... Eeeesh! Yep, "falling tree" is about right....

I will tell you this: the most important technique I learned at the Fighter's Collegium was ... DODGE!!! Yes, I really did work on trying to *get the heck out of the way!!* What they say is true: the way to survive a fight is to be where the weapon (or opponent) is *not*.

His Highness, Sir Robert Glendon of

Auk, did a great job of teaching and encouraging the masses. His Majesty ran about with a nine-foot polearm and seemed to be having a grand time. In fact, he was having soooooo much fun that once he even took out an archer on *his own side!* I think we all got a kick out of that.

I'll just bet you did...

It was a good event overall, but I must point out a few "down" points. Besides the lack of rain, several people were reprimanded for excessive force (but that's okay in a way, since we're there to learn how to fight correctly), and the presence of some "rhinos." I personally witnessed several thick-hided fighters continue to fight, *even though they had been clocked to the helm quite nicely.* This is a pretty sad situation to see. I refuse to fight someone if I'm gonna have to crease their helm or body armor to get them to call their blows! *Winning a battle shouldn't be that important.*

Now, on to a bright spot: it was announced that Lady Kytte was to be elevated to the Order of Chivalry (And there was much rejoicing!) which makes her Meridies' FIRST lady Knight!! (And there was much rejoicing!!). There was also an elevation to the Order of the Pelican for another gentle - so there was a pretty good time all around.

Another nice development at Fighter's Collegium was the presence of fencing. Yes, the fencers were there, poking merrily away. It was neat to see. Those guys look like they're having a LOT of fun, and they don't have the major contusions to deal with, either! Plus, our own THL Llywelyn and Lord Ursus both qualified as MOFIT's (AND THERE WAS MUCH REJOICING!!). By the way, being a MOFIT means that they will soon be qualified to marshal at fencing practices - not be a mechanical dog on **Battlestar Galactica**...[*Marshal Of Fencing In Training - ed.*].

I left the collegium early, due to family obligations and made it home and in bed before Mr. Sun started peeping over the horizon, but I did enjoy myself at the collegium and look forward to next year's F.C.

Overall, I must say that our group

seems well represented at events lately, we are well-known, and our populace seem to be receiving awards and getting qualified for all sorts of things. We must be doing something right!

So, that's it from me. Ari, you're roving reporter.

Yeah - the guy that helps me miss deadlines...

Till next time, I'll see ya'll down the road! In your service,

Lord Ari Wilhelmsen

P.S. Did I mention that it rained at Silver Hammer?

Road Show Strikes Again

Recently, the Vulpine Reach Road Show held an educational demo at the Cleveland State Community College Octoberfest. Road Show regulars Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera and Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge were joined by Lady Kate the Green and organized an information table for the students.

Lady Kate talked about armor while Lady Diana and Mistress Lijsbeth distributed handouts and talked about the SCA and our shire. In the process, our gentles met up with a really nice English professor who helped load up the car after the demo and agreed to put up posters for us. We also got to eat some free chili from a nearby chili cookoff. In general, we had lots of fun. [Ed. Note: *Whoever the good gentle was that gave me this report, please see me so I can give you proper credit - the report came to me unsigned and my life has been so crazy the last few weeks that I can't remember who I got it from! Thanks.*]

Research: Hops

There is much discussion and debate on "period" beer and the use of hops. Most people agree that we do not make period beers - and if we *did*, that they would probably be spat out rather than swallowed. I believe that this is based on the fact that we do not really know what the appearance or taste of "period" beer really was. We just assume that from the ingredients and the conditions under which it was brewed, the result was a cloudy and unpleasant drink.

Most people argue that hops are not

period because their use has only started in the last few hundred years and predominantly in the last one hundred and fifty years. Hops are the most common additives used today to give flavor and aroma to beer and have been around since ancient times. Pliny mentioned hops in his "Natural History". Most publications on the subject seem to agree that the Egyptians used hops, but the information was lost or just not passed on. Still, there are records from the Middle Ages with references to hops and hop gardens (called "humlonaria"). A Benedictine nun by the name of Hildegard (1098 - 1179), who was an abbess of Rupertsberg in Germany wrote of using hops and ash leaves in brewing. Most references were from church properties, since they maintained a high activity in the art of brewing and vinting.

Hops were used for a variety of purposes; parts of the plant can be eaten as a salad and the oils can be used in soaps and in leather tanning processes. Most agree that the reason hops were used was for their preservative properties. The fact that hops extended the life of beer was nothing short of a miracle, in a time when most things spoiled rather quickly.

Today, what most people brew is what appeals to their personal taste. Even if the style is not strictly period, the basic processes remain the same: mix barley, water, yeast, and a few additives for taste and wait; the result is beer.

Most of the information used for this article came from the few books I own on the subject: Secret Life of Beer by Alan D. Eames, The Beer Companion by Michael Jackson, The Encyclopedia of Beer - Christine P. Rhodes, Editor, and The Joy of Home Brewing by Charlie Papazian. I have seen the same basic information in many different places.

- *THL Llywelyn ap Alawn, Brewster*

Information: Best of the "Web"

One Scotsman's Opinion, part 2

Here are another half-dozen of the most excellent sources on the Web. A very brief description follows each URL address, but really, it's best to check them out on your own.

www.anglo_saxon.demon.co.uk

The Anglo-Saxon Web Page. With links to book lists and related subjects, including the Germanic Heritage homepage, and the Anglo-Saxon Book List, which has some pretty cool titles like English Martial Arts and A Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Food Processing and Consumption Vols. I&II.

www.stedmunds.co.uk/West_Stow.html

Homepage of the West Stow Country Park and Anglo-Saxon Village.

www.ftech.net/~regia

Early Medieval Europe research homepage. Many good articles and research.

www.geocities.com/Athens/5055

Bloodaxe's History Links. Lovely Name, lots of really cool research links.

www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/history/internet/geograph/europe/medieval

The Medieval and Renaissance History Page: Tons of great links and sources.

www.cua.edu/hist/netserf/home.htm

The NetSERF Medieval Resources Page. Lots of links and articles to very relevant stuff. Way cool.

I'll try to have even more sites for next month's Fox Tales.

Yours in service to the Dream,
Ian MacInneir of Inveraray, called

Donovan

FOR SALE:

Double-strung lap harp with Celtic sheet music, tuner, and carrying case. Please, serious inquiries only. - *Aidan*

706 - 217 - 1917

Sources: Books About Templars

Dungeon, Fire and Sword, John J. Robinson (M.Evans & Co., Inc. 1991)

Knights, Andrea Hopkins (Artabras, 1990)

The Medieval Soldier, A.V.B. Norman (Barnes & Noble, 1971)

Holy Blood, Holy Grail and The Temple and The Lodge, Baigent, Leigh, & Lincoln (Dell, 1982)

The Knights of Christ, Terence Wise & Richard Scollins (Osprey, 1984)

Armies of the Crusades, Terence Wise (Osprey, 1978)

- *Lord Ursus Grim*

Shire 12th Night!!!

On January 10, Vulpine Reach Celebrates the 12th Day of Christmas! You are cordially invited to attend the festivities beginning at 1p.m. at the New City Fellowship Church on 3rd Street.

The meal will be a covered-dish affair (period dishes, if possible - and enough to serve 10) to start at 5 p.m. When the site opens at 1 p.m., you may bring ingredients to the "period food workshop" and prepare your dish on-site with the help of experienced event feasters!

During the feast, entries for Shire Bard will be judged by the populace. There also will be an A & S competition for Shire Artisan that will be judged at 4 p.m. (Meridian A & S rules, bring your documentation!).

After the meal, the winners of the competitions will be announced and the "Viking" gift exchange will begin. Please bring a wrapped gift suitable for either gender and SCA-related, price limited to \$7.50 - the home-made gifts are usually the best! Please, no alcohol or food items as gifts! (As a guide, some past popular gifts included tableware, lengths of fabrics, fake & real medieval weapons, silly statues, costume jewelry, leather crafts - but please, no more unicorn candles!)

To get to the site, take your best route to the 4th Street exit on U.S. 27, stay on the street and don't take the exit for Amnicola Hwy. Go about two blocks beyond Dodds Ave and past the Goodlets Food Market. The Church is on the right. Come around to the back entrance of the fellowship hall and enjoy the celebration to come!!

Missive:

Dear Jim,

This is a reduction of an old full-sized cover if you need some more art. I've got old Fox Tales, even the original, if you want copies.

I really enjoyed reading the latest Fox Tales. Fenwick's report on Boar Hunt was good. It brought back fond memories.

I do wonder about the stories told to Lady Kate the Green. In A.S. X - when I joined - Meridies was a Principality of the Kingdom of *Atenveldt*. I didn't know we were once part of the East Kingdom. Maybe she can share the tale.

Keep up the good work!

Yours truly,

Bill Gaines (Lord Owen Arbalista)

Food:

12th Night Cooking Workshop

Our 12th Night party is fast approaching and Lijsbeth and I thought it might be an ideal time to implement an idea we had been wanting to do for a while--a cooking workshop! No, not just for folks who don't know much about cooking, but a time to play around with period recipes (Which, as you may have noticed from some I've written up, can be a trifle imprecise and open to multiple interpretations!). We are thinking in terms of having folks pick out a recipe to try from a period source--we will bring our cookbooks to some of the meetings between now and then, or you can find some in the library--and bring the recipe and the ingredients to 12th Night. We will then cook them together, so we can have input and moral support from a number of people. The results are part of our dinner!

This isn't all that different from what we end up doing most of the time anyway, we will just be working from period sources this time. For those of you who can't come for the whole day, or want to do other things during the day, please consider trying a period dish anyway. Lots of the books in the library as well as the ones we own have recipes already redacted (Worked out with modern measurements and ingredients), so they are no different than using a modern cookbook.

Hopefully this will be the first of

many such workshops. We have had several folks offer their houses for such a project--we might rotate around to all of them, since at least a couple are out of town, and that would spread the long drives out. Something that would be fun to try in the future would be to have everyone try the same recipe and see how all the different versions turn out!

Some of the books to look for in the library are: To the King's Taste, To the Queen's Taste, Dining with William. Shakespeare, Sallets, Humbles and Shrewsbury Cakes, and Elinor Fettiplace's Receipt Book (Spelling may be a bit different.) Avoid the one called *Fabulous Feasts*--it's history section is pretty good, but the source isn't quoted for the recipes, and a number of those recipes are reportedly fairly dreadful!

- Diana

"You know you're in the SCA when..

...you find yourself eagerly awaiting the spring wool sales - and you're a guy.

...you show off your latest collection of bruises with great pride.

...you automatically correct someone who calls you 'sir' by saying, "I'm not a knight, only a 'lord'."

...coworkers want to know where "South Downs, Georgia" is. after you tell them about a trade show you went to in Atlanta.

...your Christmas tree has decorations of chainmail, swords, etc.

...you think it strange that others don't celebrate the 12th Night of Christmas!

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the contributors to the December issue of Fox Tales:

Lord Ursus Grim THL Richard Fenwick

Laird Davoc Walkere

The Mark Wallace Estate

Lord Ari Wilhelmsen

Lord Aidan Stonepillar

Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera

Lady Caoilfionn Caomhanach

Lord Owen Arbalista, Esq.

Ian macInneirte of Invarary, called

Donovan

THL Llywelyn ap Alawn

And Whoever wrote the demo article for

the Vulpine Reach Road Show!

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 Tijsz 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 Rachele 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, SCAian 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**

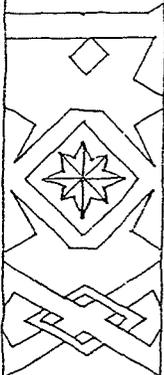
Laird Davoc Walkere (Randy Walker, 875 - 5417) **Music, Bardic Arts, Performing Arts, Archery, Jewelry making**

Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera (Diane Walker, 875 - 5417) **Cooking, Sewing, Costuming, Jewelry making, Pottery, Ceramics, Herbs, Gardening**

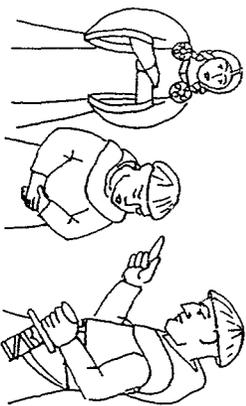
Brigid of Gaels (Tina Williams, 375 - 6760) **Engraving, Wood Carving, Wood Working, Herbalism**

Fox Tales

The Newsletter of the Shire of Valpine Reach
c/o Jim Long HCR 65 Box 35, Dunlop TN 37327



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